



# Building Socially Connected Communities grant program

The Building Socially Connected Communities grant program was created to increase social connection in rural communities across Indiana.

## Program development

According to an advisory report by the U.S. Surgeon General, experiencing loneliness is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, depression, anxiety and premature death.



This grant program encourages communities to proactively address loneliness by increasing opportunities for social connection.

## Application timeline

- **June 3** – Application opens
- **Aug. 29** – Last day to meet with OCRA Regional Community Liaison on project
- **Sept. 12** – Applications due at Noon ET
- **Oct. 10** – Award announcement (World Mental Health Day)

## Program funding

Total funding available for the program is \$200,000. Applicants can apply for one of two types of funding:

- **Quick Action projects:**
  - Maximum award – \$5,000
  - Minimum award – \$1,000
  - 1:1 match, 30% of match can be in-kind
- **Large Impact projects:**
  - Maximum award – \$50,000
  - Minimum award – \$5,001
  - 1:1 cash match

## Eligible applicants

- Communities with a population under 50,000
- Local governments
- Non-profit organizations
- Community groups
- Entities focused on addressing loneliness

*\*Projects must include other community partners.*



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By strategically investing in community well-being, OCRA can help foster resilient communities where all Hoosiers thrive socially, economically and culturally.

## Categories of funding

Projects must fit into one of the following categories of funding. For more information, visit [ocra.in.gov/bbcc](http://ocra.in.gov/bbcc) or contact your OCRA Regional Community Liaison.

- **Community Infrastructure Enhancement**
  - Community centers, meeting spaces and facilities.
- **Social Clubs and Interest Groups**
  - Fund initiatives aimed at creating and sustaining social clubs.
- **Community Well-Being Programs**
  - Support and promote community programs that increase awareness, reduce stigma and provide resource programming.
- **Transportation Accessibility**
  - Improve transportation options for older adults in rural areas.
- **Intergenerational Initiatives**
  - Facilitate meaningful interactions between different age groups.
- **Local Business Support**
  - Provide grants to support local businesses that cater to the needs of older adults.

**Around 50% of adults in the U.S. reported being lonely in recent years.**

*-The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community.*

## Program overview

The Building Socially Connected Communities grant program seeks to address the pervasive issue of loneliness in older adults across rural and mid-size cities in Indiana. The program aligns with the recommendations and insights provided in the U.S. Surgeon General's report, focusing on strategies that enhance social connections and well-being for this demographic.

