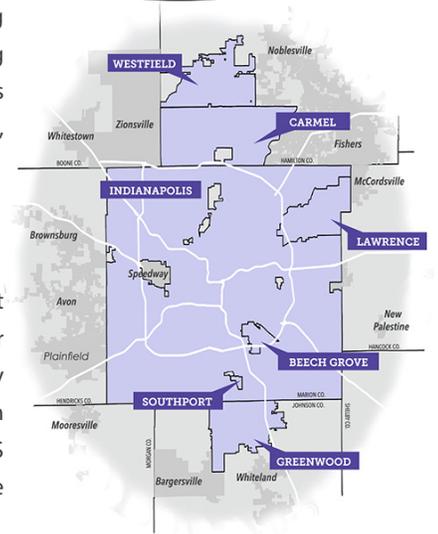


Overview

Since its formation in 2015, the CIRDA has been dedicated to improving regionalism by leveraging existing relationships to enhance quality of life and to attract and retain talent, while fostering economic competitiveness in Central Indiana. The Central Indiana RDA consists of representatives from municipalities in the region, specifically Carmel, Greenwood, Indianapolis, and Westfield, with staff support provided by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO).



2020: A Year of Preparation

The IMPO submitted an application for CARES Act funding to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Central Indiana. A grant of \$120,000 was awarded with \$60,000 of matching funds from the Indy Chamber/Indy Partnership and a grant from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC). A consultant has been selected for the process and the IMPO will begin work on the CEDS with support of TIP Strategies (consultant) and a regional strategy committee, which will include the RDA board.

This effort between businesses, civic organizations, and the public will establish economic development goals that strengthen the region, communicate a Central Indiana story to potential new businesses and talent, and position the region to be competitive for other funding opportunities. Creating the CEDS is necessary before requesting that the EDA designate Central Indiana as an Economic Development District (EDD). These are regions that help to lead locally-based, regionally driven economic development planning processes. In addition to the CEDS plan, an EDD designation also requires at least one area within the designated service boundaries that meets EDA's distress criteria. Each of the counties in Central Indiana has at least one area that is distressed. There are several EDD designations throughout Indiana, but Central Indiana is a significant part of the state without a district.

The planning area for the CEDS and eventual EDD is the entirety of Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Marion, and Morgan counties. The EDD is a federal government designation critical to federal funding opportunities for economic development. It will not replace the RDA, which is needed to support state opportunities related to economic development.

Board Meetings



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VICE CHAIR

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City of Carmel



Mitch Frazier
City of Westfield



Keith Lauter
City of Greenwood



Frank Esposito
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City of Indianapolis

