Community Development Day

April 4, 2013
Indiana State House
Community development activities are vital to Indiana’s livelihood. Providing accessible, safe, and attractive cities and towns to call home, as well as spurring economic growth while cultivating civic responsibility are at the heart of community development and what our agencies dedicate themselves and their efforts towards.

As we celebrate all of the wonderful progress that Indiana has made in the area of community development, I invite you to take a look at some featured projects that represent different facets of community development and revitalization.

Thank you for joining us today!

Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann
Chatham Square, a contemporary mixed-income residential housing development located near Purdue University, was part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Communities around the state were selected for NSP, with a goal of revitalizing areas hit hard by the foreclosure crisis and abandoned properties. In Lafayette, this unique development was built on the site of a formerly troubled, blighted apartment complex and has helped transform the surrounding neighborhood.

The Project consists of 89 rental units, a community center and ten single-family homes. Beautiful landscaping, green space, walking trails, and craftsman-style architecture have formed a centerpiece for the community. There were many partners involved in bringing this development to life, and facilitating additional facets of the project, including establishing a homeowners' association, and acquiring the 2011 Purdue Solar Decathlon House which was permanently installed on a lot in Chatham Square.

The Chatham Square community was recently honored with The Community Achievement Award for Large Cities, awarded by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, and The Lt. Governor's Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing and Community Development for Urban Project.
Community development envelops more than just buildings and housing. Economic development and individual asset generation are also essential elements of the big picture view of comprehensive community development.

Kyaw Soe Moe recently resettled to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in July 2010. As a seasoned tailor in his native country of Thailand, Kyaw quickly found employment with the Vera Bradley Company. Through the outreach efforts of Pathfinder Services, in March 2011, Kyaw and his family learned of Indiana’s Refugee IDA program and immediately realized that this was an opportunity he couldn't pass up. He used his matched savings to purchase industrial grade sewing equipment, and built his business plan with the assistance of his counselor and Community Action of Northeast Indiana, a local micro lending not-for-profit.

Unlike many start-ups, due to Kyaw’s skilled reputation, he began his new business venture with very little marketing and a roster of purchase orders from regional wholesalers requesting his unique talents. Today, Kyaw continues to work for Vera Bradley, as he builds his home business.
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In 2010, Miami County received $2,000,000 in CDBG funding to restore and expand a dormant airport hanger at the Grissom Aeroplex. The $13.8 million renovation and 50,000 square foot hangar expansion is the result of federal, state and local agencies collaborating on the regionally impacting project.

The hangar’s expansion project has enabled the Dean Baldwin Painting Company to expand its operations. During the first quarter of 2013, the company has hired 60 new employees and expects to employ 200 by the end of the year with an estimated annual payroll of $6 million. Local officials estimate the facility will have a $162 million impact on the local economies over the first five years of operation.
On June 7, 2008, the East Lake Dam in the Town of Prince's Lakes, Indiana was flooded by a wall of water from heavy rains that left widespread damage throughout central Indiana. Several lakes in the Prince's Lakes region drain into East Lake and the subsequent overflowing of the dam caused 6,300 square feet of soil loss from the dam's embankment. An emergency rehabilitation was completed, however, the East Lake Lot Owners Association needed a long-term solution to mitigate the dam breaching in the future. Not only is this dam an integral part of the Prince's Lakes watershed, it also critical for mitigating damage to the town's main sewage lift station, which could impact all town residents if a back up occurred. Camp Atterbury sits directly in the floodplain below the dam and would be inundated with water, as would the only road in and out of the town. To avoid future disasters, the town pursued and secured a $1,756,728 CDBG Disaster Recovery grant with $175,000 in matching funds to upgrade the dam and spillway.

Widespread press coverage of the flooding contributed to the image of East Lake becoming a “broken lake,” and property values around the lake dropped over 30%. Completion of this project has assisted local property owners by returning home value appraisals to pre-flood assessments. Additionally, the town's wastewater pumping system is safe, the main road in and out of the community is protected from flooding wash out, and fish and wildlife are making a dramatic comeback in the area.

By the year 2030, one in three Hoosiers will be over the age of 55. As our population ages, Indiana is taking steps to create communities where seniors will thrive and live out their golden years. The Center on Aging and Community at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, has worked tirelessly to create a model of working with individual communities to examine their long term livability, walkability, and ability to adapt to the changing needs of the local population and surrounding areas with the goal of being a Community for a Lifetime.

A “Community for a Lifetime” describes a place that promotes physical, social, mental and economic well-being for persons with all abilities, across their entire lifespan. A pilot program launched by IHCDA in March of 2012 (the first of its kind in Indiana), awarded the cities of Linton, Huntington, and Valparaiso planning grants ranging from $10,000-$16,000 to study ways to make their communities friendly for residents of all ages and abilities, and to generate implementation plans which would turn vision into action.

At a ceremony on February 8, 2013, the three Indiana cities participating in the pilot were officially designated as Communities for a Lifetime. With this designation, it is expected that additional partnership and funding opportunities will open for these communities.
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Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

In 2012...

For every one dollar of CDBG funding another $1.62 in private and public funding was leveraged.

501,985 persons were assisted through the CDBG program

CDBG created or retained 268 jobs in the past five years.

CDBG funds in the amount of $3,132,904 were spent on economic development activities including direct financial assistance to businesses, and commercial and industrial improvements.

CDBG funds in the amount of $962,307 were provided for housing activities, such as construction, rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, and lead-based paint testing and abatement.

23 Indiana counties received HOME program awards in the past year.

HOME funds in the amount of $14,218,863 were provided for housing activities, such as homebuyer assistance and the production of affordable rental units.

A total of 333 units of affordable housing were created for Hoosiers using HOME funds. This provided funding for new construction of more than 260 rental units, including 29 units of permanent supportive housing.

HOME funds also provided for 48 rental and 22 homeowner units to undergo rehabilitation.