



Who We Are

Title of Project, Name of Lead Entity, Partner, Counties in Indiana we are impacting.

Inclusion Through Community Access, (ICA)

Easterseals Crossroads is partnering with Starfire Council, Cincinnati OH and Bridge Builders Strategies LLC, Indianapolis IN.

Marion County and the Indianapolis Metropolitian Area

What We Expect if We Achieve our Vision

Expected short-term and long-term outcomes; and positive impacts on individuals if your project successfully carries out these actions.

The short-term outcome for each participant will be the completion of the project of their choosing.

Like many life experiences, however, the journey is as important as the destination — the process of planning, pursuing, and completing the project leads to greater self-determination for the participant and a broadened network of relationship and supports

At the conclusion of the project, participants report making at least one new community connection or relationship.

What We Will Do

Specific actions your agency will take to carry out pilot project.

Easterseals Crossroads proposes to increase community engagement for individuals who participate in the Adult Day program by supporting individuals and families to connect to their community. Through the proposed Inclusion through Community Access program, participants will have the opportunity to engage in a relationship with a mentor to plan, create, and launch a personal project of their choosing. The pursuit of this project will lead to connections and relationships that develop organically from shared interests and goals. The ICE program provides the opportunity for adults with disabilities to be “of the community” rather than “among the community.”

How We Will Do It

Plan and implementation

The ICE program will be modeled after the Starfire program and will be piloted with individuals currently participating in the Adult Day program at Easterseals Crossroads. Using the LifeCourse framework tools and the Person-Centered Individualized Service plan to identify each individual’s vision of a good life, mentors will guide the individual and family through the process of choosing, designing, and launching a community project that incorporates elements of that vision.

The Program Coordinator and Mentors will work with the participant and family to develop and carry out a project. Supports and timelines will vary based on the type and size of the project.

What Will Result

Long-term goals to transform services and/or better support individuals.

1. A total of twenty (20) projects will be launched over the course of the two-year grant period.
2. At the conclusion of the project, 75 percent of participants report making at least one new community connection or relationship.
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What We Want to Avoid

Outcomes that may take away from the vision and will serve as “red flags” to consider course correction.

Participants and families who dream big about their vision for a good life will face the risk - as anyone else would - of “failure”. Projects may not work out as planned. Acquaintances may not become friends. An event may not be well-attended. A job lead may not pan out. There are no guarantees, but Easterseals Crossroads embraces the concept that the dignity of risk is a vital part of self-determination and that “failures” are important learning opportunities.

