

POPULATION STAGNATION THREATENS INDIANA'S GROWTH

Healthy, vibrant communities require dynamic and growing populations. Unfortunately, Indiana remains a net out-migration state like many of its Midwestern neighbors.

- Over the last decade, 80% of Indiana's population growth (6 M to 6.4 M) is attributable to the birth rate outpacing the death rate.
- Talented people continue to move to Southern and Western states, which claimed 84% of the nation's population growth through the past decade.

SUPPORTS REGIONAL OWNERSHIP OF THE FUTURE

Indiana has built one of the best business climates in the country. Now is the time to take the same principles that made our state an economic powerhouse and apply them to building a quality of place that attracts and retains future generations of Hoosiers.

- **Inspiring regional collaboration**—Communities across the state are looking beyond individual cities to capitalize on the verified economic benefits of regional collaboration to deliver a network of culture and amenities that attract and retain talent.
- **Encouraging regional development**—The state is asking Indiana regions to develop vision and action plans that will propel them to achieve national reputations as one of the best places to live and work over the next ten years.
- **Partnering financially**—The IEDC is supporting legislation that enables the state to be a financial partner with regions that develop compelling strategic plans, facilitating significant investment that transforms Indiana communities into destinations for talent.



Indiana has worked tirelessly over the last decade to make our state a destination for business. Now is the time to make our state *a destination for talented people to live and work.*

FULL SPEED AHEAD IN NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA

Business, government, civic and academic leaders from Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph counties met together for the first time in November. In early March, 800 business leaders attended a meeting hosted by the St. Joe County Chamber to learn about the Regional Cities Initiative.

NORTHWEST INDIANA COLLABORATION

The Northwest Indiana Forum and Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority are collaborating to develop an application for funding transformational projects through the Regional Cities Initiative.

MOMENTUM BUILDS IN KOKOMO

The Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance formalized its support for regional economic collaboration in January by issuing a resolution in support of the Regional Cities Initiative. The group represents regional private sector, education and civic leaders, including more than 450 area businesses.

NORTHEAST INDIANA KICKS OFF TRANSFORMATION

Nearly 100 business and community leaders from across northeast Indiana attended a kick-off event in February to brainstorm what the 10-county region can do to transform itself into a hub for talent. A steering committee is already guiding the region through its planning phase, including conducting interviews, focus groups and online surveys. On March 20, more than 400 people attended a meeting hosted by Greater Fort Wayne Inc. to discuss their future as a region.

SPARKING GROWTH IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

Mayors and other leaders in Clark and Floyd counties launched a steering committee that is partnering with a consultant to develop a regional vision and identify specific initiatives to spark population growth. Public forums, regional workshops and online feedback are slated to begin in the coming months.

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