# NIRPC CEDS's Goals

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## Goal One: Economic diversification through specialization

### The *Specialization of NIRPC industries through diversification and collaboration*

- This goal lays the economic foundations to support opportunity with forward-thinking initiatives around industry clusters to fuel innovative growth. This will depend on developing collaborative networks within industry groups to drive essential components of Northwestern Indiana's economy. The existing NIRPC economy hosts a number of growing, stable and legacy clusters. In addition, the region is well-positioned geographically to ***Advanced Computing and Quantum*** technology development in Illinois which would act as a catalyst for what is possible in Northwestern Indiana. This region has a unique opportunity to forge growth by harnessing new technology development in the broader Chicagoland region, including the quantum communications corridor, and merge those possibilities with its high-performing and emerging industrial clusters. This would mean that Advanced Computing and Quantum's position for innovative growth should be explored within the ***Primary Metal Manufacturing, Chemicals/Glass & Ceramics (pharmaceuticals), and Machinery Manufacturing*** clusters.

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1. **Stage One and Years 1-2: Ecosystem Formation & Foundation**
   - NIRPC would arrange for regional nonprofits and partner organizations to join the groups including representatives from: businesses, academia, governmental entities, and relevant industry associations.
   - Identify potential ecosystem partners and larger groups of partners and form sub-working groups.

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- Each of the identified industrial clusters will need its own working group with representatives from regional organizations to meet on a quarterly basis. This would be organized and coordinated by member of the NIRPC team as a convenor.
  - Identify cross-collaborative opportunities involving the sharing of data, resources and information.
  - Define the scope, roles and responsibilities around group networking, knowledge sharing (of data and projects) and mentoring activities (between entrepreneurs) with ecosystem partner organizations. This will build trust and connections among participants.

- Build awareness of the quantum communications corridor to the identified industry clusters and entrepreneurs throughout the region.
  - Bring speakers to these groups which understand how businesses can utilize the potential the quantum communications corridor brings to the region.
  - Generate awareness to SMEs may need help in realizing how it may bring value to their enterprises. Discuss the commercial benefits that may be realized by companies in the NIRPC region

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2. **Stage 2 and Years 2-5: Ecosystem cluster strategy, collaboration and innovation:**
   - Evaluate supply chain leakages and work with each cluster to develop a strategy to address them within the region.
   - Determine what funding mechanisms and partners may support emerging and traditional industry clusters
   - Hold an annual Summit with all identified clusters and have speakers from the Chicago Quantum Exchange, Indiana Bioworks and the Indiana Semiconductor Hub leaders. Have cross-sector workshops to identify needs, strengths and weaknesses.
   - In addition, identify areas where the spillover effects may be leveraged within the region. This will encourage more industrial specialization.
   - Encourage joint projects and initiatives among cluster members and have them develop fund seeking strategies with working workshops held during quarterly meetings.
     - Seek funding opportunities for research and development activities.
     - Determine what expertise, technology and market information each cluster group would most benefit from and make connections to those who can provide for free or at a reduced cost.

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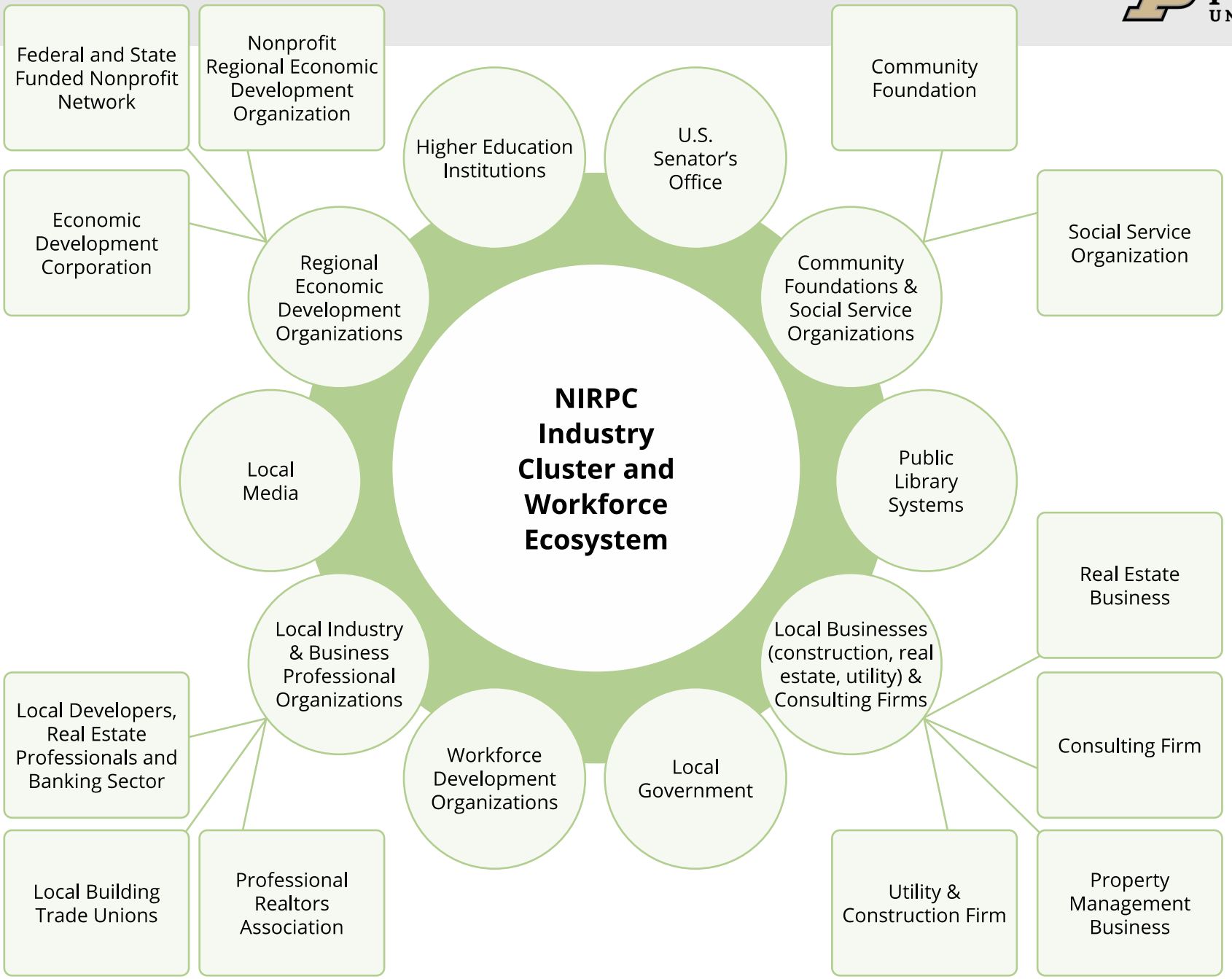
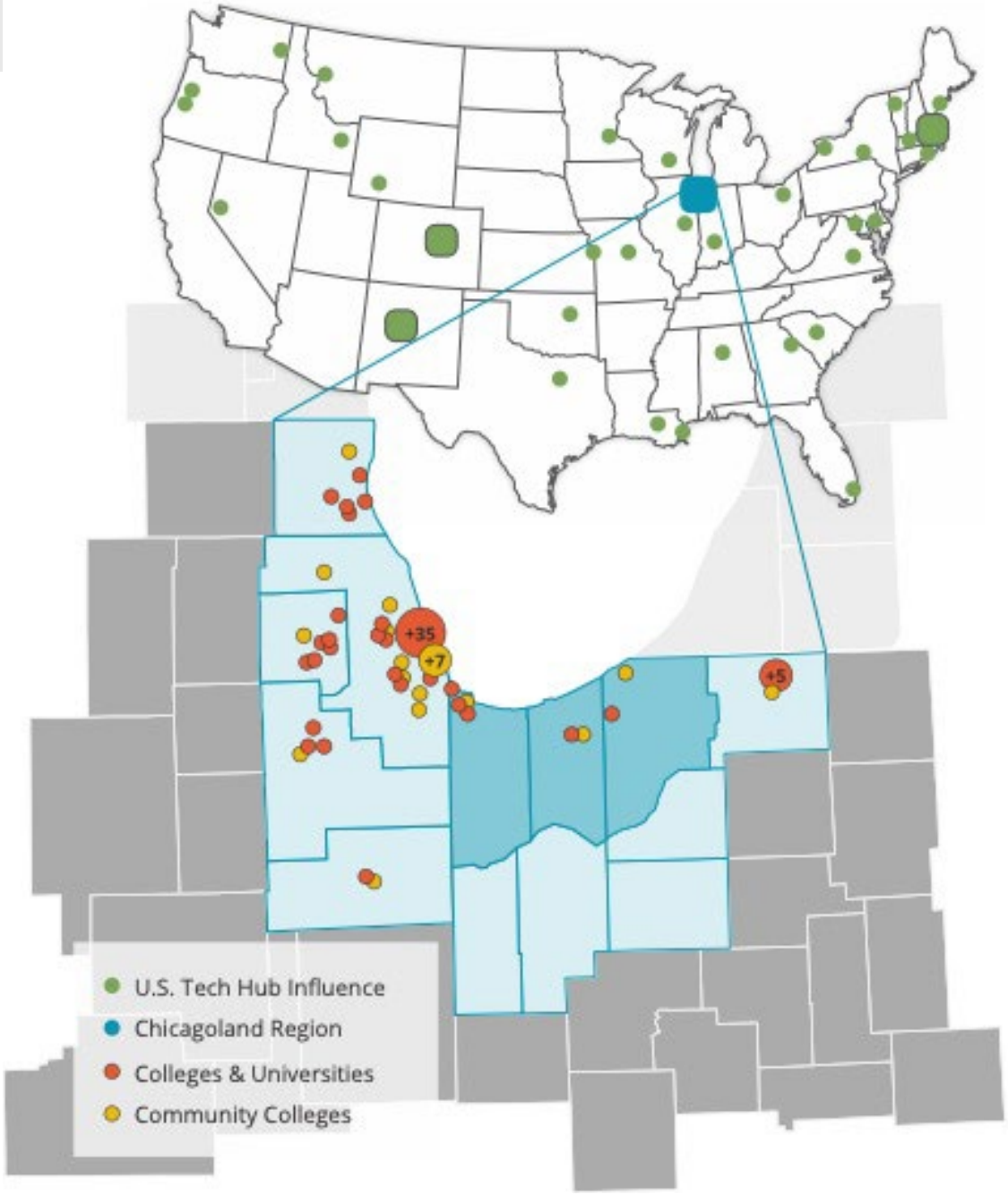
**3.** Industrial Cluster Specialization

- Develop potential grants and loans for industrial park expansion to improve the siting potential for new business expansion in machinery manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, advanced computing and/or energy opportunities
- Develop potential grants and loans for prototype lab development machinery manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, advanced computing and/or energy opportunities with local Universities and regional companies such as the Roberts Impact Lab in Hammond
- Seek funding for an "Ecosystem Navigator" to inspire new collaborations and link resources for identified projects.


NIRPC Industry Cluster and Workforce Ecosystem
Federal and State Funded Nonprofit Network
Nonprofit Regional Economic Development Organization
Economic Development Corporation
Regional Economic Development Organizations
Higher Education Institutions
U.S. Senator's Office
Community Foundation
Social Service Organization
Community Foundations & Social Service Organizations
Local Media
Public Library Systems
Local Industry & Business Professional Organizations
Local Businesses (construction, real estate, utility) & Consulting Firms
Real Estate Business
Local Developers, Real Estate Professionals and Banking Sector
Consulting Firm
Local Building Trade Unions
Professional Realtors Association
Workforce Development Organizations
Local Government
Utility & Construction Firm
Property Management Business




Source: Quantum Education Landscape - Where are the quantum courses?
https://quantumlandscape.streamlit.app/

## Colleges/Universities with Advanced Computing Related Courses

*(# of courses offered; 10 or more; IN-IL-MI Region)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | Bradley University | IL |
| 11 | Northeastern Illinois University | IL |
| 11 | Southern Illinois University-Carbondale | IL |
| 13 | Illinois State University | IL |
| 13 | Loyola University Chicago | IL |
| 13 | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | IL |
| 14 | Illinois Institute of Technology | IL |
| 19 | DePaul University | IL |
| 20 | Lewis University | IL |
| 25 | Northern Illinois University | IL |
| 27 | University of Illinois Chicago | IL |
| 33 | Northwestern University | IL |
| 66 | University of Chicago | IL |
| 10 | Purdue University Fort Wayne | IN |
| 12 | Purdue University Northwest | IN |
| 13 | Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology | IN |
| 16 | Ball State University | IN |
| 16 | Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis | IN |
| 18 | University of Notre Dame | IN |
| 36 | Indiana University-Bloomington | IN |
| 39 | Purdue University-Main Campus | IN |
| 11 | Eastern Michigan University | MI |
| 12 | Oakland University | MI |
| 13 | Central Michigan University | MI |
| 14 | Western Michigan University | MI |
| 18 | Michigan Technological University | MI |
| 27 | Wayne State University | MI |
| 28 | Michigan State University | MI |
| 32 | University of Michigan-Ann Arbor | MI |

# Goal 3: Quality of Place

1. Housing

   - Complete Regional Housing Plan for 2050
   - Implement Regional Housing Plan for 2050
   - Focus housing density around existing downtowns and commuter rail stations

2. TODS

- Ensure that utilities infrastructure (electricity, natural gas, and water/wastewater management) keeps pace with growing demand for housing, office, and industrial construction in the region.
- Conduct ongoing discussions with Northern Indiana Public Service Company, also known as NIPSCO, and other major service providers to evaluate and pursue opportunities for necessary expansion within unserved or underserved areas.
- Work with the major real estate holders and community leaders to identify infrastructure needs within and surrounding privately owned sites for different types of development desired, with priority given to industrial and housing sites.

## Goal 3: Quality of Place

1. TODS continued

- Coordinate between municipalities to pool resources for infrastructure projects that would extend regionally.

Incorporate modern amenities and standards of transit-oriented development practices surrounding station stops within the region.

- Enhance pedestrian walkability and extend bicycle trails to connect to regional or local trail systems within ¼ miles from proposed stations.
- Evaluate opportunities for mixed-use developments within ¼ mile proximity of the stations with real estate developers and community leaders.
- Generate environmental impact studies on the proposed plans for both projects and ensure these studies include carbon footprint metrics.