

Sacred Places Indiana Fund 2026 Program Application

Indiana Landmarks

Introduction



Sacred Places Indiana - SPI Fund Program Application

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Sacred Places Indiana Fund. The Sacred Places Indiana Fund (SPI Fund) is an Indiana Landmarks program funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

The SPI Fund provides grants for the planning and execution of capital projects at Indiana's sacred places that are valued for their cultural, historical, and architectural importance as well as their role in providing human services, strengthening communities, and revitalizing neighborhoods. The grant program includes training, capacity-building, and technical assistance to ensure that grant-funded projects are successful in both the planning and implementation stages.

Application Deadline!

This program application will close on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 11:59:59 PM. The application will not be accessible after this time.

Please read the program overview carefully before continuing onto the application.

Section One: Program Overview and Eligibility Requirements

Section Two: Applicant Information

Section Three: Eligibility

Section Four: Case for Support

- *Criteria One: Historic, Cultural, or Architectural Significance*
- *Criteria Two: Community-Serving Congregations*
- *Criteria Three: Project Scope and Need*
- *Criteria Four: Readiness to Fundraise*
- *Criteria Five: Healthy Congregations*

- *Criteria Six: Photographic Documentation of Proposed Project*

Section Five: Certification

Important Notes: before filling out this application, please consider the following:

If you have any questions while completing your application, contact us at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org.

Email: We suggest that you add sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org to your address book to ensure you receive all email messages related to your grant application.

Terminology: In this application, for the sake of continuity, we use the term "congregation" to refer to the worshipping body or faith community of any religion including those that may not identify with this term.

The Sacred Places Indiana Fund will be referred to as the "SPI Fund."

Downloading the Application

It is possible to download this application in the form of a "Question List" PDF file that can be shared with others. At the top of the application screen, click the "Question List" button to generate a PDF which will include any progress on the application to date.

Continue on to complete the application. We suggest completing narrative responses in a separate word processing application to avoid accidental loss of work. **You may save your progress and return to complete it at any time before the final application deadline. In order to save this application, scroll to the end of this application and click "Save LOI."** Thank you again for your interest in Sacred Places Indiana and the SPI Fund.

Section One: Program Overview and Eligibility Requirements

Types of Grants: Planning Grants and Capital Grants

- **Planning Grants** may be used to fund consultants (architects, engineers, code and accessibility experts, e.g.) to assist congregations as they diagnose building conditions and identify priorities for future work, to retain fundraising counsel, or to produce project planning documentation. It is anticipated that congregations will apply for a Planning Grant as part of the Capital Grant project. Congregations may elect to request funds for more than one study, however, the total Planning Grant award for SPI Fund participants may not exceed \$25,000.
 - SPI offers planning grants to assist congregations with the following activities:

- ♣ Completing a Building Conditions Assessment to document the building's physical state and diagnose potential preservation issues.
 - ♣ Retaining fundraising counsel to conduct a Fundraising Feasibility Study or contract for fundraising coaching services.
 - ♣ Working with a professional architect/engineer to prepare architectural or engineering drawings that will define the project's bid-ready scope of work.
- If you received a planning grant as a graduate of SPI's New Dollars/New Partners program, you are limited to \$25,000 in total planning grant funding across both programs.
- **Capital Grants** may be used to fund repair or restoration of a building's envelope, surfaces, structural systems, facility upgrades (HVAC, accessibility, fire safety, etc.), and significant artistic features. This may include (but is not limited to) roofs, foundations, windows, doors, masonry, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and projects that improve ADA accessibility.
 - Capital Grants of \$100,000 or less will be offered on a 2:1 match basis (SPI 2 : Congregation 1).
 - Capital Grants between \$100,001 and \$500,000 will be offered on a 1:1 match basis (SPI 1 : Congregation 1).
 - **The minimum amount available to request through the Capital Grant program is \$75,000.** This makes the minimum project total \$112,500 (\$75,000 grant + \$37,500 match minimum).
 - February 2026 graduates of the New Dollars/New Partners training program may propose grants less than \$75,000.
 - If your congregation previously received a Capital Grant from SPI and successfully completed your project, you are still eligible to apply for funding for a new project.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Note: the congregation is not required to have developed a finalized repair plan, budget, timetable, or fundraising plan prior to acceptance into the program.

1. The property must be located within the State of Indiana and be at least 50 years old.
2. The property must have been originally built as a house of worship and must be owned by an active community of faith.
3. The congregation must be at least three (3) years old.
4. The applicant must be a religious congregation or closely-affiliated nonprofit organization based within the State of Indiana. Contact SPI if you have questions about this criteria.

5. The property must possess historical, cultural, or architectural value. Designation as a local landmark or listing on the National Register of Historic Places is not required but is considered during review.
6. The property must be occupied by a congregation that is community-minded and that serves non-members.
7. The property must have significant repair needs related to structural components, walls, roof, and/or other elements of the building envelope or mechanical systems that are integral to building longevity or life safety. Projects that improve the ADA accessibility of the property or projects that make vacant or underutilized space more suitable for community use are also eligible. **Note that cosmetic upgrades such as furniture, carpet, and finishes are not eligible.**
8. Anticipated capital projects must respect the property's historic character and materials and must adhere to the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#).
9. Capital work on the SPI Fund project may not begin until the congregation has been accepted into the program and all capital grant documentation has been reviewed and approved by SPI staff.
10. The congregation must be willing to undertake a fundraising effort to raise new money for the matching requirement. 50% of the required match must include funds solicited, applied for, pledged, or secured after the congregation's official acceptance into the program.
11. The congregation must demonstrate a need for project funds that exceeds the congregation's typical donor base and membership.
12. The applicant must exhibit signs of positive organizational health, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Senior clergy (and/or lay leadership) is established in tenure
 - b. Consensus around project goals
 - c. Commitment to retaining and caring for the historic property
 - d. Stable or growing membership
 - e. Established partnerships with external entities
 - f. Financial strength and stability
 - g. If applicable, positive and supportive relationship with regional denominational offices
13. The congregation must work with SPI staff to ensure that all program requirements have been met. Recipients are required to:
 - a. Develop a comprehensive scope of work described by permit-ready (if applicable) construction documents with cost estimates produced by an experienced, qualified building professional or team of professionals, typically including architects and/or engineers
 - b. Develop a realistic budget and timeline for completing the work in two years

- c. Develop a realistic fundraising plan

MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENTS

Planning Grants

Planning Grants for SPI Fund participants will not require any matching funds to be raised.

Capital Grants

All Capital Grants awarded from the SPI Fund require matching funds with 50% of the match raised after acceptance into the program.

- Any grant up to \$100,000 requires a 2:1 cash match (SPI 2 : Congregation 1)
 - For example, in a 2:1 scenario, a \$100,000 grant will require the congregation to raise an additional \$50,000 in matching funds for a total project cost of \$150,000.
- Grants of \$100,001 or more will require a 1:1 cash match (SPI 1 : Congregation 1).
 - For example, in a 1:1 scenario, a \$100,001 grant will require the congregation to raise an additional \$100,001 in matching funds for a total project cost of \$200,002.
- Grant requests should be based on total project costs.

Your match can include:

- Congregational giving
- Cash or documented pledges from individuals, foundations, or corporations
- Government grants
- Organizational funds
- Funds raised through events, raffles, and other fundraising efforts
- Proceeds from the sale of stock or real estate
- Matured bequests
- In-kind materials and professional services that directly benefit the grant-funded project. In-kind donations may not exceed 20% of the required matching funds. Value will be based on the fair market value of donated materials or services. Participants that will be using in-kind donations as part of their match should be in contact with SPI staff for approval and to ensure that the pledged amount is properly determined and documented.
- Reserve Funds (provided emergency or operating funds are not depleted)

Your match cannot include:

- Bridge or construction loans

- Previously raised funds totaling more than 50% of the match requirement. This includes funds solicited, applied for, pledged, or secured prior to official acceptance into the program
- Funds used from the principal of an endowment

Additional Requirements

- The grant amount cannot exceed two-thirds (2/3) of the project cost
- Participants must provide documentation for any single matching gift of \$25,000 or more
- In addition, participants must agree that they will retain documentation of all matching funds for a period of three years post-grant and will share this documentation with SPI staff if requested

APPLICATION PROCESS

Grant Cycle

The SPI Fund grant program operates on an annual cycle with applications and award notifications occurring once per year. Please contact SPI staff for specific deadlines regarding the current grant cycle at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org.

The process to receive planning and capital grants from the SPI Fund is outlined below. Projects must be completed within 24 months after acceptance into the program. Note that SPI-funded projects **cannot** begin until a separate capital grant application has been submitted and approved.

1. **SPI Fund Program Application** to be completed through the current application form in Foundant. The questions asked in this application address the SPI Fund's core criteria: historic, cultural, and architectural significance; community-serving congregations; project scope and need; readiness; congregational health; and strength of the application. As part of the application process, a site visit may be requested by Indiana Landmarks' Regional Offices and/or SPI staff. The purpose of the site visit is to assess the architectural integrity of the building and the congregation's readiness to undertake a capital project and fundraising campaign. Congregations selected to participate in the program will advance to the steps below.
2. **Notification of Acceptance into the Program.** Congregations accepted into the program will be notified in **September 2026**.
3. **Two-Day Training Session in Indianapolis:** Each accepted congregation must commit to sending two to three church leaders, including one clergy representative, to the SPI Fund training workshop that focuses on grant processes and requirements, fundraising essentials, and capital project work. Hotel accommodation is provided to grantees located outside of Marion County and the adjacent counties around Indianapolis (donut

counties). Training sessions will be held at Indiana Landmarks Center in Indianapolis in **November 2026**. The training will occur over a Friday/Saturday timeframe. Dates to be announced.

4. **Planning Grant Submission:** Each congregation accepted to the SPI Fund may elect to pursue a Planning Grant to fund either a Building Conditions Assessment, Fundraising Feasibility Study, or to assist with architectural plans. SPI staff will consult with each congregation about which would better benefit their project. In some cases, SPI may elect to fund both studies. Based on project readiness, congregations must decide with this application whether to pursue a planning grant. If you are unsure, consult with SPI staff before submitting this application.
5. **Capital Grant Submission:** Congregations that have successfully completed the Planning Grant process or have independently contracted for required planning documents will be invited to complete a Capital Grant application. This will include a SPI staff review of the above-mentioned studies and submission of documentation that includes: a written capital campaign plan, permit-ready architectural plans or bid documents detailing the specific scope of the project, and documentation that 25% of required match funding has already been raised.
6. **Please note:** site visits to review your congregation's progress will be scheduled as necessary throughout the duration of the project. Final grant disbursement is contingent on a final site visit to review the completed work.

GRANTS PAYOUTS

- **Planning Grants will be paid in two installments:**
 - Congregations must solicit proposals from at least two architectural/engineering firms to conduct a Building Conditions Assessment and/or at least two proposals from fundraising consultants to conduct a Fundraising Feasibility Study.
 - Consultants must be approved by SPI staff prior to the distribution of funds.
 - 50% of the grant will be disbursed upon approval of the Planning Grant application.
 - The remaining 50% will be disbursed upon submittal of a Final Report that includes the completed Building Conditions Assessment, Fundraising Feasibility Study, and/or other related deliverables.
- **Capital Grants will be paid in two installments:**
 - Congregations must raise one-quarter (25%) of required matching funds in-hand; provide permit-ready architectural planning documents or bid documents that describe a definitive scope of work (formalized through the Capital Grant submission process); provide a fundraising plan; and sign a Capital Grant agreement.

- Once the above conditions are met and approved by SPI staff, 50% of Capital Grant funding will be disbursed upon the execution of a Capital Grant Agreement.
- The congregation must agree to submit an Interim Report through Foundant when the project nears 50% completion. The report should describe the status of the project and all expenditures made from grant funds as well as provide an update on the congregation's compliance with the terms of the Capital Grant Agreement.
- The remaining 50% of Capital Grant funding will be disbursed upon completion of the grant-funded project, confirmation that 100% of grant-funded project costs have been secured and paid in full (less the final grant payment), and submission of a Final Report.

No portion of any grant will be paid until applications and supporting documents are received, reviewed, and approved.

Successful Capital Grant submissions will provide:

- **Permit-ready documentation and/or bid documents** describing the scope of work supported by the SPI Fund grant
- **Documentation that one quarter (25%) of the matching funds have been raised**
- After our review team has approved the Capital Grant submission, the first half of the award is disbursed, and work may begin on the SPI Fund project. The final half of the grant award is released once the project is completed and the finished work has been reviewed by the SPI Fund staff

CAPITAL GRANT CONDITIONS

- If accepted to participate in the SPI Fund program, applicants will be required to sign a Program Covenant agreeing to the conditions of the program.
- **Participation Fee:** If accepted, congregations will be asked to pay a \$500 participation fee. The intent of the participation fee is to signal the congregation's commitment to SPI's mission and processes as well as to foster a sense of ownership that is vital to the project's success. Graduates of New Dollars/New Partners will not be required to pay the participation fee.
- Grant recipients must understand that the SPI Fund is a historic preservation program - not a program for new construction.
- Overall stewardship of a congregation's historic resources, or the church's impact on community historic resources, is part of the evaluation process. A project or plan that requires demolition of a historic building, or has an adverse impact on a historic resource, may not be eligible.

- Grants or matching funds cannot be used directly or indirectly to influence a member of Congress to favor or oppose any legislation or appropriation.
- Any documents or plans for preservation work that result from the project must conform to the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#).
- At least two competitive bids/quotes must be obtained for any procurement of services that exceeds \$25,000. Congregations typically will not be required to submit documentation of competitive bids, however they should retain all related documentation for a period of three years after the conclusion of the capital project and be able to provide said documentation if requested. In exceptional circumstances where obtaining two competitive bids is unreasonably difficult or if the congregation has an existing relationship with a preferred contractor, the congregation may submit written rationale for considering a no-bid contract.
- Consultants must be approved by SPI staff prior to the distribution of funds.
- SPI Fund grants cannot be used to pay staff salaries. Board members of the congregation's organization cannot serve as consultants unless appropriate conflict of interest procedures are followed and documented.
- Grant-funded projects must be completed within 24 months after acceptance into the program. Projects cannot begin construction until SPI staff have reviewed and approved all necessary plans and documentation.
- Grant recipients must include appropriate acknowledgement of program and financial support from the SPI Fund, Indiana Landmarks, and Lilly Endowment Inc. in all printed materials generated for the project.
- A final report and financial accounting of the expenditure of the grant funds must be submitted within six months of the project completion date. A **final report form** will be provided through Foundant. If the project is not completed in accordance with the contract, the grant funds must be returned. In some circumstances, grantees can request an extension of the grant period.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND EXPENSES

- Certain kinds of sanctuary interior costs such as work intended solely to enhance the worship space or worship experience (e.g. replacement of altars, pipe organ restoration or replacement, etc.)
- Sound equipment
- Replacement of pews or other primary sanctuary seating (restoration of historic pews may be considered for eligibility)
- Academic research
- Historic building reports or historic resource surveys
- Consultant services (except as noted above)

- Conferences and educational workshops
- Media and marketing
- Acquisition of property or limited property rights
- Staff or faculty salaries; volunteer reimbursements
- Organizational overhead costs
- Catering, entertainment, food, and beverage costs
- Work that has been completed prior to program entry and the completion of the capital grant submission process
- Mortgages or debt repayment

Acknowledgement*

Choices

I acknowledge I have read and understand the "Program Overview and Eligibility Requirements" above.

Section Two: Applicant Information

Project Name*

Give your application a title. In order to expediate application review, please use the following format:

Congregation/Parish Name (City) / Project Name

Example: "St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican City) / Roof Replacement"

Character Limit: 200

Congregation Mailing Address*

List the mailing address of your congregation.

Character Limit: 75

City*

Character Limit: 50

State

Indiana

Zip Code*

Character Limit: 10

Graduate, New Dollars/New Partners Training Program 1/2*

If the congregation listed above is a graduate of the SPI New Dollars/New Partners Training program, please indicate below:

Choices

Yes, the congregation is a graduate of the New Dollars/New Partners Training Program

No, the congregation is not a graduate of the New Dollars/New Partners Training Program

Graduate, New Dollars/New Partners Training Program 2/2

If your congregation is a graduate from the New Dollars/New Partners Training Program, list the month/year of graduation from the program:

Character Limit: 10

Indiana County(ies)*

In what Indiana county(ies) are your house(s) of worship located?

Select all which apply.

Choices

Adams

Allen

Bartholomew

Benton

Blackford

Boone

Brown

Carroll

Cass

Clark

Clay

Clinton

Crawford

Daviess

Dearborn

Decatur

DeKalb

Delaware

Dubois

Elkhart

Fayette

Floyd

Fountain

Franklin

Fulton

Gibson

Grant

Greene

Hamilton

Hancock

Harrison

Hendricks

Henry

Howard

Huntington
Jackson
Jasper
Jay
Jefferson
Jennings
Johnson
Knox
Kosciusko
LaGrange
Lake
LaPorte
Lawrence
Madison
Marion
Marshall
Martin
Miami
Monroe
Montgomery
Morgan
Newton
Noble
Ohio
Orange
Owen
Parke
Perry
Pike
Porter
Posey
Pulaski
Putnam
Randolph
Ripley
Rush
Scott
Shelby
Spencer
St. Joseph
Starke
Steuben
Sullivan
Switzerland
Tippecanoe
Tipton
Union
Vanderburgh
Vermillion

Vigo
 Wabash
 Warren
 Warrick
 Washington
 Wayne
 Wells
 White
 Whitley

Congregation Geography*

Check the box that best describes the area where your congregation is located:

Choices

Rural (local population less than 20,000)
 Town / Village (population 20,000-50,000)
 Mid-Size City (population 50,000-100,000)
 Large City (population 100,000+)

Denominational Affiliation 1/2*

Select your congregation's denomination from the drop-down menu below.

Choices

AME
 AME-Zion
 American Baptist
 Catholic
 Christian (Disciples of Christ)
 Church of God
 CME
 Eastern Orthodox Church
 Episcopal
 Global Methodist Church (GMC)
 Independent Baptist
 Jewish
 Lutheran (ECLA)
 Lutheran (Missouri Synod)
 Mennonite
 Non-denominational
 Pentecostal
 Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)
 Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
 Quaker
 Seventh Day Adventist
 Southern Baptist
 Unitarian Universalist (UU)
 United Church of Christ (UCC)
 United Methodist Church (UMC)
 Wesleyan

Other

Denominational Affiliation 2/2

If you answered "Other" to the above question, list your congregation's denomination/affiliation:

Character Limit: 200

Primary Contact Name*

Character Limit: 250

Primary Contact Telephone Number*

Character Limit: 250

Primary Contact Email Address*

Character Limit: 254

Senior Clergy Name*

Character Limit: 250

Senior Clergy Email Address*

Character Limit: 254

Senior Clergy Biography*

Please provide a brief biography of the senior clergy.

Character Limit: 750

Senior Clergy Tenure*

For how many years has your senior clergy been working with your congregation? (answer must be numeric).

Character Limit: 50

Congregation Staff*

List all paid staff positions within the congregation, including clergy. Indicate whether these are full-time or percentage of full-time equivalency. If staff are responsible for building care, please add an asterisk* to their title.

Character Limit: 1000

How did you hear about Sacred Places Indiana? 1/2*

Let us know how you first learned about Sacred Places Indiana. This helps us understand which of our outreach and communication methods are working best.

Choices

Announcement/publication from another preservation organization

Announcement/publication from Sacred Places Indiana

Announcement/publication from Indiana Landmarks

Denominational communication
 Direct referral (please indicate who below)
 Media coverage of Sacred Places Indiana
 Web search
 Other (please elaborate below)

How did you hear about Sacred Places Indiana? 2/2

If you answered "Other" to the above question, please explain:

Character Limit: 250

Grants*

Has your congregation received one or more grants from an external organization in the past five years?

Choices

Yes
 No

Past Work with Funders*

Has the congregation worked with Indiana Landmarks (formerly Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana) or Sacred Places Indiana previously?

Choices

Yes
 No

Past Work with Funders - Yes

If yes, explain previous connections to Indiana Landmarks or Sacred Places Indiana (with approximate dates, if known):

Character Limit: 750

Returning Applicant

If you are a returning applicant to the SPI Fund, how many times have you applied previously?

Character Limit: 50

Section Three: Eligibility

The following statements pertain to the applicant's eligibility for Sacred Places Indiana's grant programming.

Please check each statement that is true for your congregation:

General Eligibility*

In order to be eligible, all of the following conditions must be met (check all which apply to your congregational property/properties):

Choices

- The property is located within the State of Indiana
- The property is at least 50 years old
- The property was originally built as a house of worship
- The property is owned by an active community of faith based in Indiana
- The congregation is at least three (3) years old

Congregation Eligibility*

The applicant must exhibit several signs of positive organizational health, including most or all of the following (check all which apply to your congregation):

Choices

- The congregation has stable clergy leadership
- The congregation has stable or growing membership over the past three (3) years
- The congregation operates annually with a balanced budget
- The congregation has a positive and supportive relationship with the regional denominational office
- Regional denominational offices are not applicable to our faith tradition

Support from Judicatory 1/2*

If applicable to your religious affiliation/denomination, does your congregation and current project have the support of your respective judicatory?

Choices

- Yes
- No
- N/A

Support from Judicatory 2/2

If yes, a letter outlining this support is required. Include any plans to merge or close the congregation or parish; any authority the judicatory has over decisions related to the facility; as well as insights about how this project/campaign will equip the congregation to serve its mission more fully. This information will be required upon acceptance into the program. The letter should also note any financial assistance or other forms of direct assistance being provided to the congregation in support of its project.

Please list the name and title of the judicatory official below.

***If a judicatory wishes, letters may be sent directly by email to sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org**

If you encounter issues with uploading and/or submitting documents through this application, contact us at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Outreach*

The property must be occupied by a congregation that is community-minded and has a demonstrated interest in providing outreach ministries that benefit both church members and nonmembers. Special emphasis will be placed on congregations that share space and partner with other nonprofit organizations and plan to make the most of their building as an asset for community renewal and service.

Choices

The congregation provides outreach ministries that benefit both members and nonmembers

The congregation currently shares space in its building with external organizations

The congregation has established partnerships with external organizations

Capital Project Eligibility*

Capital Grants may be used to fund repair or restoration of an historic building's surfaces, structural systems, facility upgrades (HVAC, accessibility, fire safety, etc.), and significant artistic features.

The property must have significant repair needs related to structural components, walls, roof, and/or other elements of the building envelope or mechanical systems that are integral to life safety. Projects that improve the ADA accessibility of the property or projects that make vacant or underutilized space more suitable for community use are also eligible. Note that cosmetic upgrades such as furniture, carpet replacement, and finishes are not eligible.

Note: Project components that are intended solely to enhance the worship space or worship experience are not eligible for this program.

Choices

The project has repair needs

The project improves the usability or ADA accessibility of the property

The renovation project makes vacant or underused space usable for community outreach

The project incorporates restoration of original artwork or elements of original artwork.

Preservation Standards Eligibility*

Anticipated projects must respect the historic character and materials of the building(s) and adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Choices

All project work will adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

Project Timing Eligibility*

Grant funds are intended to support projects that are not yet completed. Therefore, reimbursements cannot be made prior to the date of acceptance into the SPI Fund program.

Grant funds may not be used for construction work that has been completed or started prior to acceptance into SPI programs. Projects supported by grant funds must be approved by SPI staff in the Planning or Capital Grant submission process prior to beginning construction.

Indicate below that the timing of your grant-funded project complies with our guidelines:

Choices

The scope of work has not yet commenced

The project work will not begin until all requested documents have been submitted and approved

Demolitions or Additions Eligibility - 1/2*

Note: Demolitions to an historic building are not eligible. Additions to a historic building may or may not be eligible. Please consult SPI staff if your project plans to include additions to a historic structure.

Choices

The project DOES NOT include any demolitions to any buildings in the complex

There are no plans for any demolitions to any buildings in the future

The project DOES NOT include any additions to the footprint of a historic building

The project does include additions to historic buildings for accessibility upgrades.

Demolitions or Additions Eligibility - 2/2

If the project includes any demolitions or additions to any buildings in the complex (including non-historic buildings), describe this work below:

Character Limit: 400

Fundraising Match Eligibility*

It is Sacred Places Indiana's intention to leverage broader energy, resources, and dollars for urgent capital projects beyond the internal capacity of the congregation and the SPI Fund itself. For this reason, all participating congregations are required to raise matching dollars for their capital grant award within the program time frame. Please carefully review the matching fund requirements. Matching funds may include cash or pledges. The program's timeframe is 18-24 months from approval of construction plans/documentation to project completion.

Carefully review the matching fund requirements listed in Section One - "Program Overview and Eligibility Requirements" - located at the beginning of this program application. Matching funds may include cash, grants, fundraising revenue, pledges, or other sources as detailed in Section One.

Choices

We acknowledge total funds cannot be raised from congregational membership/regular donor base alone

We are prepared to raise matching funds within the program timeframe
 We acknowledge 50% of match funds must be new money solicited and received after program admission

Commitment to Participate in Mandatory Training/Orientation*

Participation in Sacred Places Indiana's training program(s) is contingent on the active engagement of at least one senior clergy member and one to two key lay leaders involved with the fundraising campaign and capital project who can commit to attending the related training modules. The exact dates and locations of the training are TBD by SPI staff but will occur in November 2026.

If accepted into the program, are the senior clergy and key campaign leader(s) able to commit to attend this training?

Choices

Yes
 No

Participation Fee:*

If accepted into the program after the initial application stage, congregations will be asked to pay a \$500 participation fee. The intent of the participation fee is to signal the congregation's commitment to SPI's process and foster a sense of ownership that is vital to the project's success.

Note: If your congregation is a graduate of SPI's New Dollars/New Partners training program, you will not need to pay the participation fee a second time.

Choices

We acknowledge and agree to pay the \$500 participation fee if accepted into the program.

Section Four: Case for Support

Sacred Places Indiana assesses applicants according to six core criteria to determine how well their project aligns with the SPI Fund's priorities:

- Criteria One: **Historic, Cultural, or Architectural Significance**
- Criteria Two: **Community-Serving Congregations**
- Criteria Three: **Project Scope and Need**
- Criteria Four: **Readiness to Fundraise**
- Criteria Five: **Healthy Congregations**
- Criteria Six: **Photographic Documentation of Proposed Project**

Case for Support*

In the space provided below, give us an “elevator pitch” describing why you are a strong fit for this program and why this is the right time for your congregation to be supported by Sacred Places Indiana. What impact will the project make on your congregation's work and mission? This is your opportunity to tell a compelling story demonstrating why your project merit's support through the SPI Fund. You should use this space to craft a cohesive case for support.

Character Limit: 3000

Section Four, Criteria One: Historic, Cultural, or Architectural Significance

Building Owner*

Who is the owner of the building as recorded on the deed?

Character Limit: 250

Building Date*

In what year was the building constructed?

Character Limit: 250

Building Architect

What was the name of the architect or builder who constructed your building? If this is unknown, you may leave this question blank.

Character Limit: 250

Architectural Style

If known, what is the architectural style of your primary church building? If your church campus includes additional building(s) that display a specific style, describe those as well.

Character Limit: 250

Architectural Significance*

In the space provided below, briefly describe the architectural importance of your sacred place, including architectural style and key artistic or design features.

Character Limit: 3000

Historic Designation*

While not mandatory, priority is given to applicants whose property is designated as a local landmark, included in a historic district, or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); however, the property must have architectural, cultural, and/or historic value. We recommend looking into the [NRHP Criteria for Evaluation](#) to better articulate the significance of your historic sacred place. If you do not know the NRHP status of your building, consult the

[NRHP database](#) and [list of National Historic Landmarks](#) by state.

For more information, you may contact one of Indiana Landmarks' regional offices to inquire about your property's designation. Follow this link for a listing of [Indiana Landmarks Regional and Field Offices](#).

There are also many resources available through the [State of Indiana's Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology](#). Additionally, you can utilize the State of Indiana's [State Historical Architectural and Archaeological Research Database \(SHAARD\)](#) to research historic properties across the state.

Is the property historically listed or designated? *Select all that apply.*

Choices

- Designated as a local landmark by municipality
- Part of a local historic district overseen by municipality
- Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Part of a National Register of Historic Places district
- Declared eligible for/in the process of becoming listed on the local, state, or National Register
- Designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) or part of an NHL district
- Located in a National Park or Monument
- Not historically listed or designated
- Unaware if historically listed and/or designated

Historic and Cultural Significance*

Tell us about the historic and cultural significance of your congregation. You could consider some of the following guiding questions in your response:

- How does your congregation's history relate to themes in American history and American religious history?
- Who founded the congregation? How did they relate to the community?
- How did the congregation respond to key events in local or national history?
- How has your building or complex of buildings served as a symbol of your community's heritage?

Character Limit: 3000

Section Four, Criteria Two: Community-Serving Congregations

The ideal candidates for the Sacred Places Indiana Fund are active congregations that engage with and open their doors to their community through collaborative partnerships.

Community Programs*

What are the congregation's most significant community-serving programs? In the space provided below, outline your congregation's community outreach programs. Include the following:

- Those that **occur on-site**
- Those that **occur off-site**
- Indicate whether each program is run by:
 - the congregation
 - a partner outside the congregation (name the partner if this is the case)
 - an employee or volunteer

Character Limit: 3000

Most Significant Program*

Select one of the programs listed and describe in greater detail. Explain how this program evolved, its history, and current position. Who are the beneficiaries? What is the impact of the program?

Character Limit: 1500

Space Sharing*

List any additional space-sharing programming that occurs in the church beyond any listed above regardless of whether the user pays for the space. For example, this could include community meetings, venue rentals, voting center use, etc.

Character Limit: 3000

Letter of Support from Community Partner*

Please upload a letter of support from an entity or institution, such as a civic or nonprofit group, with which your congregation collaborates or associates. This could be from a group that shares space in the building, a local neighborhood organization or Community Development Corporation, a historic preservation organization, or an elected or government official. The letter should highlight the congregation's relationship, impact, and reputation in its community.

List the name and title of the person submitting the letter below.

If you encounter issues with uploading and/or submitting documents through this application, contact us at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org.

Character Limit: 1500 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Section Four, Criteria Three: Project Scope and Need

Project Scope and Need*

In the space provided below, outline the proposed capital project that this application seeks to support with funding from a Sacred Places Indiana capital grant. List all project components and the associated costs to the best of your knowledge. Make special note of project components that have urgent repair needs. Please note if this project is part of a larger scope of work that will be done in multiple phases.

Character Limit: 4000

Project Cost Estimates*

What is the estimated total cost of the project that you are proposing to fund with the help of Sacred Places Indiana? We understand that some projects will be fully planned out, while others will still be in preparatory stages. Additionally, we understand that your project cost may be greater than the maximum grant amount or it may be much smaller. Provide the estimated cost to the best of your ability.

Note: The SPI Fund is designed to support major capital investment projects. **The minimum eligible capital grant award is \$75,000, which means the minimum project total is \$112,500 (\$75,000 grant + \$37,500 match).**

February 2026 graduates of New Dollars/New Partners training program may propose grants under \$75,000

Character Limit: 20

Project Timeline*

What is the estimated timeline for completing the capital project work? Please note again that all eligible projects for SPI Fund Planning and Capital Grants must begin after project documentation has been submitted, reviewed, and approved by SPI staff.

Grant projects must be completed within 24 months after acceptance into the program. Projects cannot begin construction until SPI staff have reviewed and approved provided plans and documentation.

Character Limit: 1500

Multi-Phased Project 1/2*

Is this a multi-phase project?

Choices

Yes

No

Multi-Phased Project 2/2

If your overall project is occurring in multiple phases, list phases and provide details for each:

Character Limit: 3000

Project Documentation*

What documentation does your congregation have to describe your project? We use the term "recent" to apply to architectural reports and project documentation completed within the past three (3) years.

Select all that apply.

Choices

A craftsperson/specialty contractor has submitted a bid or examined the project area

An architect has sketched out a schematic design of our project

Building Committee/Internal Congregation Recommendations only

Maintenance Backlog

We don't know/we don't have any

We have a permit from our municipality for the project work

We have a recent building conditions assessment

We have archival drawings but no recent documentation

We have bids for some or all of the project work

We have measured architectural drawings of the building

We have recent construction documents prepared by professionals that describe the project work

We have signed a contract with an architect to create project documents

Other (list below)

Project Documentation - Other

If you selected "Other" above, please provide details here:

Character Limit: 1500

Building Investments - 1/4*

Has the congregation made any major investments to the facility in the past ten (10) years?

Choices

Yes

No

Building Investments - 2/4

If yes, describe any recent project(s):

Character Limit: 250

Building Investments - 3/4

If yes, what was the estimated cost of the project(s):

Character Limit: 250

Building Investments - 4/4

If yes, did the congregation undertake capital campaigns to fund any of these investments?

Choices

Yes

No

Building Conditions Assessment

If you have completed a Building Conditions Assessment, list the architect or firm who produced the document and the year it was completed. Please upload the document below if able. If the file size is too large, contact sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org to arrange another method of sharing it.

Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Architectural Professional

Sacred Places Indiana and Indiana Landmarks encourage all congregations embarking on projects to work with professionals with preservation experience. It is our belief that engagement with qualified preservation professionals early in the process results in a smoother and more successful project.

If applicable, list the architect, engineer, and/or other professionals involved with the current project.

Character Limit: 500

Architectural Plans

If completed, upload any plan drawings, design documents, or reports that have been done to date by an architectural professional such as preliminary or concept designs, existing building plans and/or elevations. If you are further in project planning and have contract documents, construction documents, or bid documents, include those as well. In order to grant capital funds, we require permit-ready documents (also called contract documents, construction documents, or bid documents), but will work with you depending on the timeline and status of the design process.

If you encounter issues with uploading and/or submitting documents through this application, contact us at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org.

Character Limit: 750 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Section Four, Criteria Four: Readiness to Fundraise

It is Sacred Places Indiana's intention to leverage broader energy, resources, and dollars for urgent capital projects beyond the internal capacity of the congregation and the SPI Fund grant itself. For this reason, all participating congregations are required to raise matching dollars for

their capital grant award within the program timeframe. Carefully review the matching fund requirement detailed in the "Program Overview and Eligibility Requirements" section at the beginning of this application. The program timeframe is 24 months from acceptance into the program to project completion.

Readiness to Fundraise*

Describe your congregation's planning and preparation to raise funds for this project. Have any funds been raised already for this project? Has a feasibility study been completed? Describe any past fundraising efforts by the congregation including the dates of the campaign, the fundraising goal, and the amount raised.

Character Limit: 3000

Fundraising Preparation Status*

Provide any additional information about your existing fundraising efforts or plans you have for your project. We use the term "recent" to apply to fundraising feasibility studies and similar reports completed within the past two years.

Select all that apply.

Choices

- We are currently working with a professional fundraising consultant
- We are planning to work with a fundraising consultant
- We do not intend to work with a fundraising consultant
- We have begun soliciting gifts within the congregation
- We have completed a recent fundraising feasibility study for this project
- We have made a campaign appeal to our "diaspora" (nonmembers with ties to the congregation)
- We have outlined a donor pyramid of gifts
- We have recruited and trained volunteer gift solicitors
- We have recruited the campaign steering committee and committee chair
- We have written the case for support (Case Statement)
- Other

Fundraising Preparation Status - Other

If you selected "Other" above, please provide details here:

Character Limit: 1500

Fundraising Consultant

Sacred Places Indiana and Indiana Landmarks recommend that congregations embarking on large-scale projects work with a fundraising professional. If you are currently working with a fundraising consultant or firm, list the name of the individual or firm. If you have recently completed a fundraising feasibility study, include the date it was finished.

Character Limit: 250

Fundraising Feasibility Study - Upload

If your congregation has already completed a fundraising feasibility study as a part of your recent fundraising efforts, please upload the study here.

If you encounter issues with uploading and/or submitting documents through this application, contact us at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Total Capital Campaign Goal*

What is your total fundraising goal? If this campaign goal is still unknown, estimate to the best of your ability.

Character Limit: 20

Total Project Cost*

Estimate the total cost of your SPI-funded capital project, including a potential capital grant and required matching funds. We understand there may be fluctuation between estimated and actual project costs; if you are unsure, please estimate to the best of your ability.

Character Limit: 20

Capital Grant Request*

The estimated Capital Grant request: the amount (between \$75,000 and \$500,000) you anticipate requesting from Sacred Places Indiana. We understand there may be fluctuation between estimated and actual project costs; if you are unsure, estimate to the best of your ability.

Note: if you are a February 2026 New Dollars/New Partners graduate, you are eligible for grants less than \$75,000.

Character Limit: 20

Required Match Amount for Capital Grant*

What is your required match amount?

All Capital Grants awarded from the SPI Fund require matching funds with 50% of the match raised after acceptance into the program. Match amount should be calculated based on the total project cost.

- Any grant up to \$100,000 requires a 2:1 cash match (SPI 2 : Congregation 1)
 - For example, in a 2:1 scenario, a \$100,000 grant will require the congregation to raise an additional \$50,000 in matching funds to support a \$150,000 total project cost.
- Grants of \$100,001 or more will require a 1:1 cash match (SPI 1 : Congregation 1).

- For example, in a 1:1 scenario, a \$250,000 grant will require the congregation to raise an additional \$250,000 in matching funds to support a \$500,000 total project cost.

Character Limit: 20

Planning Grant Request*

If accepted to participate in the SPI Fund program, your congregation may be eligible for a Planning Grant up to \$25,000. **If you do not indicate interest in a planning grant with this question, your congregation may not receive a planning grant, even if approved for a capital grant.** Indicate how you anticipate using this funding:

Choices

Building Conditions Assessment
 Fundraising Feasibility Study
 Architectural Planning Documents
 Unsure
 Not Interested in a Planning Grant

Note: if you are a New Dollars/New Partners training graduate and have received a Planning Grant through the ND/NP program, your congregation may be eligible for additional Planning Grant funding. Contact the Sacred Places Indiana team for further guidance.

Fundraising Timeline*

What is the timeline for your capital campaign? (note that 50% of eligible matching funds for SPI Capital Grants must be solicited, applied for, pledged, or secured **after** acceptance into the program).

Character Limit: 3000

Campaign Goal Breakdown*

For your fundraising goal, please list (to the best of your ability) how much you anticipate (in dollars) from:

- Congregation Members
- Individuals
- Grants (including potential SPI Fund grant)
- Government
- Special Events
- Other

Character Limit: 3000

Current Funds - 1/3*

Have funds already been raised for this capital project?

Choices

Yes

No

Current Funds - 2/3

If yes, how much has already been raised both in pledged money and cash-in-hand for this capital project?

Character Limit: 20

Current Funds - 3/3

If any funds have been raised, provide details about funding sources. How much have you raised directly from the congregation versus outside other sources?

Character Limit: 1000

Section Four, Criteria Five: Healthy Congregations

Healthy Congregations*

Your congregation must exhibit signs of positive organizational health, including, but not limited to: Senior clergy (and/or lay leadership) is established in tenure; consensus around project goals; commitment to retaining and caring for the historic property; stable or growing membership; established partnerships with external entities; financial strength and stability; and, if applicable, positive and supportive relationship with regional denominational offices. Provide details demonstrating your congregation's current health.

Character Limit: 3000

Congregational Demographics - 1/2*

Using the U.S. Census categories listed below, what racial and/or ethnic groups do the majority of your congregation members identify as?

Choices

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

Hispanic or Latino

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

White

Multiracial

Other

Congregational Demographics - 2/2*

Provide details about the people who comprise your congregation. You may touch on demographics and identities including but not limited to: age, ethnicity, education level, gender, race, sexual orientation, and/or socio-economic status. If you selected "Other" above, please use this section to describe.

Character Limit: 1500

Total Congregational Membership*

What is the total membership of your congregation?

Character Limit: 100

Average Weekly Attendance - 1/2*

On average, how many individuals attended worship services on your primary day of worship during the last year? If you have more than one service, use the sum of all services (answer must be numeric).

Character Limit: 250

Average Weekly Attendance - 2/2*

Specify whether the average weekly attendance number you are sharing relates to virtual, in-person, and/or hybrid services (all are fine).

Character Limit: 250

Total Income*

List your total overall income for the most recent fiscal year (answer must be numeric).

Character Limit: 20

Total Expenses*

List your total overall expenses for the most recent fiscal year (answer must be numeric).

Character Limit: 20

Annual Budget*

Attach a copy of your congregation's current annual budget detailing actual income and expense figures for at least two completed fiscal years in order to be considered for SPI Fund participation.

If you encounter issues with uploading and/or submitting documents through this application, contact us at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Member Giving*

What percentage of total income came from member giving for the past fiscal year?

Character Limit: 20

Household Contributions*

How many households (giving units) make regular financial contributions?

Character Limit: 20

Rental Income*

Does rental income account for a significant portion of your income? If so, what percentage?

Character Limit: 250

Endowment Funds*

Does the congregation have an endowment? If so, what is the total and what are the funds earmarked for?

Character Limit: 500

Building Maintenance Budget*

On average, what percentage of the budget is earmarked for building maintenance each year?

Character Limit: 250

Insurance*

In order to receive grant funding from Sacred Places Indiana, congregations are required to carry essential insurance coverage on their church properties. If accepted to participate in the program, proof of insurance will be required as a condition to receive grant funding. In the text box below, describe the types of insurance carried by your congregation, including the name of insurance provider(s).

Character Limit: 3000

Section Four, Criteria Six: Photographic Documentation of Proposed Project

NOTE: WE RECOMMEND YOU SAVE A DRAFT OF YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE YOU UPLOAD PHOTOS - click the "Save LOI" button at the bottom of this page in order to save.

Upload images of your historic sacred place. Four images are required, and you may submit up to six images total.

Please include image captions/descriptions and credit language (photographer/permissions and date taken) for ALL photos submitted.

Note:

- **Word documents with embedded images and/or links to images are not acceptable.**
- **HEIC format images are not acceptable.**

Select the highest dpi or pixel range possible—the bigger your image file, the better. We are looking for image files sizes 2 MB or larger. JPEG format is preferable. These will be used for digital and print reproductions, so it is critical to provide the best quality and largest (highest definition possible) images. Word documents with images embedded are not acceptable. Original photo files must be submitted. List the photo credit, a brief description of the image, and the date it was taken. No historic photos. Use of a professional photographer is encouraged.

If you encounter issues with uploading and/or submitting your photos through this application, contact us at sacredplaces@indianalandmarks.org.

Photo of Building Exterior*

Upload a **current, professional quality, high-resolution photo** showcasing the overall external appearance of the building in the daylight. List the photo credit, a brief description of the image, and the date it was taken. No historic photos. Use of a professional photographer is encouraged. File formats as detailed above are required.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Photo of Building Interior*

Upload a current, professional quality, high-resolution photo showcasing the interior worship space of your building. List the photo credit, a brief description of the image, and the date it was taken. No historic photos. Use of a professional photographer is encouraged. File formats as detailed above are required.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Photo of Community Use*

Upload a current, professional quality, high-resolution photo showcasing how the community uses the space. List the photo credit, a brief description of the image, and the date it was taken. No historic photos. Use of a professional photographer is encouraged. File formats as detailed above are required.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Photo of Proposed Project Area*

Upload a current, professional quality, high-resolution photo showcasing the proposed project area. List the photo credit, a brief description of the image, and the date it was taken. No historic photos. Use of a professional photographer is encouraged. File formats as detailed above are required.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Other Photo 1

If desired, upload an additional professional quality, high-resolution photo. This can be another exterior, interior, community use, or proposed project area photo or a different type of photo you feel is important to represent your building, congregation, or project. List the photo credit, a brief description of the image, and the date it was taken. No historic photos. Use of a professional photographer is encouraged. File formats as detailed above are required.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Other Photo 2

If desired, upload an additional professional quality, high-resolution photo. This can be another exterior, interior, community use, or proposed project area photo or a different type of photo you feel is important to represent your building, congregation, or project. List the photo credit, a brief description of the image, and the date it was taken. No historic photos. Use of a professional photographer is encouraged. File formats as detailed above are required.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 4 MB

Section Five: Certification

Sacred Places Indiana General Terms:*

In your capacity as an authorized representative of your organization, by submitting the information, photographs, films, or recordings (works) herein this application, you give Indiana Landmarks and Sacred Places Indiana the absolute and unqualified right to use, in whole or in part, in whatever manner Indiana Landmarks and/or Sacred Places Indiana may desire, including (but not limited to) use for publicity, audio-visual presentation, and/or promotion, all photographs, video recordings, and other application materials submitted as hardcopy and digital files or through hyperlinks to files. You also certify that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

By submitting photographs, films, or recordings (works) to Indiana Landmarks and Sacred Places Indiana, you agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. You retain the copyright to all work(s) submitted to Indiana Landmarks and Sacred Places Indiana in this application.
2. You grant to Indiana Landmarks and Sacred Places Indiana a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, fully transferable, unconditional, non-exclusive, worldwide right to reproduce all or a portion of the work(s) an unlimited number of times in any and all media for any editorial, commercial, promotional, trade, or other corporate purposes.
3. You hereby waive your right to inspect or approve any copy that is used in connection with the work(s) in any existing or subsequently developed medium, and you agree to release and discharge Indiana Landmarks and Sacred Places Indiana, including their affiliates and licensees, from any and all claims arising out of such use for the purposes described above, including any claims for libel and invasion of privacy.

4. You represent and warrant that:
- a. you are the sole owner of, or otherwise have the authority to grant, all rights herein granted to Indiana Landmarks and Sacred Places Indiana, and
 - b. the work(s) submitted does not infringe upon any copyright, trademark, or other proprietary right, violate any right of privacy, or contain libelous, scandalous, or unlawful material.

Do you agree to these terms?

Choices

Yes

No

Authorized Official:*

The individual completing and submitting the information requested by Sacred Places Indiana must be an "authorized official." An "authorized official" is a representative of the applicant congregation who has the authority to sign legally-binding documents on behalf of the congregation or an executive staff member with signatory authority.

Does your role fit this description?

Choices

Yes

No

Provide the name and title of the authorized official submitting this application. The authorized official must be a representative of the applicant organization who has the authority to sign legally binding documents on behalf of the congregation.

Name*

Character Limit: 100

Title*

Character Limit: 100