



# INDIANA'S GREAT SOUTHWEST

the new frontier for talent and business

Crushing the Blight Fight in Southwest Indiana



When the [Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority \(IHCA\)](#) announced the Blight Elimination Program in February of 2014, the Coalition knew this would be a transformational program for Southwest Indiana. The program is a forgivable residential loan

program that aids communities in demolishing blighted and abandoned homes that are beyond repair in order to stabilize property values, which communities can then offer for a variety of end uses such as green space or redevelopment.

To date, Southwest Indiana has received over \$2.6 million and has a total of 154 homes that have entered the program; and, 103 have already been demolished and are on their way to being repurposed. The 2011 Garner Report strongly urged our communities to improve the housing stock and eliminate abandoned or severely blighted properties; and, the Blight Elimination Program is helping Southwest Indiana achieve that goal.

## Coalition selected to Study Coal Economy in Region



The Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce Board has secured the services of the [Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana](#) to help provide research and analysis for the State of Indiana's Economic Growth Regions 7, 8 and 11 to determine impacts of the coal

economy on existing workforce. The Coalition is partnering with [Strategic Development Group \(SDG\)](#), PQR Energy, LLC and Lee S. Rigsby Consulting to compile the data analysis as well as conduct personal interviews within the area's coal industry. The Coalition will analyze and evaluate the impact of trends of reduced coal usage on regional employment with the hope of securing additional federal funding to retrain a key workforce asset.

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Economic Indicators

### Economic Indicator- Per Capita Income

- Within Indiana*
- Indy-Carmel - \$44,016
  - Evansville - \$40,767
  - Ft. Wayne - \$39,476
  - S. Bend-Mishawaka - \$39,909

- Peer Communities*
- Chattanooga, TN - \$39,259
  - Davenport-Moline, IA - \$43,690
  - Peoria, IL - \$43,888
  - Spartanburg, SC - \$35,896

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (2014)



## BUSINESS FOCUS

(Cont.)

Vectren is a strong community partner donating more than \$2 million each year through



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The Coalition will be posting updates to Regional Cities Projects and have information about upcoming events.



Vectren Corporation (NYSE: VVC) is an energy holding company headquartered in Evansville, Indiana. Vectren's energy delivery subsidiaries provide gas and/or electricity to more than 1 million customers in adjoining service territories that cover nearly two-thirds of Indiana and west central Ohio.

In addition to its utility business, Vectren's nonutility subsidiaries and affiliates currently offer energy-related products and services to customers throughout the U.S. These include infrastructure services and energy services. To learn more about Vectren, visit [www.vectren.com](http://www.vectren.com).

Published by:



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