

## Meet Susie Bruce, RISE 2020 Ombudsman



*Susie Bruce is committed to helping communities discover their hidden talents and assist them in achieving their economic visions.*

*As a native Hoosier who was transplanted to a rural Texas community 25 miles north of Houston for 25 years, Susie has experienced firsthand how the changing dynamics of a community affect its members' lives.*

*Susie developed an extensive background in successful community building while employed by the YMCA of Greater Houston. Susie is driven by her passion for bringing volunteers, staff, and community leaders together to achieve a common goal.*

*Longing for her Indiana home, Susie has returned to Indiana to assist Hoosiers in their quest for a high quality of life. As the RISE 2020 Ombudsman for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, she combines her work experience with her notable ability for building better communities in her home state.*

**About OCRA:** The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs was created in 2005, making rural areas a major focus for the first time in Indiana's history. Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, OCRA strives to assist rural communities in achieving their own visions for economic development.



## Can the RISE 2020 Ombudsman help my community?

- ♦ Is your rural community faced with a community development issue or problem, but no one knows what resources are available to you or where to begin?
- ♦ Has your rural community taken the initiative to make improvements or correct a problem, but you are unable to implement the project?
- ♦ Is your rural community working on a project, but having trouble identifying what the next steps should be?

## What issues does the RISE 2020 Ombudsman help with?

If you are aware that your community needs improvements but you aren't quite sure where to start, the RISE 2020 Ombudsman can help. The RISE 2020 Ombudsman can provide your community with the following:

- ♦ Troubleshooting assistance about rural development needs,
- ♦ A neutral perspective on your community's specific issue, and
- ♦ Identifying and coordinating potential state agency resources which might be utilized to help your community.

## How do I get in contact with the RISE 2020 Ombudsman?



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**To learn more about RISE 2020 and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, log on to:**  
**[www.ocra.IN.gov](http://www.ocra.IN.gov)**

*Rural Indiana Strategy for Excellence*  
Pillars of RISE 2020

**Regional Frameworks**

Dealing with challenges effectively by learning to think and work outside of boundary lines defined by counties or towns.

**Civic Leadership and Engagement**

Increasing and strengthening the pool of leaders in our rural communities.

**Asset-Based Community Development**

Identifying valuable assets that are already available in our rural communities and leveraging them for the good of those communities.

**Rural Innovation**

Strengthening public and private entrepreneurship, growing new jobs where they are needed, and integrating educational resources to compete in today's business environment.

**Diversity, Access, and Inclusiveness**

Ensuring that everyone in our communities is not only accepted, but invited, welcomed, and celebrated.

**Youth Engagement**

Involving children, teens, and young adults in building their rural community so they have a place to prosper.

**Wealth Creation and Retention**

Identifying locally-held wealth and providing the opportunity for donors to put their money to good use locally.

Rural Indiana Strategy for Excellence



INDIANA OFFICE OF  
Community & Rural Affairs  
**RISE 2020**

Meet the  
**RISE 2020 Ombudsman:**  
*Assisting rural areas  
with community  
development projects*



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