



INKY Cycling Association's Growth Catalyst

The INKY Cycling Association, the regional arm of USA Cycling for Indiana and Kentucky, has taken a proactive leap forward in regional development with its 2024-2025 Grant Program. By earmarking over \$5,000 for the 2025 cycle, INKY is shifting from strictly race governance to a broader role as a community benefactor.

The decision to select three distinct organizations ensures that the impact isn't siloed into a single niche. By diversifying where the funds land, INKY is effectively planting seeds in multiple segments of the regional cycling ecosystem—likely spanning youth development, infrastructure support, and event organization.

- **Financial Scope:** While \$5,000 may seem modest in global terms, in the context of grassroots regional cycling, these grants are substantial. They provide the "gap funding" necessary for local clubs or non-profits to professionalize events (e.g., professional chip-timing) or launch new clinics.
- **Regional Synergy:** Focusing on the Indiana-Kentucky region specifically targets a demographic that is seeing a surge in mountain biking (via NICA) and high-level collegiate racing (like the Purdue Omnium).

This program serves as a critical bridge. Many local organizations have the vision for growth but lack the liquidity to buy equipment or secure venue insurance. By announcing the program in 2024 for a 2025 payout, INKY has allowed organizations to plan their growth strategically rather than reacting to short-term needs.

Impact Note: This grant model mirrors national successes like the League of American Bicyclists' "Spark Grants," proving that small, targeted investments can catalyze long-term infrastructure improvements and community participation.

The INKY 2024-2025 grant cycle is a win for the region. It marks the association's evolution into a modern governing body that understands that growth at the top (racing) is only possible by nurturing the roots (grassroots organizations).

From the Recipients:



Louisville Cyclocross Collective

www.louisvillecrosscollective.com

Practically speaking, the INKY Grant allowed us to bootstrap our 1st year operations. Our major goals were to put on a grassroots race, make an impression with the city of Louisville that we are THE stewards of Eva Bandman Park, and provide a fun, inviting community to new and old cyclocrossers alike. The INKY Grant bankrolled Bandit CX and our Bandman trail work. Both of which directly impacted attracting new racers and lowering barriers to bike racing at Bandman. This funding was crucial to our success this year, and will provide foundational support going forward.

The numbers!

2025 membership was 71 strong from the region.

By gender:

- 61M, 9F, 1NB

By category:

- 48 cat4/5, 11 cat3, 4 cat1/2, 8SS

We had 67 racers show up for our grassroots event and OVCX recognized us as a pre-season tune up. From August to November we hosted 15 weeks of hot laps and skills days, 3 races at Eva with 325 combined registrants, and clocked over 200 volunteer hours cleaning our park, cutting away overgrown invasive species, and crafting cyclocross courses, all of which is work that forms the foundation for future years of racing and community events.

On behalf of the LCC, thank you INKY and the contributing race organizers that made the Grant possible!



Race Penguin Cycling

racepenguin.com/services

Our team at RacePenguin is extremely grateful to have received an INKY grant in 2025 to support the Derby City Omnium. With pre-race registration numbers lower than expected and the costs of producing a two-day event continuing to rise, we were in real danger of this being the final Derby City we could host.

The INKY grant was instrumental in bridging that gap, allowing us to continue building the event and providing a high-quality race experience for local riders. We look forward to the day when we can pay it forward by supporting future grants and helping other organizers bring new and exciting races to the INKY community.



Midwest Devo

midwestdevo.com

Midwest Devo is deeply committed to creating a safe, supportive, and empowering environment for every person who rides with us.

Thanks to the organizational grant from INKY, Midwest Devo was able to provide CPR and First Aid certification for over 25 of our volunteer coaches, as well as increase our team safety/first aid packs. This strengthened our team's ability to respond quickly and appropriately during practices, races, and events, ensuring a safer environment for all riders.

The grant allowed us to expand our safety preparedness, increase confidence among our leaders, and reinforce our commitment to athlete well-being. INKY's support helped us build a stronger, more equipped community to care for the families we serve.

We are grateful to INKY for supporting our mission.

