



Applications are due
July 29, 2024

Indiana Office of Court Services

Court Improvement Program
Notice of Funding Availability

The Indiana Court Improvement Program (CIP) is offering grant funding for the **October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025**, funding cycle to help applicants improve safety, timely permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families involved in Children in Need of Services (CHINS), Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and Dual Status cases.

Funding Source

Funding for the CIP grant program comes from monies received by the Indiana Supreme Court from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children & Families under the provision of the State Court Improvement Program-Catalog of Federal Assistance (CFDA) # 93.586. Awards made under this notice are subject to the availability of federal funding.

Funding Priorities

Priority consideration will be given to courts proposing programs/projects geared towards safely reducing the time to permanency or addressing one or more [Court Performance Measures](#) that are not in compliance with national and state standards.

Eligible Applicants

- Indiana Courts exercising jurisdiction over CHINS, TPR, or Dual Status cases (defined by Ind. Code § 31-41).
- Indiana legal services, civil legal aid, nonprofit and pro bono organizations providing legal representation to parties involved in CHINS, TPR, or Dual Status cases.
 - Organizations in this category must submit a letter of support from the court that will benefit from the project.

- Projects promoting the collaboration between the Tribe or Tribal Liaisons and the child welfare system and Indiana Courts.

Purpose Areas

System Improvements

Innovative programs/projects intended to improve the court process for handling CHINS, TPR, or Dual Status cases and/or that are intended to improve safety, timely permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families. Programs/projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- New and emerging child welfare programs/projects that further the goals of the CIP
- Mediation in CHINS or TPR cases
- Programs/projects aimed at removing barriers to permanency, improving time to permanency, or improving permanency outcomes for families and children
- Programs/projects aimed at continuously improving the quality of legal representation for parents, children, and youth at all stages of child welfare proceedings.

Data Collection and Analysis

Programs/projects intended to improve CHINS and TPR proceedings using a data-informed approach. Programs/projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Collecting child welfare data and/or outcomes
- Developing child welfare data collection infrastructure
- Developing tools necessary for data sharing among child welfare stakeholders
- Adopting and implementing court performance measures for CHINS and TPR cases
- Evaluating current CHINS/TPR-related programs/projects
- Evaluating strategies to help identify reforms to improve child welfare outcomes

Training

Education programs to increase child welfare expertise within the legal community or facilitate cross-training opportunities between DCS, courts, and other stakeholders involved in the child welfare system. Programs/projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- increasing judicial and attorney knowledge and expertise
- cross-training with multidisciplinary stakeholders in child welfare matters (i.e., court personnel, DCS staff, Parent and children attorneys, GAL/CASAs, probation officers, and community stakeholders)
- Child welfare-related training programs and materials

Grant Information

- Grants are awarded on a cost-reimbursement basis
- Awards are granted for one year on an October 1st -September 30th funding cycle. Each year thereafter, applicants may apply for continuation of funding on a competitive basis for up to four years. **Continued Funding from year to year is not guaranteed.**

Match (Cost-Sharing) Requirement

Funds awarded under the Indiana CIP may not constitute more than 75 percent (75%) of the total program cost. Therefore, a 25 percent (25%) match derived from non-federal sources is required. For example, a 25% match on a \$100,000 program/project would be \$25,000, where \$75,000 is provided by CIP using federal funds and \$25,000 is provided by the grantee.

Step 1: CIP Award Amount ÷ % of CIP Share = Total Project Cost

Step 2: Total Project Cost - CIP Award Amount = Required Match

\$75,000 ÷ .75 = \$100,000 Total Project Cost

\$100,000 - 75,000 = \$25,000 Required Match

The match may be in the form of cash, in-kind contribution, or both. Funds eligible to be used as non-CIP share among other things:

- Must be verifiable
- Must not be federal funds
- Must not be used to match any other federal grant
- Must be used for the project/program proposed in the application
- May originate with a third party, public or non-public

Application Submission Information

Applications must be sent by email to cip@courts.in.gov no later than **4:00 p.m. EDT on July 29, 2024**

Review and Selection Process

When making funding decisions, a grant review team considers:

- Demonstration of need
- Adequate correlation between the cost of the program/project and the goal(s) to be achieved
- Probability of program/project to meet identified goal(s) and objectives
- Overall description of the intended use of the grant funds
- Demonstration that the applicant has met the local match requirements
- Overall quality of the application
- Performance on previous grants received from the Indiana Supreme Court
- Quality and feasibility of the sustainability plan
- Quality of data used to implement and evaluate the program/project
- Continued programs must be current on reporting and program requirements as of the grant review period. CIP will review the status of continued programs and make award recommendations based on the status of the program/project

CIP may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested

Award Notification

Notification will be emailed to the authorizing official and point of contact listed in the application. If the application is approved, the email will include detailed instructions on how to accept the award and how to access grant funds. Applicants may be asked to submit an adjusted budget if the amount awarded is less than the amount requested, or otherwise upon request of the CIP.

Additional Terms & Requirements

- General Grant Agreement
- Special Conditions for Court Improvement Program (CIP) funds