



**OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
STATE HOUSE**

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2797

Sue Ellspermann
LT. GOVERNOR

**For Immediate Release
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**Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann is Seeking Letters of Interest for the 2013
Stellar Communities Program**

Indianapolis - Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann is seeking letters of interest from Local Units of Government (LUG) that would like to apply for the 2013 Stellar Communities Program. The deadline to apply is Friday March 1, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Stellar Communities is in its third year and is a collaboration between the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The program pools together major funding sources to help communities achieve their long-term comprehensive strategic goals.

North Vernon and Greencastle were pilot communities in 2011. Princeton and Delphi were named in 2012. Collectively, these four communities are receiving more than \$40 million over three years. The Stellar Communities program was nationally recognized last year with the Presidential Award for Innovation by the Council of State Community Development Agencies.

“The Stellar Communities program is a nationally recognized, one-of-a-kind, initiative,” said Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann. “This highly competitive program focuses on helping communities make transformational changes that will benefit their residents and make them more attractive for future investment. I highly encourage all who qualify to apply.”

Eligible applicants must be a LUG which includes a city or an incorporated town not located within an entitlement community. The community must also be eligible to apply for Community Development Block Grants to be considered for Stellar Communities.

In order to submit a successful Letter of Interest you must:

- Have a comprehensive community plan, or a similar planning document approved by the participating agencies, that was completed within the past three to five years.
- Submit current council adoption document.

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- Submit a 3-5 page Letter of Interest signed by the LUG's highest elected official.
- Complete Stellar Communities Information Sheet. (Attached)
- Submit a clear map (8 ½ X 11) of the community.

Submitted letters of interest will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Regional value-added impact and attraction of future investment
- Reasonableness of scope of project
- Financial viability
- Resource availability and utilization of leveraged community assets
- Coordinated approach in multi-project management
- Documented and demonstrated capacity to complete proposed activities, including the ability to submit a response to a request for proposal, if selected as a finalist
- If a community was a previous finalist, discussion of how the Strategic Investment Plan has worked and justify a need for a new Strategic Investment Plan

Communities may submit their letters of interest by sending an electronic, PDF formatted, copy to mthissen@ocra.in.gov or by mailing an original and five copies to the

Office of Community and Rural Affairs,
Stellar Communities Pilot Program
Attn: Beth Dawson
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

There will also be a free Stellar Communities Informational Forum for communities wanting further information on Thursday Feb. 21, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at The Garrison at Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. Attendance is limited to the Chief Elected Official and up to four key partners of their choosing.

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