



## 500 Festival Accepting Applications for 2018 500 Gives Back Grant Program

*\$33,000 in Grants Available to Support Life-Enriching Civic Programs for Indiana Residents*

**INDIANAPOLIS (January 8, 2018)** – [The 500 Festival](#), a nonprofit organization providing life-enriching events that celebrate the spirit and legacy of the Indianapolis 500®, is accepting applications for the 2018 [500 Gives Back grant program](#). The 2018 program is offering \$33,000 in grants to support Indiana community organizations that offer life-enriching events, activities and programs, while also celebrating the spirit and legacy of the Indianapolis 500.

Originally an element of the 100<sup>th</sup> Running of the Indy 500 Host Committee, this specific program is a carryover to future years of community support. As we approach the 102<sup>nd</sup> Running of the Indianapolis 500, the 500 Gives Back program strives to create a lasting legacy within Indiana by lifting up organizations that heighten civic pride, create cultural connections, foster social engagement and stimulate education.

The 500 Gives Back grants are available to qualified, Indiana-based nonprofit organizations, public schools and government agencies. Grant sizes will vary and the maximum individual grant is \$7,000.00. The deadline to submit grant applications is 11:59 pm ET on Feb. 28, 2018. The grant application and extended eligibility requirements are available [HERE](#).

“The 100<sup>th</sup> Running Host Committee provided Indiana with new, creative ways to celebrate the Indy 500 in 2016,” said Allison Melangton, senior vice president of events, Hulman Motorsports, and 500 Festival board member. “More than a sporting event, the Indianapolis 500 has the power and the platform to impact our community and our entire state. I’m excited the 500 Gives Back Grant Program continues into 2018 and I’m thankful for the collaboration of the 500 Festival in extending this opportunity to so many organizations

The 500 Gives Back grant committee will look for projects with the potential to accelerate new or existing events or programs that focus on the following:

- A positive impact on the community
- Stimulate education
- Provide leadership
- Heighten civic pride
- Create cultural connection
- Foster social engagement

“The 500 Gives Back Grant Program is yet another example of how the Indianapolis 500 is much more than just a race. These grants are designed to provide Indiana community organizations funding for direct connections relevant to our mission, the spirit of the Indy 500 and month of May activities,” said Bob Bryant, president and CEO of the 500 Festival. “This program began as a 100<sup>th</sup> Running Host Committee initiative and we’re proud it’s continuing – and accelerating – in 2018.”

To learn more about 500 Festival’s events and programs, please visit [www.500festival.com](http://www.500festival.com).

### **About the 500 Festival**

Founded in 1957, the 500 Festival is a not-for-profit organization that produces more than 50 life-enriching events and programs that celebrate the spirit and legacy of the Indianapolis 500 and foster positive impact on the city of Indianapolis and state of Indiana. One of the largest festivals in the nation, each year more than half a million people attend an event or program produced by the 500 Festival. Since its founding, the 500 Festival has contributed more than \$400 million in economic value to

Indianapolis. To learn more about the 500 Festival, please visit [www.500festival.com](http://www.500festival.com), follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#).

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