

# Community Liaisons

OCRA

Office of  
**COMMUNITY &  
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# Opportunities through



**Stellar Communities** Stellar Communities Designation Program is a multi-agency partnership designed to recognize Indiana's smaller communities that have identified comprehensive community and economic development projects and activities as well as next steps and key partnerships.

**Community Readiness Initiative (CRI)** OCRA and partners utilize tools to provide insight into the strengths and opportunities within your community to determine the best course of action to align your community's vision with its assets. Comprised of anonymous surveys and leadership forums, the goal of the program is to align the community and its leadership with data that points to economic development opportunities.

**Community Enhancement and Economic Development (CEED)** loan guarantee program providing communities with a source of loan financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and other large-scale projects.

**Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF)** Is a collaborative program offered by OCRA and the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. The fund is dedicated to encouraging community partnerships as they work together to make their hometowns become even greater places to visit, work, and live.

**Shovel Ready** OCRA certifies sites as ready for economic development in concert with Indiana's FASTeam. These sites often receive priority attention from companies seeking to expand and offer assurance that the site and community will be ready to help them grow.

**Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI)** A groundbreaking community capacity building program that expands the pipeline of local leaders, seeks to strengthen existing economic assets, and offers placemaking strategies that improve quality of life and attractiveness for investment. Offered in partnership with Purdue and Ball State Universities.

**Indiana Main Street (IMS)** A nationally-recognized program committed to encouraging economic development, redevelopment, and improvement of downtown areas in Indiana cities and towns. OCRA assists with building, maintaining, and growing local organizations focused on the development of the traditional heart and hub of community commerce. Once designated, these communities are eligible for additional technical assistance and grant programs.

**Downtown Enhancement Grant (DEG)** helps IMS communities realize their downtown revitalization dreams while also promoting community partnerships and projects. IMS communities may also take advantage of the Main Street Revitalization Program (MSRP) which leverages local investment, creates jobs, and encourages entrepreneurship by focusing your community's efforts on long-term downtown development.

**Community Entrepreneurship Initiative (CEI)** Partnership with Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (OSBE) to help communities identify opportunities for growing entrepreneurship and expanding local business in communities.

**Planning** Grants are available for a variety of planning needs ranging from downtown revitalization, comprehensive plans, preliminary engineering for infrastructure, and strategic economic development.

Through OCRA, the State of Indiana requests federal funding to assist rural communities with a variety of projects using tools such as the **Wastewater and Drinking Water (WDW)**, **Stormwater Improvement Program (SIP)**, **Public Facilities Program (PFP)**, **Comprehensive Site Redevelopment (CSR)** and the **Blight Clearance Program (BCP)**.