



Launched in 2011, the Stellar Communities Program is a multi-year, multi-million dollar investment initiative led by the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, which is overseen by Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. The program works with communities to develop their strategic community investment plans, promote local and regional partnerships and implement comprehensive solutions to challenges facing Indiana's rural communities.

## Program Details

*The 2018 update requires a minimum of two or more communities to partner to create a self-created region.*

- Any incorporated Indiana community of any size that are not entitled to direct Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through U.S. HUD are eligible to apply.
- No population divisions are a component of the program.
- Participating communities must adopt an inter-local agreement committing to the partnership for a period of at least four years by final application.
- Must have documented and demonstrated capacity to complete proposed activities—including the ability to submit a response to a request for proposal.
- The LOI process is completed online and no hard copy applications are being accepted.
- Previously designated Regional Cities, Stellar Designees or finalists are eligible to participate.
- Applicants must submit: Letter of Interest (LOI), an information sheet, project worksheet, project matrix, project area map, MPO documentation and any prior planning.

Through the annual designation, the Stellar Communities program provides resources for transformative quality of place community improvements by utilizing previous planning efforts, leveraging existing assets, fostering regional investments and stimulating continued growth.

## Additional Resources

**Ball State University** and **Purdue University** are a partner in the program to provide project support, guidance and data analytics.

- Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute assists regions in the planning stages with project alignment and data analytics.
- Purdue University's Center for Regional Development helps regions during post-designation with long-term sustainability efforts and project implementation.

Visit [in.gov/ocra/stellar](http://in.gov/ocra/stellar) for more information.

*Winner of the 2012 President's Award for Innovation from the Council of State Community Development Agencies*