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December 2015

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INDIANA'S GREAT SOUTHWEST

Regional Cities Announcement on the Horizon

On December 15, seven regions from around the state will gather at *Ivy Tech Community College* in Indianapolis to attend the annual public board meeting of the *Indiana Economic Development Corporation* (IEDC) where two, possibly three regions will be selected to share \$84 million for quality of place projects geared toward talent attraction and retention.

The *Regional Cities Strategic Review Committee* will make its final recommendations at the meeting to the IEDC; and, Indiana's Great Southwest is one of the regions competing for the designation.

For more information go to www.IndianasGreatSouthwest.com.

Follow the Coalition on Twitter [@SouthwestIN](#) to get minute by minute coverage on this event as well as other economic development news.

Community Development News

In early November, the *Blight Elimination Program* (BEP) was kicked off in Gibson, Posey and Warrick Counties. Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) Executive Director Jacob Sipe joined community leaders in each county to celebrate the implementation of the long-awaited program.



IHCDA Kicks off Blight Elimination Program in Southwest Indiana

Additional changes will soon follow the initial test sets of blighted structures. Bid openings for an additional 14 homes in each county are targeted for late January 2016.

Conia Receives Designation

Karen Conia, Community Development Specialist, has successfully completed all requirements to achieve the *Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs* (OCRA) designation as a **Certified Grant Administrator**. Achieving this status allows Conia to execute all types of Community Development Block Grants in the State of Indiana. **Congratulations Karen!**

How your community can utilize the Coalition's Community Development Team

In 2016, OCRA and IHCDA are funding projects in the following categories. Does your community have a need that can be addressed by one of these? If so, please contact a member of the Community Development team to see how these programs can assist that need.

1. Housing Programs (IHCDA)

PUBLIC FOCUS

Gibson County

"The Coalition is an important economic and community development partner to Gibson County, helping our communities garner over \$29 million in grants since 2007 to improve our quality of place."

Steve Bottoms, President
Gibson County Commissioners

Economic Indicators Mfg. Avg. Wage per Job

WITHIN INDIANA
 Indy-Carmel - \$73,633
 Evansville, IN-KY - \$60,697
 Ft. Wayne - \$54,516
 S.Bend-Mishawaka - \$51,346

PEER COMMUNITIES
 Chattanooga, TN - \$54,479
 Davenport-Moline IA - \$57,710
 Peoria, IL - \$98,353
 Spartanburg, SC - \$58,079

Source: 2014 Bureau of Labor Statistics

2. Stellar Communities Program
3. Planning Fund (i.e. comprehensive plans)
4. Main Street Revitalization Program (i.e. façade programs)
5. Wastewater/Drinking Water Improvements Program
6. Blight Clearance Program (i.e. removal of Brownfields)
7. Public Facilities Program (i.e. Community Centers)
8. Storm Water Improvements Program
9. Workforce Development Program
10. Urgent Need Fund (i.e. disaster recovery)

Contact Carol Hagedorn or Karen Conia with your feedback at 812-423-2020.



Projects contained within Indiana's Great Southwest plan submitted for Regional Cities consideration.

In this article, we'll take a look at Gateway Projects which are associated with initiatives that create new and dynamic opportunities by leveraging strategic resources outside the city core. The Gateway Projects include:

- [Oakland City University Downtown "U"](#)
- [Victoria National Conference Center](#)
- [Warrick County Wellness Trail](#)
- [New Harmony Arts & Food Project](#)
- [Broadband Demonstration Project](#)
- [Evansville Regional Airport Terminal Renovation](#)

Further information about each project can be found by clicking on the links above.

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