

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

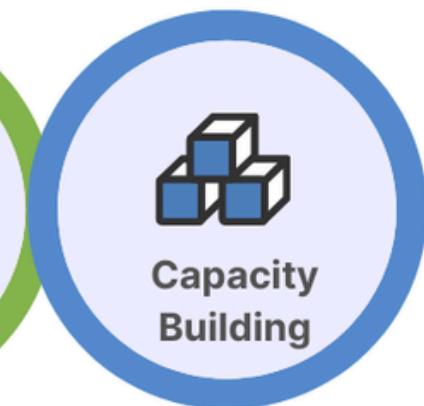


THE INDIANA OFFICE
OF COMMUNITY AND
RURAL AFFAIRS

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

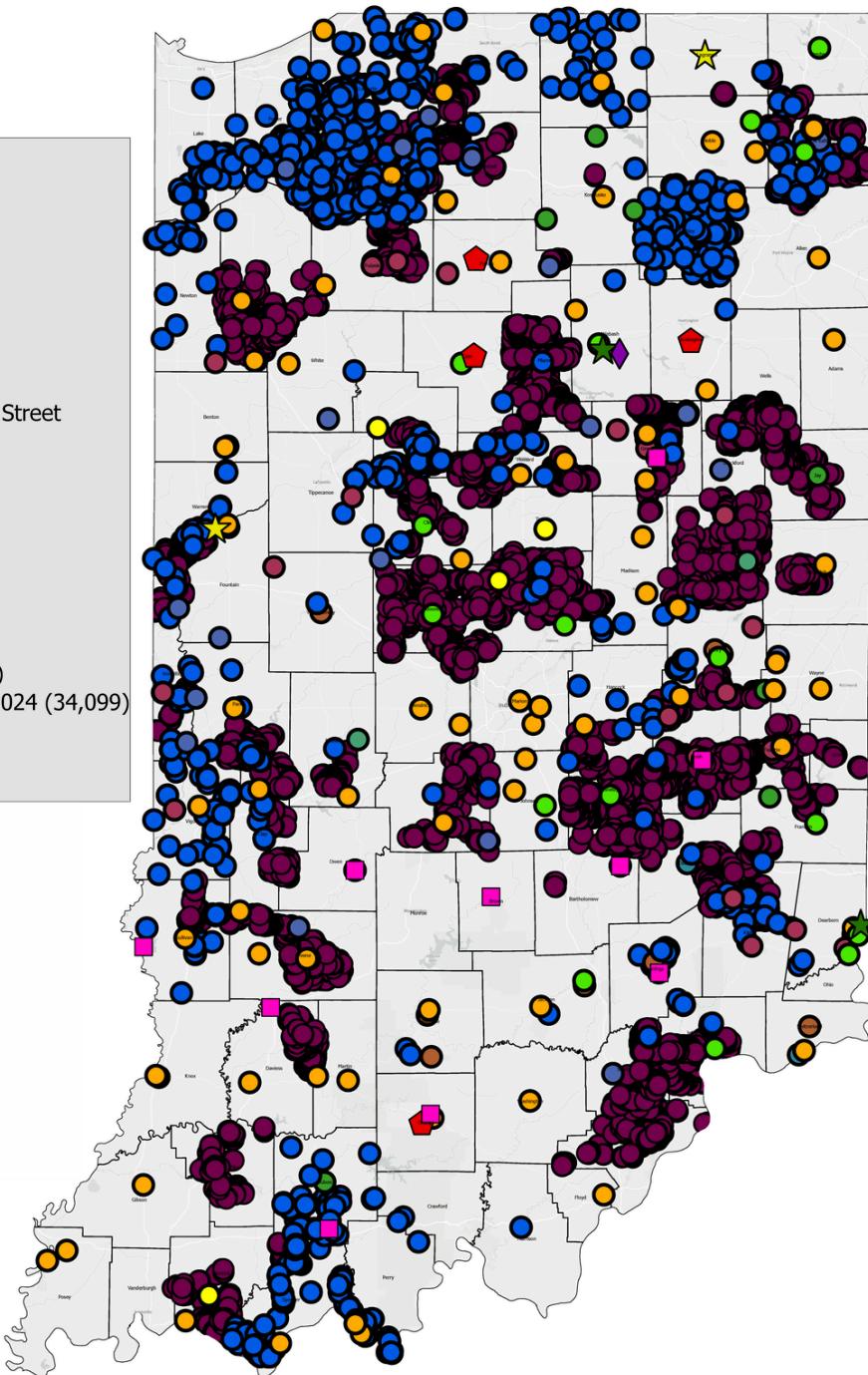
- Main Street Revitalization Program
- PreservINg Main Street
- Public Facilities Program
- Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
- Recovery Housing Program
- Building Socially Connected Communities

- 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
PPF
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

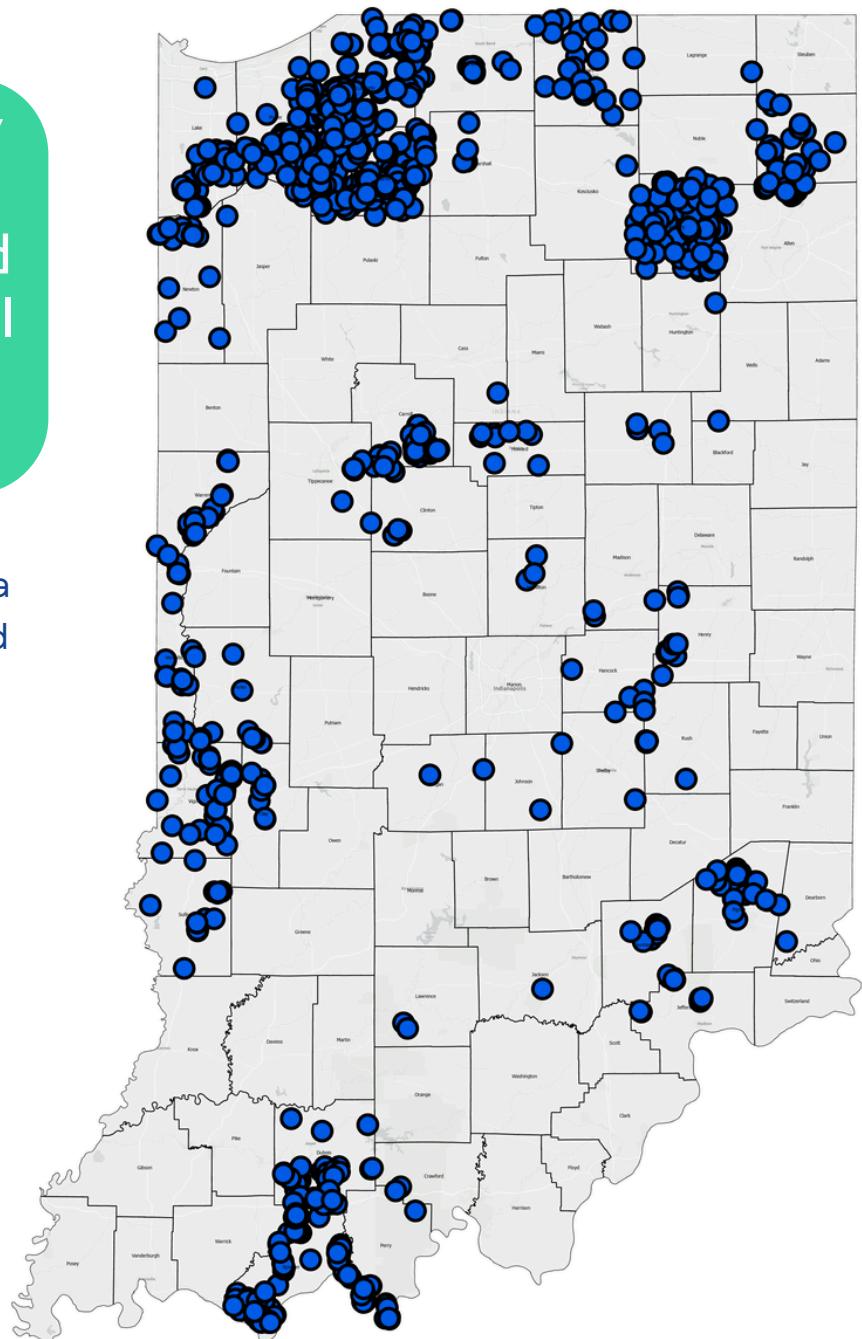
Amount
Leveraged:
\$210,864,074

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.

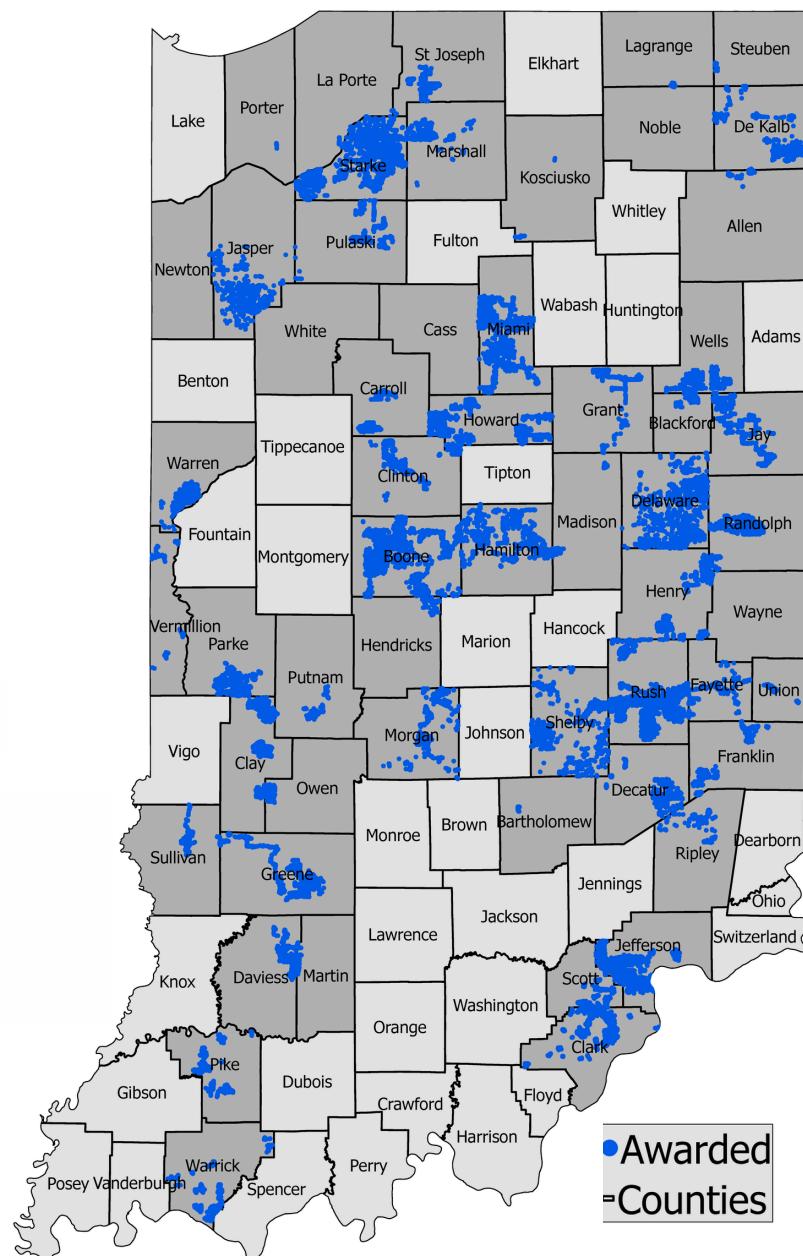
Since its launch in 2022, the Indiana Connectivity Program has awarded funding to 79 of Indiana's 92 counties, over 85%.



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

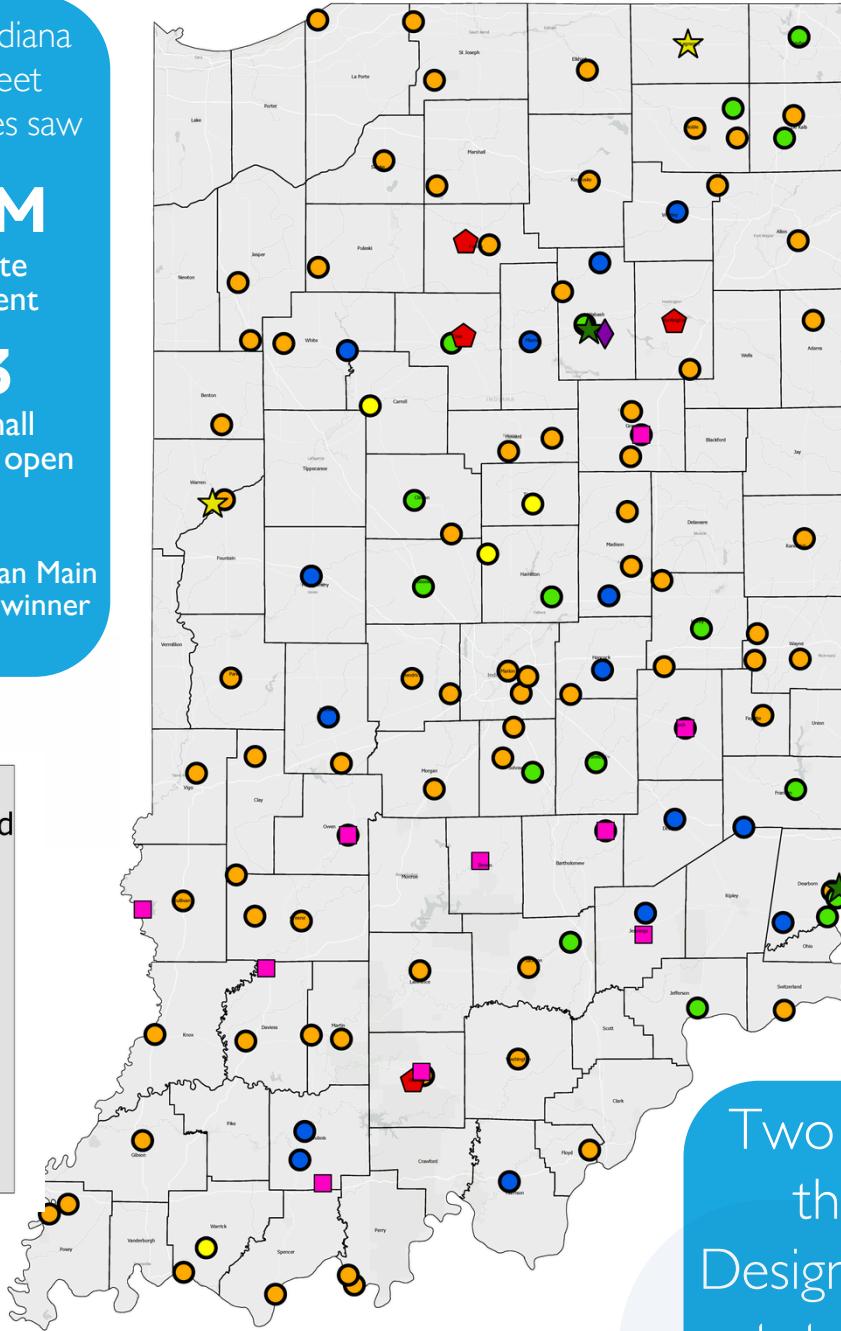
143

New small businesses open

1

Great American Main Street Award winner

- BSCC
- ◆ Site Certified
- ◆ RED
- IMS
- Asp-IAMS
- IAMS
- NAMS
- OODAN
- 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 GAMSA 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

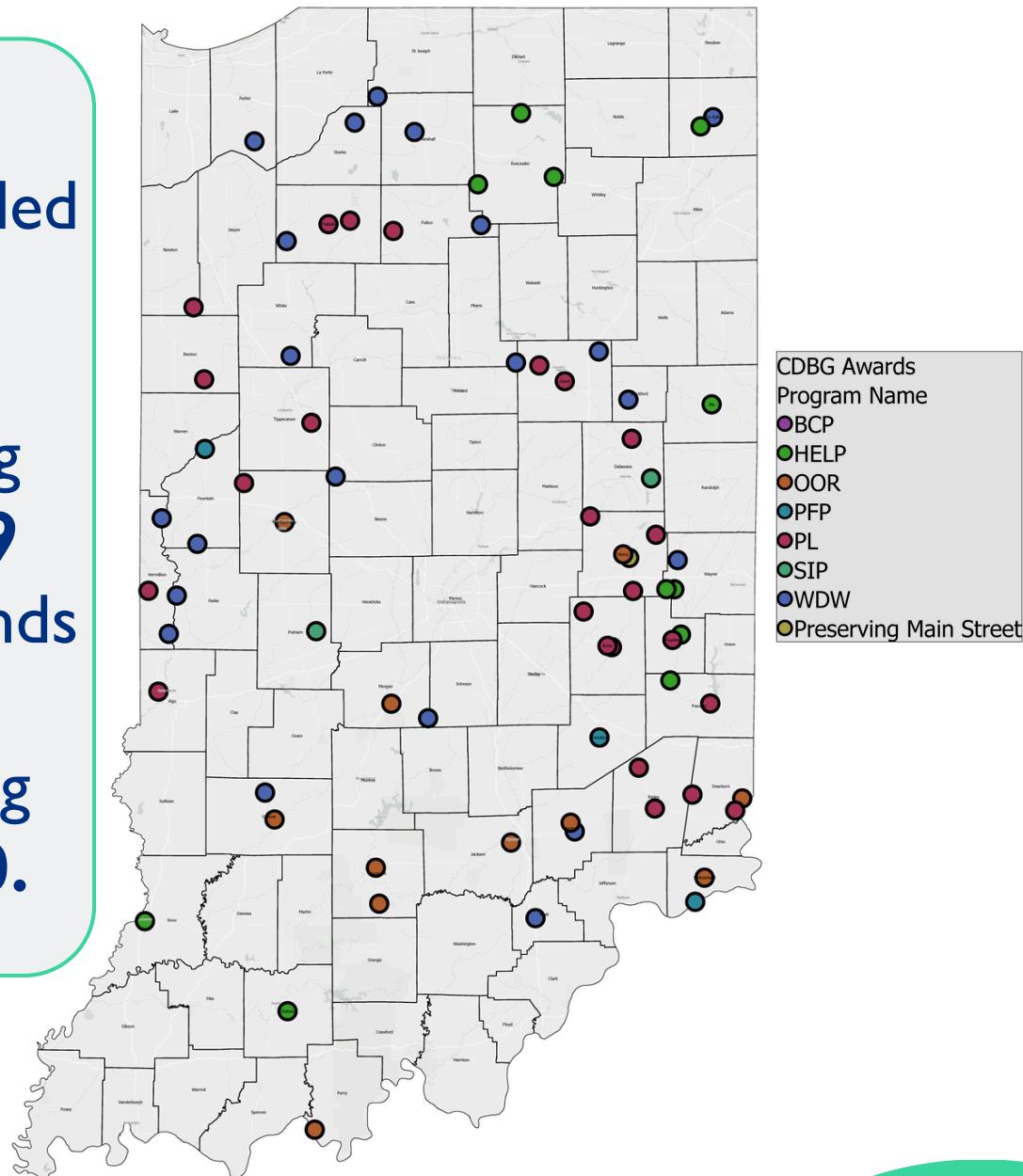
Trainings offered exclusively
to Indiana Main Street communities.

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

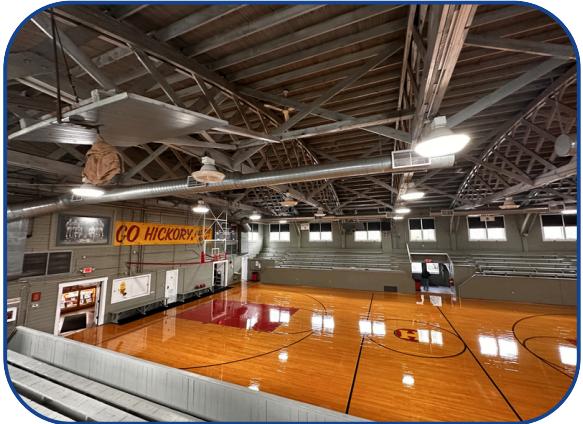
Hours of training provided to
grant administrators

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.

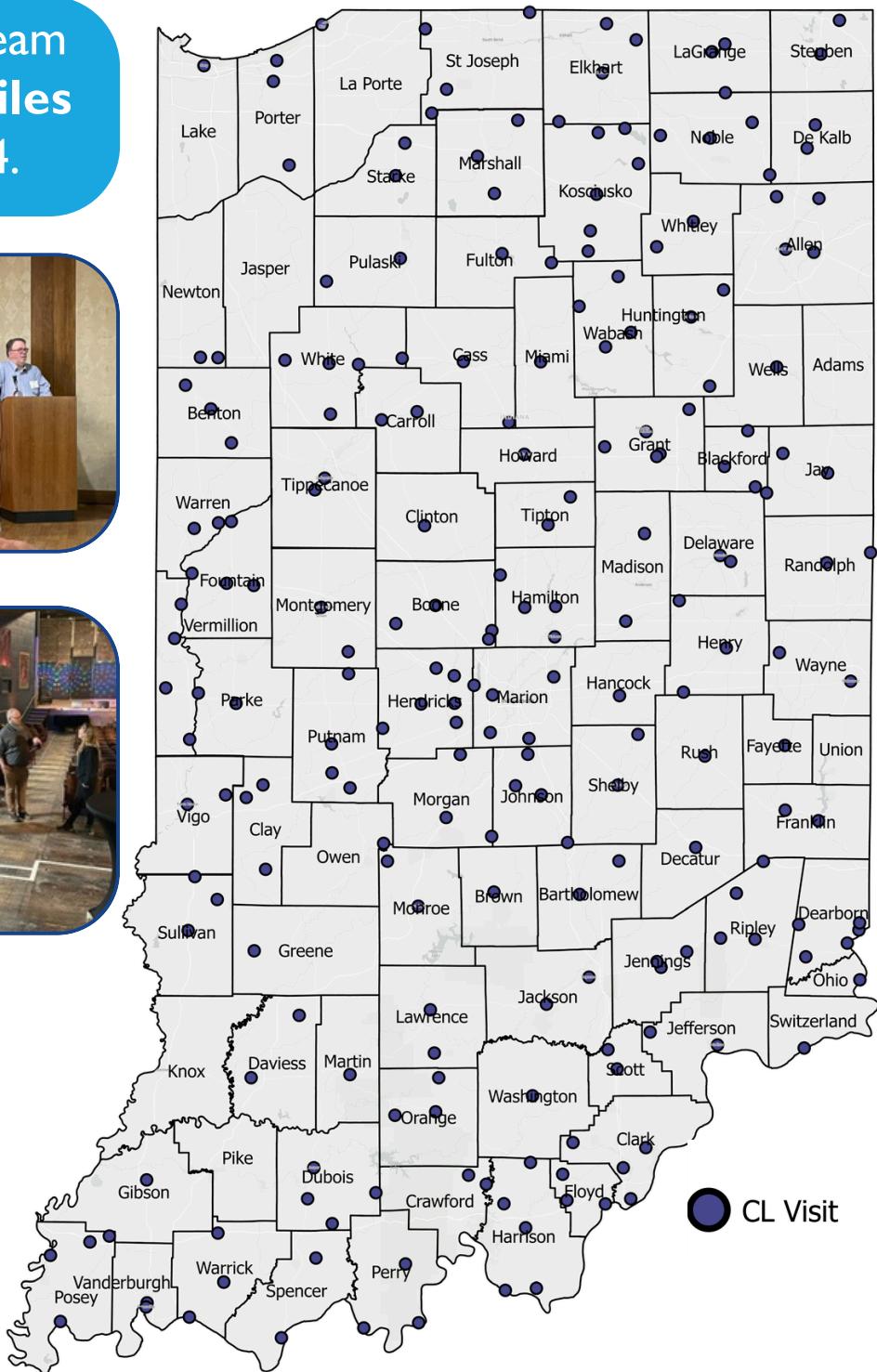
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

10

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.

