



2017

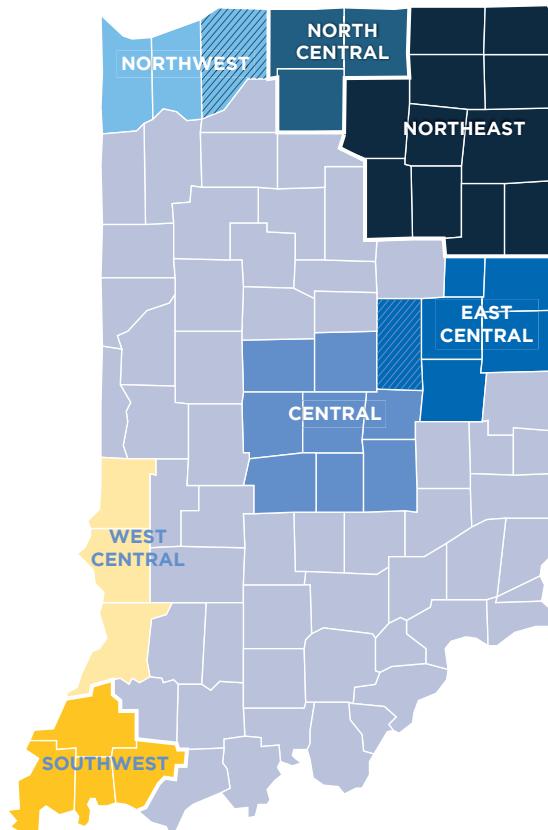
## WHAT IS THE INDIANA REGIONAL CITIES INITIATIVE?

We've made Indiana a destination for business. And now, through the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative, we're making Indiana a destination for talent.

Spearheaded by Governor Mike Pence and carried forward by Governor Eric J. Holcomb, the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative is helping communities across Indiana come together to transform their regions into nationally-recognized destinations to live, work and play. Indiana is building upon its strong economic foundation to transform communities into places that attract and retain future generations of Hoosiers.

In 2015, seven Indiana regions collaboratively created compelling strategic regional development plans that include more than 420 projects. Because of the Regional Cities Initiative, 70 percent of the state's population now lives in a region with a bold and viable plan for transforming its future.

The Indiana Regional Cities Initiative is an important part of Governor Holcomb's 2017 Next Level Legislative Agenda, aligning with his goal to make the state a jobs magnet.



## IMPLEMENTING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN THREE INDIANA REGIONS

As part of the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative's first phase, the state selected North Central, Northeast and Southwest Indiana to receive \$42 million each in matching funds to support their regional development plans. These plans outline 100 quality of place projects totaling more than \$2 billion in combined state, local and private investment. More than half of these are scheduled to be completed within the first three years.

To date, 20 projects have been approved by the IEDC for state match funding within the first seven months, accounting for more than one-third of the state's \$126 million investment.

### NORTH CENTRAL

Through the Innovate Indiana Plan, North Central Indiana is planning 39 regional development projects with \$703 million in investment, including improvements to the South Shore rail service to-and-from Chicago, and a unique partnership with the University of Notre Dame to advance research and innovation. The region's landmark project, a complete renovation of South Bend's former Studebaker plant, will create the largest mixed use technology center in the Midwest.

### NORTHEAST

Northeast Indiana's Road to One Million Plan encompasses 38 regional development projects in 11 counties totaling \$400 million in quality of place investments. With a goal of growing its population to one million residents, region projects include a riverfront development in downtown Fort Wayne, a regional trails network, urban housing and theater redevelopments.

### SOUTHWEST

Indiana's Great Southwest plan outlines 19 regional development projects to strengthen the heart of the region. With a total planned investment of \$926 million, the region will grow by establishing a medical campus in downtown Evansville, renovating its airport terminal and increasing housing and fitness options throughout Southwest Indiana.

## CONTINUED QUALITY OF PLACE PLANNING

In addition to these three regions, the IEDC continues to support and collaborate with the four additional regions that participated in the initiative—Central, East Central, Northwest and West Central (Wabash River Region). In October 2016, the IEDC Board of Directors awarded \$150,000 planning grants to each of these four regions to support and encourage continued quality of place planning and development efforts. Additionally, Governor Holcomb's agenda calls for \$4 million in the next state budget to continue the momentum of the Regional Cities Initiative across Indiana.



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## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE REGIONAL CITIES INITIATIVE

*"The recent Regional Cities initiative is a prime example of recognizing the power of collective action and ingenuity in the regional economies shared by urban counties and their surrounding suburban and rural areas. Leaders in the three regions chosen to receive state financial assistance in this project believe they have the capacity to lift the arc of progress in those areas. There are surely other regional economies that could benefit from similar initiatives by state government during the next gubernatorial administration. Leadership with the moxie to launch those sorts of inventive actions can also build Indiana's attractiveness to the talented millennials who will carry us through the century."*

**Former Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court Randall T. Shepard**

*"This policy shift isn't confined to our largest city. In many places outside of Indianapolis, a focus on quality of place seems to be taking hold. The state's Regional Cities Initiative was bold enough that 70 percent of the state's residents now live in regions with an honest and realistic plan to attract more people to their areas. That alone is a monumental policy achievement, as significant as anything that has been tried by any state in a couple decades."*

**Michael Hicks, Ball State Economist**

*"The Regional Cities Initiative is one of the most innovative economic development initiatives in the U.S. As I chat with my fellow Site Selector Guild members located throughout the world, they are very impressed by the IEDC's focus on talent attraction. RCI will continue to propel Indiana's economy forward."*

**Larry Gigerich, Executive Managing Director, Ginovus**

*"The state recognizes that the economy is not a single economy, the state's economy is comprised of a set of regional economies and that form of recognition in Regional Cities is the first that I've seen in quite some time."*

**Greg Wathen, President & CEO of the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana**

*"In northeast Indiana, 'good' is not good enough. We share a vision of bucking Midwest trends and breaking new ground. We have a united vision of becoming a region of 1 million people by developing the quality of life needed to attract top talent and expand our business landscape."*

**John Sampson, President & CEO of Northeast IN Regional Partnership & John Urbahns, Vice President of Economic Development at Greater Fort Wayne Inc.**

*"Indiana as a state has a very high level of educating young people but a very low level of keeping them. This is about changing that equation."*

**South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg**