



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2024

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Foundation Receives \$1,500,000 GIFT VIII Matching Fund Grant

Wayne County Foundation has received a matching fund grant totaling \$1,500,000 as part of the eighth phase of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s initiative, Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VIII).

The funds from this portion of Lilly GIFT VIII will help grow the Foundation's Unrestricted Grantmaking Fund. Unrestricted funds provide the flexibility to allocate resources where they are most needed or where they can have the greatest impact.

Qualifying matching funds raised to support the community foundation's unrestricted endowment will be eligible for a \$2(grantor)-to-\$1(grantee) match from the Endowment.

"We are so pleased to have this opportunity. The Wayne County Foundation has a 45-year history of working with donors that care about our community to provide resources to ensure individuals and organizations thrive," shared Rebecca Gilliam, Wayne County Foundation's Executive Director. "The matching gift from Lilly Endowment coupled with local gifts will increase the amount of grant funding we have available each year".

To learn more about our GIFT VIII work, visit the Wayne County Foundation website.

Through GIFT VIII Lilly Endowment has awarded matching fund grants totaling \$133.8 million to community foundations serving all 92 of Indiana's counties. Eligible community foundations submitted proposals requesting grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$15,000,000 based on the population of the counties they serve.

In 2023, Lilly Endowment launched GIFT VIII to help community foundations strengthen the towns, cities and counties they serve. Matching fund grants are one several funding opportunities designed to help community foundations promote long-term viability; further strengthen their abilities to lead; encourage board engagement; and support and develop strategic efforts to enhance quality of life in their communities.

About The Wayne County Foundation

Since 1979, the Wayne County Foundation has existed to foster and encourage private philanthropic giving, to enhance the spirit of community, and to improve the quality of life in the Wayne County, Indiana, area now and for future generations.

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

[Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) is an Indianapolis-based private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of [community development](#), [education](#) and [religion](#). The Endowment funds significant programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion. However, it maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

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