



State of Indiana

Performance Report

Capital Projects Fund

2025 Fiscal Year Report

Table of Contents

❖ Executive Summary	2
❖ Uses of Funds	3
❖ Addressing Critical Needs	8
❖ Labor	11
❖ Community Engagement	12

Executive Summary

Indiana strategically deployed its \$203 million Capital Projects Fund (CPF) allocation to expand the state's existing Next Level Connections (NLC) Broadband Grant Program. This initiative targets broadband infrastructure deployment in areas with inadequate service, prioritizing “last mile” projects that connect unserved and underserved rural communities with critical needs for reliable internet access.

To meet the growing demand for connectivity, Indiana raised the minimum speed requirements for funded projects to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload—an essential upgrade that reflects both technological necessity and community expectations. CPF funding complemented prior state investments in NLC Rounds 1 and 2, as well as appropriations from the American Rescue Plan's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The NLC grant program is a component of the \$1 billion statewide infrastructure initiative announced in 2019. The first round of the program awarded 14 projects, with grants totaling \$28.41 million and \$23.27 million in local match contributions, resulting in a total project value of \$51.68 million across 18 counties. The second round awarded 49 projects with \$51 million in grants and \$53.39 million in matching contributions, generating more than \$104 million in total investment across 32 counties. All Round 1 and Round 2 projects have now been completed and closed out, with a total of 21,830 addresses reached. Currently Round 3 of the programs has completed 33 projects and connected 9,732 addresses in the 2025 fiscal year.

The NLC program also incentivized local investment, fostering stronger community outcomes and encouraging broadband providers to contribute meaningfully to the overarching goal of digital equity. By leveraging federal resources, Indiana advanced its commitment to closing the digital divide and improving quality of life for Hoosiers.

As implementation continues, the program has yielded positive outcomes and strong community support. However, challenges remain in meeting project deadlines and navigating logistical complexities. These outcomes and challenges are detailed in the respective sections of this report.

Uses of Funds

During the reporting period, Indiana advanced broadband expansion through two major funding rounds under the Next Level Connections (NLC) program:

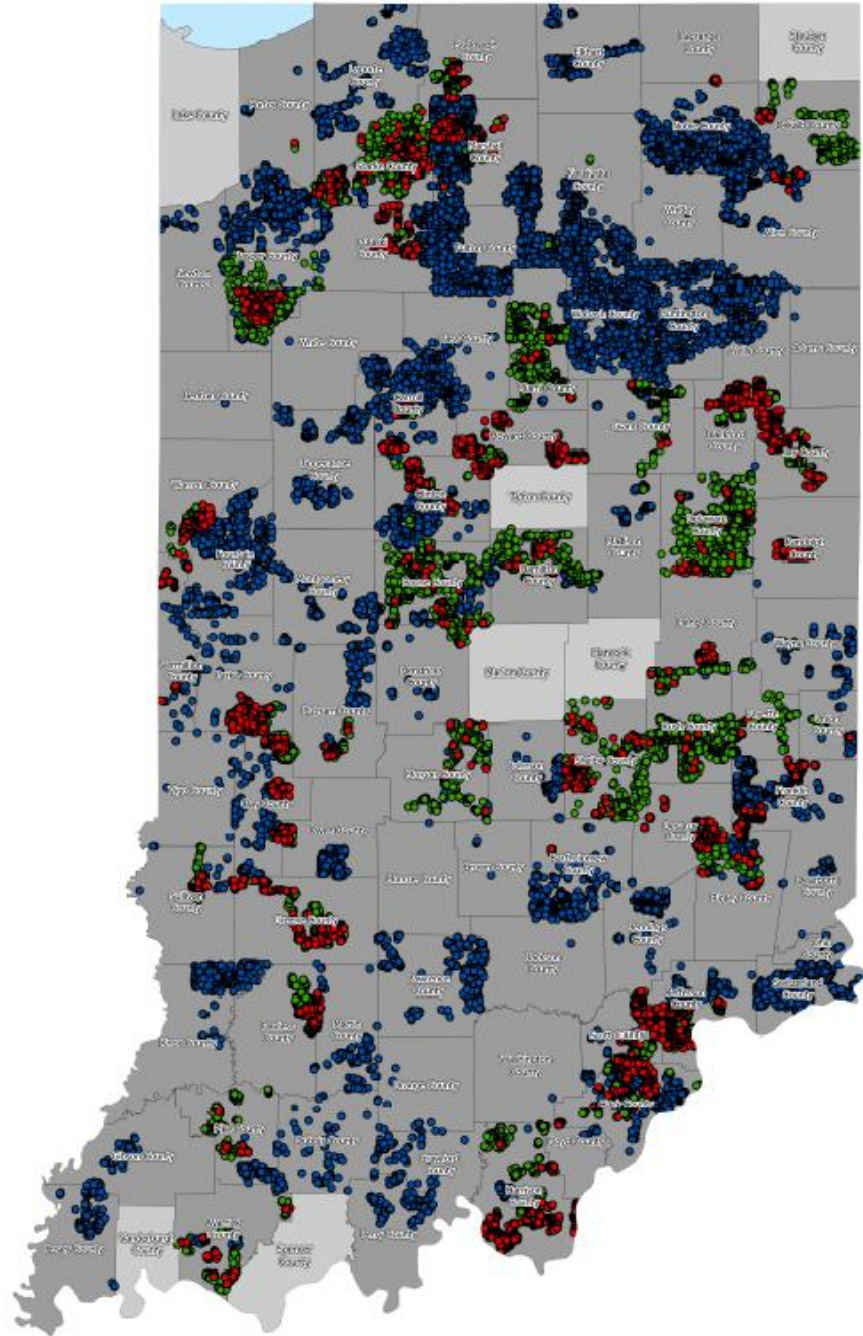
A continuation of NLC-Round 3 awarded funds to 120 projects, with grant awards totaling nearly \$170 million. Combined with approximately \$216 million in local match contributions, this round generated a total broadband investment of nearly \$386 million across 75 counties. The total number of addresses funded by the third round of the NLC program is 45,137. Providers have completed reporting and finalized 33 projects from Round 3. A total number of 9,732 new addresses were completed in fiscal year 2025. This includes 8,869 households, 820 business passings, and 43 Anchor Institutions completed.

NLC-Round 4, awarded in 2024, supported 49 projects across 17 providers. Grant awards totaled nearly \$78 million (~\$33m – CPF and ~\$45m - ARPA), matched by approximately \$133 million in local contributions, resulting in a total investment of \$211.5 million across 55 counties.

*Please see the attached map of NLC-3 and NLC-4 Awards.

NLC Rounds 3-4

NLC4
Priority Tier
•No Priority Tier
•Priority Tier
•NLC3



- *Activities planned for the next reporting period:*

Indiana will continue to closely monitor the progress of all remaining active projects under Next Level Connections Round 3 and Round 4. The focus will be on ensuring that measurable outcomes are achieved, including address-level connectivity, speed benchmarks, and community adoption targets.

The broadband administrative team will take proactive measures to identify and address any potential issues that may hinder progress toward program goals. This includes ongoing data validation, stakeholder engagement, and timely intervention where delays or compliance risks are identified.

- *Narratives about individuals/households benefiting from CPF funds, including information about methods used for collecting and measuring success.*

The total number of addresses funded for NLC-3 and NLC-4 projects are 80,004. There have been 62,637 addresses funded via the CPF Grants for NLC Rounds 3 and 4. Reporting on the 33 completed Round 3 projects has shown that 3,518 miles of fiber have been deployed. This is comparative to the 2,396 miles of fiber that were planned to be deployed on these 33 projects.

To ensure transparency and accountability, all grantees are required to submit quarterly progress reports. These reports include:

- Descriptions of work completed
- Outcome metrics such as:
 - Number of passings
 - Adoption rates
 - Fabric IDs for each awarded address
 - Project status updates at the address level
 - Pre- and post-investment upload/download speeds
 - Cost of service
 - Any additional data required by OCRA and CPF guidelines

Grantees utilize resources provided by the U.S. Treasury, including the [Capital Projects Fund Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#) and the [P&E Report User Guide](#).

All CPF-awarded providers participate in prescheduled quarterly meetings with the broadband administrative team to address issues, concerns, and potential solutions. Providers may request project extensions if they encounter unexpected delays. Extensions are granted to providers in good standing who submit adequate documentation and justification for the delay.

Upon project completion, grantees must submit a final report that includes:

- Financial documentation
- Professional Engineering certificates of the completions metrics reports
- Latency and speed verification from broadband subscribers

- Post Built Map
- Financial Cost report
- Project Narrative
- Metrics Reporting
- Address level progress report.

These reporting documents demonstrate:

- Identification and specification of funded addresses, verified through federal and state resources
- Adoption rates among households
- Status of each project
- Address-level status updates
- Pre- and post-investment upload and download speeds
- Latency levels of the adapted service, supported by recent speed tests conducted on a representative sample of addresses
- Cost of service to end users
- Post-built maps showing service coverage and infrastructure deployment

These data points provide a comprehensive view of how CPF-funded broadband projects are impacting communities and ensure accountability in meeting program goals. The reporting framework also supports ongoing evaluation and refinement of strategies to close the digital divide.

Final reporting is required upon project completion prior to final grant claim and closeout. This report must include financial documentation, an engineering report, and latency/speed verifications from broadband subscribers. For this reporting period, 33 Next Level Connections Round 3 projects have been completed. The remaining awarded projects are currently in progress and are expected to be completed by the Capital Projects Fund program's required deadlines.

A small number of awarded projects were amended, fully de-obligated, **or** granted extensions based on a thorough review of each project's status and the submission of a mitigation plan outlining steps to achieve completion. These updates are reflected in the linked 2025 GA Report, which provides a detailed breakdown of project status, funding adjustments, and timeline modifications.

A total of 33 projects has been completed from the third round of the NLC program during the 2025 fiscal year. A total of approximately \$197 million in CPF grant funding has been allocated for the completed and ongoing projects in NLC rounds 3 and 4.

Notable challenges and the status of each challenge:

Several challenges have impacted the timely execution of broadband projects under the Next Level Connections program:

- **Permitting Delays:** Pole permitting and local permitting processes, particularly those involving municipal entities, have experienced prolonged response times. These delays are largely due to limited resources, staffing constraints, and pole owner capacity, which are insufficient to meet the volume of support required for project completion. The make-ready process has also been slowed by these same limitations.
- **Community Resistance to Deployment Methods:** Some broadband providers encountered resistance from local communities regarding the deployment technologies. In certain areas, residents opposed underground fiber installations, while others objected to aerial fiber deployments, creating additional barriers to implementation.
- **Supply Chain Disruptions:** Ongoing supply chain issues have significantly affected project timelines and budgets. Providers reported exponential cost increases, limited availability of materials, and prolonged delivery times, all of which have complicated procurement and construction schedules.

Each of these challenges is being actively monitored and addressed through mitigation strategies as appropriate. including stakeholder engagement, escalation protocols, and flexibility in project timelines were justified. Updates on the status and resolution efforts are detailed in the respective project reports and quarterly reviews.

Overview and outcomes of ancillary costs incurred to support bringing the capital asset(s) into full use (e.g., focused advertising to increase broadband subscriptions in high-need communities, digital literacy training to support device loan programs, community engagement to support successful operations, etc.)

The total federal reimbursements from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for NLC Round 3 and 4 projects were \$25,280,692. Administrative costs charged to the program were \$80,876.50.

For your reference, here is the most recent Indiana General Assembly report for Next level Connection program.

https://iga.in.gov/publications/agency_report/2025-Annual-Report---OCRA-NLC-Report-to-General-Assem...

Addressing Critical Needs

Treasury encourages uses of funds that promote growth in communities with a critical need, such as high-poverty and rural areas.

Each Performance Report must provide an update, using qualitative and quantitative data, on progress towards key outcomes and how the Recipient has addressed or faced challenges to addressing critical needs during the reporting period.

Please describe how the Recipient addressed critical needs at various stages of the Program during the reporting period, including:

- a) Objectives: Based on your definition of communities with critical need, are there particular communities, including those living in rural areas and/or high-poverty areas, that the capital assets being funded by CPF are designed to serve? Include the definition of critical need used for each Program Plan.*

Applicants were expected to engage their communities and specifically local leaders and stakeholders such as libraries, educational institutions, healthcare providers, businesses, and nonprofits—in the development of broadband projects that are strategic, scalable, and designed to bridge critical access gaps. These projects aim to enhance quality of life and promote economic viability for Indiana citizens and communities.

For the Next Level Connections (NLC) program, areas of critical need were defined as locations where internet connectivity was either unavailable or where existing service failed to meet the 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload minimum speed threshold. This definition was informed by data collected after Rounds 1 and 2 of the NLC program. Additional criteria used in Round 3 scoring matrix prioritized areas with economically disadvantaged student households, ensuring that funding reached communities with the greatest need.

Providers receiving CPF funds were encouraged to offer affordable service packages tailored to the unique needs of low-income households. This included upload speeds suitable for multiple remote learners and unbundled service options at reasonable price points. These offerings contributed to higher application scores and demonstrated alignment with the program's equity goals.

For Next Level Connections Round 4, the Broadband Team worked directly with local governments across all 92 Indiana counties to identify and serve communities in need. A collaborative action plan was implemented to encourage cooperation between county officials and internet service providers (ISPs), ensuring that local priorities were reflected in project design. The Letter of Intent (LOI) process was revised to require joint selection of LOI addresses by county commissioners and ISPs.

To further refine targeting, the most recent FCC Fabric-level data was used to identify unserved and underserved addresses, which were published as a resource for applicants. Feedback from local stakeholders was actively solicited and incorporated into planning.

Scoring metrics for Round 4 were updated to Priority Address 1 and Priority address 2 applications that included:

- Addresses from a state-defined priority list, including those identified through the Indiana Connectivity Program (ICP)
- Addresses submitted directly by constituents via the Indiana Connectivity Public Portal
- Previously qualified addresses from federal or NLC programs that were not completed or defaulted
- As a result, over 10,000 addresses were identified to these “Priority” category out of 34,000+ total addresses were awarded in Next level Connection Round 4.

All funded services are required to deliver minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, with the capability to scale to 100 Mbps symmetrical service. The Indiana Connectivity Program (ICP) operates on a quarterly basis, collecting address-level requests from households and businesses seeking broadband service. These requests are evaluated and awarded to ISPs based on program criteria. More information is available at the Indiana Connectivity Portal. This can be found at <https://www.in.gov/ocra/broadband/icp/>.

b) Awareness: Was it convenient for members of these communities, including households, businesses, and other organizations, to become aware of the service projects funded by CPF? Please explain. -

Awareness of CPF-funded service projects was effectively facilitated through local engagement efforts and targeted marketing initiatives led by participating internet service providers (ISPs). Providers collaborated with county officials, community organizations, and regional stakeholders to ensure that households, businesses, and anchor institutions were informed about broadband expansion efforts in their areas.

These efforts were designed to be accessible and inclusive, particularly for residents in rural and high-poverty areas, where digital literacy and infrastructure gaps are more pronounced. The use of FCC Fabric-level data and the Indiana Connectivity Public Portal helped ensure that outreach was precisely targeted to unserved and underserved locations.

As a result, community members were able to conveniently learn about available services, eligibility criteria, and timelines for broadband deployment—supporting higher adoption rates and stronger local engagement.

c) Outcomes: What progress has the Program made toward addressing critical needs in these communities, such as closing gaps in broadband access, reaching universal levels of service, increasing access to digital connectivity devices or community facilities that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring? Please include other outcomes (e.g. affordable service) as relevant to policy objectives. What methods (e.g., surveys, interviews) are being used (if applicable) to quantify and qualify Project and Program outcomes?

During the reporting period, CPF-funded projects made measurable progress toward addressing critical broadband needs in underserved communities across Indiana. These outcomes reflect both infrastructure deployment and community-level engagement strategies aimed at closing the digital divide. The following show some examples of the outcome derived from the completed projects and reported by the recipients.

Broadband Access & Universal Service

- Providers completed last-mile and middle-mile infrastructure in multiple counties, including 57 miles of new fiber in Pike County (Mainstream Fiber) and tower activations in rural zones (Echo Wireless).
- Projects are now onboarding customers, with several ISPs reporting full coverage of grant-awarded addresses and readiness for closeout.

Digital Connectivity & Community Enablement

- Community facilities and households gained access to high-speed internet, enabling remote work, online education, and telehealth services.
- Providers like Comcast and Joink emphasized **cost-conscious service tiers** and Internet Essentials programs to promote affordability and adoption.

Community Engagement & Adoption

- ISPs deployed targeted marketing campaigns including mailers, yard signs, and digital ads (Mainstream Fiber, Joink).
- Outreach efforts included door-to-door engagement, grocery store booths, and local events such as “Touch the Truck” and county fairs.
- Echo Wireless and Joink leveraged local teams and long-standing community ties to build trust and encourage uptake.

Outcome Measurement Methods

- Speed verification was conducted via field meter readings, technician-led speed tests, and specialized hardware that exports formal reports (Joink, Comcast).
- Adoption rates and customer feedback were tracked through direct engagement, marketing response rates, and community surveys where applicable.



Additional Outcomes

- Leveraging the CPF funded projects several providers have reported broadband establishments for additional address by the providers out of pocket cost.
- Several providers reported plans to transition wireless customers into fiber, expanding long-term service reliability.
- Partnerships with local governments and workforce boards supported broader digital equity goals and sustainability.

Labor

Describe workforce practices on any Broadband Infrastructure and/or Multi-Purpose Community Facility projects being pursued. How are projects using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects while also supporting economic recovery through employment opportunities for workers? For example, report whether any of the following practices are being utilized: project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and/or local hiring.

The disclosure of labor practices is incorporated into the grant process. A separate form documents the grantee's acknowledgements and assurances of labor practices which support high-quality broadband infrastructure projects. A copy of this form is included below.

 <div>Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs Next Level Connections (NLC) Program Labor Standards & Civil Rights Certifications</div>  <div>OCRA NLC Form #</div>			
Section 1: Grantee Information			
1. Grantee Name	2. Award/Grant #	3. Award Amount	4. Grant Agreement #
5. Program Contact Name, Title	6. Program Contact Email	7. Program Contact Phone #	
Section 2: Grantee's Statement of Exemption to Davis Bacon & Related Acts Check the box and initial to whichever statement applies to the award.			
Funding Status		Statement & Certification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Award is less than \$5,000,000 and no additional federal funds will be contributed as match toward this project.		Grantee certifies the award is less than \$5M and not subject to Davis Bacon & Related Acts pursuant to Appendix A, Section (b)5 of the U.S. Treasury Compliance & Reporting Guide for States, Territories, and Freely Associated States, as amended. However, grantee acknowledges the project is subject to the Contract Work Hours & Safe Standards Act (CWHSSA) and will comply with it and all other applicable federal, state, and local labor laws and regulations.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Award is \$5,000,000 or greater, and/or additional federal funds will be contributed as match toward this project.		Grantee certifies the project is \$5M or greater and/or other federal funds are being contributed as match toward this project. Therefore this award is subject to Davis Bacon & Related Acts pursuant to Appendix A, Section (b)5 of the U.S. Treasury Compliance & Reporting Guide for States, Territories, and Freely Associated States, as amended. Grantee further acknowledges the project is subject to the Contract Work Hours & Safe Standards Act (CWHSSA) and will comply with it and all other applicable federal, state, and local labor laws and regulations.	
Section 3: Grantee's Commitment to Strong Labor Standards & Acknowledgements Review and check the boxes for each statement below. Initial after all boxes have been checked.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Grantee states its commitment to strong labor standards in order to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure and services while also supporting to the economic recovery through employment opportunities for workers.		<input type="checkbox"/> Grantee affirms it will, where and whenever practicable, prioritize employers (including contractors and subcontractors) without recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws in order to minimize project disruptions and delays.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grantee affirms it will, where and whenever practicable, prioritize procurement decisions for employers (including contractors and subcontractors) who can demonstrate their workforce meets high safety and training standards and who prioritize hiring of local workers and/or workers from historically disadvantaged communities.		<input type="checkbox"/> Grantee acknowledges and affirms that regardless of Davis Bacon's applicability to the award, all contracts in excess of \$100,000 made by the Grantee, its subrecipient, and/or its contractors and subcontractors shall include a provision for compliance with certain provisions of the Contract Work Hours & Safety Standards Act, 40 U.S.C. 3702 – 3704, as supplemented by 29 CFR Part 5.	
Section 4: Grantee's Civil Rights Assurances & Statement of Compliance Review and check the boxes for each statement below. Initial after all boxes have been checked.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Grantee provides its assurance that it will not deny benefits or serves, or otherwise discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, age, or sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), in accordance with the following authorities: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. 2000d-1 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 22; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. 794; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 28; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., and the Department implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. part 23. Grantee acknowledges it may be required to periodically submit data for post-award compliance reviews.			
Section 5: Acceptance of Above Commitments, Assurances, & Certifications			
Signature X	Printed Name	Date	

Community Engagement

Recipients should report on (and include quantitative information, such as counts) about the following activities related to community engagement in support of the implementation and operations of each Program and related Projects:

- Community engagement efforts and activities that occurred with and/or in communities served by the Program. Recipients should include information about the types of organizations (such as training providers, community colleges, libraries, churches, and community-based groups) and, where possible, names of organizations and communities the Recipient and Subrecipient(s) were engaged with to support the implementation and operations of Projects; and*
- Outreach, advertising, and translation activities and services deployed to reach communities the Program is designed to serve; and*
- Any plans to sustain, improve, and/or grow community engagement efforts in the subsequent performance year.*

Throughout the reporting period, CPF-funded projects engaged deeply with communities across Indiana to promote awareness, encourage adoption, and support equitable access to broadband services. Engagement efforts were tailored to local contexts and included partnerships, outreach campaigns, and sustained visibility in the areas served. The following examples demonstrate several ways recipients engaged with the local community to connect them to broadband.

Engagement with Local Organizations and Stakeholders

- Subrecipients coordinated with county commissioners, town councils, highway departments, and permitting authorities to align project timelines and address community concerns.
- Several providers partnered with local REMCs (e.g., Noble REMC via LigTel) to reach unserved members and promote service availability.
- Community-based engagement included:
 - Pop-up events and booths at local grocery stores, fairs, and family festivals (e.g., Joink, Comcast, Marshall County Fiber)
 - Meetings with elected officials and nonprofit organizations to foster digital adoption collaborations (Frontier, Comcast)
 - Groundbreaking ceremonies and media coverage to build public awareness (Marshall County Fiber)

Outreach, Advertising, and Translation Services

Providers deployed a wide range of outreach tools. Some examples are listed below.

- Direct mailers, door hangers, and yard signs in construction zones (e.g., Frontier, LigTel, Mainstream Fiber)

- Social media campaigns, radio ads, and billboards to reach diverse audiences (e.g., Marshall County Fiber, LigTel)
- Web-based service availability tools allowing residents to check eligibility and submit interest forms (Frontier, Marshall County Fiber)
- Frontier piloted a press and communications strategy in Brookville (Franklin County), leveraging traditional and social media in collaboration with local officials.
- Comcast and Frontier offered affordable service tiers and promoted federal programs like Lifeline, with dedicated web pages and printed materials to reach income-constrained households.

Plans for Sustained Engagement

Providers plan to continue outreach beyond the closeout period. Examples of this engagement are listed below.

- Ongoing marketing and sales efforts as new areas are activated (e.g., Echo Wireless, Joink)
- Expansion of community partnerships to support digital literacy and device access
- Continued use of interactive maps, customer service outreach, and community events to maintain visibility and encourage adoption

Quantitative Metrics (where available)

- Over 200 grant-awarded locations connected in Pike County alone (Mainstream Fiber)
- Multiple events hosted across counties, including the Association of Indiana Counties annual meeting, “Touch the Truck” family event, and tent pop-ups in rural towns
- Outreach materials distributed to hundreds of households via mailers, signage, and door-to-door engagement