

Program Overview

What is APS: Arts Project Support (APS) grants provide up to \$4,000 to support a public-facing short-term arts project or a series of arts activities. Examples include performances; exhibits; arts festivals; arts and cultural planning; arts learning for specific populations such as older adults or youth; public art or some other arts-based or arts-serving activity.

Who Can Apply: 501(c)(3) Organizations, 501(c)(6) Tourism Entities or Chambers of Commerce, Units of Government, Libraries, K-12 Schools (See page 3 for a full eligibility list.

Key Dates:

- The Spring Application Cycle deadline is 3/4/2025 for the grant period of 7/1/25-6/30/26.
- The Fall Application Cycle deadline is 9/30/25 for the grant period of 1/1/26-12/31/26.

Who to Contact: For information about the program and how to apply, contact your [Regional Arts Partner](#).

Program Details

Program Goal

To provide Indiana's people and communities access to arts experiences.

Program Outcomes

- In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences^s.
- Historically underserved geographies and populations benefit.

[§ IAC 2024 – 2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact](#)

About Us

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) is an agency of state government, and its funding comes from the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

A core component to the Indiana Arts Commission's commitment to investing in the state's vibrant and rich arts and culture sector are grants, which support people and communities through arts organizations and arts projects.

Program Contacts

This program is jointly conducted by the Indiana Arts Commission and its Regional Arts Partner Network. Your Regional Arts Partner is your contact for the Arts Project Support program.

Regional Arts Partners (RAPs) work alongside the Indiana Arts Commission to promote and expand participation in the arts in Indiana. They work directly with the Arts Project Support and Arts Organization Support grant programs and can be a source of information on other programs and services offered by the Indiana Arts Commission. [Find your Regional Arts Partner contact.](#)

- **For questions about application, eligibility, and guidelines:** Contact the [Regional Arts Partner](#) for your region.
- **For help or technical assistance with the Online Grant System:** Contact IAC grants and operations team at grantsadmin@iac.in.gov.
- **For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project:** Contact accessibility@iac.in.gov.
- **To apply:** [Access the eligibility tool and application.](#) Only applications submitted online will be accepted, except in the case of ADA accessibility accommodations.

Grant Award Amounts, Matching Funds and Grant Payment

Applicants can request up to \$4,000. No matching funds are required.

Applicants recommended for funding will receive the full amount requested and are eligible to be paid in full at the beginning of the grant period provided they are in good standing and supply required information in a timely manner.

FY2026 Arts Project Support (APS) Funding Priorities

The IAC will continue to prioritize ensuring geographic access to arts opportunities across the state through funding the highest scoring eligible applications from each county in each of the IAC's 11 regions. The IAC will also consider other factors such as underserved geographies and applicant budget size in the determination of funding award recommendations, which are presented to IAC Commissioners for approval.

Dates to Know - Spring Application Cycle (Grant Period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

Program Opens for Applications	January 7, 2025
Informational Webinar 1	January 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m. ET (Register to attend.)
Informational Webinar 2	January 29, 2025, 6:00 p.m. ET (Register to attend.)
Draft Application Review Deadline for New Applicants	February 24, 2025
Application Due	March 4, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET*

	*Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.
Funding Notification	By July 1, 2025 *Modified 7/1/25 – Funding Notification Postponed. To Occur by August 1, 2025.
Final Grant Report Due	July 15, 2026

Dates to Know - Fall Application Cycle (Grant Period January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026)*

Program Opens for Applications	July 8, 2025 September 1, 2025 *Modified 7/1/25
Draft Application Review Deadline for New Applicants	August 29, 2025 September 23, 2025 *Modified 7/1/25
Application Due	September 9, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET* September 30, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET* *Modified 7/1/25 *Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.
Funding Notification	By December 12, 2025
Final Grant Report Due	January 15, 2027

*The Fall Application Cycle is new for FY2026. While there are two application cycles, an applicant is only eligible to receive one APS grant in FY2026.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants*

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations in any arts discipline**;
- Other 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities that provide arts programming such as social service organizations, etc.;
- 501(c)(6) tourism entities or Chambers of Commerce;
- Local units of government;
- Public libraries;
- Public and private schools from pre-kindergarten through high school;

- Pre-Approved fiscally sponsored entities (see more details in the “Use of a Fiscal Sponsor” section) below; or
- Colleges and universities that provide **either** community arts learning experiences for grades Pre-K through 12 on their home campus or elsewhere **or** arts experiences in **high-priority geographic service counties**‡. [Learn more about college and university eligibility.](#)

*IAC staff may follow up to request documentation or additional information and will make the final determination on eligibility.

**Arts Organizations may apply for either Art Organization Support or Arts Project Support in a grant cycle, not both

‡ Counties designated by the IAC based on factors such as a lack of existing arts access or a history of underinvestment

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Nonprofit organizations must be incorporated in the State of Indiana at the time of application and for the duration of the grant period. They must also be physically located in Indiana. The majority of programming, services, or activities must take place in Indiana and serve and engage Indiana audiences and participants.
- All applicants must be in good standing with all of the following: the State of Indiana; the Indiana Arts Commission; the applicant’s Regional Arts Partner; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

APS Eligibility Tool

All new and returning APS applicants are required to first answer some simple questions to find out if they can apply for the APS program before beginning an application. These questions are solely intended to help applicants determine whether they may be eligible to apply for APS. If an applicant’s responses indicate eligibility, they will be able to access the application.

Access to the application does not guarantee final eligibility for the program. The IAC reserves the authority to deem an applicant ineligible at any point in the application process.

Colleges and universities as well as fiscally sponsored applicants are required to request access to the APS application following completion of the eligibility tool. Instructions on how to request access to the application are provided upon completion of the eligibility tool.

Use of a Fiscal Sponsor

Unincorporated nonprofit groups planning to produce a project (“project producers”) may submit grant applications to the IAC through a fiscal sponsor. **Pre-approval is required.** Applicants who indicate the use of a fiscal sponsor in the eligibility tool will be directed to contact the IAC before accessing the application. The IAC reserves the authority to determine if an application qualifies as a fiscal sponsor project and if the sponsoring organization qualifies as a fiscal sponsor. [Learn more about fiscal sponsorship here.](#)

Use of Grant Funds

Eligible Uses of IAC Funds

Arts Project Support (APS) program grants support eligible expenses of a public-facing short-term arts project or arts activity(ies) which can include artist fees, program supplies, and facility rental.

Ineligible Uses of IAC Funds

IAC funds may not be used on food and beverage (including alcoholic beverages); cash awards or prizes (including gift cards); and fundraising costs and events. **This is not an exhaustive list of ineligible expenses.** [Consult Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information on eligible and ineligible uses of IAC funds.](#)

Evaluation Criteria and Review Process

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by how well they meet the following criteria:

- **Project Quality and Planning (30%)** – The extent to which project provides a quality artistic or cultural experience for the community; the project timeline is defined and aligned with the project description; the project has clear goals and there is a plan to measure project impact and effectiveness.
- **Community Benefit, Inclusion and Accessibility (40%)** – The extent to which the applicant can describe the community the project will serve; how the community will benefit from the project; intentional efforts to directly engage underserved populations; and that the project is accessible.
- **Project Management (30%)** – The extent to which the project team has relevant skills and knowledge to administer the project; and project spending is aligned with project description and goals.

[Access the Evaluation Criteria.](#)

[Access the scoring rubric that will be used by application reviewers.](#)

After all applications are reviewed, the IAC will establish a minimum score for funding eligibility.

Draft Review

Draft reviews by Regional Arts Partners are available to first-time applicants to the program and organizations who are not currently receiving funds from the IAC. Draft reviews consist of general feedback and suggestions around application completeness and clarity. To request a

draft review, notify your Regional Arts Partner by the deadline listed below for the cycle for which you are applying, and they will review your still in-draft application. Do not submit your application if you'd like a draft review – leave it in draft for the review.

Draft Review Deadlines:

- Spring Application Cycle: February 24, 2025
- Fall Application Cycle: September 23, 2025

Final Eligibility Review

Post application deadline, applications receive an eligibility review to ensure the applicant is eligible to apply for the program and all required information was submitted. Incomplete or missing information may deem the application ineligible to advance to the review process.

Application Review*

Arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members review and evaluate grant applications by how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Later, IAC staff use reviewer scores and other factors such as geographic location in the determination of funding award recommendations, which are presented to IAC Commissioners for approval.

The review process is highly competitive, and not all applications are funded.

***NEW FOR FY2026:** There will be no panel meetings for the Arts Project Support program. Applicants will have access to reviewers' comments in the online grant system after award notifications have been made.

Grant Recipient Requirements

Final Report Requirements

Grantees will be required to report on their activity(s) at the end of the grant period. This reporting includes qualitative and quantitative information and an accounting of how IAC funds were used. Collected information is shared with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to determine trends and funding impact. Grantees should be engaged in participant tracking during the activity(s).

Final grant reports submitted after the due date may be subject to penalty. Read the [Not in Good Standing policy](#).

Additional Requirements

IAC grants come with additional requirements such as acknowledgement of public funding. [Consult Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information.](#)

To Apply

Access the eligibility tool and application at

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=indianaarts>

Spring Application Submission Deadline: March 4, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET

Fall Application Submission Deadline: September 30, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET