



Indiana
Economic Development Corp®



REGIONAL ECONOMIC ACCELERATION
& DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

INDIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

Since 2016, Indiana has seen consecutive years of population growth driven through net positive migration. Coming out of the pandemic, there is a significant opportunity for states like Indiana to capitalize on individual and corporate decisions to relocate to lower-cost, less dense areas that still offer a high quality live and work environment.

OBJECTIVE

Accelerate Indiana's population growth through increased domestic and international migration by supporting the implementation of regional economic development strategies focused on making Indiana cities and towns magnets for talent.

To achieve this objective, the state will invest in financial partnerships with regions across the state that demonstrate the potential to attract people and accelerate the state's economic growth.

HISTORY

- ▶ In 2014, in partnership with the CICP, the IEDC identified population stagnation and a shrinking pool of talent of prime working age as the number 1 threat to the state's continued economic growth.
- ▶ To address this challenge, the state launched the Regional Cities Initiative to improve the quality of the state's communities to attract and retain a high-quality workforce.
- ▶ The Holcomb Administration subsequently launched the 21st Century Talent Region initiative to help communities identify existing talent assets and develop measurable goals to improve workforce and educational outcomes.

OUTCOMES TO-DATE

- ▶ IEDC funded 69 projects totaling \$1.22 billion in quality of place investments since 2016.
- ▶ Beginning in 2016, the state started to turn the corner, experiencing consecutive years of positive net-migration and population growth.



Invest in quality of place and talent initiatives included in regional development plans

- ▶ Award funding in each region for project's included in a region's plan.
- ▶ IEDC will expect its \$500 million investment to be matched by the private sector and local community.
 - At least 80% of the investment must come from private or local sources.
 - Not more than 20% of the investment in the plan can originate from state funds.
 - A majority of the investment in the plan should come from private sources.

Program Structure

- ▶ Regions identify themselves.
- ▶ Plans should be developed by a broad group of stakeholders within a self-identified region that must include the region's major employers or anchor institutions.
- ▶ The plan should clearly identify the region's vision for the future and outline its shared identity.
- ▶ Regional talent and quality of place strategies should be data driven and tied to measurable outcomes.
- ▶ Award to regions based on regional plan at a level up to the maximum award per region.

CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ **Despite positive steps Indiana has taken to reverse historical population trends, the state must not lose focus or take a step back.**
 - Indiana lost more well-educated individuals (some BA or higher) than gained over the last five years.
 - Indiana lost more higher-income earners than gained over the last five years.
 - Industry trends have accelerated, and many sectors are at an inflection point.
- ▶ **The state is once again nearing what could be considered full-employment despite the challenges presented over the last year.**
- ▶ **Indiana's fiscal responsibility in the past now presents a clear opportunity to leapfrog our peers by investing and growing out of the pandemic.**

STATE PRIORITIES & MEASURING SUCCESS

► Accelerate the pace of population growth through net-domestic and international migration

- Create communities that are national benchmarks for quality;
- Enhance the state's entrepreneurial ecosystem;
- Increase the number of high-quality job opportunities that are prepared to weather shifting industry trends;
- Increase the share of individuals with the skills necessary for jobs that will be created over the next 5-10 years.

► Measuring the Initiative's Success

- Increased per capita income at a rate that meets or exceeds the national average;
- Increased share of population of prime working age;
- Increased rate of educational attainment;
- Increased property values statewide;
- Improved health outcomes.

ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

► If there is an RDA, presumption is the RDA will be the applicant

- This doesn't mean the RDA is the only stakeholder that develops the plan, but the RDA will be responsible for implementation.
- A region that covers all or a portion of the same area as an RDA may apply through a qualified non-profit organization in place of the RDA with the approval of the IEDC.
- A region that covers similar areas as an RDA or multiple RDAs may apply as a separate applicant with the approval of the IEDC.
- Regions are comprised of contiguous cities, towns and counties within a defined labor shed.

► If a region does not have an RDA, the region may apply through a new or existing non-profit organization

- Led by private sector/philanthropic entities, elected officials may be engaged but not in a controlling capacity.
- Exception: elected officials can, like an RDA, select or replace board members through consensus of the partnering communities.



PROJECT IDEAS

Quality of Life/Quality of Place

- ▶ Construction projects including workforce housing, community amenities, and infrastructure
- ▶ Cultural facilities, community spaces, and other civic initiatives

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiatives

- ▶ Industry driven public private partnerships focused on R&D, commercialization, and technology adoption
- ▶ Projects or initiatives to promote digital literacy and adoption by Indiana employers
- ▶ Equipment (hardware or software) for training, research, or production

Talent Development and Attraction Initiatives

- ▶ Skilled trades and workforce training partnerships or facilities
- ▶ Cybersecurity and coding programs
- ▶ Equipment (hardware or software) for workforce development programs

TIMELINE: ROUND ONE

Q2 2021

- ▶ **May 3**—Launch REAP statewide through stakeholder and community events
 - Call to action. “What is your Region?”
 - Establish technical support programs to help regions identify themselves and establish an initial baseline for the region, including conducting a SWOT analysis
 - Offer financial support for regional planning efforts, up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Q3 2021

- ▶ **July** — Open application window
- ▶ **July-August** — Regional site visits
- ▶ **August** — Initial application window closes

Q4 2021

- ▶ **September-October** — Review Committee application review and Regional presentations
- ▶ **December** — First round of investment decisions are made and financial partnerships announced

TAKE YOUR REGION TO THE NEXT LEVEL

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