

The City of Franklin, Indiana

**Economic Development Fee  
Grant Application Packet**



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## **Economic Development Fee Grants**

The City of Franklin Economic Development Commission (EDC) requests that companies that apply for tax abatement agree to a voluntary economic development fee. An economic development fee is a voluntary fee defined by Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1-14. When a company receives a tax abatement, a certain percentage of its taxes are waived for each year of the abatement. The economic development fee is imposed on the amount of taxes that are waived. For example, if the amount of taxes waived is \$1,000 and the company has agreed to a 2% economic development fee, they will pay \$20 into the economic development fee fund, and their tax savings will be \$980. These fees are collected from companies on a yearly basis. The percentage of abatement declines each year as taxes are phased in. Therefore, the largest amount collected will be in the first year of the abatement. Johnson County collects these fees as special assessments on tax bills and the amount changes each year.

The Economic Development Commission requests proposals from organizations on an annual basis, in order to disburse the funds adequately. The Economic Development Commission is required to award the fees collected under this section of the Indiana code to one or more public or nonprofit entities established to promote economic development within the corporate limits of the city served by the designating body.

Applicants must be exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or be a government entity. If an organization has not been recognized as tax-exempt, it may be considered for a grant if it has a fiscal agent relationship with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

### **Grant Proposal Guidelines**

- **Grant applications are due Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 by 4:00pm.**
- **You are required to submit one color copy of your entire Grant Proposal. If copy is not received by the above-stated deadline your application will not be considered for funding. This can be sent via email to [dmonson@franklin.in.gov](mailto:dmonson@franklin.in.gov)**
- **Applicants must be available to present their application to the Economic Development Commission at their meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.**
- **The project must be completed within 12 months of the grant award.**
- **Required Elements of the Proposal Packets (Your grant application must be submitted in the order listed below):**
  - Typed Application Form (In your packet you do not need to include the Grant Proposal Guidelines pages of the application packet)
    - **All sections of the grant form must be completed for the application to be considered for funding**
  - Narrative proposal (up to two pages, single-spaced), only needed if the space provided in the application is not sufficient to describe the project.

- Attachments:
  - List of current staff members (both paid and volunteer)
  - List of current board members (names, addresses, titles/offices)
  - IRS determination letter if not on file with the EDC from past applications
  - Other relevant supporting materials, including appropriate letters of support from partner institutions
  - The organization's overall budget showing income and expenses
  - Most recent annual report or financial statements
  - Letters of agreement from collaborating organizations (if applicable)
- **Required Elements of the Narrative:**
  - An introductory description of the project being proposed and its intended impact
  - Amount of funding requested and percentage of the project that will be paid for by the Economic Development Commission
  - Specific objectives the project is designed to accomplish
  - Estimation of the number of people to be involved or impacted by the project
  - Organization's capability to undertake proposed project, including:
    - Staff responsibilities within the proposed project (including all collaborating organizations, if applicable)
    - How will the project be evaluated?
    - How will the project be sustained after the grant is used if the project is ongoing?
  - In your opinion what would a successful outcome to this project be?
  - Relationship of the proposed project to other relevant services in the community. **If the project is a collaborative one, please describe the contributions of all parties.**
    - How will it build upon strengths in the community?
    - What is the need for this project in the community?
  - Your timetable for the proposed project and for the funding request
  - Your plan to communicate and promote the project to the Franklin Economic Development Commission and the community
  - How will all organizations involved make the Franklin Economic Development Commission's partnership in this project known to the public?

**A representative of the Franklin Economic Development Commission may contact you to arrange a conference to discuss your request. This conference may take the form of a telephone call, meeting, and/or site visit.**

**Areas of Interest:**

- Franklin EDC is interested in funding projects that will positively impact economic development in the City of Franklin, particularly in the following areas: business development & support, workforce development, arts & culture, community services, historic preservation, tourism, and agriculture.

- Each year the Franklin Economic Development Commission receives more requests than it can support, compelling the Commission to make judgments based on relative need and potential impact on our community. Because of limited resources, the EDC generally favors projects that:
  - ✓ Provide innovative responses to recognized community economic development needs that do not unnecessarily duplicate other efforts.
  - ✓ Address a community economic development need of some significance not covered by the regular budget for which funding is needed.
  - ✓ Increase the capacity of the organization to fulfill its mission of economic development in the City of Franklin.
  - ✓ Add to the overall economic development climate of the community.

**Scope of Funding:**

The EDC will generally **not** consider grants for the following:

- Annual campaigns or special fundraising events
- Endowments
- Existing obligations or deficit funding
- Equipment, unless an integral part of an eligible project, or clearly improves the agency’s ability to deliver services
- Individuals
- Routine or on-going operating support
- Political campaigns and/or activities
- Religious purposes
- Tours and trips for individuals or groups
- Projects and services that are typically the funding responsibility of a federal, state, or local government
- Public school services required by state law
- Repeat funding of projects supported through prior grants
- Athletic leagues or teams

The Franklin Economic Development Commission typically strives to support projects that have a long-term impact, as opposed to one-time events or conferences. However, the Franklin Economic Development Commission may consider such funding if proposals demonstrate how a conference or special event will enhance the ongoing work of organizations addressing the City of Franklin issues that correspond to Franklin Economic Development Commission priorities and/or the event will provide significant public benefit to city economic development.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Particular consideration is given to the following in determining the merits and priority of an application:

- The existing Mission Statement of the organization applying contains a reference to economic development in the City of Franklin. (50 pts.)
- The capacity of the organization, its staff, and governing body to achieve expected results and evidence of a realistic work plan and evaluation methods (10 pts.)
- Projects that are likely to attract additional funds, resources, and community support (10 pts.)

- New and innovative projects that have not been previously funded by the EDC (10 pts.)
- Plans with sound and realistic financial planning (10 pts.)
- Projects that clearly demonstrate they have been planned in light of overall community needs and available resources (10 pts.)
- Projects that attract and utilize volunteer resources and support (10 pts.)
- The financial stability of the organization as demonstrated by the organization's annual operating budget (10 pts.)
- **Special Consideration will be given to the following:**
  - Documented need for the project (10 pts.)
  - Collaboration by two or more organizations (20 pts.)
  - Projects that positively impact economic development in one or more of the following areas: business development and support (5 pts.), workforce development (5 pts.), arts & culture (5 pts.), community services (5 pts.), historic preservation (5 pts.), tourism (5 pts.), agriculture (5 pts.), increase capacity of the organization to fulfill their mission of economic development in the City of Franklin (5 pts.). It is the responsibility of the applicant to state which areas their proposal will impact. It is up to each individual commission member to determine how to award points in these categories.

The City of Franklin Economic Development Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, or national origin; we expect grant applicants to hold similar standards. Upon submission, a grant application and accompanying materials become property of Franklin EDC and will be used as deemed appropriate by the Franklin Economic Development Commission. They may be reviewed with community planning agencies and other individuals and organizations as we assess the Project and its potential significance.

### **What happens to your proposal after it is submitted?**

The proposal is reviewed by staff for completeness and its fit to general guidelines. If more information is needed, you may be contacted for a phone conference or a site visit. Sometimes in order to understand a proposal in the context of the service field, staff may consult with outside experts, providers, or funders. The proposal is then forwarded to Franklin Economic Development Commission members for their independent review and scoring. Each member evaluates all proposals against Franklin Economic Development Commission criteria, and then the commission convenes to make funding recommendations to the City Council. The commission may ask for additional information or research from staff and may choose to conduct personal site visits. Applicants will be contacted prior to the May 14, 2024, Economic Development Commission Meeting. The EDC reserves the right to invite only the top-scoring applicants to present their application at their commission meeting, based on the amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Commission recommendations may be to approve (all or partial amount requested), to defer (usually to obtain more information or evaluate outstanding issues or concerns), or deny. The commission also recommends any conditions attached to the grant. Only combined scores from the commission members will be shared with applicants upon request. The commission carries the grant recommendations to the City Council for final approval. Scoring is in place as a general guideline for review of applications, the ultimate decision for making recommendations to the City Council for approval is at the discretion of the Commission. Grant decisions will be communicated by phone or in writing to all applicants. If funded, the grantee may be asked to sign and return a Grant Agreement in

which the applicant acknowledges and agrees to grant terms, payment schedule, and communication and evaluation requirements.

### Tips for Applicants...

- **Read through the Grant Application Packet before you begin.**
  - **Please type on the form provided**, handwritten applications will be sent back to be typed.
  - Be **specific** about what you are asking us to fund and your project's goals. Strive for **brevity and clarity**. We have to read multiple proposals, so we appreciate your conciseness.
  - **You are required to make one color copy of your entire grant proposal, if this is not received by the deadline your application will not be considered for funding. This can be emailed to the Economic Development Commission at [dmonson@franklin.in.gov](mailto:dmonson@franklin.in.gov)**
  - Do not use jargon, acronyms, or technical words even though your proposal may be of a technical nature; this detracts from our broader understanding of the project.
  - Please use the checklist provided above to ensure you submit a complete proposal. Proposals that do not contain all of the information requested will not be considered for funding.
  - With limited funds and the volume of requests, the Franklin Economic Development Commission cannot fund all requests. Please research other funding sources. Your request may be only partially funded.
  - Please call Dana Monson at (317) 736-3631 if you have questions or need assistance.
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