



Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Beat The Heat Program Round 2 ***A Program for Community Health and Resilience in Heat Emergencies***

2025 CALL FOR APPLICATION

Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 233-3762, (800) 824-2476

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Program Description

Beat the Heat Round 0.2 is a two-year capacity-building program by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), the Indiana University (IU) [School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering](#) (SICE) and [Environmental Resilience Institute](#) (ERI). The program helps smaller Indiana cities and towns (non-entitlement communities) prepare to combat extreme heat and improve local heat resilience.

Eligible local governments interested in participating in this program must commit to fully participate in the program and complete key program activities, including:

- Establishing a local Heat Task Force
- Hosting a Heat Fellow
- Attend training webinars
- Facilitate data collection to conduct community needs assessments,
- Implement at least one heat resilience strategy

Selected communities will receive expert advice, data-driven insights, and funding support to help carry out their projects.

Over two years, participating in towns and cities will turn their ideas into real solutions, some examples of heat management strategies include

Category	Project Examples
Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban tree planting programs• Green roofs & walls• Community gardens
Cooling Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cool roof initiatives• Cool/permeable pavement• Shade structures at bus stops, playgrounds, seating areas.
Water Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Splash pads & public pools• Drinking water stations• Misting stations
Energy & Building Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weatherization programs• AC Window Units/ HVAC Program• Community cooling centers
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heat resilience education campaigns• Heat alert systems• Cooling Kits

To see more examples from past participants, visit the Beat the Heat 0.1 communities:

- [Clarksville, Heat Management Plan](#)
- [Richmond, Heat Management Plan](#)

Eligible Communities

The following communities are eligible to apply for this program:

- ✓ Non-entitlement cities or towns with less than 50,000 people (not classified as entitlement communities) can apply.
- ✓ Communities must be able to actively work with OCRA, IU, and a Heat Fellow during the program.
- ✓ Communities must be able to commit to the full two-year program duration.

Program Key Features

Build Capacity

- Each selected community will have a dedicated Heat Fellow as their program manager. The Heat Fellow will organize workshops, conduct surveys, analyze data, map temperatures, and help lead heat resilience projects.
- Communities will form a Heat Relief Task Force of local leaders and stakeholders to guide the heat resilience strategies.
- Communities will get expert advice and technical help from Indiana University.
- [Community Liaisons](#) from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs will be available to provide additional support.

Program Benefit

1. Assess Local Needs and Develop Tailored Heat Resilience Strategies

- Each selected community will receive assistance from a dedicated Heat Fellow and support from IU to implement and carry out the program.
- The program will include three training webinars over two years to teach about heat safety.
- A Community Needs Assessment (CNA) will help find the community's specific heat challenges and high-risk areas.
- Communities will receive support to run the "Beat the Heat Week" social media campaign to raise awareness about heat risks during summer.
- Communities will receive heat-related resources, such as heat index reports, heat maps, urban heat and policy reviews, and a detailed Heat Action Gantt chart to plan their heat resilience activities.
- Each community will be assisted to choose and design at least one heat resilience project, which will be funded and carried out during the program.

2. Secure Funding Implement Heat Resilience Project

- The [Indiana Resilience Funding Hub](#) will help each selected community identify funding and write strong grant applications to make at least one heat resilience project happen.

3. Bonus Points Toward Future CDBG Funding

- Communities that successfully complete the Beat the Heat Program will be eligible to receive up to 15 bonus points when applying for [Community Development Block Grant](#) (CDBG) funding provided by the [Office of Community and Rural Affairs](#). This eligibility applies for up to five years following program completion. The bonus points may only be used to support the implementation of a high-impact heat resilience project that was specifically identified during the Beat the Heat Program.
- Applications must be submitted under a regular CDBG program cycle, under either of the available CDBG programs, to qualify for these additional points.
- Communities must communicate their intent to leverage these points by emailing cdbg@ocra.in.gov.

Community Requirements

Communities are required to establish a Heat Task Force, including local leaders and stakeholders.

- Task Force members must take part in all training webinars, workshops, and surveys.
- Communities are required to host a Heat fellow provided by Indiana University.
- Communities are responsible for organizing meetings with city officials and other key partners, like media specialists, emergency management, public works, parks, and utility companies, to help with the Beat the Heat campaign and support sensor installation and temperature mapping.
- Each community must fund and carry out at least one heat resilience project before the program ends.
- The Heat Task Force will oversee the completion of the heat management strategies.
- The community must commit to raising funds for at least one heat strategy to be implemented during the program.
- Execute the Beat the Heat Program Letter of Agreement.

Local Match and Project Implementation Requirements

A participating community is required to fund and complete at least one heat resilience project before the program concludes. Communities may use local match funds raised during the program or apply existing local match resources to implement a heat management strategy identified through the program.

Expected Outcomes

The main goal of the program is to help communities become safer and better prepared for extreme heat, using data to understand and address local risks. The program will provide each community data and tools to help with future heat planning and resilience efforts. Communities will show their progress by successfully carrying out at least one heat management strategy that improves quality of life.

Available Resources

A pre-recorded informational webinar is available that further explains this opportunity and the application process. Interested applicants can view the recording at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiLkWXh8-oU>.

For additional resources referred to <https://www.in.gov/ocra/cdbg/home/beattheheat>.

Application Submission

Interested local governments must submit a required Letter of Intent through the designated application portal

[Beat the Heat Round 0.2 Application Portal](#)

The portal opens on December 4th, 2025, and submissions close at 11:59 p.m. ET on January 19th, 2026. Selected communities will be announced in February 2026.

Technical Assistance

Indiana University will host office hours on December 10, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. to provide assistance and answer questions for interested applicants. Registration for these office hours is available at: [Office Hours Registration](#).

Communities may also contact the respective [OCRA's Community Liaison](#) for additional technical assistance.

Application Questions

The following provides an overview of the application questions. Applications must be submitted via https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_41thU2ewHTmplYO.

Section 1: Contact and Authorization

1. Local Government Information:

- Name of Local Government:
- Official Web Page:
- Address:
- City:
- County:
- ZIP+4:
- Phone:
- Email:

2. Chief Elected Official Authorization:

- Name of Chief Elected Official:
- Email Address:

[By submitting this Letter of Intent, the Chief Elected Official authorizes this application and commits to their involvement and engagement in the program if awarded.]

3. Primary Point of Contact (if different from above):

- Name:
- Title:
- Contact Address:
- City:
- County:
- ZIP+4:
- Phone:
- Email:

Section 2: Essay Questions

Community Vision and Plan

1. Tell us the main goals of your community to join the Beat the Heat program and how these goals will help with heat issues.
2. Describe any key strategies, resources, and steps you will take independently to make this program successful.
3. Why do you feel it is important for your local government to engage the community with this program? Please share how does the Beat the Heat program match your local government's priorities and the community's needs.

Leadership and Partnerships

4. Please describe the local leaders and partners in your community who will make the community's program participation successful. Consider local expertise, potential funding partners, community leaders, and other such partners from all sectors – education, government, NGOs, and the private sector.
5. Who do you think would be in your heat task force? List names and organizations. This does not need to be a formalized list, but it should reflect an early brainstorm of ideas. For each person, share their name, email, phone number, what group they're part of, and what they're good at (like health, emergencies, or helping the community). Briefly explain why they are a good fit for this task. (Outline at least 5 potential members)

Name	Email	Phone	Community Affiliation	Skills or Area of Work

Community Engagement and Prior Collaboration Experience in Community Resiliency Initiatives

6. Please describe your local government and your community's plan to organize, adequately support community engagement, and recruit volunteers to accomplish the goals of this program.
7. How does your local government ensure the participation of low- and middle-income individuals, people in need, youth, and diverse population groups in community programs?
8. Has your community collaborated or has prior experience in community resilience initiatives? Or similar capacity building programs?
9. What plans does your local government have for emergency preparedness and response to various risks (natural disasters, public health emergencies, etc.)? Does your community have a FEMA approved Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan? Describe challenges currently your local government has right now terms of capacity to make communities more resilient. How can the capacity be improved? (Applicants may coordinate with their County's Emergency Management Agency to receive a copy of their Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan)

Sustainability and Financial Capacity

10. Please describe your community's experience secure external funding for community projects.

11. How does your community plan to sustain heat resilience efforts after the program ends?

Unique Strengths

12. What makes your community a good applicant for this program? (Examples: innovative ideas, strong community connections, local experts, resources, partnerships, or creative solutions.)

Section 3: Required Uploads

All attachments should be uploaded in the Application Form using the naming convention: [BtH_CommunityName_AttachmentName](#) (example: [BtH_Town of Colette_LetterofSupport](#))

Required Uploads

- At least two **Letters of Support** from partnering community organizations or residents supporting this application.
- A **Letter from Chief Elected Official** committing to raise funds and supporting the application submission to this program.
- A **Letter from the Clerk Treasurer** as proof of local match funds (if applicable) confirming the funding source and the balance available for the heat management project.