Building Blocks for Energizing Communities
Leadership, Economy, Placemaking

The Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI) is an initiative targeted to Indiana communities that are committed to building on their existing assets. It is available to cities, towns and counties in Indiana with a total population of 25,000 or less. HCI is a long-term capacity building initiative comprised of three phases: Foundation, Building Block and Capstone.

FOUNDATION
Organize & Strengthen Your Team

Your HCI team will take steps to recruit and engage a diverse mix of local people who are willing to explore new ways to strengthen their community and take an active role in launching HCI. As a team, you will carefully study and analyze data, existing community plans and the viewpoints of local residents.

BUILDING BLOCK
Select and Dig Deeper into a Key Building Block

Your HCI team will select one of the following Building Blocks to pursue as part of this second phase of the program. The Building Block the team chooses will be an outgrowth of the information and deliberations undertaken during the Foundation Phase.

Leadership

Develop a new generation of local leaders who will take an active part in addressing community priorities.

Economy

Build a supportive community environment for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Placemaking

Invest in your place through creative quality of life initiatives related to public spaces, design, local foods and tourism, among others.

CAPSTONE
Develop & Implement a Capstone Project

Your HCI team will work with key partners to propose a Capstone Project and upon approval by the HCI State Team, will put into action a plan that will place your community on the path to achieving its longer-term goals and aspirations.

OCRA Office of COMMUNITY & RURAL AFFAIRS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY.

BENEFITS OF HCI

Training and technical assistance from university professionals

Access to experienced community coach

High-quality data prepared about your community

In-depth Building Block programs to address priority needs

Seed funding for your Capstone Project

More people caring and involved in the community

PHASE 1
FOUNDATION

- Study community data
- Review existing community plans
- Discover community and team assets
- Survey community members
- Host community-wide forum
- Evaluate information and data to select a Building Block

PHASE 2
BUILDING BLOCK

LEADERSHIP: *Developing a New Generation of Leaders*

- Engage more residents in civic activities
- Increase capacity to accomplish community goals
- Build leadership skills and relationships to address community challenges and opportunities

ECONOMY: *Growing Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs*

- Examine the economic resources and opportunities that exist in your community and region
- Highlight business retention and expansion and entrepreneurship as important aspects of your economic development strategies
- Identify ways you can cultivate business retention and expansion and entrepreneurship in your community and region

PLACEMAKING: *Investing in Your Place*

- Learn more about the importance of investing in place, gaining historical perspective, examining research and discovering best practices
- Align community capitals assets identified during the Foundation Phase with the six key areas of placemaking
- Explore the community through the lens of quality of place

PHASE 3
CAPSTONE

- Develop project proposal with community input
- Submit project proposal to HCI State Team for approval and seed funding
- Implement project and track progress
- Document key outcomes of the project