

Town of Bristol, Indiana

Community Event Support Application Form

Please complete this application to request financial or in-kind support from the Town of Bristol for a community event. Attach additional pages as convenient or necessary.

Organization Name:

BRISTOL HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

Contact Person:

CATHY BURKE

Address:

PO BOX 7

203 W VISTULA, BRISTOL, IN 46507

Phone:

574-596-2626

Email:

CATHYBURKE17@GMAIL.COM

Event Name:

BRISTOL HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

Event Date(s):

JULY 9, 10, 11, 2026

Location:

CONDON PARK

Requested Financial Amount:

\$5,000.

In-Kind Support Requested (Police, Town Staff, Equipment, Facilities, etc.):

Please describe the event and/or attached event material that answers the questions below

Event Description (include purpose, activities, expected attendance, and schedule):

Explanation of Public Benefit (explain how this event primarily benefits Bristol residents):

Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that approval of this request is subject to Town Council discretion and availability of funds.

Signature: Cathy Burke Date: 5-21-26

Printed Name and Title: CATHY BURKE, TREASURER

Town of Bristol Grant Application 2026

This festival is a 3 day family oriented festival (no admission fees) that has been operating since 1883 and believed to be the longest continual running festival in the state of Indiana. Providing free children games and activities as well as musical entertainment, magic shows, demonstrations, etc for the entire family. We also have rides, games, crafters, food, parade. tractor pull and a safe gathering for all. All this brings the community together. This event is a family plan to attend each year.

The community comes together to put on this festival with volunteers from non-profit groups, citizens and churches. This allows for everyone to feel a part of our community and its growth.

Different non-profit groups such as our police department, fire department, animal adopting opportunities, etc booths provide informational materials for festival goers.

Also, churches and organizations in town hold special events of their own during this time which brings the community together during the festival.

The Festival draws people from all over Elkhart County, an estimated 10,000, to enjoy a family time for all. There is something for all people of all ages. We provide a free area for children to enjoy games, win prizes, receive face painting, twisted balloons and even a bike raffle. This area is for all children but especially provides for families that may not be able to afford the normal festival activities for their children to enjoy. Music and rides are provided to teens and adults as well as carnival games. We also provide a parade and a tractor pull.

This grant would help to maintain a quality festival for all. With prices going up, our committee has been and is doing everything we can to keep costs at a minimum. With this grant, we would be able to do so.

Schedule to 2026: July 9, 10, 11, 2026 (see attached brochure from 2025)

History:

This Festival has been every year, except for 2020, since 1883. Of course, it has changed over the years and that is do to input from citizens as to what they would like to see happen at it.

In 1883 is was called the Watermelon Festival with no rides, etc. Then a parade was added in the early 1900's and the name was changed to the Harvest Festival and held in August adding different kinds of harvested food items. Rides, carnival games, etc were added, it is believed, in the 1940's. When the name was changed to the Homecoming Festival is not clear but it encouraged people to come and see old friends and neighbors.

Thursday, July 10th, 2025

5:00pm-10:00pm Rides, Concessions, Crafts and Food in Congdon Park.

5:00pm-10:00pm Wristband Day for rides - \$25

6:00pm Bristol Homecoming Queen Pageant
Bristol Community Church
201 S. Division, Bristol, IN

7:00pm-9:00pm Live Music by **Surf Inc**
on Main Stage in Gazebo at Congdon Park

10:00pm - Park Closes

Friday, July 11th, 2025

5:00pm-11:00pm Rides, Concessions, Crafts and Food at Congdon Park

5:30pm-10:00pm Tractor Pull on Elkhart Street, from Apollo St to Washington St

5:00pm-10:00pm Pulled Pork & Coney Dog sale at Tri-State Parking Lot sponsored by Masonic Lodge

5:00pm-10:00pm Food Booth provided by St Mary's Knights of Columbus at Tractor Pull

5:00pm-10:00pm Job's Daughter's bake sale at the Tractor Pull

5:00pm-9:00pm Children's Activities sponsored by One20 Church in Congdon Park

7:00pm-10:00pm Live Music by **Groupies Wanted**
on Main Stage in Gazebo at Congdon Park -

11:00pm - Park Closes

Saturday, July 12th, 2025

7:00-11:00am Breakfast at Bristol Community Church 201 S. Division, Bristol, IN

Adults \$8 Kids under 12 \$4.00 Under 5 Free

10:00am-5:00pm Original Coney Dog and Pulled Pork Sale at Masonic Lodge

Noon -2:00pm Parade Registration at Bristol Church of Nazarene
(Entry Forms available at Town Hall, Key Bank)

1:00pm Judging of Parade

2:00pm Bristol Homecoming Parade

2:00pm Knights of Columbus Food Booth in St Mary's parking lot during the parade.

2:00pm-5:00pm Strawberry Shortcakes at St. John's Episcopal Church, 601 East Vistula St.
Cost Free Limit 1 per Person.

After Parade - 11:00pm Rides, Concessions, Crafts and Food in Congdon Park

4:00pm - Quilt of Valor Presentation on Main Stage in Gazebo at Congdon Park

4:00pm-9:00pm Children's Activities sponsored by One20 Church in Congdon Park

4:30pm Steve's Gym Tae Kwon Do demo on Main Stage in Gazebo at Congdon Park

6:00pm Eastern Star "Cutest Baby" Contest
Voting ends

8:00pm Boy & Girl Bike Give-Away on Main Stage in Gazebo at Congdon Park - sponsored by the concessions on food row

8:00pm Eastern Star "Cutest Baby" Contest winner announced on Main Stage in Gazebo at Congdon Park

7:00-10:00pm Live Music by **The Super Kools**
on Main Stage in Gazebo at Congdon Park

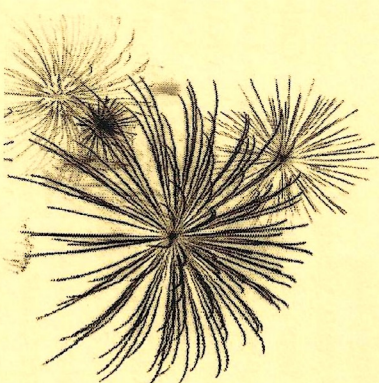
Dusk Fireworks

11:00pm - Park Closes

INCREDIBLE FIREWORKS

DISPLAY AT DUSK ON

SATURDAY!



Amusement ride tickets

\$1.25 ea

Dates, times, and events are subject to change

Bring your own chairs

No Pets

No Alcohol