

FAR EASTSIDE EARLY ACTION FUND

Request for Proposals + Application

1. Purpose

The Far Eastside Early Action Fund will support small, visible projects that move specific action items in the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan from planning to implementation. Projects should be resident-centered, practical, and able to show progress within nine to twelve months.

2. Fund Basics

Item	Details
Grant range	\$500 to \$10,000
Match requirement	No match required. Other resources may be described but are not required.
Project period	9 to 12 months from executed award agreement
Administrator	CAFE will hold the fund, execute agreements, and disburse dollars to selected grantees.
Fundraising lead	LISC Indianapolis will lead fundraising for the fund.
Geography	Projects must primarily benefit the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan study area (46th Street to the north, Carroll Road to the east, Washington Street to the south, and Arlington Avenue to the west)
Required alignment	Every project must identify the Focus Area, Goal, Strategy, and Action Item it advances in the Far Eastside QOL Work Plan.

3. Who May Apply

Residents, resident-led groups, nonprofits, schools, faith-based institutions, local businesses, and collaborative teams based within or serving the Far Eastside study area may apply.

- a. Fiscal Administration: Applicants do not need to identify a separate fiscal agent in the application. CAFE will hold and administer the Fund and will communicate the documentation required before an award can be executed and paid.

4. Project Requirements

- a. Directly advances a specific action item in the Far Eastside QOL Work Plan.
- b. Produces a visible community benefit within 9 to 12 months.
- c. Has a clear lead applicant, scope, timeline, and budget.
- d. Shows resident leadership, resident engagement, or evidence that residents support the idea. Applicants will need to have partners sign off on the application and/or attach a letter of support from CAFE.
- e. Supports a new project, pilot, or defined expansion rather than general operations.
- f. Encourages meaningful partnerships or joint applications where they strengthen the project.

5. Eligible and Ineligible Uses

The following examples are not exhaustive. CAFE and LISC reserve the right to determine whether proposed expenses are eligible based on the purpose of the Early Action Fund, the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan, and CAFE's fund administration requirements.

Eligible examples	Generally not eligible
Materials, supplies, marketing, small equipment, stipends, outreach, translation, space rental, permits, insurance, transportation, accessibility, project-specific staff or contractor time, documentation, and minor physical improvements tied to the project.	General operations, ongoing staff costs unrelated to the project, pre-award costs, debt repayment, fines, political campaign activity, lobbying, worship or religious instruction as the primary purpose, regranteeing or cash gifts, vehicle purchases or repair, and major capital projects without visible 9-12 month results.

6. Selection Committee and Review

Eligible applications will be reviewed by a selection committee made up of industry representatives across the Quality-of-Life Plan focus areas, one CAFE representative, one Far Eastside resident, and one LISC Indianapolis representative. Committee members will disclose conflicts of interest and recuse themselves when needed.

Applications will be scored using the published rubric. The strongest emphasis will be placed on QOL work plan alignment, resident benefit, feasibility, visible results, partnerships, budget, and learning.

7. Timeline

Milestone	Date
RFP released	Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Application deadline	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Review period	Rolling until application deadline
Award notification	By Friday, October 30, 2026
Grant agreements and disbursement	October 2026 – September 2027
Interim report due	Midpoint of grant period
Final report due	Within 30 days after project completion

8. How to Apply

Complete application and submit required attachments using the form at feccindy.org/qol

Questions may be directed to: Samantha Douglas at QOL@cafeindy.org