



Proposed IF Competitive Application 2026

Organization Checklist

By checking this box, I affirm that I have updated the [organizational profile](#) and that all the information provided is accurate and current.

By checking this box, I affirm that I have reviewed the Indianapolis Foundation's [Grant Application Guide](#).

Proposal Summary

Proposal Title [Be specific and clear. This will be the grant title on the record if funding is awarded]:

The Indianapolis Foundation acknowledges the interconnection of the [Equity Imperative 2030](#) priority areas listed below. However, we request that you select **one impact area as the main focus for this proposal**. *The primary area of focus you select here will determine the metrics you select in this application and measure in subsequent reports.*

- Housing Equity
- Economic Equity
- Health Equity
- Environmental Equity

If your organization would like to highlight intersectionality and multiple areas of impact, please select additional area(s) that the proposal addresses. *You will not be asked to report on the second area of focus.*

- Housing Equity
- Economic Equity
- Health Equity

- Environmental Equity

Amount Requested

The maximum request for this round of the Indianapolis Foundation's is \$100,000. The amount requested should not exceed 30% of your organization's board-approved budget for the current fiscal year.

Grant Period Timeline

Grant Period Start Date: Date of execution of the grant award letter

Grant Period End Date: Twelve months from the start date

Mid-Year Progress Report: 15th of the seventh month following the start date

Final Report: the 15th of the month following grant period end date

Eligibility

An organization may only receive funding from the IF Competitive Round once annually and must be in full compliance with all other funding received from the Indianapolis Foundation. Current grantees of the Indianapolis Foundation are eligible to apply for a new grant in this round, provided the organization has sufficiently completed all reporting requirements within the past three calendar years. All applicants are encouraged to review grant materials and meet with their Community Leadership Officer.

Please select the zip codes your organization serves in Marion County.

[Multi-select]

Select all zip codes that apply

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46113 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46219 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46239 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46183 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46220 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46240 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46201 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46221 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46241 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46202 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46222 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46242 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46203 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46223 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46244 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 46205 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46225 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46206 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46226 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46250 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 46209 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46229 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46254 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46211 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46230 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46255 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46213 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46231 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46256 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46214 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46234 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46257 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46216 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46235 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46259 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46217 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46236 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46260 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46218 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46237 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46266 |

- 46268
- 46274
- 46275
- 46277
- 46278
- 46282

- 46283
- 46285
- 46288
- 46291
- 46295
- 46296

- 46298
- 46262
- All Marion County ZIP Codes

Please select the priority population your organization plans to serve with your grant request. [Multi-select]

Select all priority populations listed below

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other historically marginalized groups
- Immigrants and refugees
- Returning Citizens or Justice-Involved Residents
- Youth (ages 11-24) and Women, especially those experiencing violence, sexual assault, or eviction
- Older youth and young adults (ages 16-24) not engaged in education, employment, credentialing programs and/or training
- Other – Specify

Please select the Indianapolis Foundation staff member who you have been in contact with regarding this proposal.

- Maria De Leon, Community Leadership Officer, Youth & Arts
- Rachael Sample, Senior Community Leadership Officer, Housing Equity
- Fabio Yataco, Senior Community Leadership Officer, Economic
- Joy Usigbe, Director of Impact & Evaluation
- Jamie Valentine, Senior Community Leadership Officer, Environmental Equity
- Other

May we have permission to share the content of this application with Donor Advised Fund holders at the Indianapolis Foundation?

- Yes
- No

Proposal Narrative

1. Tell us the story of your organization: your history, community need(s) addressed, and what or who has influenced your work. (500 words)
2. How does the organization interact and engage with the community it serves through culturally relevant practices? How is community voice incorporated into programs, services, and the organization overall? If your services are available in multiple languages, please describe your approach to translation services. (500 words)
3. For what specific purpose is the organization seeking support? Please describe how the organization will utilize funding and how it aligns with the mission of the Indianapolis Foundation. (500 words)
4. How will the organization, if funded, create impact to address disparities and develop solutions to systemic gaps in the areas of housing, economic, health, and the environment.

Proposed Methods

In this next section, select: 1. approaches, 2. strategy(ies), 3. goals, and 4. aligned metrics for your organization and/or program.

Approaches

Please select one or more approach(es) your organization utilizes in its work. This can be for a specific program or the overall organizational approach to the work.

- **Direct Service:** Meeting and/or responding to immediate community needs resulting from inequitable systems.
- **Advocacy:** Work and action that uplift community causes, with a goal to shift and inform practice, policies, systems, and public accountability towards more equitable results.
- **Cross-sector partnerships:** Collaborations of people and organizations who work in different fields or scopes of work. This work informs and advances interconnected partnerships essential in creating and supporting equitable systems.
- **Community organizing:** Collective of diverse residents mobilizing to educate civic leaders and institutions of policies and practice disproportionately affecting lives and communities.

- **Resident leadership:** Diverse leaders embrace agency and authentic relationships as they advocate for and achieve desired results on behalf of their communities.
- **Narrative work:** The social process of storytelling about one's community to change how that community is viewed by society. It is a way to shift power and own one's truth and experiences.

Strategies

Please select one of the priorities and one strategy that aligns with the organization's work and the [Equity Imperative 2030](#) strategic plan. The strategy chosen will align with selected metrics. *(Applicants will only see the strategy aligned with the priority area selected in the application – Housing Equity, Economic Equity, Health Equity,, Environmental Equity)*

Housing Equity

1. **Strategy 1:** Increase access to safe, stable, and [affordable housing](#) units.
2. **Strategy 2:** Ensure access to crisis housing and increase [permanent housing](#) placement and retention.
3. **Strategy 3:** Reduce eviction rates.

Economic Equity

1. **Strategy 1:** Narrow the wealth gap by providing residents with access to wealth-building opportunities and credit-building resources to enhance economic inclusion.
2. **Strategy 2:** Empower entrepreneurs by expanding capacity and strategic capital for grassroots and community-focused organizations, increasing business lending and amplifying impact.
3. **Strategy 3:** Advance innovative, community-driven workforce initiatives that create pathways to high-wage, in-demand employment, and provide scalable support.

Health Equity

1. **Strategy 1:** Address the root causes of violent crime and recidivism.
2. **Strategy 2:** Enhance health outcomes by eliminating social impediments to health and promoting social connection.
3. **Strategy 3:** Improve the mental health of youth through expanding access to high-quality, culturally competent, coordinated mental health and trauma support services.

Environment Equity

1. **Strategy 1:** Advance renewable energy facility improvements and upgrades.
2. **Strategy 2:** Empower community-driven solutions to local [environmental justice](#) issues.
3. **Strategy 3:** Support [green workforce](#) development through training, upskilling, certification programs, and/or degree pathways.

3. Metrics

Please select 1-3 metrics that align with the organization's work. You will provide a goal number for each of the metrics selected or inserted. Organizations will report on these metrics, including demographics, at six- and twelve-month intervals.

Housing Equity Priority *(if selected Housing)*

Please select a minimum of 1-3 metrics that align with this proposal. Organizations will provide a goal number for each of the metrics selected.

Strategy 1: Increase access to safe, stable and affordable housing units

- # of affordable housing units developed, preserved or renovated
- # of individuals provided with services to address access to affordable housing
- # of education or advocacy events hosted
- # of individuals participating in education or advocacy events
- Cumulative \$ amount leveraged for investment in the preservation, renovation or development of affordable housing units
- # of organizational partnerships developed or strengthened to address affordable housing access
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

Strategy 2: Ensure access to crisis housing and increase permanent housing placement and retention

- # of individuals receiving crisis housing
- # of individuals assessed for coordinated entry
- # of individuals placed in permanent housing
- # of individuals retaining permanent housing after 6, 12 months
- # of individuals served using the Housing First model
- # of education or advocacy events hosted
- # of individuals participating in education or advocacy events
- Cumulative \$ amount leveraged for investment in permanent housing for individuals experiencing homelessness
- # of individuals provided with services to address barriers to permanent housing OR housing stability

- # of organizational partnerships developed or strengthened to address permanent housing access
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

Strategy 3: Reduce evictions rates

- # of individuals provided with prevention rental assistance
- # of individuals retaining permanent housing after 6, 12 months
- # of education or advocacy events hosted
- # of individuals participating in education or advocacy events
- # of individuals provided with services to address barriers to housing stability
- # of organizational partnerships developed or strengthened to address housing stability
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

What is the goal number for each metric selected?

Economic Equity Priority *(if selected Economic)*

Please select a minimum of 1-3 metrics that align with this proposal. Organizations will provide a goal number for each of the metrics selected.

Strategy 1: Narrow the wealth gap by providing residents with access to wealth-building opportunities and credit-building resources to enhance economic inclusion.

- # of individuals successfully placed in jobs
- # of individuals placed in jobs receiving wages above \$18/hour or above
- # of individuals placed in jobs receiving \$22/hour or above
- # of individuals starting a business
- # of businesses receiving loans
- Aggregate total \$ amount of business loans provided
- # of individuals served who have seen an increase in income
- # of individuals with an increase in savings
- # of individuals with an increase in checking balances
- # of individuals engaged in peer or mentor networks
- # of individuals reporting increased confidence in financial stability
- # of individuals reporting increased confidence in career planning
- # of individuals accessing safe credit products
- # of individuals receiving credit building training
- # of individuals receiving services from a certified credit counselor
- # of individuals increasing credit score
- Consolidated average change in credit scores for participants

- # of individuals reaching a credit score of 660 or higher
- # of individual reporting a decrease in collections or delinquent accounts
- # of individuals opening a checking or savings account
- # of research studies conducted or published focused on economic inequality, financial instability, and or financial exclusion
- # of publications produced providing public education information and awareness on economic inequality
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

Strategy 2: Empower entrepreneurs by expanding capacity and strategic capital for grassroots and community-focused organizations, increasing business lending and amplifying impact.

- # of individuals/entrepreneurs served
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs that completed training
- Aggregate total # of technical assistance (TA) or coaching hours provided to individuals/entrepreneurs
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs receiving wrap around support or case management
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs successfully referred to or connected with other resources
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs completing a business plan
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs successfully registering their business with the state
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs participating in a pitch competition
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs indicating increased knowledge or capacity as a result of receiving training, Technical Assistance or other support
- # of jobs created (Full-time) as a result providing services, training, loans, grants, or other support to community businesses
- # of jobs created (Part-time) as a result providing services, training, loans, grants, or other support to community businesses
- # of businesses receiving loans
- Aggregate total \$ amount of business loans provided
- # of businesses receiving grants
- Aggregate total \$ amount of grants provided to businesses
- Aggregate total \$ amount of loans provided to business owners
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs opening a business bank account
- # of business owners reporting new revenue growth
- # of business owners reporting new customer generation
- # of individuals/entrepreneurs involved in cohort-based training

- # of business owners reporting new contracts obtained
- # of individuals engaged in peer or mentor networks
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

Strategy 3: Advance innovative, community-driven workforce initiatives that create pathways to high-wage, in-demand employment and provide scalable support.

- # of individuals served
- # of individuals receiving career coaching, job placement support, or mentorship
- # of individuals receiving barrier buster support or other case management services
- # of individuals completing workforce training
- # of individuals receiving certification or credential
- # of coalitions / partnerships developed or strengthened
- # of individuals successfully placed in jobs
- # of individuals placed in jobs receiving wages above \$18/hour or above
- # of individuals placed in jobs receiving \$22/hour or above
- # of individuals engaged in peer or mentor networks
- # of individuals reporting a salary or wage increase as a result of coaching or services provided
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

What is the goal number for each metric selected?

Health Equity Priority *(if Health selected)*

Please select a minimum of 1-3 metrics that align with this proposal. Organizations will provide a goal number for each of the metrics selected.

Strategy 1: Address the root causes of violent crime and recidivism.

- # of individuals served that have been justice-involved prior to services
- # of justice-involved individuals served that did not have a technical violation, arrest, or conviction during this grant reporting period
- # of individuals participating in outreach events *(e.g., community events, health fairs)*
- # of individuals completing educational workshops, trainings, or classes
- # of partnerships or coalitions developed or strengthened
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

Strategy 2: Enhance health outcomes by eliminating social impediments to health and promoting social connection.

- # of individuals served
- # of individuals receiving referrals/linkage to care
- # of individuals successfully completing recommended referrals/linkage to care
- # of individuals provided nutrition support/services
- # of individuals provided physical activities opportunities/services
- # of individuals provided transportation to care/services
- # of individuals provided additional wrap-around or supportive services (e.g. childcare vouchers, transportation, housing supports, employment coaching, social connection opportunities)
- # of individuals participating in outreach events (e.g., community events, health fairs)
- # of individuals completing educational workshops, trainings, or classes
- # of partnerships or coalitions developed or strengthened
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

Strategy 3: Improve the mental health of youth through expanding access to high-quality, culturally competent, coordinated mental health and trauma support services.

- # of individuals provided mental health screenings
- # of individuals screened demonstrating need for mental health support services
- # of individuals provided mental health support services
- # of individuals receiving referrals/linkage to care
- # of individuals successfully completing recommended mental health services
- # of partnerships or coalitions developed or strengthened
- # of individuals participating in outreach events (e.g., community events, health fairs)
- # of individuals completing educational workshops, trainings, or classes
- # of new mental health practitioners who are trained, hired, and/or retained
- # of individuals provided additional wrap-around or supportive services (e.g. childcare vouchers, transportation, housing supports, employment coaching)
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

What is the goal number for each metric selected?

Environmental Equity Priority *(if Environment selected)*

Please select a minimum of 1-3 metrics that align with this proposal. Organizations will provide a goal number for each of the metrics selected.

Strategy 1: Advance renewable energy facility improvements and upgrades.

- # of individuals served
- # of outreach events or educational workshops conducted to promote renewable energy facility improvement adoption
- # of individuals/community members engaged through outreach/educational events
- # of individuals receiving training on renewable energy facility improvements or upgrades
- # of individual residents receiving renewable energy facility assessments
- \$ amount of renewable energy improvements or upgrades per facility
- # of facilities receiving renewable energy improvements or upgrades
- Estimated monthly \$ amount utility reduction per individual/facility
- Estimated monthly percent utility reduction per individual/facility
- Estimated monthly energy reduction in kilowatt hours (kWh) per facility
- Estimated monthly greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction per facility
- # individuals engaged in renewable energy advocacy or public education campaigns
- # of individual public officials attending educational events on renewable energy topics
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

Strategy 2: Empower community-driven solutions to local environmental justice issues.

- # of individuals/community members engaged through outreach/educational events
- # of community outreach/educational events held on environmental justice issues
- # of environmental justice, community-based projects facilitated or supported
- # of individual public officials attending educational events on local environmental justice issues
- # individuals engaged in advocating for local environmental justice issues

- # of community-developed plans that address environmental justice
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

Strategy 3: Support green workforce development through training, upskilling, certification programs, and/or degree pathways.

- # of individuals/community members engaged in outreach/educational events
- # of new certifications, upskilling programs, and degree pathways created for green careers
- # of individuals completing green job training, certification, or degree pathways
- # of individuals successfully placed in a green job
- # of individuals successfully placed in green job receiving wages \$18 / hour or above
- # of individuals placed in green jobs receiving \$22 / hour or above
- # of individuals reporting a salary or wage increase as a result of green job services provided
- # individuals engaged in green workforce advocacy or public education campaigns
- # of individual public officials attending educational events on green workforce pathway programs and topics
- Other(s): _____ (share a maximum of 5 metrics)

What is the goal number for each metric selected?

Youth and the Arts

1. An important thru line across the IF Equity Imperative 2030 is how youth and the arts help advance the Indianapolis Foundation’s priorities. In addition to selecting your primary equity area above, please indicate if your application:

- Mobilizes positive youth outcomes
- Utilizes the arts to advance equity

If checked, how will the proposed activities mobilize positive youth outcomes or use the arts to advance equity? (250 words)

Impact Measurement

1. How will the organization measure progress and track data on these strategies? Consider both quantitative (numerical) and qualitative (e.g. personal stories) as data to measure progress. Please also describe how you track demographic data, especially the priority populations you selected above. (500 words)

Organizational Sustainability

1. Have there been any unique or special situations occurring that have impacted the organization (e.g. major funding adjustments, leadership transitions, other shifts, etc.)? (500 words)

2. What is your current strategy and approach to organizational health and long-term sustainability? (500 words)

3. Is your organization interested in designating up to \$10,000 of your request to be used for organizational health and long-term sustainability? These funds may not be used to hire a grant writer or to support a capital campaign. [Checkbox. Checking box indicates “yes”. Question not required to answer.]

a. [If checked, required] Please indicate how your leadership would utilize up to \$10,000 for procurement of expert capacity building services. (500 words)

b. [If checked, required] Please select what area of capacity building services this special set aside of funds would support. [Multi-select and required if answered #12]

- Finance and budgeting
- Resource development planning and projections
- Governance/board development
- Leadership development/staffing management
- Strategic planning [to include contingency or succession planning]
- Other: [specify – required if selected]

If your organization is interested in this option, please fill in the amount of the request in the required budget table below.

Proposed Grant Budget

Specific Use of Requested Funds

How does the organization plan to use the funds requested from The Indianapolis Foundation? The total line should be equal to the requested grant amount.

Line Item	Amount	Description
Employee Compensation, Benefits, Taxes		
Professional Fees and Contracted Labor		
Printing and Publications		
Technology and Supplies		

Marketing and Communications		
Facilities (space rental, mortgage, etc. NOTE we do not fund capital improvements in this round)		
Travel and Transportation		
Capacity Building Services (maximum \$10,000)		
Other (Required to specify, if amount equals more than 10% of total budget requested)		

OPTIONAL: Please provide any additional information regarding the proposed grant budget that would be useful for the foundation to know.

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Documentation Uploads

Please read the instructions for the required documentation carefully. All documents must be uploaded in PDF format and no more than 2GB per file.

1. Upload your organization's IRS Determination letter.
2. Upload your organization's most **recently filed Form 990** according to guidelines below.

Organization's Annual Gross Receipts	Required 990 Form
Less than \$50,000	Form 990-N E-Postcard (or higher)
Between \$50,000 and \$200,000	Form 990-EZ (or higher)
Above \$200,000	Form 990

3. Upload **board-approved financial statements** from your organization's most recently completed fiscal or calendar year according to the guidelines below [Combine statements; upload one PDF].

Organization's Annual Gross Receipts	Required Financial Statements
Less than \$500,000	Board-Approved Financials to include Year-End Statement of Activities (Profit and Loss Statement) and Statement of Net Assets (Balance sheet or Statement of Financial Position)

Over \$500,000	Audited Year-End Statement of Activities (Profit and Loss Statement) and Statement of Net Assets (Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position)
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4. Upload your organization's **board-approved budget** for the current fiscal/calendar year.
5. Upload your most recent **budget-to-actual report**. The report document must correspond with the approved budget uploaded and be no older than the previous fiscal quarter.

Does this organization have an endowment or reserves? (100 words)

Verify the following:

- Your organization is in good standing with the IRS ([search here](#))
- Your organization is in good standing with the Indiana Secretary of State ([search here](#))

(box) Other (specify)

Board of Directors Roster

Upload **current board roster** with affiliations and officers listed.

Optional Documentation

Applicant may upload one additional PDF with supportive documentation. Examples frequently include: a program brochure, strategic plan, logic model, or other helpful document.