Office of
COMMUNITY &
RURAL AFFAIRS

OCRA

HELP

Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Center for Regional Development

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
MAKING THE ARTS HAPPEN

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
INDOT

CIVICLAB

ihcda
Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

Indiana Department of Health

PART 1 Stellar Transition and ARPA

PART 2 New Program Overview

PART 3 Partner Roles & Community Expectations

PART 4 Program Timeline

PART 5 Application & Next Steps

The Spirit of Stellar

Stellar seeks to recognize communities & regions that identify comprehensive & collaborative plans for community & economic development

The goal of Stellar is to elevate how community and regional planning occurs

Stellar Projects are a result of the community's ability to create a vision that is transformational & innovative to rural development

Stellar provides resources for transformative quality of place community improvements by utilizing previous planning efforts, leveraging existing assets, fostering regional investments, stimulating continued growth for long-term relevance

American Rescue Plan Act

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

US Treasury - Interim Final Rule Guidance

- "Implementation of the Fiscal Recovery Funds also reflect the importance of **public input, transparency, and accountability. " (9)**

- "In addition, the Interim Final Rule establishes certain regular reporting requirements, including requiring State, local, and Tribal governments to publish information regarding uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds payments in their local jurisdiction. These reporting requirements **reflect the need for transparency and accountability, while recognizing and minimizing the burden, particularly for smaller local governments**." (9)

- **"Treasury urges State, territorial, Tribal, and local governments to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans to use these payments, given the scale of funding and its potential to catalyze broader economic recovery and rebuilding." (9)**

HELP

HOOSIER ENDURING LEGACY PROGRAM

Local governments now have a tremendous opportunity to help their communities recover from the far-ranging impacts of the pandemic. Many communities are now evaluating the eligible uses of the funds and beginning to prioritize their specific community needs. Additionally, there are numerous other "buckets" of funding within ARPA, and it will be crucial for local governments to be strategic about planning for and deploying their local funds to best leverage the full offering of federal funds.

As research has found, communities that had robust planning and community engagement processes were more resilient to both the Great Recession and in the early months following the COVID-19 pandemic.

This program will empower our rural communities by establishing systems for success so that they are more resilient to future challenges.

Expected Program Impact

- **Building Community Capacity:** Community Coordinator position focused on Program Process and SIP implementation
- **Welcoming Your Community Back Home:** reconnecting to the larger community through multiple engagement opportunities
- **Peer Networking**
- **Strengthening ARPA Confidence**
- **Creating Strategic Investment Plan & Dashboard**: including high quality data prepared about your community
- **Receiving Training and Technical Assistance** from OCRA, Universities and statewide leaders in Community Development
- **Accessing set-aside funding** for Participatory Budgeting project and SIP implementation from OCRA and other statewide partners

Process Overview

TEAM BUILDING

weeks 1-12

- Build your HELP team
- Hire Community Coordinator
- Evaluate Existing Plans *with IU Center for Rural Engagement*
- Form Pathway Committees

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

weeks 13-25

- Data Training *with CivicLab*
- Develop Communication and Creative Community Engagement Plan *with OCRA and IAC*
- Host Community Forum *with colleges and universities*
- Unveil Community Dashboard

PATHWAYS ASSESSMENT & PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

weeks 26-39

- Hold Committee Meetings for Each Pathway

  With colleges and universities
- Prioritize Projects

SIP DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

weeks 40-52

- Overlap Projects with ARPA, CARES, and Other Potential Federal Funds
- Revise and Adopt SIP via Ordinance
- Implement Projects until December 2026

Pathway Assessments & Project Identification

Advancing e-Connectivity

Seeks to aid communities by increasing or improving broadband access services, promoting digital inclusion, and supporting businesses and organizations that focus on broadband access and technological innovation.

Possible initiatives include:

- Digital Adoption Support
- Digital Ready Businesses
- Intelligent Communities

Enhancing Quality of Place

Focuses on improvements to the built environment and community infrastructure.

Possible initiatives include:

- Arts and Culture
- Housing
- Community Facilities
- Historic Preservation
- Youth Engagement
- Gateway Beautification
- Main Street Redevelopment

Promoting Community Wellness

Seeks to expand and improve infrastructure and initiatives related to our people. Public health is important to overall community wellness.

Possible initiatives include:

- Mental Health
- Parks and Trails
- Healthy Food Markets in Food Deserts
- ADA accessibility
- Walkability/Bike Lanes/Public Transit to healthcare
- Childcare
- Blue Zones

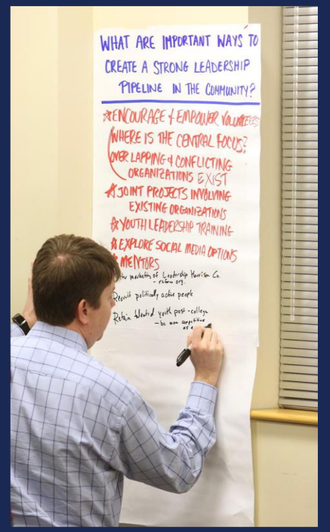
Strengthening Local Economies

Helps communities grow and support robust local and regional entrepreneurship cultivation through innovative programs and capital investments.

Possible initiatives include:

- Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
- Economic Gardening
- Small Business Revolving Loan Fund
- Business Retention and Expansion; Workforce Development
- Business Networks
- Co-Working Spaces

Community Expectations



TIME

Participation by the Local Unit of Government is key to the success of the program. Communication with all State partners will be essential throughout the 12-month process. Additionally, defined meetings include:

- 4 Core Team Meetings
- 2-8 Pathways Meetings

FINANCIAL

Communities will be expected to provide the following financial commitment.

- $20k match for Community Coordinator position in first year followed by $40k in subsequent years for full-time hiring
- 30% of ARP allocation to projects in the SIP
- OCRA will match the community investment 1-1 for implementation (up to $1 million) of SIP projects

LUG RESPONSIBILITIES

The Local Unit of Government and Community Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Building the team
- Planning, promoting, and hosting the Community Forums
- Communication with the State Team throughout

Application Process

- **Applications will open Thursday, September 9th**
  - Applications will be submitted via the eGMS system. A document will be posted on our website with detailed instructions.
- **What's Required in the Application?**
  - **Intake Form:** Narrative self-assessment, must be submitted by CEO
  - **Form on existing plans and efforts centered around four pathways**
  - **LOI from CEO**
  - **Council Resolution committing $20k for Community Coordinator position**

Next Steps & Application

Questions?

Contact your district's Community Liaison

Watch the Application Webinar

A separate webinar detailing how to access the applications and the requirements will be released on September 9th.

Applications are due October 1, 2021

Next Steps

Begin communicating about the program with key stakeholders, consider updating your local ordinance about ARPA and begin collecting prior planning documents.

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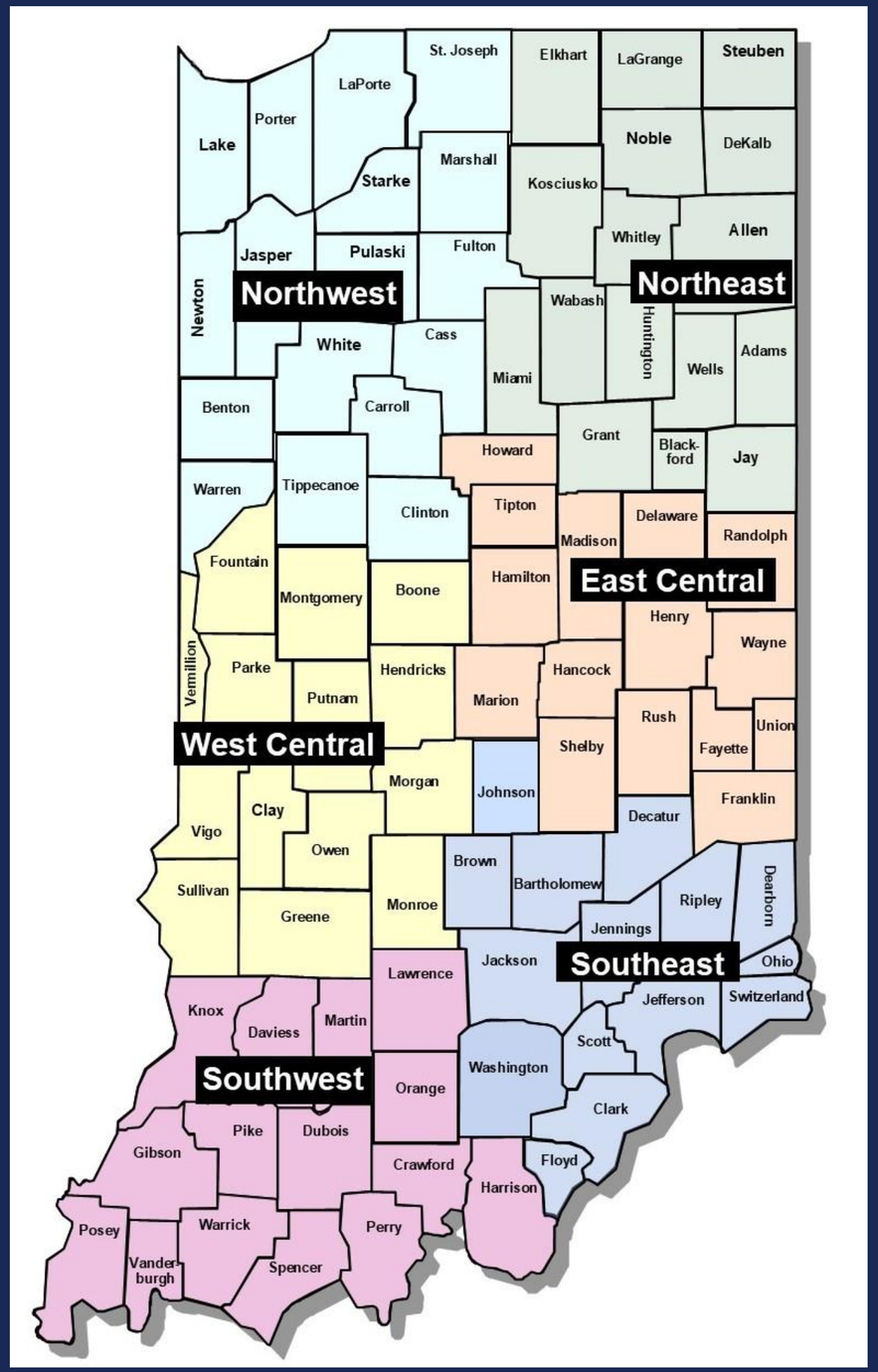

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