Grants & Loans

TO SPARK COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND bolster preservation throughout the state, Indiana Landmarks operates grant and loan programs available to local nonprofit organizations. We keep the paperwork to a minimum, and in most programs we welcome applications as needs arise.

GRANTS

Efroymson Family Endangered Places Grants

Before a group can tackle restoration of a landmark, it needs answers to big questions: What's wrong? How do we fix it? How much will it cost? How will the building be used? How can we raise the money? Our grants can help pay for answers in the form of architectural and engineering analyses, adaptive use feasibility studies, appraisals, and other preservation-related services. While Endangered Places Grants can help diagnose, plan, and prepare restoration and adaptive use projects, they may not be used for brick-and-mortar work.

Indiana Landmarks’ grants are also available for legal assistance to compel conformance with a local preservation ordinance, enforce a protective covenant, or seek an injunction to prevent the demolition of a historic building. On a happier note, our grants can also help preservation organizations grow by assisting in fundraising, strategic planning, marketing, and other forms of organizational development.

Indiana Landmarks offers Endangered Places Grants on a four-to-one matching basis, with four dollars from us matching each local cash dollar. In-kind services may not be used to meet the local match requirement. We will fund 80% of the total project cost up to $4,000 ($5,000 for our affiliates, nonprofit groups that have formally allied themselves with Indiana Landmarks). Grants to a single organization may not exceed $5,000 in any three-year period.

Marion County Historic Preservation Fund

In the capital city, we offer grants to nonprofit organizations through a fund established in partnership with the Indianapolis Foundation, an affiliate of the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

Endangered Places Grants in Marion County are available for feasibility studies, architectural and engineering studies, acquisition, construction, and restoration. While the grants can support brick-and-mortar projects, they cannot cover 100% of a project’s costs.

Indiana Landmarks gives priority to endangered structures and buildings listed in or eligible for the State or National Registers of Historic Places. Construction and restoration must follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation of historic structures.

This program awards grants up to $10,000, giving preference to projects with additional sources of funding. A nonprofit group may not have more than one active grant from the fund at a time.

Black Heritage Preservation Grants

Indiana Landmarks Black Heritage Preservation Program offers grants to help preserve sites important to Black heritage in Indiana, and for interpretive projects that bring public attention to history no longer evidenced by physical sites. The grants may be used for a variety of purposes, including organizational development, architectural or engineering studies, or programs promoting preservation, interpretation, or visitation of a historic place. For more information, contact Eunice Trotter, director of the Black Heritage Preservation Program, 317-639-4543, 800-450-4534, etrotter@indianalandmarks.org.

Indiana Landmarks also partners with Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) to make grants through two funds established by the late Eli Lilly chemist and preservation champion Standiford “Stan” Cox. Cox joined Eli Lilly and Co. in 1957 as its first Black chemist. He established the Standiford H. Cox Fund and the Dovie Stewart Cox & Chester A. Cox Sr. Memorial Fund with CICF to support the restoration,
preservation, operation, and ongoing maintenance of African American historic sites in Indiana. To suggest a property that might qualify for grants from the funds, contact Indiana Landmarks at coxfunds@indianalandmarks.org.

Sacred Places Indiana Grants

To help congregations in historic houses of worship with restoration needs, we created Sacred Places Indiana supported by funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The program offers two grant paths designed to assist congregations that have identified significant repair needs and are prepared to raise matching funds through a capital campaign.

Both paths offer the opportunity to apply for planning grants up to $25,000 and capital grants up to $500,000. Emergency grants are also available.

Congregations selected to participate will receive intensive training in landmark stewardship, community engagement, and fundraising. For more information, contact Sacred Places Indiana staff at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org, or call 317-822-7952 to speak with Director David Frederick.

Historic Preservation Education Grants

Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Humanities make grants up to $3,000 for programs that educate Hoosiers about preservation and historic places. Eligible projects include lectures, workshops, conferences, tours, and the production of websites, audiovisual and print materials, including walking tour brochures, curriculum plans, and guides to historic sites.

Historic Preservation Education Grants are awarded twice a year, with applications due in February and September each year. Organizations are eligible for one grant per year. For more information, contact Suzanne Stanis, Vice President of Heritage Education, 317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534 or sstanis@indianalandmarks.org. To download an application, visit indianahumanities.org.

Indiana Automotive and Indiana Modern Grants

Indiana Landmarks has two member affinity groups—Indiana Automotive and Indiana Modern—that also award grants to help preserve landmarks. Indiana Automotive supports preservation and helps raise awareness of landmarks connected to the state’s automotive heritage. Indiana Modern awards planning and rehabilitation grants to help identify, promote, and preserve the best examples of twentieth-century architecture and landscape design. For more information, contact info@indianalandmarks.org.

LOANS

Indiana Landmarks makes loans to nonprofit groups to acquire, rescue or restore buildings listed in or eligible for the State or National Registers of Historic Places. Loan applications from affiliates receive special consideration (see interest schedules). We prefer to support projects that also involve local investment. Construction and restoration must follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation of historic structures. Our loans often finance projects that have received reimbursement grants from government programs or other sources (when grant funds are not disbursed until the project is complete).

We make loans up to $100,000 from our Endangered Places Loan Fund. An organization may have multiple active loans from Indiana Landmarks with the total loan balance limited to $100,000. Our loans must be repaid within 36 months or at the time of resale, whichever occurs first. When we make a loan to a nonprofit group for a property that will be resold, we are willing to forgive 5% of the loan or $1,500, whichever is less, to help defray marketing costs. In accepting a loan, the recipient commits to attaching Indiana Landmarks’ protective covenants to the property deed.

Our loans to nonprofit organizations offer more favorable terms than banks or mortgage lenders:

- Months 1 through 6 – no interest
- Months 7 through 36 – 3% interest
- Months 36 through payoff – Wall Street Journal Prime Commercial lending rate or 6%, whichever is higher

For affiliates—nonprofit preservation groups that have formally allied themselves with Indiana Landmarks—we offer priority consideration for loans and even more attractive terms:

- Months 1 through 12 – no interest
- Months 13 through 36 – 3% interest
- Months 36 through payoff – Wall Street Journal Prime Commercial lending rate or 6%, whichever is higher
Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for Indiana Landmarks’ grants and loans, an organization generally must:

- be registered as a nonprofit corporation in the state of Indiana
- be classified by or have applied to the Internal Revenue Service for status as a 501(c)(3) public charity
- be enrolled as a nonprofit or affiliate organization member of Indiana Landmarks
- possess a charter that identifies preservation as a primary organizational purpose
- have a clearly defined organizational structure that includes regular meetings and an ongoing program
- have been in existence for three years and/or have demonstrated responsible fiscal management.

For information on nonprofit or affiliate membership, call 317-639-4534, 800-450-4534, or email info@indianalandmarks.org.

Making an Application

As a first step, we require a prospective applicant to contact the Indiana Landmarks regional office that serves the county in which the project is located to confirm the project’s eligibility for a particular grant or loan program and obtain application forms (all brief and easy to complete).

If you’re unsure which office covers your county, see page 4.

Since we approve grants and loans throughout the year, applications may be submitted at any time (with the exception of the Sacred Places Indiana Fund Grants and bi-annual Historic Preservation Education Grants).
INDIANA LANDMARKS

Your first stop in applying for Indiana Landmarks’ grant and loan programs is one of our regional offices:

Central Regional Office
Indianapolis
317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534
central@indianalandmarks.org

Eastern Regional Office
Richmond
765-478-3172
east@indianalandmarks.org

Northeast Field Office
Wabash
260-563-7094
northeast@indianalandmarks.org

Northern Regional Office
South Bend
574-232-4534
north@indianalandmarks.org

Northwest Field Office
Gary
219-947-2657
northwest@indianalandmarks.org

Southeast Field Office
Aurora
812-926-0983
southeast@indianalandmarks.org

Southern Regional Office
Jeffersonville
812-284-4534
south@indianalandmarks.org

Southwest Field Office
Evansville
812-423-2988
southwest@indianalandmarks.org

Western Regional Office
Terre Haute
812-232-4534
west@indianalandmarks.org

Indiana Landmarks revitalizes communities, strengthens connections to our diverse heritage, and saves meaningful places.