READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative
Frequently Asked Questions

READI 2.0 Regional Map

READI 2.0 Regional Arts and Culture Plans

<u>Eligibility - Applicants</u>

What entities are eligible to be the applicant of record?

Applications must be submitted by an eligible Applicant of Record, which may include:

- *Nonprofit arts and culture organizations (501(c)(3))*
- *Local or regional government entities*
- *Main Street, downtown, or place-based organizations (including 501(c)(6))*
- *Colleges and universities proposing community-facing cultural projects*
- *Consortia led by an eligible nonprofit or public entity*

Individuals and for-profit businesses may not apply directly but may participate as partners in a consortia led by an eligible entity serving as the Applicant of Record.

Are statewide-serving entities eligible? *Yes. Entities that serve multiple READI 2.0 Regions are eligible, but they need to serve a specific regional partner. Projects must advance the selected regions' vision and goals for arts and culture.*

Are state agencies eligible? *No.*

Are entities who have already received READI funding eligible? *Yes.*

Are communities that have received a College and Community Collaboration grant award eligible for the READI 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative? *Communities are eligible to apply, but not for a project that is already being funded by a College and Community Collaboration grant.*

Can an applicant submit more than one application for separate projects? *Yes.*

Can applicants for this program also apply for funding from the Indiana Arts Commission? *Yes.*

Are non-arts entities eligible for this program? *Yes.*

Could a potential applicant work with someone at the IAC or IEDC regarding identifying an official applicant of record? *Yes, please contact READI's Arts & Culture Initiative program staff or IAC's Executive Director for assistance.*

Eligibility – Project Type

Is there a minimum project budget size? *No.*

Can projects already be in progress, at least in part? *A project may be underway, but only those expenses accrued after a signed contract with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation will be eligible for reimbursement.*

Would a coalition of community partners applying together make for a stronger application based on the statewide scoring rubric? *Yes. Projects or programs with confirmed partners or collaborators will receive priority in evaluation.*

Should a project fit squarely within a particular impact area? Or can it touch on multiple areas? *A project can address multiple impact areas.*

Will applications that demonstrate regional collaboration or broader regional impact be prioritized in the review process? *Alignment with the region's adopted arts and culture plan is a key consideration in review. Applicants should identify relevant priorities, goals, or strategies within the plan and describe how the proposed project supports or advances those areas.*

Is there benefit in combining the Blight Reduction grant program with the Arts & Culture grant program in terms of grant review, ranking, and evaluation? *Not for this funding, but the IEDC would want to know if there is a blight reduction piece to the initiative, as it helps our overall KPIs.*

Eligible Use of Funds

Can the funds be placed into an endowment fund at our local community foundation to help the event's sustainability? *No.*

Is a grant writing or project development consultant an eligible project expense? *No.*

Can grant funds be used to compensate artists or other project implementation contractors? *Yes.*

Can Lilly Endowment funds from another grant program be included as part of the project budget? *No.*

Can these funds be used for a local Arts Council (i.e. programming, employees, infrastructure)? *Establishing a new local arts council, commission, etc. is an eligible project, funding the general operating expenses of an existing arts council is not.*

Will there be specific procurement requirements for approved projects? *Grantees will need to attest that their internal procurement processes have been followed when submitting expenses for reimbursement*

Can grant funds be used to pay for project staffing? *Project staff or contractors are an eligible expense, but ongoing operational costs of existing programs are not.*

Can grant funds be used for general operating support for the applicant? *No.*

Can overhead or indirect costs be included in the project budget? *No.*

Match and Reimbursement

What is the period of performance? *The period of performance (and the earliest date that eligible expenses can be reimbursed) begins once the contract is finalized with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (no earlier than July 1, 2026) and concludes no later than December 31, 2028. All grant funds must be expended by December 31, 2028. Matching dollars expended on a project can be counted beginning on February 16, 2025, however those dollars are counted as match and are NOT eligible for reimbursement.*

Can you remind us what the public / private match requirement is? 1:1? *There is no hard match requirement for this initiative. However, projects that adhere to or exceed the READI program requirement of 3:1 private and 1:1 public match will be given priority during review.*

Does private 3 to 1 match, means $3 of private money to every $1 of READI grant money? *Yes.*

Are projects are still required to have 1-1 public, 3-1 private? *It is not required; however, projects that adhere to the READI program requirement of 3:1 private and 1:1 public will be given priority during review.*

Can you explain a bit more on how projects that are awarded will be structured as reimbursement grants? *If awarded grantees/project owners will enter into a contract with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC). It is at this time that grantees/project owners will submit a finalized budget that will be approved by the IEDC. After the contract is executed and the finalized budget approved, the grantee/project owner is eligible to submit disbursement requests for work that has been completed and is in line with their budget. The disbursement request must include a claim voucher, invoice(s) and proof of service. From the date of receipt of the request by the IEDC it takes 45 days on*

average to remit payment. There is no limit on the number of disbursement requests that can be made. Requests can be submitted until all awarded funds have been disbursed.

Can internal organization resources count as match? *Only if the organizational resources are directly in service of the project.*

When we speak about stakeholders are we talking government, foundations, corporations, individual donors, all of these? *All of the entities named in this question could be project stakeholders.*

Does a county board of tourism match count toward public or private funds? *Public.*

Can land be used as a match? *Yes, so long as the transaction of acquiring the land for the project occurred after 2/16/25.*

Is there a maximum percentage of the total project cost that this funding is willing to support and how much of the balance needs to be secured by the application deadline? *There is no maximum percentage of the total project cost that this funding could support. However, priority in review will be given to projects that demonstrate strong match and sustainability.*

Other

Are you hoping for general funding equity across the regions? *This is a statewide competitive opportunity.*

If awarded a grant this year, how long does an entity have to wait before they are clear to apply again for a new project? *At this time, there are no plans to offer another funding opportunity.*