



HUNTINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Huntington County Selected for OCRA RED Program to Boost Community Development

HUNTINGTON, IN – Huntington County has been chosen as one of four communities to participate in the inaugural Rural Empowerment & Development (RED) Program, a capacity-building initiative developed by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) and the Indiana Communities Institute at Ball State University.

“This is an exciting opportunity for Huntington County,” said Erik Long, Program Director for Elevate Huntington County. “Our team, representing public, private, and nonprofit sectors across the county, is eager to strengthen collaboration and develop impactful projects. We look forward to leveraging the expertise of OCRA and the Indiana Communities Institute to achieve these goals.”

The RED Program is designed to enhance community development by building on past efforts and introducing innovative approaches. Over the course of four to six months, local teams will work to identify and develop five to 15 actionable projects with expert guidance and support.

“Continued community development is key to improving the quality of life in Indiana’s rural communities,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. “The RED program will help launch these four communities to the next level of development through collaboration and innovation.” Huntington County joins Cass, Fulton, and Orange counties in the pilot round of the program, which begins in January 2025.

Duke Bennett, OCRA Executive Director, added, “Our Hoosier communities are special because of the people who turn ideas into action. I look forward to seeing how these counties transform their visions into reality through the RED program.”

For more information, please contact Erik Long at Elevate Huntington County.

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