



WILMA GIBBS MOORE FELLOWSHIPS: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Indiana Humanities is pleased to offer Wilma Gibbs Moore Fellowships in 2025. The fellowships provide scholars with a stipend of \$5,000 to support new humanities research that explores anti-Black racial injustice and structural racism in Indiana and that considers how Black Hoosiers have responded.

We believe that the humanities provide context for understanding complex issues and that they can be a force for strengthening the civic fabric of our state. Outstanding public humanities programs, which can bring Hoosiers together to talk through differences and solve problems, are rooted in high-quality humanities scholarship. Our purpose is to increase the amount and quality of such humanities scholarship about Indiana.

We welcome proposals from across the fields of humanities inquiry, including but not limited to history, literature, philosophy, cultural studies, religious studies, art history, folklore, ethnomusicology, and gender studies, as well as humanistic social sciences such as political science, sociology, and anthropology.

This fellowship honors Wilma Gibbs Moore, who dedicated her life and career to uncovering, preserving, and telling Indiana's African American history. For more than 30 years, Wilma wrote and edited *Black History News and Notes* for the Indiana Historical Society, where she was also a librarian and an archivist. So much of what we know about Black Hoosiers is thanks to Wilma's personal passion, professional dedication, and joyful community building.

Our Goals for the Fellowship

- Understand Black Hoosiers' responses to racial injustice and structural racism through the creative arts and/or involvement with political, economic, social, and cultural programs/activities at the neighborhood, city, or state level.
- Increase knowledge of Black Hoosiers' strategies for overcoming racial injustice and structural racism over time.
- Increase the amount and quality of humanities scholarship on the causes and effects of racial injustice and structural racism in Indiana.
- Document and/or analyze the decisions, policies, and actions that created racial inequality in the past and/or the present.
- Add or expand the stories of Hoosiers in regional and national historiographies of racial injustice and/or structural racism.
- Increase the use of Indiana-based archives and collections by humanities scholars and researchers.

Topics

Certain topics are of particular interest to us as we review proposals. These include:

- Institutional barriers for Blacks in politics, the economy, and/or the cultural life of Indiana
- The patterns as well as particularities of migration and urbanization that shaped Black communities in Indiana
- The effects of deindustrialization, white flight, and/or urban renewal on Black Hoosiers
- Literary and artistic works by Black Hoosiers as they relate to themes of structural racism, racial injustice, policing, and/or protest
- The history of and/or analysis of the influence of the Ku Klux Klan on Black Hoosier political, social, cultural, and/or economic life
- The history of and/or analysis of policing and incarceration of Black Hoosiers
- The long civil rights movement as it unfolded in Indiana, including its goals, tactics, achievements, and setbacks
- Analysis of Black codes and other laws that contributed to racial inequality
- Interpretative analysis accompanying relevant primary-source documents
- Historical memory as it relates to any of the topics above

Requirements

- The scholar must use the fellowship to conduct research that significantly contributes to the understanding of anti-Black racial injustice and structural racism in Indiana and how Black Hoosiers have responded. The scholar or research team must demonstrate how the topic significantly relates to Indiana.
- The scholar or research team must demonstrate a plan for dissemination and/or publication of the research, which may include presentations at scholarly conferences, publication in peer-reviewed journals or by academic presses, etc. Because one of our goals is to increase the amount and quality of scholarship on structural racism and racial injustice in Indiana, we're especially interested in funding research that has the potential to be published in peer-reviewed journals, academic presses, or popular publications such as the *Indiana Magazine of History* and *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History* that are subject to editorial review and fact checking. Applicants must share their plans for dissemination of the research and a general timeline for how the project will unfold.
- The scholar or research team agrees to share the research (findings or work in progress) in a format or venue that is accessible to general public audiences in Indiana by June 30, 2026. Applicants should indicate how they plan to fulfill this term of the agreement. Options include but are not limited to:
 - A talk or discussion at a library, archive, museum, or other public humanities organization; Indiana Humanities can help connect to host organizations as needed
 - A blog post for Indiana Humanities, the Indiana Historical Bureau, or another organization (1,000 to 1,500 words with scholarly citations)
 - Discussion of the work and its implications on a radio program, podcast, or other media outlet

- An exhibition, walking tour, or other public humanities program for general public audiences
- Compilation of research for a new or significantly revised historic marker via the Indiana Historical Bureau

Restrictions

Indiana Humanities will not award grants for any of the following purposes:

- Promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- Political action or advocacy
- Religious practices or training
- Printing costs for publication of books
- Curriculum development

Please note: Those seeking to fund a public program, exhibition, documentary, podcast, workshop, or other public humanities program about structural racism or racial injustice in Indiana should consider an Indiana Humanities Action Grant or INcommon Grant. Visit www.indianahumanities.org/grants to learn more.

Eligibility

- To be eligible for the fellowship, applicants should be affiliated with a research institution, including but not limited to full-time or adjunct faculty at a college/university; be enrolled as a graduate student (master's degree or Ph.D.); or be a curator, librarian, or archivist at a research archive or collection. Independent scholars are also welcome to apply but must demonstrate credibility as a researcher.
- Fellowships are open to individual scholars or research teams. Research teams must indicate a principal investigator in their application.
- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

How to Apply

Please prepare the following materials and email them to Indiana Humanities director of grants George Hanlin (ghanlin@indianahumanities.org) by April 30, 2025. Late proposals will not be considered. Indiana Humanities will accept draft proposals that are submitted by February 28, 2025, and will provide feedback by March 31, 2025. Email draft proposals to George Hanlin at ghanlin@indianahumanities.org.

Final proposals should include the following:

1. Cover Page with the following information:

- Scholar name or names of research team members (if a research team, please indicate who will serve as the principal investigator)
- Scholar institution(s) and title/affiliation(s)

- Principal investigator mailing address, daytime phone number, and email address
- Project title
- Project abstract (please limit to 250 words)

2. Project Timeline

Describe the time period during which the funds will be used and, if applicable, how this research fits into a larger project timeline (thesis, dissertation, book manuscript, exhibition plan, etc.) with expected date(s) of completion. Note that research funds must be used by June 30, 2026.

3. Project Description

In no more than five pages exclusive of notes and bibliography, explain the subject and purpose of your research, making clear how your work aligns to the intent and goals of this call for proposals. Share how this work will expand and/or deepen understanding of racial injustice and/or structural racism in Indiana. Describe the intellectual significance of the project to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Share the intended audience and results of your project, including how you’ll disseminate the results. Keep in mind that experts across humanities disciplines will read your proposal—so provide sufficient detail to satisfy a specialist in your field but take care to explain field-specific methods or approaches.

4. Archives, Collections, or Bibliography Relevant to the Project

Describe what archives, collections, or bibliography you’ll use to complete your work.

5. Dissemination

Describe (and include in your project timeline) the means by which you’ll disseminate your research to scholarly audiences and other researchers on Indiana topics. Dissemination may take place after the proposed project timeline, but you should suggest the outlets, journals, presses, conferences, etc., to which you hope to submit and/or in which you hope to publish your final product.

6. Plan for Sharing Publicly

This fellowship requires to you to have a plan to share, in a manner and venue accessible to general public audiences in Indiana, your work by June 30, 2026. This “sharing” may be in the form of a talk, podcast episode, blog post, media interview, op-ed, exhibition, walking tour, or some other public humanities method. You may share a completed work or present a work in progress. In no more than one page, describe in what way and in what timeframe you plan to fulfill this requirement of the grant. See the Requirements section above for some ideas.

7. Scholar CV or Resume

Timeline

Applications Open:	January 1, 2025	Work May Begin:	Upon notification
Draft Applications Due:	February 28, 2025	Interim Report Due:	December 31, 2025
Final Applications Due:	April 30, 2025	Work Must Be Concluded By:	June 30, 2026
Applicants Notified:	June 16, 2025 (tentative)	Final Report Due:	June 30, 2026