



NORTH CENTRAL REGION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION IMPACT REPORT 2025



**PURDUE
UNIVERSITY**



INDIANA



Location: West Lafayette, IN
<https://extension.purdue.edu/cdext/>



6,857



EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS

166



community or organizational PLANS / POLICIES DEVELOPED

\$1.08 MILLION

GRANTS & RESOURCES generated by communities

IMPACT INDICATORS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Educational Contacts | 6,857 |
| Number of community or organizational plans/policies developed | 166 |
| Number of volunteer hours for community generated work | 39 |
| Dollar value of organization and/or community-generated volunteer hours based on Independent Sector hr value | \$1,357 |
| Dollar value of grants and resources leveraged/generated by communities | \$1,082,671 |
| Number of participants completing skill development training programs offered through Community Development Extension | 214 |
| Number of Community Development full-time equivalents (FTEs) — i.e., FTEs funded by Extension specifically for Community Development Extension programming. | 14.6 |

IMPACT STATEMENTS

■ **Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing Helps Indiana Communities Access Funding**

For 20 years, Purdue Extension's award-winning [Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing \(BGGW\) program](#) has helped residents turn community-led ideas into funded realities. Recognized nationally and adopted in several North Central states, BGGW equips individuals from nonprofits and local governments with the skills and confidence to pursue grant funding for vital community projects.

The two-day in-person workshop walks participants through the grant-writing process, from crafting a compelling proposal to identifying funding sources. By the end of Day 1, each participant leaves with a draft outline of a proposal. Day 2 brings hands-on practice in reviewing grants and engaging with a panel of local experts. The program also includes limited free access to a national funder database and review of proposal drafts.

In 2024-25, 18 Purdue Extension Educators delivered 16 programs across 13 Indiana counties. Post-program surveys showed compelling results: 98% of respondents learned more about the basic components of a grant proposal, 97% improved their grant writing skills, and 95% gained greater confidence. The program earned a Net Promoter Score of +82, a world-class rating.

The longer-term impact is equally strong. A one-year follow-up of 2023-24 participants found that 74% had submitted a grant proposal since completing the program. 83% of submitters received funding, generating at least \$1,082,671 for community projects. Alumni also reported 111 new partnerships and 11 jobs created. Grants awarded supported community playgrounds, food access and substance abuse prevention programs and the renovation of historical buildings.



Purdue's Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing two-day workshop in Porter County, Indiana.

■ **Indiana R-STEP: Supporting Informed Renewable Energy Planning**

Indiana is experiencing an energy transition, with an increasingly diverse mix of electricity generation fuels and new technologies. The Department of Energy (DOE) released funding to support communities through this transition. This requires a network of stakeholders to collaboratively develop resources about how utility-scale wind and solar energy may fit into the local landscape and to support local decision-making.

[Indiana R-STEP](#) was selected as a 2024 recipient of that funding. Purdue Extension Community Development leads the Indiana Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (IN R-STEP) collaborative, serving as a technical resource and community engagement hub, providing Indiana communities with data, tools, and educational resources to support informed, utility-scale renewable energy planning. Indiana partners include the American Planning Association-Indiana, Ball State University, Center for Energy Education, CN Consulting, Farm-to-Power, Indiana University Public Policy Institute, and The Nature Conservancy.

In 2025, the Indiana R-STEP collaborative delivered 19 educational events, including in-person and online opportunities through webinars, tours, conferences, and workshops, as well as peer-to-peer networking events in six counties plus statewide, reaching 788 participants.

The evaluation sought to understand the knowledge participants gained, their confidence in decision-making, and their aspirations to use that knowledge. Of those who responded, 91% reported knowledge gained, 95 individuals felt more confident in their decision-making, and 88% plan to utilize new information. Participants noted they would use what they learned to inform ordinance updates, support their work on the plan commission, better understand how the grid works, and initiate conversations about agrivoltaics.



A wind farm educational tour in White County, Indiana hosted by Purdue Extension's Indiana R-STEP in 2025.