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**Contact:** Dave Wellman  
Communications Manager  
219-644-3506  
[dwellman@rda.in.gov](mailto:dwellman@rda.in.gov)

## **RDA Backs Three Jobs Projects in NWI**

*RDA Board approves use of Deal Closing Fund on three area projects,  
also gives green light to creation of the Community Challenge Grant fund.*

Crown Point, IN (October 16, 2012) – The Board of Directors of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) approved requests from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) for the use of the RDA’s Deal Closing Fund to bring jobs and economic development to Northwest Indiana.

During its quarterly board meeting at the Purdue Tech Center in Crown Point, the Board agreed to use \$4.45 million from its Deal Closing Fund to support efforts to attract two new companies to Lake County and one to Porter County. These three projects will create an estimated 314 jobs over the next several years. Full details will be released when the deals are finalized. If for any reason the deals are not completed, no RDA funds will be released.

The RDA created its Deal Closing Fund in 2011 to support job creation in Northwest Indiana. It has previously employed the fund to help bring Modern Forge’s new facility to Merrillville and improvements by CN to the Kirk Yard in Gary.

“We put this fund into place to drive economic development in Northwest Indiana and we are very pleased with the results so far,” said Bill Hanna, RDA President and CEO. “Assuming all three of these projects come to fruition, we will have brought roughly 617 jobs or job commitments in a little more than a year’s time. We plan to add to that in 2013.”

## **JOBS ADD 1**

The RDA Board also gave the go-ahead for the creation of a Community Challenge Fund that would provide matching grants to assist units of local government in Lake and Porter counties in leveraging funds from the private sector and/or public entities for public initiatives or projects of regional significance. The Fund will begin with an annual authorization of \$1 million per year and each applicant may apply for a maximum of a \$200,000 grant.

“Over the years the RDA has been presented with numerous requests for grants that relate to our goals, but which are more appropriately handled at a local level,” Hanna explained. “One example would be requests for planning grants from shoreline communities: the RDA was charged with shoreline redevelopment by the legislature, but town planning is a basic responsibility of local government. With the Community Challenge Fund, we will be able to help communities that are willing to put ‘skin in the game,’ but don’t have enough to fully reach their goal. These will be highly competitive grants based on objective criteria. Only the best will be chosen”

Details of the application process and requirements for these grants are under development and will be submitted to the Board for approval before the end of the 2012.

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### **About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority**

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit [www.in.gov/rda](http://www.in.gov/rda) and [www.rdatransformation.com](http://www.rdatransformation.com).