

READY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM SUMMARY

Advancing Regional Prosperity through Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Strategies

Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. (ROI) was established in 2016 to advance economic and community prosperity in the Indiana Uplands region.

As a part of this overarching strategy, ROI is rolling out the Ready Communities Initiative, which will offer grant funding opportunities across the 11 counties of the Indiana Uplands.

The **Ready Communities Initiative** will provide counties and communities the resources necessary to strategically plan for, develop, and implement projects and programs that build quality of place, grow regional capacity for workforce development and attraction, and improve the attributes and amenities that make the Indiana Uplands a desirable place to live, work and play.



Through a multi-phased approach to quality of place development, stakeholders across the Uplands will be engaged in understanding and defining strategies for advancing prosperity both locally and regionally.

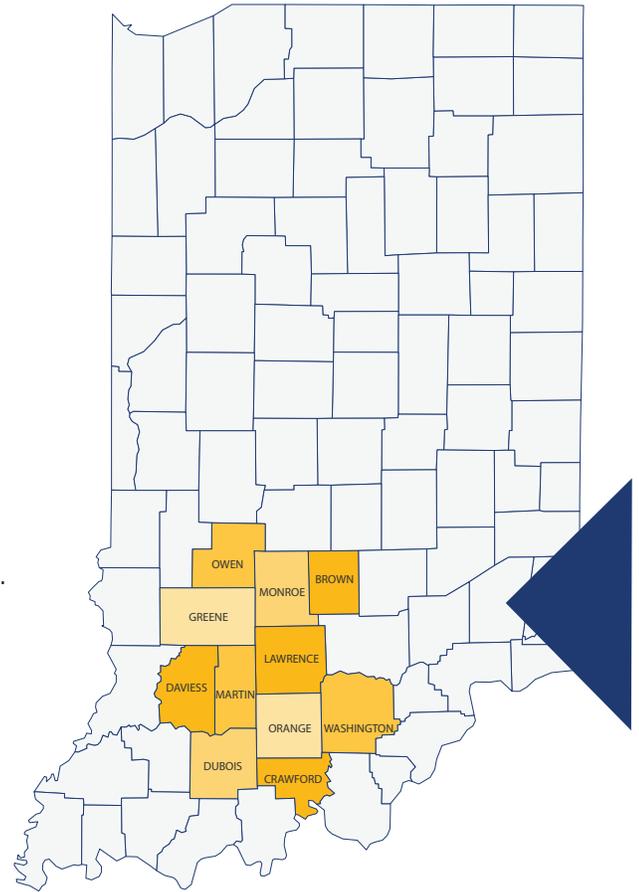
Phase I: Planning Grants will be available to each Indiana Uplands county in 2018.

Phase II: Implementation Grants will be offered competitively in 2019–20 to eligible entities across the region to implement strategies developed in the Planning Phase.

Every county that receives a Planning Grant must complete and submit a **Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan** to ROI. Upon acceptance of the plan, Implementation Grants will be available for projects or programs that align with the strategic priorities identified in one or more county's Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan(s).

The Implementation Grants will be competitively awarded and will focus on funding three categories of programs or projects that foster high-value quality of place. These categories are:

- Aesthetics and Beautification Enhancements
- Connectivity Infrastructure Development
- Community Cohesion & Support



The 11 Counties of the Indiana Uplands