

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS SUMMARY

Objective:

Quality of place funding for implementation of projects or programs strategically designed to positively impact the Indiana Uplands region. Projects or programs should improve regional capacity to attract and retain workforce by creating accessibility to community amenities or enhancing the attributes that make the region an attractive place to live, work and play.

Prerequisites:

Implementation Grants are available to applicants from a county that has completed a Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan developed through the ROI Ready Communities Initiative. Copies of county plans will be available on the ROI website once completed.

Funding Available (Three Rounds):

Three rounds of funding will be available in 2019/2020 at \$1,000,000 per round for a total of \$3,000,000 in implementation grant funding. Grants will be available in amounts from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per grant.

Grant applications for each implementation funding round will be received until the application deadline for that round. The applications will then be reviewed, evaluated and funded on the dates specified for that round. All grant funds must be expended and grant-funded work completed within 24 months after the grant funding agreement start date. Multi-county proposals may be eligible for larger grant amounts at the discretion of the ROI Board of Directors.

Eligible Applicants:

The following kinds of organizations will be considered eligible to apply:

- Incorporated cities and towns
- County Commissions and Councils
- Nonprofits including foundations, agencies, and hospitals
- Public Educational Institutions including Pre-K, K-12, and Post-secondary.
- Religious organizations
- Main Street organizations
- Chambers of commerce and economic development organizations that have an affiliated 501(c)(3)

Eligible applicants include organizations that meet the definition of exempt entities as defined by Internal Revenue Code (“Code”) section 501(c)(3), and treated as a public charity described in Code section 170(b)(1)(A). Other exempt organizations that do not possess 501(c)(3) status (such as organizations described in Code sections 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6)), may be eligible for funding but will be subject to an enhanced level of due diligence and expenditure responsibility to ensure such grants are used exclusively for charitable purposes. Please confirm eligibility with ROI.

Eligible Projects:

Innovative or transformative programs or projects that improve regional quality of place and workforce retention and attraction opportunities while adhering to eligibility and funding limitations. Projects and programs should be aligned with the *Strategic Plan for Economic and Community Prosperity in Southwest Central Indiana*.

Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevancy and capacity to advance prosperity in the region
- Leveraging of additional funding sources and partnerships
- Applicants’ capacity to execute project or program
- Potential for significant impact
- Sustainability plan, where appropriate

Eligible quality of place programs or projects will align with one or more of the following categories:

Aesthetics and Beautification Enhancements

Examples:

- Place branding
- Public art
- Streetscape beautification
- Park enhancements
- Main street type investments

Connectivity Infrastructure Development

Examples:

- Bike & pedestrian paths
- Trail enhancements
- Walkability improvements
- Public broadband or wi-fi
- Public transit or other transportation needs

Community Cohesion & Support

Examples:

- Childcare facilities
- Workforce training centers
- Public spaces
- Innovation spaces
- Farmer’s markets

Competitive applications will identify how project impact will be measured, what indicators will be used to determine project success, and how the project outcomes will benefit the community and the Indiana Uplands region.