



**INDIANA ARTS
COMMISSION**
MAKING THE ARTS HAPPEN

FY26 Arts Project Support - Informational Webinar



**INDIANA ARTS
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MAKING THE ARTS HAPPEN



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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.



Agenda

1. **APS Program Goals**
2. **Changes for FY26**
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 APS PROGRAM IS JOINTLY ADMINISTERED WITH
THE REGIONAL ARTS PARTNERS**

About Arts Project Support (APS)



Arts Project Support (APS) grants provide funding 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.

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.
- Historically underserved geographies and populations benefit.

FY25 Changes that Continue for FY26



- **Maximum award amounts will remain \$4,000 and recommended requests will be fully funded at the requested amount**
- **Grant awards will be made as a single payment at the beginning of the contract period**



Changes for FY26

- **Two grant cycles: Spring and Fall (New)**
- **Spring Application Cycle**
 - **Application Deadline: March 4, 2025**
 - Grant Period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 | Best for projects that occur in late fall.
- **Fall Application Cycle (NEW)**
 - Application Opens: July 8, 2025
 - **Application Deadline: September 9, 2025**
 - Grant Period: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026 | Best for projects (or applicants) that a March deadline feels a little quick or would benefit from a calendar year grant period OR for those projects occurring in July or August that would benefit from having funds in advance of the project
- Applicants not funded in the Spring Cycle may apply again in the Fall Cycle



Changes for FY26

- **Fewer and simpler application criteria and simplified scoring rubric**
- **No public grant panels**
- **Change in fiscal sponsorship** – applicants will need to contact the IAC in advance before beginning an application



Changes for FY26

- **Change in eligibility for Colleges and Universities** - Eligible projects are those that provide *either* community arts learning experiences for grades Pre-K through 12 on their home campus or elsewhere *or* arts activities in high-priority geographic service counties
- **501(c)(6) tourism entities and Chambers of Commerce** are eligible



Eligibility

- 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 activities in high-priority geographic service counties



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 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.

Is the Arts Organization Support Program a Better Fit?



- It might be if you are an Arts Organization with an annual budget of more than \$20,000 in cash revenue
- A longer application but funding is for two years with greater flexibility on use of funds
- Unsure? Contact your Regional Arts Partner to discuss
- You can apply for EITHER Arts Organization Support OR Arts Project Support in this cycle, but not both.



FY26-27 Program Timeline

- **Spring Application Cycle – Grant Period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026:**
 - Draft Review for New Applicants: February 24, 2025
 - Application Due: March 4, 2025 by 11:59 PM (EST)
 - Funding Notification By: July 1, 2025
 - Final Grant Report Due: July 15, 2026

- **Fall Application Cycle – Grant Period January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026:**
 - Program Opens for Applications: July 8, 2025
 - Draft Review for New Applicants: August 29, 2025
 - Application Due: September 9, 2025 by 11:59 PM (EST)
 - Funding Notification By: December 12, 2025
 - Final Grant Report Due: January 15, 2027



About Grant Awards

- Maximum award amounts will remain \$4,000 and recommended requests will be fully funded.
- The percentage funded will depend on the size of the applicant pool and available funds

Grant Recipient Requirements



- Enter into a binding contract with the State of Indiana
- Receive payment by direct deposit
- 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 and Regional Arts Partner 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 Process

- Applications will be evaluated by how well they meet the criteria.
- Evaluation criteria and their percentage of total score are:
 - Project Quality & Planning (30%)
 - Community Benefit, Inclusion and Accessibility (40%)
 - Project Management (30%)
- The Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Rubric are available in the application.

Project Quality & Planning (30%)



The extent to which:

- The project provides a quality artistic experience* for the community
- The project timeline is defined and aligned with 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
- The community will benefit from the proposed project
- Intentional efforts are made to directly engage underserved populations*
- The proposed project 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

Project Management (30%)



The extent to which:

- The project team members have relevant skills and knowledge to administer the project
- The project spending is aligned with project description and goals



Application Sections

- **Section 1: Before you Begin** - (links, pro tips, deadlines)
- **Section 2: Project Overview** - (Project type, dates)
- **Section 3: Project Quality and Planning** - (describe project, qualifications of key artistic personnel, sample of artistic quality, describe project activities and timeline, provide project goal(s) and evaluation)
- **Section 4: Community Benefit, Inclusion and Accessibility** - (describe community applicant serves, how that community will benefit, how project will directly engage underserved populations, confirm accessibility and accomodation procedures)
- **Section 5: Project Management and Budget** - (Project management team, project budget including itemized expenses)
- **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 APS Program Guidelines
3. Review the APS 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?