



Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Denny Spinner

Executive Director

Roberto Gallardo

**Acting Next Level
Connections Director**

IACC Annual Conference, Nov. 30, 2021



Infrastructure

Broadband,
Wastewater/Drinking Water,
Stormwater Improvement



Capacity Building

Stellar Communities,
Transformational Strategies,
Hometown Business
Preservation Initiative,
Rural Opportunity Zone
Initiative



Quality of Place

Blight Clearance, Public
Facilities, Quick Impact
Placebased, Main Street
Revitalization,
Historic Renovation,
Preserving Women's
Legacy Grants



Four Competencies

Economic Development

COVID-19 Response,
Site Certified,
Indiana Main Street



Community Affairs



Neil Elkins
Community Affairs
Director



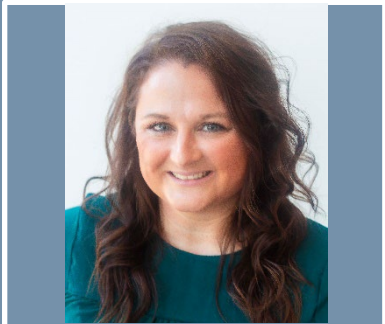
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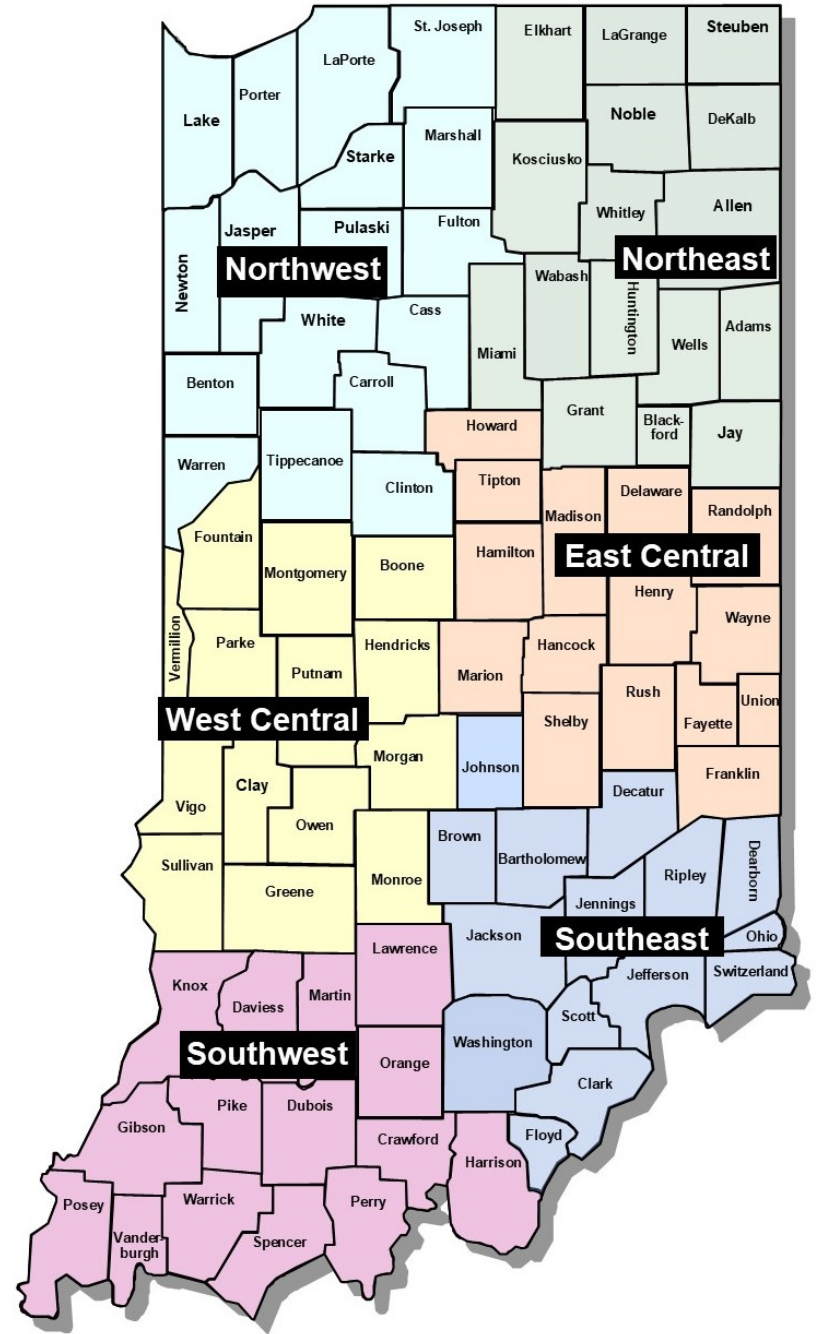
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Community Development Block Grants



Community Development Block Grants Program Director:

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Community Development Block Grants

Rural communities have many pressing needs that require outside financial assistance. Through OCRA, Indiana requests federal funds to help rural communities with a variety of projects to include **sewer and water systems, community centers, health and safety programs,** and many others.

These funds help communities **improve their quality of life** and **ensure the health and safety** of their citizens.

Updated CDBG Calendar

December

- CDBG Q4 Planning Awards announced (12/7)
- CDBG 2021 Round 2 applications due (12/17)
- Recovery Housing Pilot Program applications due (12/17)

January

- Recovery Housing Pilot Program awards announced (01/27)

February

- CDBG 2021 Round 2 awards announced (02/10)

Strategic Initiatives



**Director of
Strategic Initiatives:**

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Indiana Main Street Program

Indiana Main Street encourages community-driven revitalization of downtown areas in Indiana cities and towns.

Applications recently opened for communities to apply for the 2022 Indiana Main Street Program.

Communities must submit their Letter of Intent by Dec. 30, with the application deadline being Feb. 10. Incoming Main Street communities will be announced in April 2022.

Learn more about Indiana Main Street at in.gov/ocra/mainstreet/



**MAIN STREET
AMERICA™**

Coordinating Program

INDIANA MAIN STREET

Program Overview

Preserv**ING** Main Street



- \$2 million in CDBG funds will be used for transformational façade and building improvements over the two years.
- The Main Street organization along with the community foundation and LUG will be responsible for raising a 10% match (\$200,000) for the project, which could include a mix of private and local funds.
- Indiana Landmarks will work with the Main Street organization and the building/business owners to provide training and conditions assessments for preservation projects in downtown.

Program Overview

Preserv**ING** Main Street



- Local Unit of Government along with Indiana Landmarks and OCRA Program Director will assist in using the Indiana state enabling law and model ordinance to develop and adopt a local preservation ordinance, formation of a preservation commission, and designation of a downtown local historic district within the first 18 months.
- Main Street organization will also implement two humanities-based programs and activities using a \$20,000 Indiana Humanities Grant distributed in two tranches.

PreservINg Pilot Communities

PreservINg Main Street



- The City of Kendallville, Experience the Heart of Kendallville
- The Town of Brookville, Main Street Brookville, Inc.



1. Advancing e-Connectivity
2. Promoting Community Wellness
3. Enhancing Quality of Place
4. Strengthening Local Economies

Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program

First Cohort, beginning January 2022:

- The City of Auburn
- Jay County
- Kosciusko County

Second Cohort, beginning summer of 2022

- The City of Vincennes
- Daviess County
- Dubois County

Third Cohort, beginning at the start of 2023

- The City of Connersville
- Franklin County
- Wayne County





NextLevel Connections

Next Level Connections

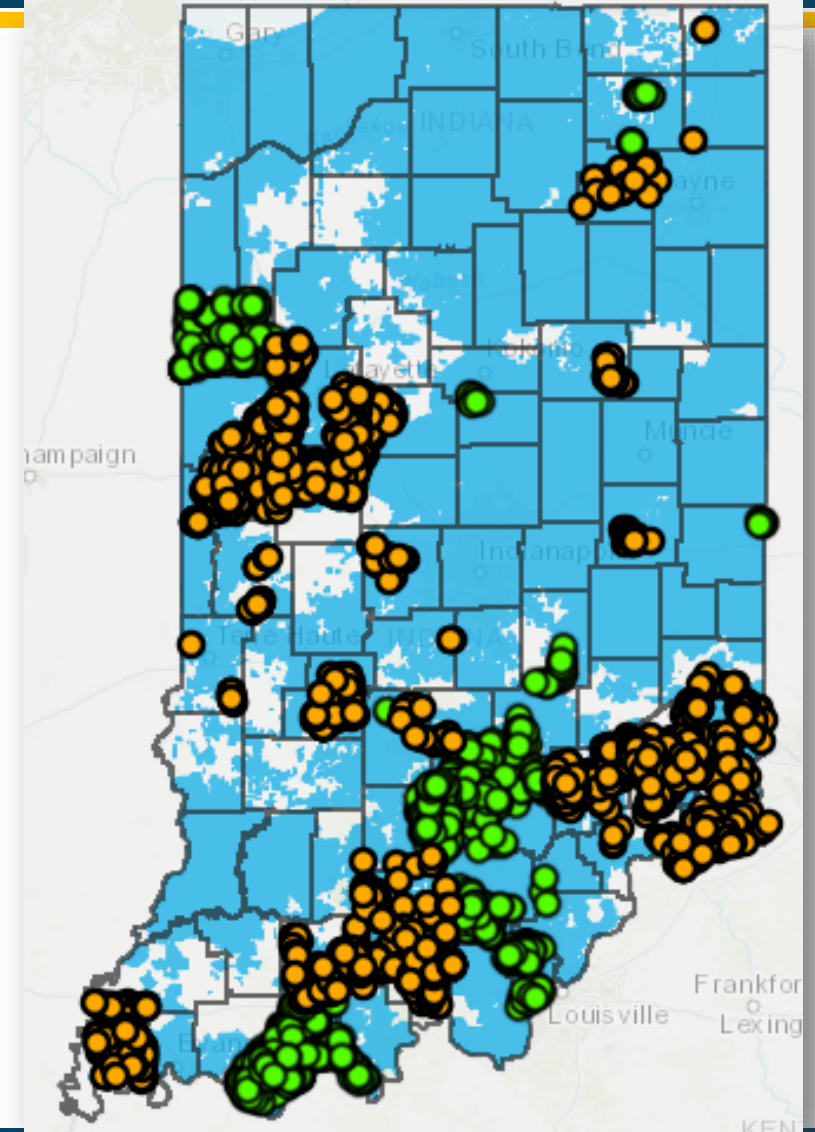


**Acting Next Level
Connections
Program Director:**

Roberto Gallardo
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Overview

- Through Next Level Connections Round 1 and 2:
 - Over **\$79 million** awarded
 - Broadband infrastructure provided to more than **21,000** homes and commercial locations across **41** counties.



Program Updates

- Earlier this year, the governor announced investing \$250 million of federal stimulus dollars in broadband expansion

“In 2018, Gov. Eric Holcomb and I ended up investing \$100 million to expand broadband in Indiana....This additional \$250 million will take us a long way to connecting Hoosiers because, as we saw during COVID-19, being connected is more important than ever before.”

-Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch

NEXT LEVEL CONNECTIONS ROUND 3 REQUEST

Round 3 Interest Across Indiana

NUMBER OF
INTERNET
PROVIDERS
SUBMITTING
LETTER OF INTENT




140,000

ADDRESSES
COVERED IN
PROPOSED
PROJECTS

TOTAL
GRANT
FUNDING
REQUESTED

**\$606
MILLION**



TOTAL NUMBER
OF COUNTIES
WITH PROPOSED
PROJECTS

Indiana Connectivity Program

The Indiana Connectivity Program is a new resource designed to help more Hoosiers lacking internet connectivity to obtain access to reliable and quality broadband.

Hoosiers and business owners needing internet connectivity can communicate their interest and apply for consideration by entering their address and information into the Next Level Connections portal at in.gov/ocra/broadband or by calling the Indiana Broadband Connect Center at 833-639-8522.





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Questions?