

OCRA Office of  
COMMUNITY &  
RURAL AFFAIRS



# HELP

Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program

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Center for Regional Development



BALL STATE UNIVERSITY



# CIVICLAB



Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority



Indiana Department of Health

**PART 1** Stellar Transition and ARPA

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**PART 2** New Program Overview

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**PART 3** Partner Roles & Community Expectations

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**PART 4** Program Timeline

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**PART 5** Application & Next Steps





## The Spirit of Stellar

Stellar seeks to recognize communities & regions that identify comprehensive & collaborative plans for community & economic development

The goal of Stellar is to elevate how community and regional planning occurs

Stellar Projects are a result of the community's ability to create a vision that is transformational & innovative to rural development

Stellar provides resources for transformative quality of place community improvements by utilizing previous planning efforts, leveraging existing assets, fostering regional investments, stimulating continued growth for long-term relevance

## American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund US Treasury - Interim Final Rule Guidance

- “Implementation of the Fiscal Recovery Funds also reflect the importance of **public input, transparency, and accountability.**” (9)
- “In addition, the Interim Final Rule establishes certain regular reporting requirements, including requiring State, local, and Tribal governments to publish information regarding uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds payments in their local jurisdiction. These reporting requirements **reflect the need for transparency and accountability, while recognizing and minimizing the burden, particularly for smaller local governments.**” (9)
- “**Treasury urges State, territorial, Tribal, and local governments to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans to use these payments, given the scale of funding and its potential to catalyze broader economic recovery and rebuilding.**” (9)

# HELP

## HOOSIER ENDURING LEGACY PROGRAM

Local governments now have a tremendous opportunity to help their communities recover from the far-ranging impacts of the pandemic. Many communities are now evaluating the eligible uses of the funds and beginning to prioritize their specific community needs. Additionally, there are numerous other “buckets” of funding within ARPA, and it will be crucial for local governments to be strategic about planning for and deploying their local funds to best leverage the full offering of federal funds.

As research has found, communities that had robust planning and community engagement processes were more resilient to both the Great Recession and in the early months following the COVID-19 pandemic.

**This program will empower our rural communities by establishing systems for success so that they are more resilient to future challenges.**

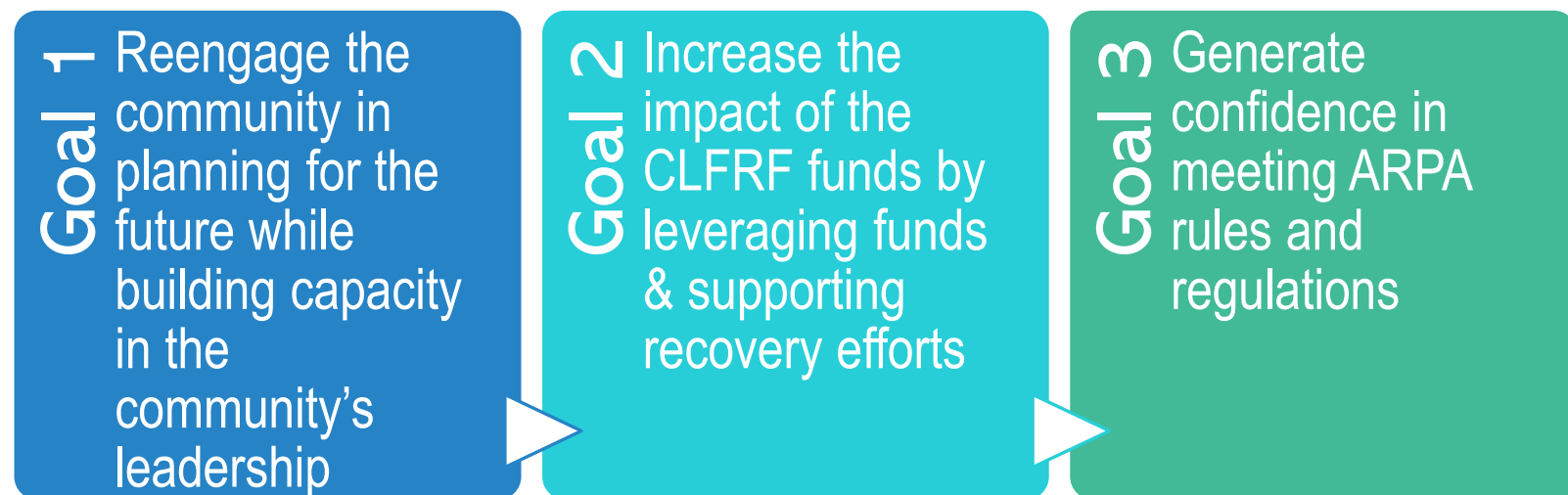
# HELP

## HOOSIER ENDURING LEGACY PROGRAM

This program seeks to help communities that want be strategic about planning for and deploying their American Rescue Plan Act funds to best leverage the full offering of federal funds and the other “buckets” of funding within ARPA. This program is supported by the tremendous expertise and knowledge of Ball State Indiana Communities Institute, Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement, Purdue Center for Regional Development, and Ivy Tech on this initiative.

This program will utilize community engagement, prior planning, asset building and collaboration to prepare communities to implement strategic investment plans.

Building off our experience with the Stellar Communities program, this program will:



# Expected Program Impact

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- **Building Community Capacity:** Community Coordinator position focused on Program Process and SIP implementation
- **Welcoming Your Community Back Home:** reconnecting to the larger community through multiple engagement opportunities
- **Peer Networking**
- **Strengthening ARPA Confidence**
- **Creating Strategic Investment Plan & Dashboard:** including high quality data prepared about your community
- **Receiving Training and Technical Assistance** from OCRA, Universities and statewide leaders in Community Development
- **Accessing set-aside funding** for Participatory Budgeting project and SIP implementation from OCRA and other statewide partners

# Process Overview

## TEAM BUILDING

*weeks 1-12*

- Build your HELP team
- Hire Community Coordinator
- Evaluate Existing Plans *with IU Center for Rural Engagement*
- Form Pathway Committees

## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

*weeks 13-25*

- Data Training *with CivicLab*
- Develop Communication and Creative Community Engagement Plan *with OCRA and IAC*
- Host Community Forum *with colleges and universities*
- Unveil Community Dashboard

## SIP DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

*weeks 40-52*

- Overlap Projects with ARPA, CARES, and Other Potential Federal Funds
- Revise and Adopt SIP via Ordinance
- Implement Projects until December 2026

## PATHWAYS ASSESSMENT & PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

*weeks 26-39*

- Hold Committee Meetings for Each Pathway *With colleges and universities*
- Prioritize Projects



# Pathway Assessments & Project Identification



## Advancing e-Connectivity

Seeks to aid communities by increasing or improving broadband access services, promoting digital inclusion, and supporting businesses and organizations that focus on broadband access and technological innovation.

Possible initiatives include:

- Digital Adoption Support
- Digital Ready Businesses
- Intelligent Communities



## Enhancing Quality of Place

Focuses on improvements to the built environment and community infrastructure.

Possible initiatives include:

- Arts and Culture
- Housing
- Community Facilities
- Historic Preservation
- Youth Engagement
- Gateway Beautification
- Main Street Redevelopment



## Promoting Community Wellness

Seeks to expand and improve infrastructure and initiatives related to our people. Public health is important to overall community wellness.

Possible initiatives include:

- Mental Health
- Parks and Trails
- Healthy Food Markets in Food Deserts
- ADA accessibility
- Walkability/Bike Lanes/Public Transit to healthcare
- Childcare
- Blue Zones



## Strengthening Local Economies

Helps communities grow and support robust local and regional entrepreneurship cultivation through innovative programs and capital investments.

Possible initiatives include:

- Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
- Economic Gardening
- Small Business Revolving Loan Fund
- Business Retention and Expansion; Workforce Development
- Business Networks
- Co-Working Spaces



# Community Expectations



## TIME

Participation by the Local Unit of Government is key to the success of the program. Communication with all State partners will be essential throughout the 12-month process. Additionally, defined meetings include:

- 4 Core Team Meetings
- 2-8 Pathways Meetings



## FINANCIAL

Communities will be expected to provide the following financial commitment.

- \$20k match for Community Coordinator position in first year followed by \$40k in subsequent years for full-time hiring
- 30% of ARP allocation to projects in the SIP
- OCRA will match the community investment 1-1 for implementation (up to \$1 million) of SIP projects



## LUG RESPONSIBILITIES

The Local Unit of Government and Community Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Building the team
- Planning, promoting, and hosting the Community Forums
- Communication with the State Team throughout

# Application Process

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- **Applications will open Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**
  - Applications will be submitted via the eGMS system. A document will be posted on our website with detailed instructions.
- **What's Required in the Application?**
  - **Intake Form:** Narrative self-assessment, must be submitted by CEO
  - **Form on existing plans and efforts centered around four pathways**
  - **LOI from CEO**
  - **Council Resolution committing \$20k for Community Coordinator position**

# Next Steps & Application



## Questions?

Contact your district's  
Community Liaison



## Watch the Application Webinar

A separate webinar  
detailing how to access the  
applications and the  
requirements will be  
released on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Applications are due  
October 1, 2021



## Next Steps

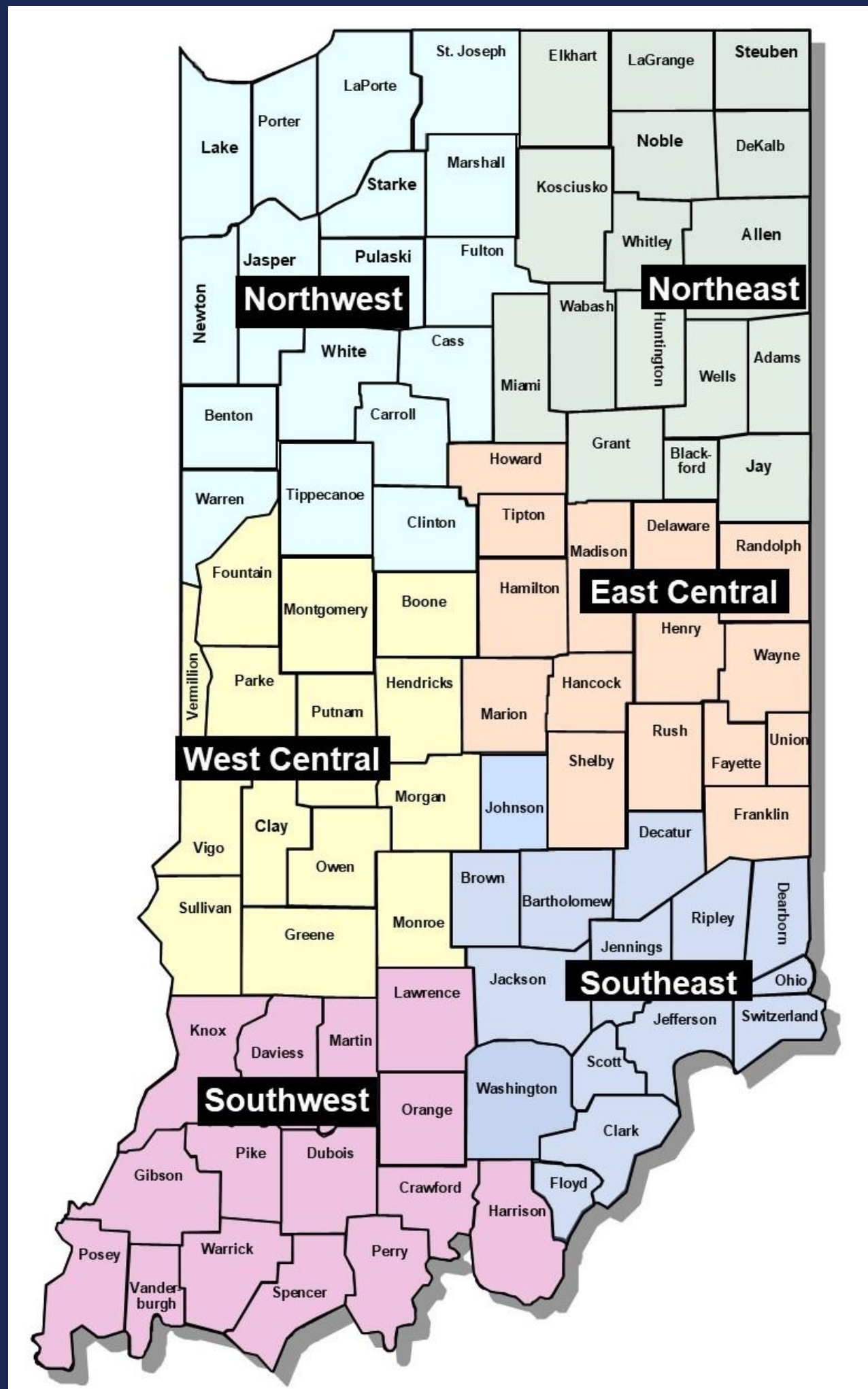
Begin communicating  
about the program with key  
stakeholders, consider  
updating your local  
ordinance about ARPA and  
begin collecting prior  
planning documents.



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