

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FUND

## OVERVIEW

The Community Collaboration Fund (CCF) is a program designed to inspire new collaborations between Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) to serve Indiana's entrepreneurial ecosystem and fill gaps. CCF awards are between \$5K - \$40K for projects in the areas of entrepreneur education, tech enablement, and acceleration. Applicants are required to provide 25% match.

## ALLOWABLE PROJECT TYPES

- **Education:** Projects in this category should be designed to educate entrepreneurs and small business owners or potential entrepreneurs and small business owners.
- **Tech Enablement:** Projects in this category should increase an entrepreneur or business owner's ability to access technology, digital transformation support, research, etc.
- **Acceleration:** Projects in this category should be designed to accelerate an entrepreneur or small business owner's journey in a given area.

CCF project guidelines are intentionally flexible so that applicants can create unique programming to fill ecosystem gaps in their community. Preference will be given to projects that work across regional boundaries and fill major ecosystem needs.

## QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible for the Community Collaboration Fund, projects must:

- Be completed within one year of funds being awarded (completed no later than 5/31/2027), Provide at least a 25% match (15% cash match, 10% indirect cost match),
- Be between two (or more) Indiana-based ESOs with one lead ESO (with letters of support from participating entities with outlined roles/responsibilities and time commitments),
- Provide direct entrepreneur support,
- Be broken into individual budget line items that can be verified for reimbursement (receipts, time and effort, backup documentation, etc.), and
- Be a new initiative or expansion in the ecosystem.

Ineligible applications include but are not limited to:

- Projects that are duplicative of existing ecosystem offerings or offsetting the budget of an existing ESO project or IEDC program,
- Event sponsorship,
- Projects led by a for-profit entity,
- Projects that cannot be completed in the allowable timeframe,
- Projects that require an up-front disbursement of funds (as opposed to reimbursement based),
- Projects from applicants who have received \$120,000 in total CCF project funds,
- Applications that are part of a larger funding request or project, and
- Planning or retainer projects.

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## APPLICATION AND TIMELINE

The 2026 CCF application will be available Sunday, February 1st through Monday, March 2nd at 5PM EST. Applications must be submitted through the link below to be considered. **Questions may be directed to CCF@iedc.IN.gov.**



[APPLY TODAY](#)

## REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Complete Application,
- Budget Narrative - an explanation of the line items included in proposed budget and how they tie to CCF programming as opposed to the general operations of the organization, and
- Letters of Support from partner organizations and organizations contributing match

## PROGRAM CHANGES

- All projects will be 100% reimbursement based and be invoiced on a monthly basis (as necessary),
- Project scope will not be allowed to change post-award,
- All awardees will be required to track and report impact metrics to the IEDC,
- All awardees will be required to show backup documentation to substantiate their reimbursement requests, and
- Matching funds contributed to the project must be at least 25% of the total CCF award
  - 15% of the match must be in cash
  - Up to 10% of the match can be in-kind.

## UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Unallowable expenses include but are not limited to:

• Utilities	• Lobbying	• Expenses that cannot be directly tied to the project
• Alcohol	• Full costs of expenses that benefit other programs	• Expenses incurred before award
• Infrastructure improvements	• Event sponsorships	• Contingency costs
• Construction	• Debts	
• Real estate purchases		