



**INDIANA ARTS
COMMISSION**
MAKING THE ARTS HAPPEN

FY26-27 Arts Organization Support (AOS) - Informational Webinar

Thanks for joining us!

Please keep your microphone muted and use the chat box for questions.



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Note About Accessibility

If you need accommodations for the grant guidelines or application, please contact the IAC's Accessibility Coordinator at shaines@iac.in.gov or 317-450-9973.

If you need help with captions or accessibility for this webinar, please send a private chat to Connie Brahm, Director of Marketing.



Agenda

1. AOS Program Goals
2. Changes for FY26-27
3. Eligibility
4. Program Timeline
5. Grant Awards and Grantee Requirements
6. Evaluation Process & Criteria
7. Online Grant Application Review
8. Questions

About the Indiana Arts Commission



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.



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**THE AOS PROGRAM IS JOINTLY ADMINISTERED WITH
THE REGIONAL ARTS PARTNERS**

About Arts Organization Support (AOS)



Program Goal

A wide range of the state's arts organizations can make high-quality artistic experiences available to both residents and visitors through equitably distributed and meaningful grant awards.

Program Outcomes

- In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences.
- Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities.



FY24-25 Changes that Continue for FY26-27

- Two-year funding cycle
- Single payment to awardees
- Competitive grant program with not all eligible applicants funded
- Smaller budget arts organizations continue to be higher priority for funding

Changes for FY26-27



- Eligibility Tool submission required for all applicants
- Arts organizations no longer have to operate year-round to be eligible
- Fewer and simpler application criteria
- Simplified scoring rubric
- Grant panels will no longer be recorded

Eligibility



Applicants must meet ALL eligibility requirements:

1. Be an arts organization.
2. Be based in Indiana.
3. Be an active 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity or public entity for the past three consecutive years (as of March 3, 2025).
4. Have annual cash revenue of \$20,000 or more as supported by the most recent board-approved, fiscal year Statement of Activities report.
5. Be in Good Standing with the State of Indiana, the National Endowment for the Arts and their Regional Arts Partner

Additional Eligibility Requirements - UEI



All Applicants to FY26-27 Arts Organization Support **MUST** have an active Unique Entity ID (UEI) PRIOR to submitting an application. [Learn more and get started here.](#)



Eligibility Tool

- All applicants need to submit the Eligibility Tool before beginning the application.
- These questions are solely intended to help applicants determine whether they may be eligible to apply for AOS. 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.



What If You're Not Eligible?

- Check out the Arts Project Support (APS) program!
- Two grant cycle deadlines in CY25: March 4, 2025 and September 9, 2025
- APS Informational webinars are on:
 - January 28, 2025 (10 am ET)
 - January 29, 2025 (6 pm ET)
- You may apply for EITHER Arts Organization Support OR Arts Project Support in this cycle but not both.



FY26-27 Program Timeline

Applicants funded in this program will be funded for two years
(Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027)

- Draft Review for New Applicants: February 24, 2025
- Application Due: **March 4, 2025 by 11:59 PM (EST)**
- Panel Review: April 21 – May 2, 2025
- Funding Notification By: July 1, 2025
- FY26 Final Grant Report Due: July 17, 2026
- FY27 Final Grant Report Due: July 15, 2027



About Grant Awards

The grant award amount is based on:

- available funds
- the number of eligible applicants
- reviewer scores
- the organization's budget size
- equity funding priorities, and
- award size policy: the award cannot exceed 20% of the applicant's cash income figure



About Grant Awards

- Applicants do not request an award amount.
- Award sizes vary typically between \$4,000 and \$25,000 depending on available funding and number of applicants.
- Applicants with a total cash revenue of \$50,000 or more are required to match IAC funds 1:1. Half of the match can be goods and/or services donated in-kind.

Grant Recipient Requirements



- Enter into a binding contract with the State of Indiana
- Receive payment by direct deposit
- Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) by application submission
- Follow the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements and Federal Civil Rights and all other relevant state/federal laws and policies

Grant Recipient Requirements



- Monitor record retention and tax responsibilities
- Ensure grant funds are used only for eligible expenses
 - Food and beverage, cash awards and prizes, fundraising events are all not eligible expenses
- Follow the full requirements as outlined in the program guidelines, the grant contract and the Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees
- Publicly acknowledge funding support through use of IAC, Regional Arts Partner and NEA logos and other forms of acknowledgement

Reporting Requirements



- All grantees submit a final report for each year of funding covering topics including but not limited to:
 - Number of people served broken down by age and distinct groups
 - Location of activities/services
 - Use of funds and grant impacts
 - Jobs supported
 - Total Revenue, Expense, In-Kind

Reporting Requirements



- The IAC reserves the right to request documentation of grant expenditures and may conduct spot audits to ensure expense eligibility and policy adherence
 - Grantees must keep all grant-related records for three years from the date of submission of the final report
- The IAC may request a site visit to learn more about the grantees work and use of IAC funds

Evaluation Criteria & Process



- Applications will be evaluated by how well they meet the criteria, considering factors that impact applicant capacity such as the applicant's budget tier and staffing.
- Evaluation criteria and their percentage of total score are:
 - **Artistic Quality (40%)**
 - **Community Benefit, Inclusion and Accessibility (30%)**
 - **Organizational Planning, Impact and Management (30%)**
- Applications will be discussed at a virtual public panel meeting between April 21 – May 2. These panels will be conducted live and not recorded. Applicants will be notified as to what date their panel review will occur. Reviewers will also provide written comments.

Artistic Quality (40%)



The extent to which:

- Quality artistic, educational, and/or cultural activities are offered
- Artists, arts educators and leadership staff/contractors are qualified
- Applicant demonstrates a commitment to artistic growth



Community Benefit, Inclusion and Accessibility (30%)

The extent to which:

- The applicant can describe the community it serves
- The applicant can describe how the community will benefit from the artistic, educational, and/or cultural activities the applicant provides
- Intentional efforts are made to directly engage underserved populations*
- The applicant's programming is accessible

*underserved populations = people whose opportunities to experience the arts have been limited by factors such as geographic location, ethnicity, economics and/or disability

Organizational Planning, Impact and Management (30%)



The extent to which:

- Applicant goals are defined, and plans are in place to measure impact
- Applicant demonstrates sound management and fiscal practices



Application Sections

- **Section 1: Before you Begin** - (links, pro tips, deadlines)
- **Section 2: Applicant Overview** - (mission statement, financial information, staff numbers)
- **Section 3: Artistic Quality** - (describe activities, artist and programming selection process/criteria, artistic work sample, qualifications of artists/educators, describe leadership staff, artistic growth)
- **Section 4: Community Benefit, Inclusion and Accessibility** - (describe community applicant serves, how that community will benefit, how applicant will directly engage underserved populations, confirm accessibility and accomodation procedures)
- **Section 5: Organizational Planning, Impact and Management** - (Identify three goals for the grant period, how the applicant will evaluate the goals, describe board engagement and current financial position)
- **Section 6: Review & Electronic Signature**



IAC Online Grant System

Let's review the eligibility tool and application together

- Returning applicants: Use same login credentials
- New applicants: Need to create an account



Draft Application Review

- Draft Review from Regional Arts Partners (RAP)
 - Available to first time applicants and applicants not currently receiving funds from the IAC
 - Do not submit – leave the application in draft and request a draft review via email to your RAP by **February 24, 2025**
 - Draft reviews offer general feedback about application completeness and clarity



Pro Tips

Before You Start

1. First time applicant? Connect with your Regional Arts Partner (RAP)
2. Review the AOS Program Guidelines
3. Review the AOS Program Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Rubric
4. Review the entire application

As You Complete the Application

1. Be clear and thorough
2. Answer every question
3. Provide detail to support your narrative



Program Contacts

- **For questions about the 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 Stephanie Haines at shaines@iac.in.gov.



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Questions?