

2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



THE INDIANA OFFICE  
OF COMMUNITY AND  
RURAL AFFAIRS

# OUR VISION

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs works with communities to build relevant and economically thriving places where people want to live, work and grow.

To help promote community prosperity, OCRA has developed a variety of programs to provide capacity-building solutions and assure ready, marketable and competitive communities for economic growth. These programs fall under four key competencies.



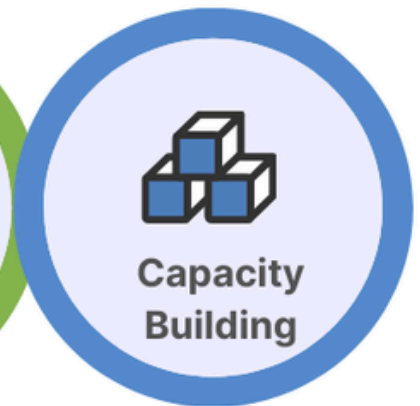
- Next Level Connections Program
- Indiana Connectivity Program
- Wastewater Drinking Water Program
- Stormwater Improvements Program



- Main Street Revitalization Program
- PreservINg Main Street
- Public Facilities Program
- Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
- Recovery Housing Program
- Building Socially Connected Communities



- Indiana Main Street
- Site Certified
- Covid-19 Response Program
- Blight Clearance Program



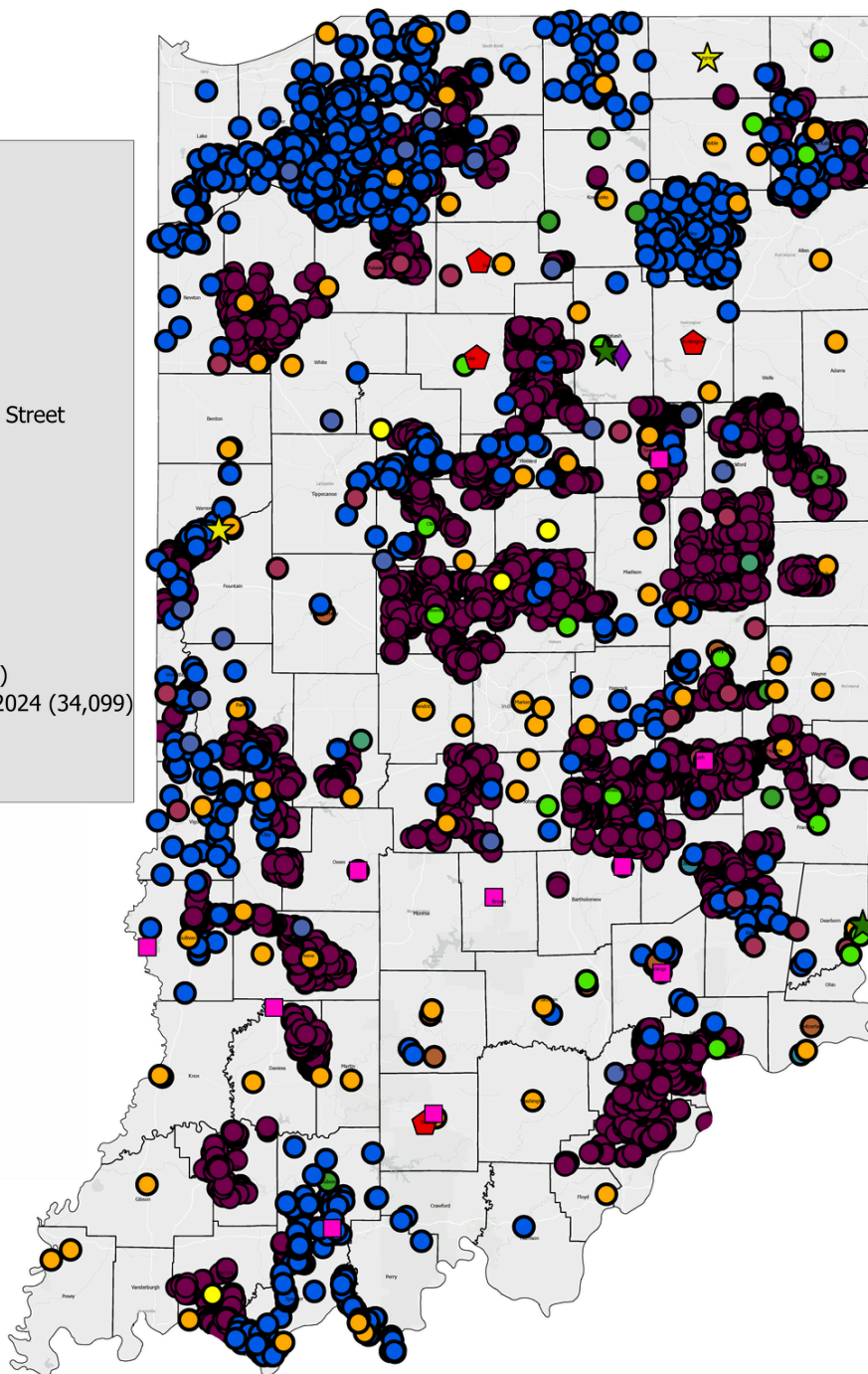
- Planning Grant Program
- Hometown Business Preservation Initiative
- Beat the Heat
- Stellar Pathways
- Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program
- OCRA's Downtown Affiliate Network
- Rural Empowerment and Development



# YEAR IN REVIEW

CDBG Awards  
Program Name

- BCP
- HELP
- OOR
- PFP
- PL
- SIP
- WDW
- Preserving Main Street
- IMS
- Asp-IAMS
- IAMS
- NAMS
- ODAN
- RED
- ◆ Site Certified
- BSCC
- ICP 8-11 (1,361)
- NLC4 Awarded 2024 (34,099)
- Stellar
- ★ Designees
- ★ Finalist



Total Funding:  
**\$121,487,863**

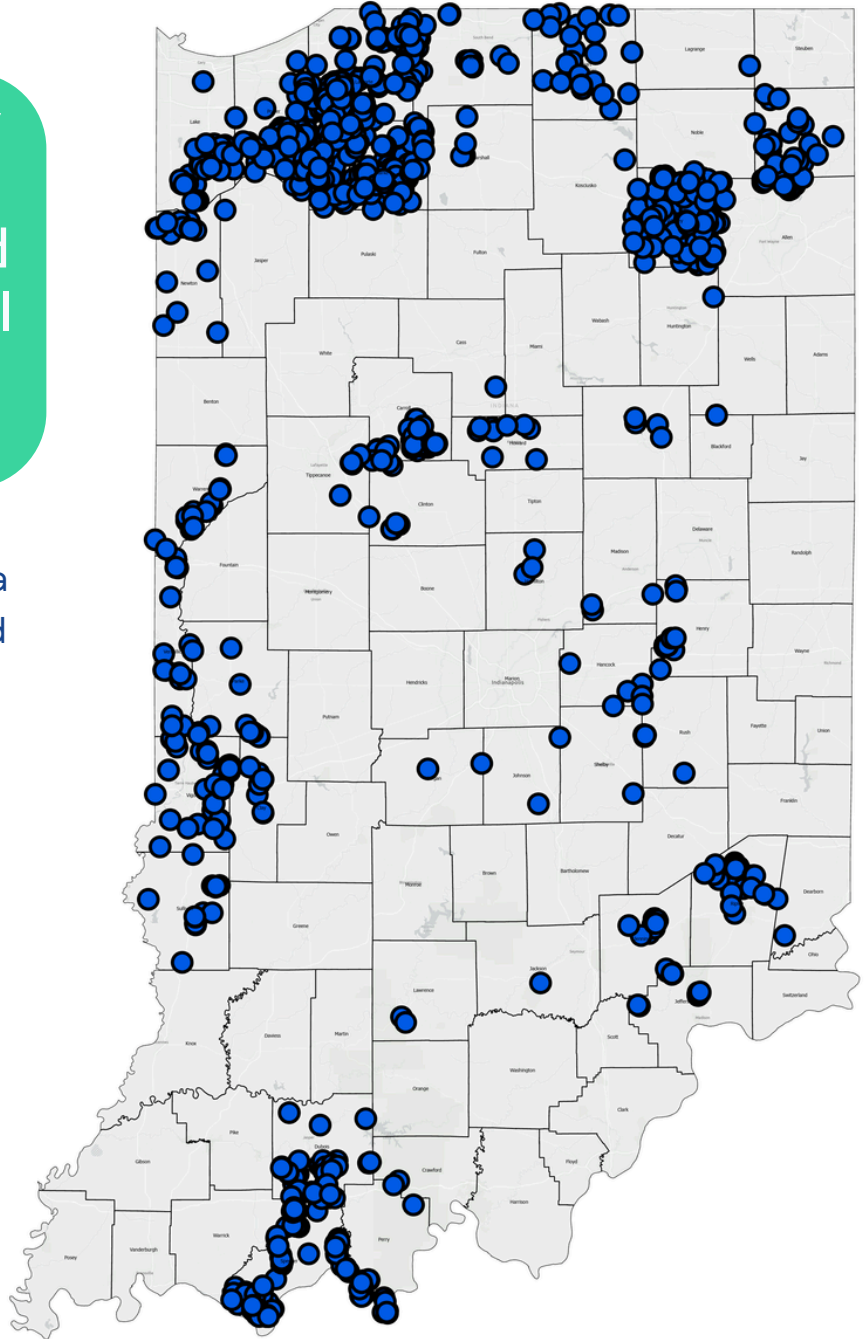
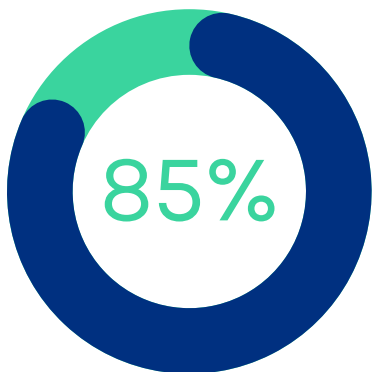
Amount  
Leveraged:  
**\$210,864,074**

Projects  
Funded:  
**183**

# INDIANA CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Indiana Connectivity Program awarded more than \$6 million to expand broadband access to 1,361 Hoosier homes and businesses.

Since its launch in 2022, the Indiana Connectivity Program has awarded funding to 79 of Indiana's 92 counties, over 85%.

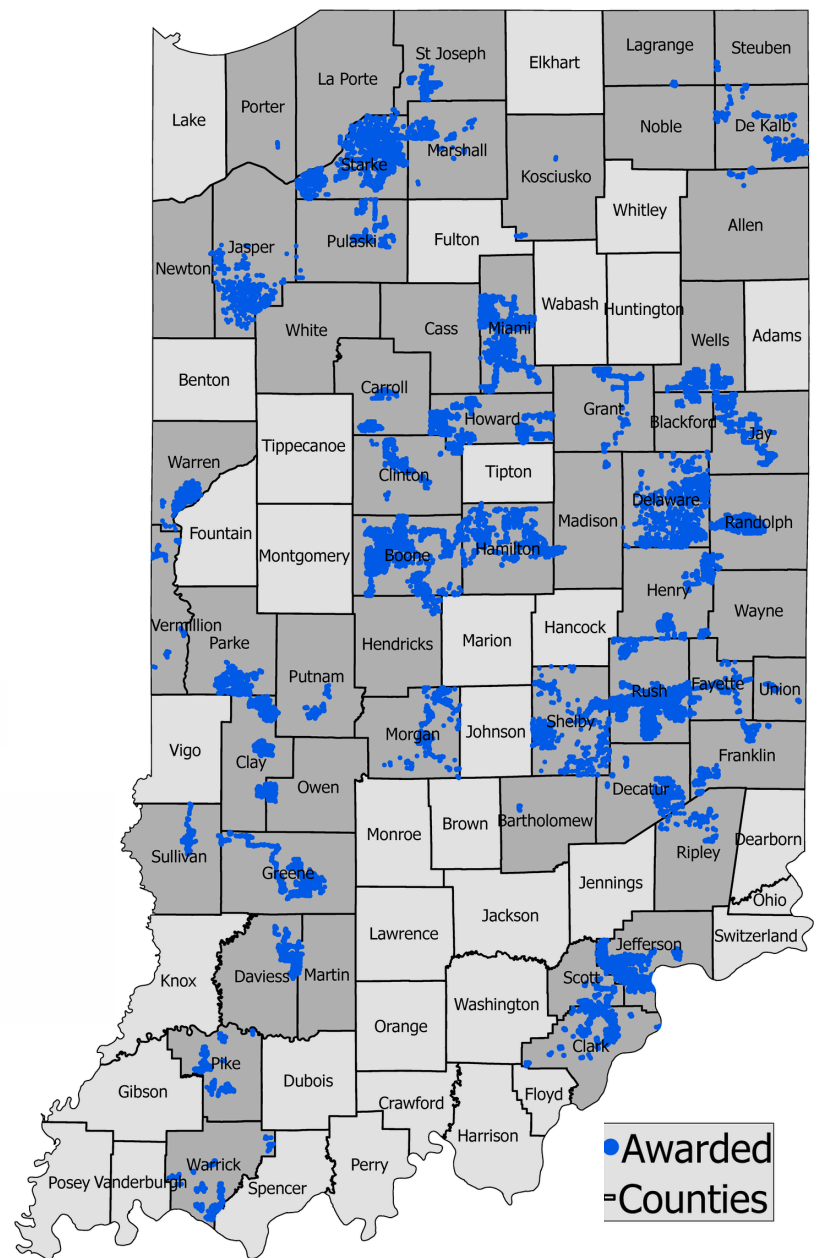




# NEXT LEVEL CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

The Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program Round 4 awarded more than **\$81 million** to 50 projects around the state.

The fourth and final round of the program will expand broadband access to over **34,000 Hoosier homes and businesses.**



# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In 2024, Indiana  
Main Street  
communities saw

**\$38M**

In private  
investment

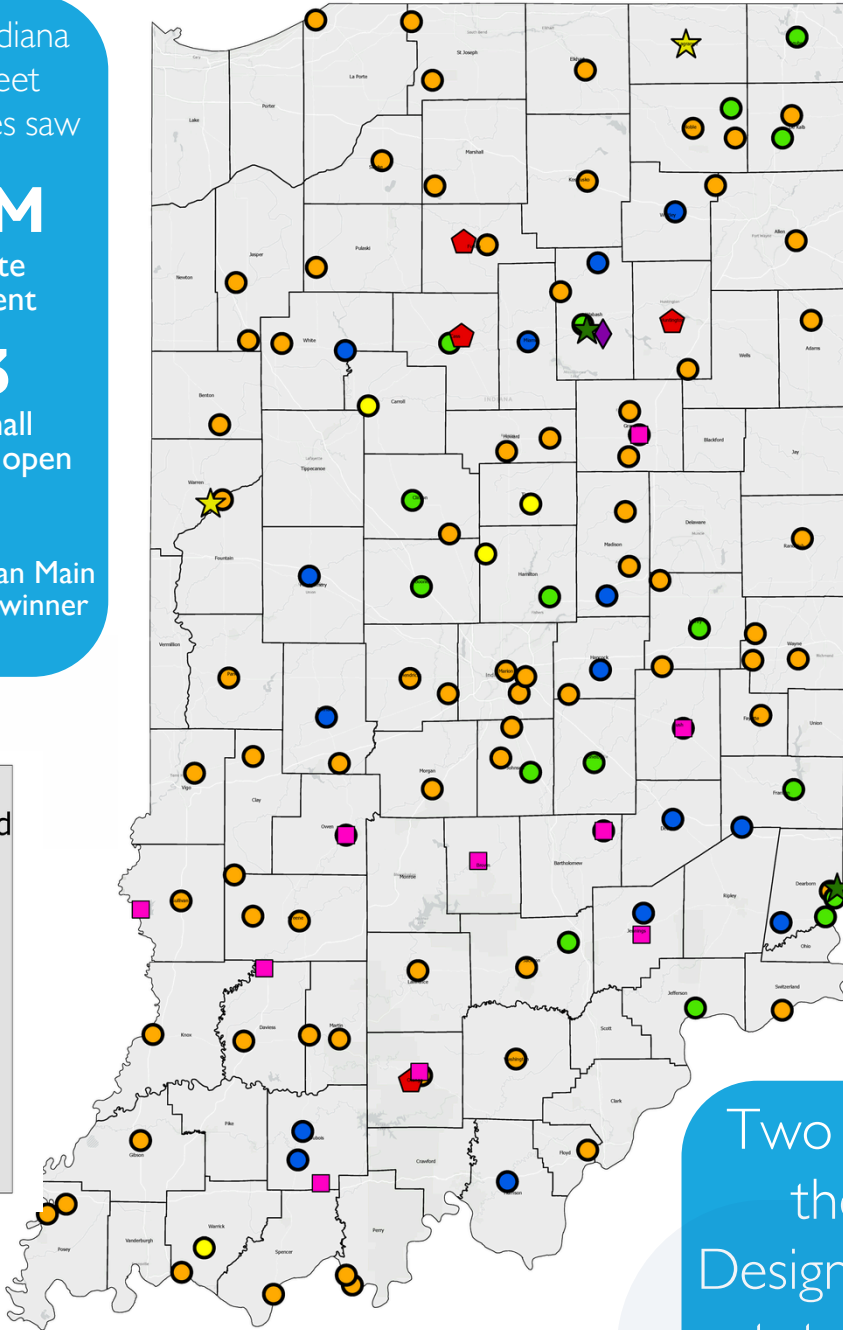
**143**

New small  
businesses open

**1**

Great American Main  
Street Award winner

■ BSCC  
◆ Site Certified  
■ RED  
IMS  
● Asp-IAMS  
● IAMS  
● NAMS  
● ODAN  
Stellar  
★ Designees  
★ Finalist



- The newly launched **Building Socially Connected Communities** grant program awarded 10 projects a total of \$200,000 in funding, with \$216,209 in grantee matching funds.
- Four communities were chosen to participate in the new **Rural Empowerment & Development** program.

Two communities earned the Stellar Pathways Designation and a combined total of **\$13 million** in available funding.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

## Indiana Main Street 2024 successes:

**Main Street READY** was created to help Indiana communities plan for the future of their downtown. Four communities took advantage of the technical assistance program, including Fairmount, Washington, Ferdinand and Rising Sun.



The Indiana Main Street program saw **eight communities** level up within the program.

The Indiana Main Street program saw **nine new communities** join the OCRA Downtown Affiliate Network.

Madison Main Street Program earned the **2024 Great American Main Street Award**. Madison is the first Indiana GAMSMA winner in 25 years.

Virtual trainings, including webinars and Lunch & Learns, were held throughout the year, with a **total of 268 attendees**.

The Indiana Main Street team held **seven Main Street 101 meetings** across the state with **126 total attendees**.



A **\$598,400 value** of in-kind services were offered to Indiana Main Street communities in 2024.

4

Community Exchanges hosted in  
Corydon, Frankfort, Danville & Kendallville

21

Trainings offered exclusively  
to Indiana Main Street communities.

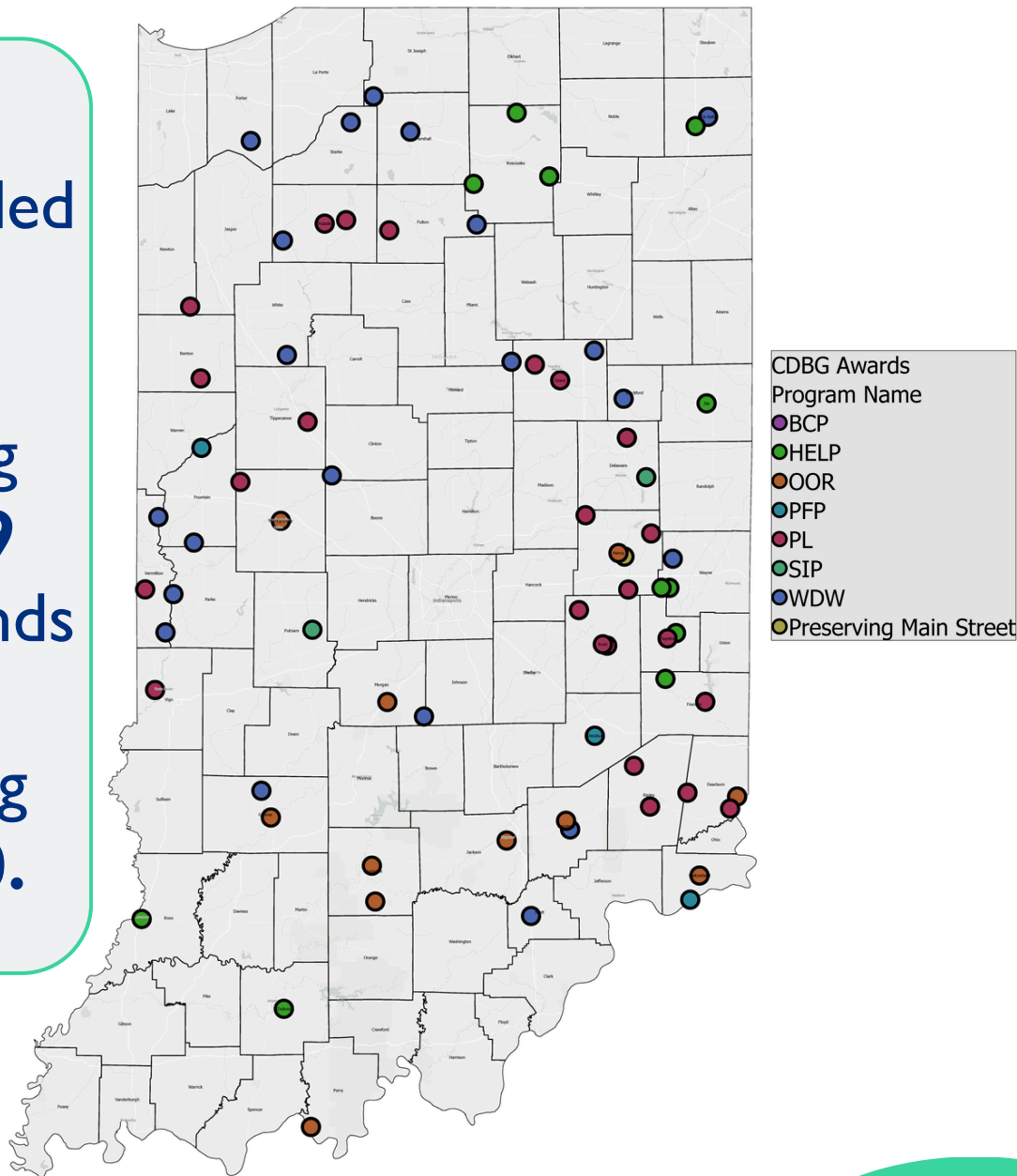
15

In-person Main Street  
Executive Director Trainings



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

The CDBG  
program awarded  
**81 grants**  
across the  
state, totaling  
**\$33,413,239**  
in awarded funds  
with grantee  
match totaling  
**\$54,143,220.**



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

67

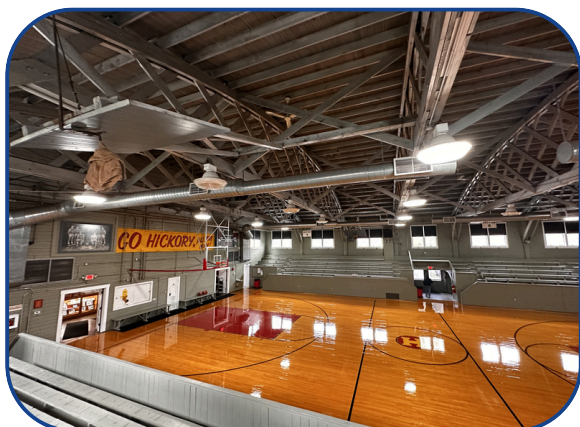
Hours of training provided to  
grant administrators

11

Completed closeout agreements for  
awards totaling over \$334 million

17

New grant administrators certified as  
part of grant administrator training

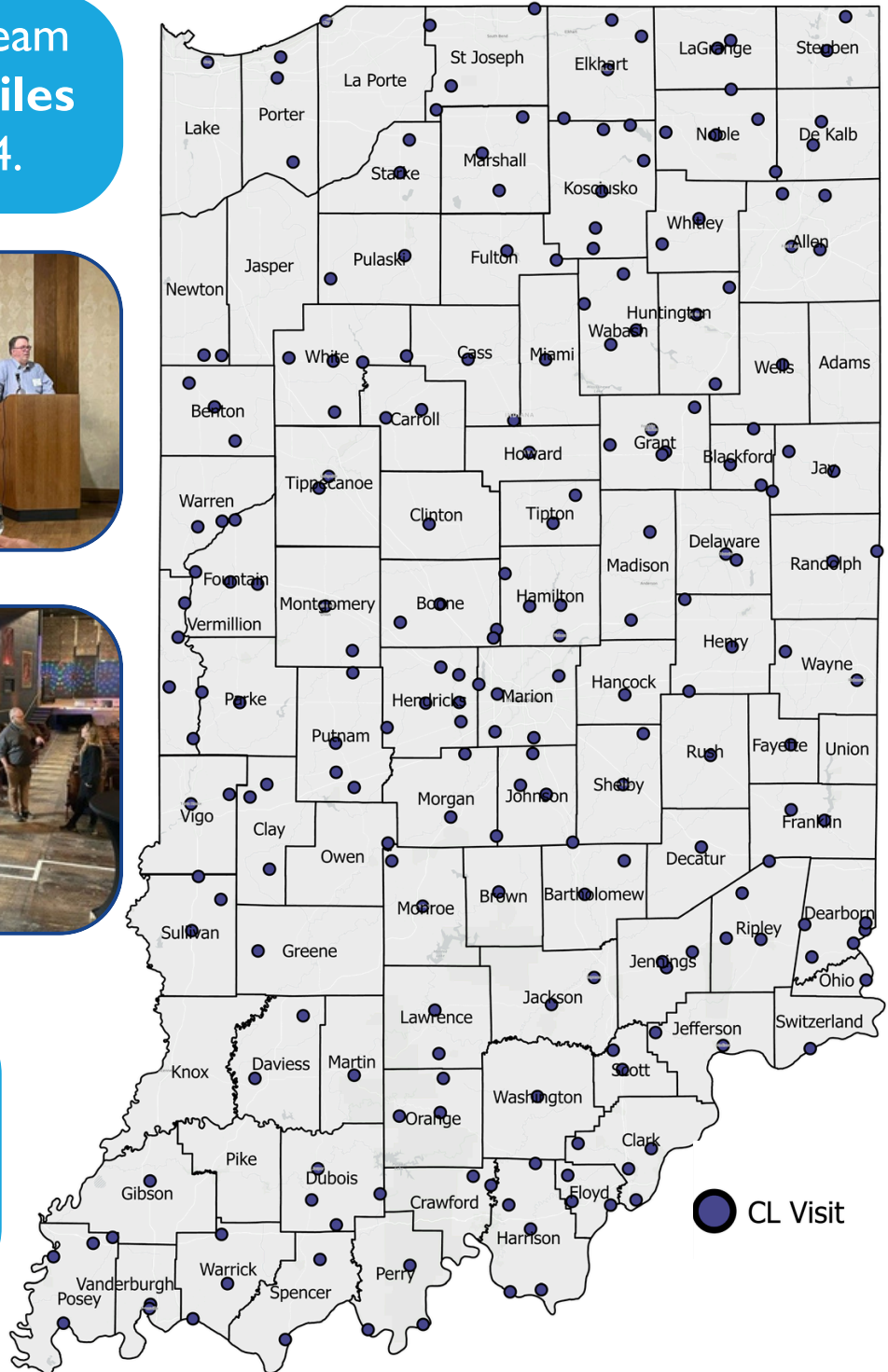


The Beat the Heat program, conducted in partnership with the Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute was completed. The Town of Clarksville implemented a tree canopy program, expanding tree coverage by planting 75 trees in a disadvantaged neighborhood surrounded by large concrete buildings. The City of Richmond's AC unit program assisted 43 households with electricity vouchers and AC window units.

The Community Affairs team traveled over **115,000 miles** around the state in 2024.



OCRA's regional community liaisons visited **more than 220** Indiana communities.





The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' mission is to work with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to assist communities in shaping and achieving their vision for community and economic development.

For more information, visit [ocra.in.gov](http://ocra.in.gov).

