

# Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs



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**Community & Rural Affairs**  
*Where Rural Matters*

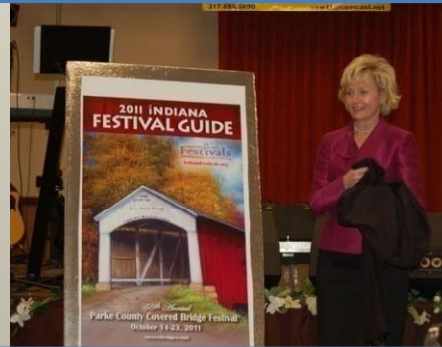
# Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

To work with local, state, and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to aid rural communities in shaping their visions for community economic development.



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# Lt. Governor Becky Skillman



## Family of Business

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- Indiana Office Community and Rural Affairs
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- Indiana Office of Tourism Development
- Indiana Office of Energy Development
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority



# Community Liaisons

- Community Liaisons work proactively with Indiana’s rural communities and their leaders by providing resources and technical assistance.
- They are strategically placed throughout the state and are committed to meeting the needs of rural Indiana.
- They assist communities and help local leaders to generate creative solutions.



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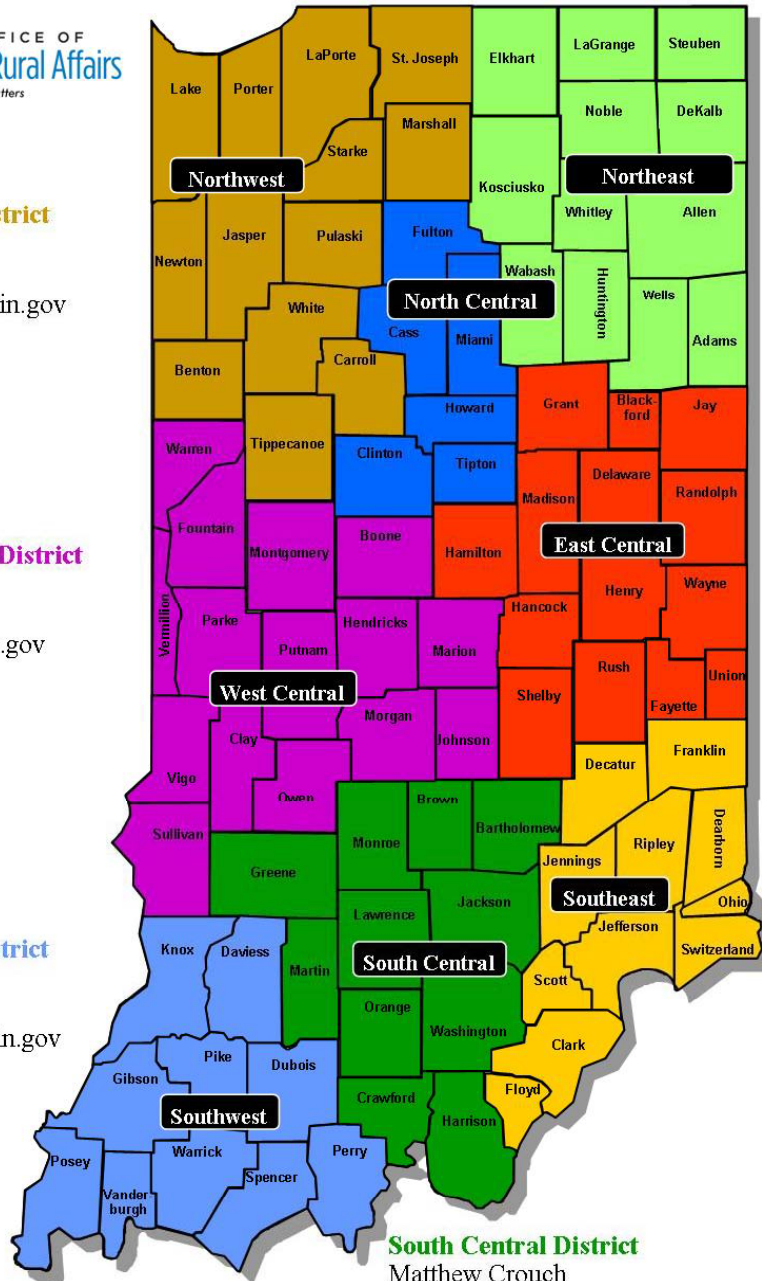
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**North Central District**  
Steven Ray  
317.460.4234  
sray@ocra.in.gov

**Northwest District**  
Gerry White  
317.694.8372  
gewhite@ocra.in.gov

**West Central District**  
Jill Curry  
317.450.5078  
jcurry@ocra.in.gov

**Southwest District**  
Ellen Harper  
317.439.8905  
eharper@ocra.in.gov



**Northeast District**  
Ryan Shrack  
317.607.4821  
rshrack@ocra.in.gov

**East Central District**  
Susie Bruce  
317.416.3281  
sbruce@ocra.in.gov

**Southeast District**  
Erica Speer  
317.690.9736  
espeer@ocra.in.gov

**South Central District**  
Matthew Crouch  
317.750.7670  
mcrouch@ocra.in.gov

# Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

- Indiana administers federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). OCRA uses these funds to provide grants to small cities, towns, and counties with populations of less than 50,000 residents for community improvement projects.
- These federal funds are used to implement a variety of activities for housing and community development projects.
- Listed below are some of the grants OCRA offers through the CDBG program:
  - Economic Development Grants;
  - Health and Safety Projects;
  - Infrastructure Projects;
  - Quality of Life Projects; and
  - Urgent Need Grants.



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# Planning Grants (PL)

- Awards are available to units of local government.
- Monthly non-competitive funding cycle.
- Maximum grant amount cannot exceed \$50,000.
- Required local match of at least 10% of the total project cost.
- Projects must benefit low to moderate income persons or eliminate slum/blight.



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# Community Focus Funds (CFF)

- Awards are available to units of local government.
- Two or three competitive funding rounds per year.
- Maximum grant amount cannot exceed \$600,000.
- Required local match of at least 10% of the total project cost.
- Projects must benefit low to moderate income persons or eliminate slum/blight.
- Site Clearance/Demo



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# Stellar Communities

- Innovative new state program created to fund comprehensive community development projects in Indiana's smaller cities and towns.
- IHCDA, OCRA, INDOT are funding agencies (SRF)
- Selected communities will complete multiple community development projects funded by the three partner agencies' programs, which may address housing, infrastructure, roadwork, streetscape, lighting, community centers, revitalization projects, and other quality of life issues.



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# Indiana Main Street

- Indiana Main Street uses economic development, redevelopment, and historic preservation tactics to help individuals, businesses, and organizations strengthen the centers of their cities and towns.
- Indiana Main Street's Four Point Approach:
  - Organization
  - Design
  - Promotion
  - Economic Restructuring

*Indiana*

**MAIN STREET**



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# HomeTown Competitiveness Program

- HomeTown Competitiveness (HTC) is a comprehensive approach to community development that can help rural communities tackle their current economic challenges. The HTC framework emphasizes five “pillars”.
- Pillars of HTC:
  - Leadership
  - Youth development
  - Building community wealth/philanthropic giving
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Rural family success



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# Community Coaching/ Resource Development

- Assists in implementing community development projects
- Provides troubleshooting assistance regarding rural development needs
- Offers a neutral perspective on communities' specific issues
- Identifies and prepares communities to work with additional resources and partners



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# Contact OCRA

Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

One North Capitol, Suite 600

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

800.824.2476

[www.ocra.IN.gov](http://www.ocra.IN.gov)



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