



## Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Indiana's Communities for a Lifetime Initiative Receives National Innovation Award**

INDIANAPOLIS- The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCDA) Communities for a Lifetime (CfaL) initiative was awarded the 2013 Presidential Award for Innovation from the Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSFDA) during the organization's annual conference held this year in Salt Lake City, Utah.

This award is selected by COSFDA's President and recognizes innovative activities, policies or programs that have been implemented at the state level. The four main criteria are that the project has demonstrated success in solving community needs through innovation, demonstrated results, transferability and state leadership. The Presidential Award for Innovation is one of five awards the Agency presents annually.

"I congratulate IHCDA on their recognition at the national level for their innovative efforts with the Communities for a Lifetime initiative," said Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who chairs the IHCDA Board. "As we look ahead to the changing landscape of our Hoosier population, it is imperative we are utilizing our federal, state and local resources for the long-term viability of our communities so that residents may have the opportunity to remain in their communities."

Between 2005 and 2040 Indiana's population will grow by 15%. During that same time, the 65 and older population will grow by an estimated 90% so that by the year 2030, one in three Hoosiers will be over the age of 55.

Collaborating with sixteen state-wide aging and disability organizations as well as Dr. Phil Stafford, Director of the Center on Aging and Community at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, IHCDA launched the Communities for a Lifetime initiative in March of 2012. The first of its kind in Indiana, Communities for a Lifetime was created to build upon communities as places that promote physical, social, mental and economic well-being for persons with all abilities, across the entire lifespan.

IHCDA awarded the cities of Linton, Huntington and Valparaiso planning grants ranging from \$10,000-\$16,000 to study ways to make their communities friendlier for residents of all ages and abilities, and to generate implementation plans which would turn vision into action.

During the initial year of the Communities for a Lifetime, 60 homeowners will receive owner occupied repairs to remain living in their homes. With additional projects such as sidewalk improvements, new training equipment for a senior center and an aquatic lift for a city pool, as well as other projects completed with private funding. It is estimated that over 20,000 individuals will be able to benefit from the improvements achieved through this program.

Indiana's Stellar Communities Designation Program, an inter-agency partnership between IHCD, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs and the Department of Transportation streamlines funding opportunities to assist with communities' strategic investment plans, was also recognized by the Council of State Community Development Agencies receiving the 2012 Presidential Award for Innovation.

For further information on Communities for a Lifetime, please contact Megan Coler, IHCD Real Estate Production Analyst at [mcoler@ihcd.in.gov](mailto:mcoler@ihcd.in.gov).

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*The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD), chaired by Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, creates housing opportunity, generates and preserves assets, and revitalizes neighborhoods by investing financial and technical resources in the development efforts of qualified partners throughout Indiana. IHCD believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information, go to [www.ihcd.in.gov](http://www.ihcd.in.gov) (consumer site) or [www.in.gov/myihcd](http://www.in.gov/myihcd) (partner site).*

*For updates from Lt. Governor Ellspermann and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at [www.lg.in.gov](http://www.lg.in.gov).*