OCRA

Office of
COMMUNITY &
RURAL AFFAIRS

BUILDING SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANT

Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Content

Why?

Loneliness may lead to

32%

increased risk of
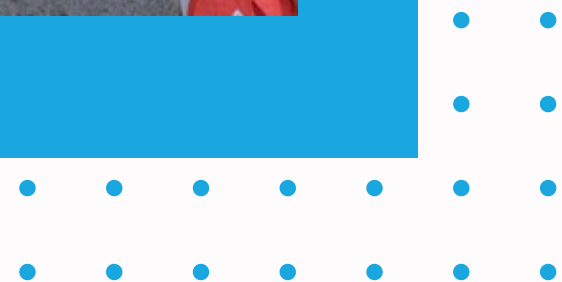
Stroke

Loneliness may lead to

29%

increased risk of

Coronary Heart Disease

"Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community" an advisory report by the U.S. Surgeon General states that loneliness is associated with a greater risk of multiple factors.

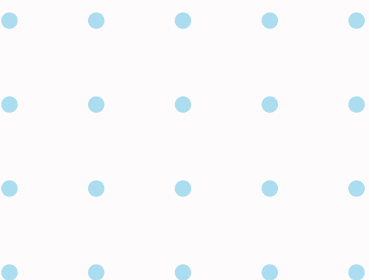**Why?**

Loneliness may lead to

50%

increased risk of **DEMENTIA**

Mortality impact of social disconnect is similar to smoking

15 CIGARETTES PER DAY

Overview

In light of concerning public health statistics in Indiana, OCRA is uniquely positioned to address these challenges through a community and economic development lens with the creation of the Building Socially Connected Communities grant program.

Purpose

Community Well-being and Social Capital:
This program will work to build social connections, strengthen community bonds and enhance the well-being of those experiencing loneliness.

Economic Vibrancy and Local Businesses:
This program will foster community engagement, indirectly support local businesses, enhance economic vibrancy and contribute to Indiana's economic health.

Alignment with Statewide Development Goals:
This program provides a platform for collaborative efforts between the local unit of government, community organizations, local businesses and residents to develop and implement initiatives that enhance connection.

Areas of Funding

Community Infrastructure

Enhance community centers, meeting spaces and facilities that serve as the focal point for social engagement.

Example: South Madison County Community Foundation (IN)

*Photo courtesy of AARP

Areas of Funding

Social Clubs and Interest Groups

Creating and sustaining social clubs and interest groups tailored to the preferences and needs of those experiencing loneliness.

Example: Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Daviess County (IN)

*Photo courtesy of AARP

Areas of Funding

Transportation Accessibility

Improve transportation options for those experiencing loneliness in rural areas, ensuring they can easily access community events, social gatherings and essential services.

Example: Legacy Foundation Inc. Gary's Miller neighborhood (IN)

*Photo courtesy of Gray Public Transportation Corp

Areas of Funding

Intergenerational Initiatives

Programs that facilitate meaningful interactions between different age groups.

Example: Beverly Main Street (MA)

*Photo courtesy of Beverly Main Street

Areas of Funding

Local Business Support

Enhance local businesses and establishments that cater to the needs and preferences of those experiencing loneliness, creating inviting spaces that promote social interactions.

Example: Elemento in Angola (IN)

Photo courtesy of Elemento

Areas of Funding

Community well-being programs

Support and promote community programs that increase awareness, reduce stigma and provide resource programming.

Example: Yellow Tulip Project (ME)

Photo courtesy of Yellow Tulip Project

Funding Breakdown

$200,000 Available

Quick Action projects

Minimum $1,000
Maximum $5,000
1:1 Match and 30% of that match can be in-kind

Large Impact projects

Minimum $5,001
Maximum $50,000
1:1 Match, no in-kind

Ineligible Expenses

- Plants, greenery, shrubs or anything of that nature.
- WiFi.
- One-time use activities or products.
- Permanent Public restrooms.
- Taxes.
- Food, drink or alcohol.
- Gaming and gambling activities.
- Illegal, political or unsanctioned activities.
- Demolition.
- Salaries.
- Admin Fees, including grant writing or administration.
- Spaces that are not open to the public.
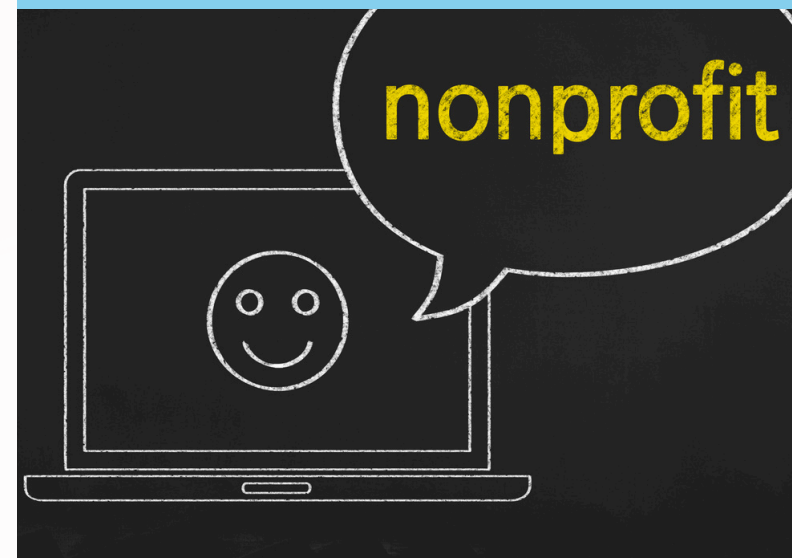- Expenses that were incurred pre-award.

Eligible Applicants

Communities with a population under 50,000

Local Government

Non-profit organizations

Community groups

Entities focused on addressing loneliness

Eligible Partners

Faith-based organizations

Small Businesses

Community organizations w/o LLC

Schools

*More partners may be eligible. Check with your community liaison.

Application

Community Background
Tell us about your community. Who are you? What are your demographics? What are the challenges?

Project Description
What is the project and how does it align with the program? How will you reach those experiencing loneliness? Who is your target audience?

Project Outcomes
What are three measurable goals that you want to achieve with this funding?

Community Support and Connections
What are your current community assets that you will use to achieve your goals? Who are the partners in this project?

Innovation
How is the project addressing loneliness and need? Is it also creative and innovative?

Application Location

(Opens June 3)

in.gov/ocra/bscc

Scoring

- **IMPACT (35 points)** – The project addresses a clear need that brings positive change and addresses disparities for its target population.
- **EXECUTION (35 points)** – Applicants demonstrate capacity to deliver the Building Socially Connected Communities grant on time and within the awarded budget, effectively engage residents and key stakeholders, and leverage partnerships in the execution.
- **MOMENTUM (20 points)** – The project demonstrates the ability to overcome barriers and accelerate, grow and/or sustain the community's efforts to become more connected and livable for residents.
- **INNOVATION (10 points)** – The project demonstrates creativity, unique design or engagement elements, which will contribute to its impact on residents.
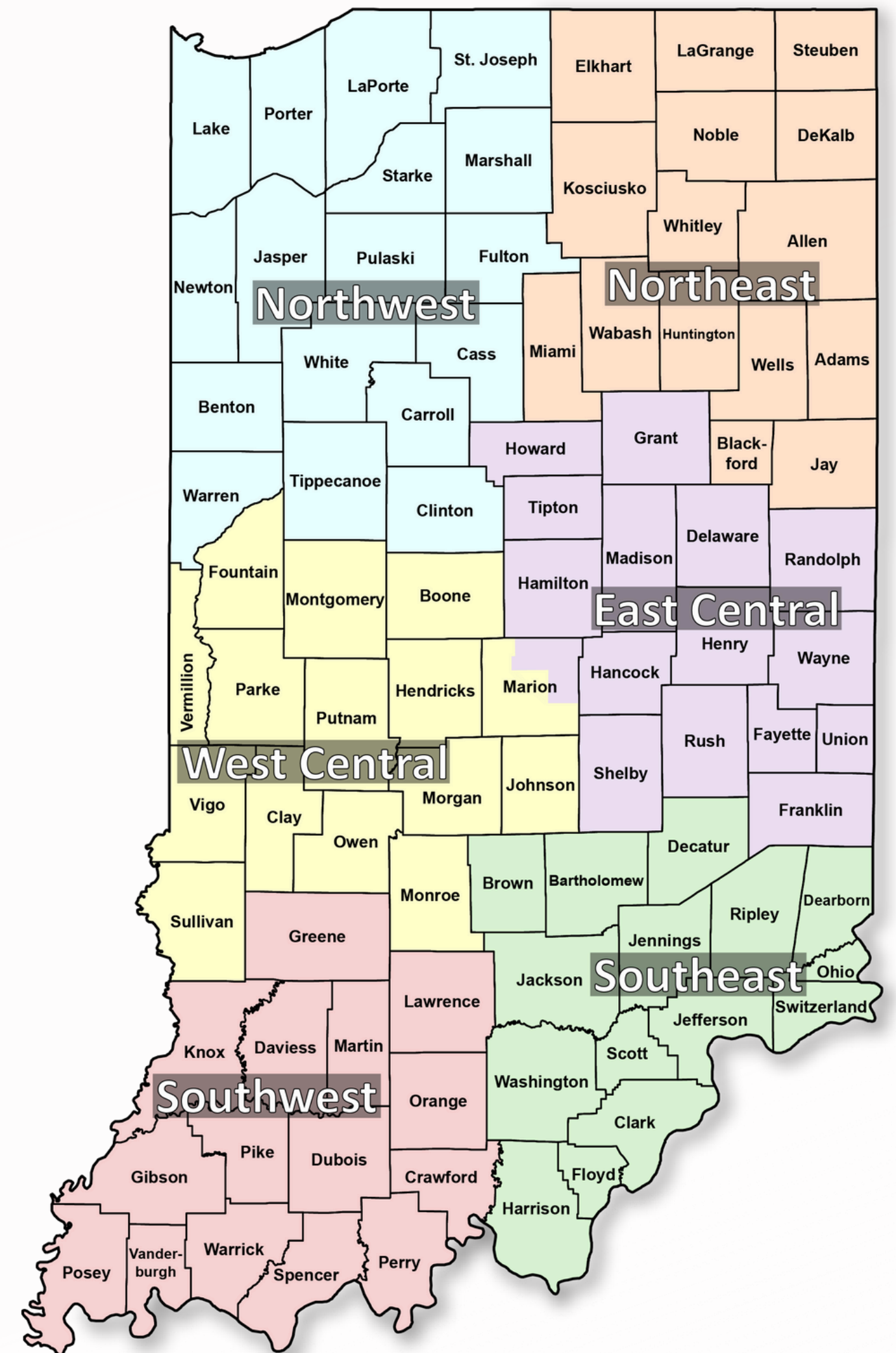
Supplemental Documents

Building Socially Connected Communities Grant Budget Table					
CATEGORY	Grant Amount	Local Match Amount	Total Costs	% of Project	Comments (as needed)
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
			$0	#DIV/0!	
Total Costs	$0	$0	$0		

Additional Explanation (as needed):

State Grant Share %	Cost Share %
#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!

- **Budget**
- **Project Timeline**
- **Partner MOUs**
- **Site control form**

Community Liaison

- **Northeast**: Open: Contact Doug Hess:
  - 317-460-6177, dohess@ocra.in.gov
- **Northwest**: Gerry White:
  - 317-694-8372, gewhite@ocra.in.gov
- **East Central**: Garrett Conway:
  - 317-605-5816, gconway@ocra.in.gov
- **West Central**: Sarah Froderman:
  - 317-504-6965, sfroderman@ocra.in.gov
- **Southwest**: Jill Hahn:
  - 317-760-5097, jihahn@ocra.in.gov
- **Southeast**: Jarrad Holbrook:
  - 317-690-9736, jaholbrook@ocra.IN.gov
- **Community Affairs Director**: Doug Hess:
  - 317-460-6177, dohess@ocra.in.gov

- Applicants are required to contact their community liaison to discuss the proposed project prior to August 29, 2024.

Timeline

October 10
Award Announcement
(World Mental
Health Day)

September 12
Applications due at
Noon ET

August 29
Last day for applicants
to schedule a meeting
with their
community liaison.

June 3
Application opens

THANK YOU

Abby Huff - Senior Program Manager

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BSCC COMMITTEE

- **Andrea Kern**
  - Director of Strategic Initiatives
- **Christmas Hudgens**
  - Director of CDBG
- **Marissa Byers**
  - CDBG Program Manager
- **Jarrad Holbrook**
  - Southeast Community Liaison