

# Stellar Communities Designation Program Webinar



# Today's Agenda

Opening Remarks

Partner Introductions

Program Process and Timeline

LOI Submission Packet Requirements

Keys and Barriers to Success

Q & A with State Panel

Individual Technical Assistance

Adjourn



# Stellar Communities Designation Program

A first of its kind collaboration between state agencies



# Office of Community and Rural Affairs



The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs works with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to aid communities in shaping and achieving their vision for economic development.

## **OCRA Contact Information:**

Matt Crouch

Senior Program Manager

[mcrouch@ocra.in.gov](mailto:mcrouch@ocra.in.gov)



# Office of Community and Rural Affairs

## Resources

1. **Technical assistance** on project development and funding requirements
2. Maximum of \$2MM per designee in funding available through the CDBG subject to federal eligibility and project application submission
3. Maximum of \$100K per designee in funding available through the **Historic Renovation Grant Program**



# Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

# ihcda

Indiana Housing &  
Community Development  
Authority



The mission of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority is to provide housing opportunities, promote self-sufficiency, and strengthen Indiana communities.

## **IHCDA Contact Information:**

Carmen Lethig  
Placemaking Manager  
[clethig@ihcda.in.gov](mailto:clethig@ihcda.in.gov)



# Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

## Resources

1. **Technical assistance** on project development and funding requirements
2. Capital funding for affordable housing and **community development projects**. Funding may be in the form of tax credits, loans, or grants depending on activity and funding program.

– HOME	\$500,000
– CDBG	\$250,000
– RHTC	\$1,200,000
– Indiana Affordable Housing and Community Development Fund	\$500,000 (loan only)



# Indiana Department of Transportation



The Indiana Department of Transportation will plan, build, maintain and operate a superior transportation system enhancing safety, mobility and economic growth.

## **INDOT Contact Information:**

Stephani Vermillion

Senior Auditor

[svermillion@indot.in.gov](mailto:svermillion@indot.in.gov)



# Indiana Department of Transportation

## Resources

1. **Technical assistance** on project development and funding requirements
2. Maximum of \$2.5MM dollars per designee in **funding available for construction in fiscal year 2020** through the Rural Federal Aid Program for communities that fall outside of any MPO Urbanized Area. This funding is subject to federal eligibility



# Indiana Office of Tourism Development



The Indiana Office of Tourism Development is dedicated to enhancing the economic vitality of Indiana, its destinations and tourism-related assets through leadership, resource support, strategic planning and marketing expertise.

## **IOTD Contact Information:**

Mark Newman

Director

[mnewman@visitindiana.com](mailto:mnewman@visitindiana.com)



# Indiana Office of Tourism Development

## Resources

1. In depth consulting on asset development
2. Technical assistance for strategic planning, destination development and marketing
3. Access to tools and resources to increase awareness of pre-existing assets and add new ones



# Indiana Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship



The Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship creates a positive and measurable impact on the formation, growth, and sustainability of Indiana's small businesses by providing entrepreneurs expert guidance and a comprehensive network of resources.

## **OSBE Contact Information:**

Jacob Schpok

Director

[jschpok@osbe.in.gov](mailto:jschpok@osbe.in.gov)



# Indiana Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship

## Resources

1. In depth **business consulting** for high priority businesses and entrepreneurship
2. **Economic development training** and programming focused on supporting innovation-driven entrepreneurship
3. **Connection** to entrepreneurship-support resources



# Indiana State Department of Health



Indiana State  
Department of Health  
Division of Nutrition  
and Physical Activity

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) promotes and provides essential public health services to create a healthier and safer Indiana. The Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (DNPA) addresses the problems of poor nutrition, sedentary behaviors, and obesity and other chronic diseases in Indiana.

## **ISDH Contact Information:**

Eden Bezy

Director, Nutrition and Physical Activity  
[ebezy@isdh.in.gov](mailto:ebezy@isdh.in.gov)



# Indiana State Department of Health

## Resources

### Provide Technical Assistance for:

1. Promoting and implementing active living environments
2. Complete street policies
3. Bicycle and pedestrian planning
4. Promoting **physical activity** and **local foods** in schools and communities
5. Promote physical activity and use school and shared community facilities



# Serve Indiana



Advance service and volunteerism by informing, connecting, and promoting opportunities and resources that enrich the lives of Hoosiers.

## **Serve Indiana Contact Information:**

Debbie Pidgeon  
Executive Director  
[dpidgeon@ofbci.in.gov](mailto:dpidgeon@ofbci.in.gov)



# Serve Indiana

## Resources

1. Provide Technical Assistance related to utilizing volunteerism or service as a strategy: [National Service: A Resource for Cities, Cities of Service](#)
  - a. Connect with local Volunteer Center and volunteer management training.
  - b. Host an [AmeriCorps NCCC](#) team (6-8 week project) or an [AmeriCorps VISTA](#) (capacity building) project.
  - c. Apply for [AmeriCorps](#) funding, deadline in October 2016
    - i. Engage members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. Members engage in community service and receive a living stipend and education award.
  - d. Host volunteer awards event
  - e. Promote Days of Service – mini grants available



# Indiana Department of Natural Resources



To protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management, and education.

## **DNR Contact Information:**

Chris Smith  
Deputy Director  
[csmith@dnr.in.gov](mailto:csmith@dnr.in.gov)



# Indiana Department of Natural Resources

## Resources

Provide **technical expertise** on projects affecting:

1. Historic structures
2. Outdoor recreation community planning



# Indiana Finance Authority



Our mission is to oversee State-related debt issuance and provide efficient and effective financing solutions to facilitate state, local government and business investment in Indiana.

## **IFA Contact Information:**

Andy Seiwert

General Counsel

[Aseiwert@ifa.in.gov](mailto:Aseiwert@ifa.in.gov)



# Indiana Finance Authority

## Resources

1. Provide **financing opportunities**, including tax-exempt and lower-interest bonds, and the State Revolving Loan Fund for drinking/waste water projects.
2. Provide educational, financial, technical, and legal assistance for **environmental investigation and remediation**.
3. Applications and more information available at [www.in.gov/ifa](http://www.in.gov/ifa)



# Indiana Arts Commission



To positively impact the cultural, economic and educational climate of Indiana by providing responsible leadership for and public stewardship of artistic resources for all of our State's citizens and communities.

## **IAC Contact Information:**

Lewis Ricci  
Executive Director  
[lr Ricci@iac.in.gov](mailto:lr Ricci@iac.in.gov)



# Indiana Arts Commission

## Resources

1. Competitive funding opportunities for arts projects and organizations
2. Access to data from statewide Creative Sector Economic Impact Study
3. Education opportunities in economic development, community development and cultural development



# Indiana Arts Commission

## Resources Continued

4. Field consultancies in communities as available
5. Advisory assistance through IAC staff and our Regional Arts Partners throughout the state
6. Access to research and best practices in areas such as audience development, fund development and community arts development



# Indiana Bond Bank



The Indiana Bond Bank assists local government with the process of issuing debt.

- Financing conduit
- Lower borrowing cost due to economies of scale

## Indiana Bond Bank Contact Information:

Ron Mangus

Deputy Director

[rmangus@inbondbank.com](mailto:rmangus@inbondbank.com)



# Indiana Bond Bank

## Resources

1. Equipment Leasing - lease purchase of essential equipment
2. Tax Anticipation Warrants - cash flow needs
3. Fuel Budgeting - fuel budget protection
4. Debt Issuance - long term debt
5. Interim Loan Program - construction financing for USDA-RD loans



# Stellar Communities Designation Program

## Process

Call for Letters of Interest (LOI) Webinar **January 13<sup>th</sup>**

Informational Workshop **January 27<sup>th</sup>** 10 AM-12 PM  
EST Garrison @ Ft. Harrison State Park. Register [here](#)

Letters of Interest (LOI) due **March 11<sup>th</sup>** 5:00 PM EST.

Electronic Submissions only and via an FTP site.

Contact [Stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov](mailto:Stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov) to set up a  
user name and password even if you have  
an existing account



# Stellar Communities Designation Program

## Process Continued

Evaluations of LOIs

Announcement of finalist communities **April 5th**

Finalist Workshop **April 21st** 10AM-1 PM EST Roosevelt Room @ Ft. Harrison State Park

Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) Due **July 1st** 5:00 PM EST



# Stellar Communities Designation Program

## Process Continued

Site visits and evaluations July 16th – August 15th

Designation announcements August @ State Fair

Community celebrations September

Kick off meetings October



# Letter of Interest Submission Packet Requirements

We are looking for FIVE documents on March 11

1. The Authorization to Submit Certification Form signed by CEO
2. The Stellar Communities information sheet
3. The Stellar Communities LOI project matrix
4. A copy of the adoption resolution for the comprehensive plan
5. A legible 8 ½ by 11 map of your community with target area boundaries and projects identified.



# Submit Letter of Interest

[Stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov](mailto:Stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov)

Email [Stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov](mailto:Stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov) with the following information:

1. Full Name
2. Email
3. Preferred Password
4. Community Name (i.e. City/Town of...)

**LOI due March 11, 2015 5:00 PM EST**



# Keys to Success:

## Best Practices

1. Proven prior implementation of planning efforts
2. Effective and engaged leadership
3. Recognizing the value of the planning process
4. Effective description of target area
5. Alternative plans to move forward if not designated
6. Engaged community and public partnership
  - a) Collection of communication best practices is available at <http://www.in.gov/ocra/stellar.htm>



# Barriers to Success:

## Strategies to avoid

1. Viewing the program as a grant program rather than a designation program.
2. Variations in mission and strategies amongst partners
3. Lack of cohesion between previously completed projects and proposed projects
4. No evidence of collaborative efforts with variety of public and private partners
5. Absence of overall community outcome tying projects together



# Questions and Answers with State Panel



# Additional Questions

Questions can be submitted to [Stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov](mailto:Stellarcommunities@ocra.in.gov), which will be collected into a FAQ document.

You can find the FAQ, along with all other Stellar Community information, here:

<http://www.in.gov/ocra/stellar.htm>



# Individual Technical Assistance

All partner agencies are represented, so please reach out to them with any questions.



Thank You

