

Planning Grants



The Planning Grant Program is administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) to encourage Indiana communities to focus on long-term planning and community development. Planning Grants are funded with Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars.

About the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG): Rural communities have many pressing needs that require outside financial assistance. Through OCRA, Indiana requests CDBG dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). OCRA then administers funding to rural communities, allocating it to programs that promote livable communities, address unmet community development needs and promote activities that enhance local economic development efforts. Assistance is available to non-entitlement cities, incorporated towns and counties.

Eligible Plans

- Comprehensive Plans
- Downtown Revitalization Plans
- Historic Preservation Plans
- Community Facility Feasibility Studies
- Economic Development Plans
- Utility Plans
- Park Plans
- Dam and Levee Plans

Project Eligibility

- Projects must meet a national objective, be an eligible activity under the CDBG program, and comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
- The project should be a part of the community's overall strategy.
- Plan must adhere to minimum technical requirements, as determined by OCRA.
- Eligibility is subject to Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) % and beneficiary requirements.
- Maximum grant amounts vary by type of plan.
- Award of a Planning Grant is not a pre-requisite to be eligible for OCRA's CDBG infrastructure or building award, but the minimum technical requirements outlined should be used when recommended.

Competitive Projects

- They meet a goal of the Federal Act.
- The particular planning initiative addresses established long-term community priorities.
- The funds granted will have a significant impact on the overall project.
- The project is ready to proceed upon the grant being awarded and will be completed within 12 months.

Contact your OCRA Community Liaison with questions at www.in.gov/ocra