

AIA TRUST 2026 COMPONENT GRANT PROGRAM

SUBMIT YOUR COMPONENT'S NEXT BIG IDEA

For more than 25 years, the AIA Trust Component Grant Program has supported state and local AIA components in launching new initiatives—or meaningfully strengthening existing programs—that build leadership, improve practice management, and support the business of architecture.

Since its establishment, more than \$350,000 has been awarded directly to AIA components to help deliver programs with lasting value to members and local architecture communities.

The program is made possible through the generous support of Victor and CNA Insurance, providers of the AIA Trust Professional Liability, Business Owners, and Cyber Liability Insurance Programs.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Submissions:** accepted beginning January 14, 2026
- **Deadline:** close of business on Monday, April 13, 2026
- **Notifications:** by Friday, May 15, 2026

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

The AIA Trust Component Grant Program supports new initiatives or significantly improved programs that help components strengthen leadership, management, and professional practice. Eligible efforts may include projects, conferences, and/or publications that:

- Foster leadership and practice management
- Support management education
- Increase the effectiveness of professional practice

Funded efforts should demonstrate meaningful, long-term benefits to the profession and/or the local architecture community.

Strong applications tend to:

- Clearly describe a specific need or opportunity
- Demonstrate how the program is new or meaningfully improved
- Identify a clear audience and anticipated reach
- Explain how AIA Trust support helps make the project possible

Joint programs are encouraged. Favorable consideration will be given to proposals that foster interaction among design professionals or across the construction industry. Examples include partnerships with professional engineering societies or related organizations such as the American Council of Engineering Companies.

The AIA Trust Component Grant Program is intended to support new or significantly improved initiatives. For this reason, the following types of submissions fall outside the scope of this grant program:

- Legislative initiatives
- Requests intended to replace or supplement existing funding
- Ongoing projects that have not undergone significant improvement
- General sponsorship of meetings, conferences, or award programs
- Programs with primarily social function or focus

Components with questions about program fit are encouraged to reach out—we're happy to help.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Applying is straightforward. Applications are submitted electronically and limited to three (3) pages. The goal is to clearly describe your proposed program, how it will be implemented, and how it will benefit your members and community.

AIA Component Identification

- Component name, address, telephone number, and website
- Name and contact information for the principal project contact (*If the principal contact is not the component executive, please provide their name to be copied on correspondence.*)
- Verification of a working link to the AIA Trust website, including URL and location

Project Description

Describe the proposed project in detail to include program goals, results, and expected benefits for the component, its members, and the profession because of this project. Be sure to include:

- Name of proposed program
- Program purpose and/or stated goals
- Program description
- Intended Audience/Program participants; describe who the project serves, e.g. emerging professionals, architects & engineers, public, community leaders, architecture students, etc.
- Estimated Audience size/number of participants
- Strategic reason for the AIA Trust and Victor to consider funding the program.

Project Implementation Plan

Describe the plan for how the project will be completed including a timeline reflecting critical dates and an allocation of project dollars. Be sure to include:

- Program date(s) (including completion) or duration if the proposal spans a period of time
- Indicate how the AIA Trust, Victor, and CNA will be recognized as the sponsor of the project (see\ guidelines below).

Project Budget

Provide the total program budget and the amount of AIA Trust Component Grant Program funding requested, not to exceed \$3,000.

- Provide an itemized budget detailing anticipated expenses and revenues.
- Indicate other funding to be obtained for the project, if applicable.

PAYMENT & REPORTING

Grant funds will be distributed in two installments:

- Two-thirds of the grant amount will be issued in May 2026
- The remaining one-third will be authorized upon receipt of a final project report due COB Friday, December 4, 2026

If project timelines change, components are encouraged to communicate in advance to request approval of an alternative schedule. The AIA Trust and Victor reserve the right to forfeit payment if communication is not received and deadlines are ignored.

FINAL REPORT

Due the first Friday in December, the final report should briefly summarize what was accomplished and, if possible, include copies of pertinent materials produced.

If available, components are encouraged to share photos from the program or event. These images help the AIA Trust highlight funded programs and promote component work across newsletters, reports, and social media.

The final report is intended to capture key outcomes—not create additional administrative burden.

CONTACT

Questions and completed applications should be emailed to: aiatrust@aia.org

Deadline for submission: Close of business Monday, April 13, 2026

Notification by: Friday, May 15, 2026

