

RESOURCE

GREAT *Indy*
NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE



GREAT *Indy* NEIGHBORHOODS

The Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiatives (GINI) is the result of a citywide collaboration to promote a comprehensive approach to community development that integrates civic, social, physical, and economic development in Indianapolis neighborhoods. This renewed approach to community development is led by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC), the City of Indianapolis, and other individuals and organizations represented on the GINI Steering Committee. GINI's goal is to impact neighborhood change through the participation and commitment of residents and other local stakeholders.

If you have corrections to the Neighborhood Resource Guide, visit www.greatindyneighborhoods.org and leave a message.

This guide is made possible through the support of The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate.



RESOURCE NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE



This guide is designed to help Indianapolis neighborhood residents and organizations find resources and partners to help bring about comprehensive neighborhood development. It is not meant to be a comprehensive guide to City or social services.

The guide has been developed in conjunction with the Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiatives (GINI). It is organized around the 11 principles of healthy neighborhoods.

Information is provided in a frequently asked questions format. Answers are listed in alphabetical order.

If you have questions that aren't addressed by this guide, contact the following organizations:

- For city services contact Mayor's Action Center (MAC) at 327-4MAC (327-4622) or <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/Mayor/mac.htm>. The MAC provides Marion County citizens one central agency to contact for requesting services, obtaining information, or registering complaints. The MAC is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., with walk-in service from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- For questions regarding neighborhood organizations, contact Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center at 920-0330 or <http://www.inrc.org>.
- Individuals and families needing help can get direct assistance and referrals to services by calling The HELPLINE at 2-1-1 or www.imcpl.org/cgi-bin/irntop.pl. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For "how to" or sample documents, go to www.greatindyneighborhoods.org.
- To find the public officials serving your area, type in your address at <http://imaps.indygov.org/GovntProfile/>.



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Leadership:

Healthy neighborhoods value and cultivate skilled leadership and an active citizenry. Healthy neighborhoods possess a complement of local organizations, civic associations, religious communities, and/or community development corporations composed of the diverse local array of racial, ethnic, and economic constituencies.



QUESTION - How do we find neighborhood organizations in our area?

ANSWER - *Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC)*
INRC provides information and support to residents and neighborhood-based organizations. It works directly with Marion County neighborhood-based organizations, including neighborhood and homeowners' associations, community development corporations, faith-based organizations, and other nonprofit groups. INRC offers technical assistance and various training opportunities to help grassroots neighborhood organizations address issues that impact the quality of life in their neighborhoods. It may also present on-site workshops in neighborhoods on subjects such as Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), Building Strong Networks & Collaborations, Marketing Your Neighborhood, Direct Advocacy and Facilitation and Planning for Action and Results. Contact 920-0330 or <http://www.inrc.org>.

ANSWER - *Mayor's Neighborhood Liaisons*
Neighborhood Liaisons serve as a bridge between citizens and city government, acting as ombudsmen and providing a communication link between neighborhoods and the City. Assistance to neighborhoods includes helping to establish new neighborhood organizations, bringing community groups together to address common issues, providing information on zoning ordinances and land use issues, providing information on how to participate in the zoning process, and registering/updating registration online. Assistance to businesses includes helping merchants in business expansion or relocation focus on the economic needs of the community and helping locate vacant properties and buildings. Contact 327-5039 or <http://www.indygov.org/myneighborhood>.



QUESTION - Who can provide leadership development and training for our neighborhood?

ANSWER - *Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC)*
See page 4.

QUESTION - How can our neighborhood develop more partnerships and other relationships?

ANSWER - *Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center*
See page 4.

ANSWER - *Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations (MCANA)*
MCANA is an alliance of neighborhood associations which works on behalf of neighborhood interests and with city officials on neighborhood issues. Visit <http://www.mcanaindy.org/>.

ANSWER - *Mayor's Neighborhood Liaisons*
See pages 4 and 6.

ANSWER - *Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Economic & Community Development, Marion County*
Purdue provides educational programs and information to increase community vitality, build leadership capacity, enhance public decision-making, and resolve public issues. It works in partnership with individuals to develop their leadership skills by encouraging them to participate in determining and implementing a vision and setting goals for their neighborhoods and communities. Contact 275-9305 or marionces@purdue.edu.

Vision:

Healthy neighborhoods foster the creation of a “future community vision” and develop a holistic set of neighborhood strategies to achieve that vision. The ability to collaborate across barriers and sectors to successfully implement these strategies is recognized and valued.

QUESTION – Who can help us get people in the neighborhood to work together to develop a vision for the community?

ANSWER - Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center
See page 4.

QUESTION - Where can we get information that will be helpful in creating a vision for our community?

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Division of Planning, Information Resources & Policy Analysis (IRPA)
IRPA provides community information from various sources, including U.S. Census demographic information, business information from Dunn and Bradstreet, address information from the U.S. Postal Service, bank activity information from Home Mortgage Disclosure Act information, and building permit data from city files. IRPA provides city staff, the public and others with high quality information resources concerning neighborhoods and development in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. This information may be helpful in completing grant applications or for determining existing conditions in a neighborhood. Contact 327-5155 or <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DMD/Planning/home.htm>.

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Division of Planning, Subarea Planning
Subarea Planning staff provide planning and technical assistance for areas that are smaller than townships (for example - neighborhood, corridor, redevelopment area, and economic development area plans), mostly in Center Township. Technical assistance includes collection and analysis of specialized information that is used in planning and other similar efforts, assistance in the development of community land use and zoning plans, and assistance with meeting facilitation. Contact 327-5155 or <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DMD/Planning/home.htm>.

ANSWER – Indianapolis Marion County Public Library
The Central Library provides free assistance in finding statistics for your neighborhood or organization. Call 269-5288.

ANSWER - Social Assets and Vulnerabilities Indicators (SAVI)
SAVI, overhauled in 2005 to be more user-friendly, is an information system that allows users to map, compare, and store data about central Indiana communities from over 40 data sources. SAVI has information on crime, education, welfare, demographics, economy, health, community assets, and human service programs. The web site allows access to data in interactive maps and tables. Step-by-step tools help users create a quick map. Visit <http://www.savi.org>.

ANSWER - U.S. Census Factfinder
The U.S. Census web site allows users to prepare profiles for almost any geographic area. Tables, maps and reports may be prepared that include information on population counts, age and gender, disability, education, employment, income, origins and language, poverty, race and ethnicity, relationships, veteran status, and housing. Visit <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

QUESTION - Who can help prepare a plan for our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Ball State University, College of Architecture and Planning: Indianapolis Center
The Center draws from the interdisciplinary nature of the College programs in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and historic preservation and provides assistance in community analysis and visioning. Contact 822-6167 or capic@bsu.edu.



ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Division of Planning, Subarea Planning
Subarea Planning can assist with report writing and planning assistance. See page 5.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center and the City of Indianapolis Division of Planning, Subarea Planning
Both organizations can help with meeting facilitation. See pages 4-6.



QUESTION – Who can help improve communication among neighborhood residents?

ANSWER - Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC) and the Mayor's Neighborhood Liaisons

Both organizations can help neighborhoods deal with communication issues. See pages 4 and 6.

QUESTION – Who can help our neighborhood with its land use and zoning issues?

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis, Division of Planning, Current Planning Section
Current Planning daily designates a planner to provide information over the phone on general land use issues (except Wednesday mornings). General questions, from the history of a specific site, to Comprehensive Plan recommendations, to an interpretation of the zoning ordinance, can be answered. Contact 327-5155 or <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DMD/Planning/home.htm>.

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Division of Planning, Subarea Planning
Subarea Planning helps prepare land use and zoning plans that may be adopted by the Metropolitan Development Commission (MDC) and used by MDC staff to prepare their comments for rezoning and variance cases. See page 5.

ANSWER - Mayor's Neighborhood Liaisons
See pages 4 and 6.



3 Collaboration:
Healthy neighborhoods exist within a metropolitan setting where governments and the private, philanthropic, & independent sectors value and provide coordinated support for neighborhood association formation & growth, local leadership development, and holistic community development initiatives.

QUESTION – Who can help us seek more or improved city services for our community?

ANSWER - Mayor's Action Center
Call the MAC to report problems at 327-4MAC.

ANSWER - Mayor's Neighborhood Liaisons
Liaisons serve as the direct link to the Mayor's office and all city departments and services. Liaisons serve neighborhoods in a variety of ways, including: assisting in establishing new neighborhood organizations; bringing community groups together to address common issues; attending community meetings to hear and address citizen and business concerns; educating the public on zoning and land use issues; and assisting merchants in business expansion or relocation of operations. Residents can sign up to receive newsletters, find maps

reflecting the geographic area for each neighborhood liaison, and/or contact their liaison at 327-5039 or www.indygov.org/myneighborhood.

QUESTION – With whom can we collaborate to improve conditions in our community?

ANSWER - Brownfields Grant Program

These 1:1 matching grants are for the assessment and/or remediation of a brownfield or contaminated site. The maximum award is \$20,000. Eligible entities need to be nonprofits, although for-profit businesses may apply in conjunction with a neighborhood nonprofit organization. Contact the Brownfields Coordinator at 327-5845, Local Initiatives Support Corporation at 396-0588, or visit <http://www.indygov.org/dmdplan/brownfields/>.

ANSWER - Christmas in April, Rebuilding Together Indianapolis
Rebuilding Together preserves and revitalizes houses and communities, ensuring that low-income homeowners have safe homes. Its annual Christmas in April is a one-day work blitz on the last Saturday in April. Up to 500 volunteers provide free assistance to low-income elderly or disabled homeowners who need home repairs. A "Neighborhood of the Year" is selected and homeowners are encouraged to apply for inclusion in the program. Contact 767-1177 or <http://www.rebuildingtogetherindy.org/>.

ANSWER – Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP)
CHIP, the lead organization for implementing the City's plan to end homelessness, can assist neighborhoods in developing a response to homelessness. Contact 630-0853 or www.chipindy.org.

ANSWER - Colleges and Universities

Colleges and universities have community outreach programs, student internships and class projects that benefit neighborhoods, such as:

- *Ball State University, College of Architecture and Planning: Indianapolis Center* draws from the inter-disciplinary nature of the College programs in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and historic preservation and provides assistance in community analysis and visioning. Contact: 822-6167 or capic@bsu.edu.
- *Butler University Center for Citizenship and Community* works with community organizations, including neighborhood associations, community development organizations and social service agencies. The Center coordinates volunteer and internship opportunities for students and convenes forums. Contact 940-9683 or citizenship@butler.edu.
- *IUPUI Solutions Center* is committed to building campus-community partnerships. Visit www.solutioncenter.iupui.edu.
- *Ivy Tech Community College - Central Indiana* has a number of student organizations that participate in community events. Contact the Office of Student Life & Development at 921-4898 or www.ivytech.edu/indianapolis.
- *Marian College* sets up internships and connects students with organizations needing assistance through the Office of Internships and Career Services and sets up student volunteer opportunities through the Office of Community Ministry. Call 955-6600 or www.marian.edu.
- *Martin University Career Development Department* works with neighborhood organizations located close to the University. Call 543-3235 or www.martin.edu.



- *University of Indianapolis Community Program Center* links students, faculty and staff with neighborhood organizations and community agencies that need volunteers or expertise. Visit <http://www.uindy.edu/cpc/>.

ANSWER - Community Development Law Center (CDLC)

CDLC provides legal and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations whose missions include serving low-income individuals and neighborhoods. Services include helping start organizations, addressing ongoing legal issues, and helping with revitalization activities. Contact 921-8806 or <http://www.cdlawcenter.org/>.

ANSWER - Faith Based Organizations

The faith community plays a significant role in the development of many neighborhoods and should be taken into account when dealing with neighborhood issues and planning. Houses of worship meet the community's spiritual needs and often provide recreational and youth programs, housing assistance, food programs and other efforts that support communities. Some organizations create separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations to conduct community development activities, while others may partner with other community organizations. In some cases, multiple houses of worship located close to one another collaborate to create a community development corporation (CDC) to serve their shared community. For more information, contact:

- City of Indianapolis Faith-Based Coordinator at 327-3711.

- Indianapolis Center for Congregations, which helps congregations find solutions to their problems. Visit www.centerforcongregations.org.
- Indiana Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives at <http://www.in.gov/ofbci/>.

ANSWER - Fostering Commercial Urban Strategies (FOCUS)

A partnership between the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, the Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development and the City of Indianapolis, FOCUS jump-starts commercial development in Indianapolis' urban neighborhoods through planning, advocacy, and delivery of economic development projects. Contact LISC at 396-0588 or <http://imaps.indy.gov.org/focus/>. FOCUS provides:

- Financial and technical assistance to neighborhood-based organizations to support community and economic development efforts.
- Alternative sources of funding to small business owners located in core urban areas.
- Resources to equip community developers and small business owners with the tools needed to revitalize vacant or underutilized properties.
- Rebates of up to 50% of the total cost (rebate not to exceed \$10,000) for construction and other work done to improve a business owner's façade (front of building/area facing the street). Design assistance may be requested.

ANSWER - Foundations

Indianapolis has a number of foundations that provide funds to support neighborhood projects and programs. Visit www.indianagrantsmakers.org or the downtown public library and search its foundation directories.



**QUESTION (Continued from page 7)
– With whom can we collaborate to improve conditions in our community?**

ANSWER - Gateways Initiative

Indy Gateways is a partnership between the City of Indianapolis and the Rotary Club of Indianapolis to showcase the city's gateways at major points of entry to the city, its neighborhoods and key destinations. Visit <http://www.bsu.edu/capic/gateways/index.html>.

ANSWER - Private Corporations

Many corporations have programs aimed at improving the community environment. Examples include:

- *Citizens Gas* supports neighborhood revitalization efforts, provides college scholarships, provides direct financial assistance to low-income customers, and works with community development corporations on economic development and housing issues. Visit <http://www.citizensgas.com/newsinfo/community.html>.
- *Community Hospital East's Neighborhood Improvement Plan* is working on eastside community re-development through housing revitalization, economic development, beautification, social and cultural activities, and partnership development. Partnerships will be forged to attract equity and risk sharing opportunities by securing investment and public subsidy otherwise not attainable by acting in isolation. Visit <http://www.ecommunity.com/east/>.

- *Indianapolis Power and Light* partners with *Keep Indianapolis Beautiful* to sponsor Project 180°/IPL Revive A Neighborhood Program. This program improves the quality of homes and neighborhoods, increases and beautifies green space, educates young people on the importance of a healthy environment and brings diverse groups of people together. Visit http://www.iplpower.com/ABOUTI/PALCO/Community/Revive_A_Neighborhood.html.
- *Clarian Health Partners* has helped build or rehab homes and works on community development issues around Methodist Hospital. Contact the local neighborhood organization or community development corporation in the area.

ANSWER - Service Organizations

Service Organizations, such as Jaycees (<http://www.indyjaycees.org/#>), Kiwanis (<http://www.indykiwanis.org/>) and Rotary International Indianapolis Chapter (www.indyrotary.org) often do community service projects. Adult and college fraternities and sororities may also be interested in working on community service projects.

QUESTION - How can traffic circulation and transportation be improved in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW)

DPW maintains public infrastructure (including streets and traffic controls),

manages solid waste collection and disposal, and ensures a healthy, safe and natural environment. For a listing of DPW services visit <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DPW/home.htm>.

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

MPO has the responsibility, together with state agencies and other transportation stakeholders, for the transportation planning process required of urbanized areas to qualify for federal transportation funds. Staff provide short- and long-range planning for transportation-related issues, air quality planning, technical assistance, and programming for streets, highways, mass transit and other modes of travel within the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area. Contact MPO staff at 327-5155 or <http://www.indygov.org/indympo>.

ANSWER - Indiana Department of Transportation

Transportation Enhancement grants give local government agencies, often in cooperation with neighborhood organizations, funds to support the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation projects including safe bicycle and pedestrian trails/facilities, landscaping and scenic enhancements, historic building restoration, and transportation museums. Applications are available around November 1st. Visit <http://www.in.gov/dot/mode/trans/tea/index.html>.

ANSWER - Indianapolis IndyGo Bus Service

IndyGo has 28 routes with more than 5,000 bus stops within Indianapolis for fixed route service with 50 vans for Open Door and 8 Vans for Flexible Service. Contact 635-3344 or <http://www.indygo.net>.

ANSWER - The Rainbow Book

"The Rainbow Book", produced by the Information and Referral Network, Inc., has a section devoted to community transportation solutions. Visit <http://www.irni.org/>.



4 Services:

Healthy communities maintain the highest standard of health and human services.

Individuals and families needing help can get direct assistance and referrals to services by calling The HELPLINE at 2-1-1 or www.imcpl.org/cgi-bin/irntop.pl. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

QUESTION - Who can help with childcare services in our community?

ANSWER – *Child Care Answers*
Child Care Answers provides referrals to childcare providers. Contact 631-4643 or www.childcareanswers.com.

ANSWER - *The Rainbow Book*
"The Rainbow Book" has a comprehensive list of central Indiana human services, including child care. Visit <http://www.irni.org/>.

QUESTION - Who can help improve the health of our citizens?

ANSWER - *Marion County Health Department, Housing and Neighborhood Health*
The City of Indianapolis contracts with the Health Department to protect public health and safety and reverse neighborhood deterioration through the housing and sanitation code inspection program. It ensures that vacant properties are boarded up, repaired, or demolished according to state laws, using Marion County's Environmental Court when necessary. The Department also enforces illegal dumping laws and handles hotel/motel and mobile home inspections. Contact 221-2150 or <http://www.hhcorp.org/>.

ANSWER - *The Rainbow Book*
"The Rainbow Book" has a comprehensive list of central Indiana human services, including health care. Visit <http://www.irni.org/>.

QUESTION - Who can help with the needs of the elderly?

ANSWER - *CICOA Aging and In-Home Solutions*
CICOA provides a wide variety of services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Contact 254-5465 or www.cicoa.org.

ANSWER - *The Rainbow Book*
"The Rainbow Book" has a comprehensive list of central Indiana human services, including senior services. Visit <http://www.irni.org/>.

QUESTION - Who can help meet the basic needs of our neighborhood families?

ANSWER - *Community Centers*
Many neighborhoods are served by community centers, which provide a comprehensive array of services for people of all ages. Call 2-1-1 to find a community center serving your area.

ANSWER - *Faith Based Organizations*
See page 7.

ANSWER - *The Rainbow Book*
"The Rainbow Book" has a comprehensive list of central Indiana human services, including services for families. Visit <http://www.irni.org/>.



QUESTION - Who can help deal with youth issues in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

CYO provides spiritual, cultural, social, athletic and other programming to youth ages 8-18 through local Catholic churches and schools. Contact 632-9311 or www.cyoarchindy.org.

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis, Dept. of Parks and Recreation
See page 12.

ANSWER - Faith Based Organizations
See page 7.

ANSWER - Indiana Youth Institute (IYI)
IYI serves organizations and individuals who work on behalf of children and youth. IYI is a leading source of information and tools for nonprofit youth organizations, educators, policymakers, government officials, and others who can impact the lives of Hoosier children and promote healthy youth development. Programs and services are available to youth workers free of charge or at affordable prices. Contact 396-2700 or <http://www.iyi.org/>.

ANSWER - Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY)
MCCOY focuses on three community-identified areas that impact children: violence, civic engagement, and basic skills. Contact 921-1280 or <http://www.mccooyouth.org/>.

ANSWER - The Rainbow Book
"The Rainbow Book" has a comprehensive list of youth services. Visit <http://www.irni.org/>.

ANSWER - Youth as Resources
Youth as Resources is a youth development program that gives money (small grants) to youth groups to operate volunteer projects in their community. Contact 920-2560 or <http://www.uwci.org/yar/>.

Education:

Healthy neighborhoods place a high value on intellectual and moral education. All local institutions and social structures take extraordinary measures to provide support to local schools. Parents and adults actively participate in the education of children. Children and young adults are involved in neighborhood associations and other local leadership forums to provide civic responsibility training.

QUESTION - How can schools and education be improved in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Bridges to Success (BTS)
BTS brings together schools and many sectors of the community so that children and families succeed. The 40+ BTS schools have become hubs of their community and provide many resources to children, families and neighbors. Schools are open beyond the school day and are open to the community. BTS works with community partners to expand after-school programs, health clinics, and vision and dental services, and to provide school supplies and other resources children need. Visit <http://www.bridgestosuccess.org>.

ANSWER - Charter Schools

Charter schools are public schools that are freed from most of the regulations governing traditional schools. They control their curriculum, staffing, organization and budget and must meet the highest academic standards. Similar to other public schools, charter schools work with neighborhoods to improve the community. To determine if there are charter schools in your neighborhood visit <http://imaps.indy.gov.org/schools/>.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Public Schools
IPS serves students within the old city boundaries. The Office of School and Community Relations often works with community groups on community-school issues. It can assist in the development of partnerships between communities and their schools. Contact 226-4649 or <http://www.headlines.ips.k12.in.us/>.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Public Schools Renewal Team
The Renewal Team is a volunteer effort that is challenging the myth that the IPS system does not provide an adequate education for everyone. Their emphasis is on three things they feel must happen for the renewal of the IPS: parents must care, the schools must care, and the city must care. Visit www.indyeducator.com.





ANSWER - Other Public School Corporations

Many other public school corporations work with neighborhood organizations to improve schools. Contact:

Beech Grove – www.bgcs.k12.in.us.

Decatur Township - <http://www.msddecat.k12.in.us/>.

Franklin Township - <http://www.ftcsc.k12.in.us/>.

Lawrence Township - <https://www.ltschools.org/>.

Perry Township - <http://www.msdp.k12.in.us/>.

Pike Township - <http://www.pike.k12.in.us/pikeweb/>.

Speedway - <http://www.speedway.k12.in.us/>.

Warren Township - <http://www.warren.k12.in.us/home/>.

Washington Township - <http://www.ms-dwt.k12.in.us/>.

Wayne Township - <http://www.wayne.k12.in.us/>.

ANSWER - Private Schools

Similar to public schools, private schools work with neighborhoods to improve the community. To determine if there are private schools in your neighborhood visit <http://imaps.indygov.org/schools/>.

QUESTION – How can we help adults be more engaged in our kids’ education?

ANSWER – Greater Educational Opportunities (GEO) Foundation
GEO Foundation’s Parental Information

and Resource Center provides information on a variety of issues, including school accountability, school choice and tutoring. Contact 536-1027 or www.geofoundation.org.

ANSWER – Indiana Partnerships Center
The Center works to empower parents about their rights and responsibilities relative to their children’s education by providing parent-focused workshops that are scheduled by schools, community groups, or parent groups; education-related information and resource materials, including information about the state (PL221) and federal (No Child Left Behind) accountability laws; and helping schools develop parent engagement strategies. Contact 205-2595 or <http://www.fscp.org/>.

QUESTION - How can we help young people be more prepared for higher education?

ANSWER - Indiana College Answer
Indiana College Answer is an online resource to help Indiana parents and students plan and pay for higher education. Visit www.indiana.collegeanswer.com.

ANSWER – Learn More Resource Center
The Center’s Pre-K to College Connection helps students and parents learn about college in Indiana, preparing for college, getting to college, student financial aid, Indiana career information and other essential information. Contact 1-800-992-2076 or www.learnmoreindiana.org.



6

Culture:

Healthy communities offer a wide and varied array of artistic, cultural, recreational, and spiritual programs and venues to enrich the quality of life, nurture local talent and foster creativity.

QUESTION - Who can help improve cultural opportunities in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Arts Council of Indianapolis
In 2001, the Arts Council of Indianapolis, in partnership with the Indianapolis Convention & Visitor’s Association, Indianapolis Downtown Inc., and the Mayor’s Office, announced a five-year, \$10 million Cultural Development Initiative. Public Art Indianapolis, one of the Initiative’s programs, provides information and resources regarding best practices in selecting and commissioning artists as well as guidance in the development, fabrication, and installation of public art projects. Contact 631-3301 or www.indyarts.org.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission Cultural Districts Program
The Commission strengthens Indianapolis as a cultural destination and improves the quality of life for residents. Its Cultural Districts Program facilitates the cultural development of six distinct neighborhoods or districts that have a unique mix of arts, cultural and hospitality activities: Broad Ripple Village, The Canal and White River State Park, Fountain Square, Indiana Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue and the Wholesale District. Visit <http://www.bsu.edu/capic/culturalindy/districts.html>.

QUESTION - How can we make better use of our neighborhood parks and open spaces?

ANSWER - Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI)
CILTI protects natural spaces in the face of increasing urban sprawl. Recognizing that a strong economy and continued high quality of life are dependent on the state of the environment, CILTI maintains that development must be balanced with adequate greenspace. CILTI protects land with natural significance and land under development pressure. Visit <http://www.cilti.org/>.

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation

The Department is a nationally accredited park system serving the recreational and leisure needs of Indianapolis. It enforces city ordinances and state laws pertaining to parks and recreational facilities and manages public greenways. It has the power to levy general property taxes to acquire, operate and maintain park and recreation facilities, and to issue general obligation bonds. Contact 327-PARK or <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPR/home.htm>.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Parks Foundation
The Foundation is a nonprofit, privately-funded organization that encourages and

solicits support for parks and greenspace. Visit <http://www.indyparksfoundation.org>.

ANSWER - Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. (KIBI)
See page 14.

ANSWER - Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District

The District provides technical, financial, and educational services to help land users conserve soil, water, and related natural resources. The District provides free conservation technical assistance on: conservation planning, erosion & sediment control, drainage & water management, streamside stabilization, streamside buffers, pond management, wetland development, tree & shrub planting, backyard conservation, wildlife habitat, conservation education, and site development advice. Visit <http://www.marionswcd.org/>.

ANSWER - Purdue Cooperative Extension Service - Capital City Garden Project

The Capital City Garden Project is a community-based educational program in Marion County promoting healthy people and greener neighborhoods through gardening. The program assists schools, community centers, neighborhood groups and individuals. Contact 275-9305 or <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/marion/>.



QUESTION - Some neighborhoods have great traditions and events that help unify the community and make it a fun place to live. How can our neighborhood establish its own unique events and traditions?

ANSWER Indianapolis Cultural Tourism Initiative Funding Program

The Collaborative Marketing Fast Track funding is intended to support joint marketing and communication projects that bolster the goals of the Cultural Development Commission. They promote and highlight arts and cultural activities and showcase Indianapolis as a cultural destination. Applicant must provide tracking, statistical, and audience information upon completion of the project, and share results of the funded project with the Office of Cultural Tourism. In addition, Fast Track funds are designed to:

- Encourage and develop imaginative collaborations and productive partnerships between arts, cultural, heritage, and tourism organizations.
- Attract and retain arts and cultural visitors to build Indianapolis as a cultural destination.
- Build local participation in arts, cultural, and heritage tourism products.

Visit <http://www.indyarts.org/>.

ANSWER Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center

INRC can provide information on other neighborhoods' events and contact information. See page 4.





QUESTION - How can we reduce crime and improve safety in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Indianapolis Police Department (IPD) and Marion County Sheriff's Department (Note: These departments are scheduled to merge in January 2007).

CrimeView Community provides access to law enforcement incident case report information. Reports are based on preliminary information supplied to IPD and the Sheriff's Department. Information about incidents occurring in Beech Grove, Speedway, Lawrence, and Southport are not included on this site. For information about these areas, contact the police agency for that city.

Visit CrimeView Community at <http://imaps.indygov.org/cvc/>.

CrimeWatch is a self-help cooperative effort to reduce crime and the fear of crime in neighborhoods. Participants learn crime prevention techniques that can help lower their risk of becoming victims. A proactive approach against crime is taken through communication and cooperation of citizens, law enforcement, and local government. To learn more about CrimeWatch or about other Marion County public safety programs, visit <http://www.indygov.org/Services/safety.htm>.



ANSWER - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) PSN is a U.S. Department of Justice initiative. PSN's Neighborhood Coordinators work with neighborhoods and community-based organizations and partners to reduce gun crime and gun violence in Indianapolis. Call 920-4116.

ANSWER - Weed and Seed

Weed and Seed is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. Neighborhoods work to control and prevent crime by working with local law enforcement to weed criminals out of the area and bring in prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization services. As of June 2006, there were six Indianapolis Weed and Seed sites. Visit <http://www6.indygov.org/ipd/weedseed/index.htm>.

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Safety:
In healthy neighborhoods, police and citizens partner together to create a safe, crime-free environment. Healthy neighborhoods create safe and nurturing venues for children.



8

Environment:

Healthy communities manage and invest in local properties and the common environment to maintain the community's aesthetic and physical quality.

QUESTION - Who can help improve the appearance of our community?

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development, Division of Compliance

Division of Compliance is responsible for enforcing land use requirements and promoting responsible development. It issues licenses to individuals and businesses engaged in construction activity, issues permits, conducts inspections, and takes other appropriate actions to secure safe construction and assure maintenance of existing structures. Contact 327-8700 or <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DMD/Compliance/home.htm>.

ANSWER - Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. (KIBI)

KIBI provides financial resources, manpower through volunteer recruitment, and expertise in planning and executing beautification and neighborhood improvement projects. KIBI partners with neighborhoods, schools, businesses, nonprofits, and the City. Private contributions enable KIBI to get discounted supplies like tools, equipment, paint, trash bags, trees, flowers, etc. Visit <http://www.kibi.org/>.

ANSWER - Marion County Health Department, Housing and Neighborhood Health Department
See page 9.

ANSWER - Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District
See page 12.

ANSWER - Mayor's Action Center (MAC)
Citizens can report abandoned vehicles, vacant lot and animal control issues, and other problems to the MAC. Contact 327-4MAC (4622) or <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/Mayor/mac.htm>.

QUESTION - How do we request curb and sidewalk improvements in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - City-County Councilors
Contact your city-county councilors about sidewalks and other important neighborhood issues. Find out which city-county councilors serve your area at <http://imaps.indy.gov/eGov/GovntProfile/>.

ANSWER - Mayor's Action Center (MAC)
Citizens can request curb and sidewalk improvements through the MAC. However, the need for services far exceeds available



funding. Neighborhood groups have been asked to help the City determine improvement locations by providing a neighborhood priority list. Therefore, it is important for the neighborhood to work together, often through the neighborhood association and city-county councilor, to prioritize needs. Contact the MAC at 327-4MAC (4622) or <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/Mayor/mac.htm>.

QUESTION - How can my neighborhood keep up-to-date on new developments in the area?

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis, Division of Planning

Community organizations registered with the City are notified of public hearings relating to liquor licenses, rezonings, variances, special exceptions, approvals, administrative appeals, plat approvals, and street, alley, and plat vacations within their community. The Registered Organization data base is also used by City agencies and others to provide the community with information regarding upcoming projects and events such as infrastructure projects, neighborhood clean-ups and community meetings and celebrations. You can view and search the list of organizations, download information to print labels or perform mail merges, and download the Organization Registration Form to register a new organization or update changes to an existing organization at <http://imaps.indy.gov/eGov/RegOrgs>.



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Housing:

Healthy communities offer attractive housing as a community asset and a wealth building opportunity for local families.

QUESTION - Who can help us promote our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors (MIBOR)

MIBOR has helped a number of neighborhood organizations create informational brochures to attract new residents. Contact 956-1912 or <http://www.mibor.com/>.

ANSWER - Neighborhood News on Government TV2 (Channel 16)

Neighborhood News can help neighborhood organizations produce a video that can be used to promote the neighborhood. Neighborhood organizations write and present the information during a five minute piece that airs on Channel 16. Channel 16 staff provides production support. Sessions are taped Wednesday afternoons and/or evenings. New shows air starting on Fridays and run heavily on Government TV2. Bookings are on a first come, first served basis. Contact 327-2018 or http://www.indygov.org/eGov/Cable/Gov_TV/home.htm.

QUESTION - Who can help improve our neighborhood's housing options and conditions?

ANSWER - Banks

Because of federal laws, many banks have increased their efforts to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate, including low- and moder-

ate-income neighborhoods. Contact your local bank and ask for its community reinvestment officer.

ANSWER - Christmas in April, Rebuilding Together Indianapolis
See page 6.

ANSWER - City of Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development, Division of Community Development

The Division administers grants made available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Staff manage five main grants: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG); Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME); Continuum of Care (CoC); and Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA). Staff also manage the Economic Development Initiative (EDI), Section 108 Loan, Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative (BEDI), the Lead Hazard Grant and Department of Labor/HUD Collaborative Grant. Contact 327-5355 or <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DMD/Community/home.htm>.

ANSWER - Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP)
CHIP, the lead organization for implementing the City's plan to end homelessness, can assist neighborhoods in ensuring quality housing at an affordable price and provide linkages to services to help prevent homelessness. Contact 630-0853 or www.chipindy.org.

ANSWER - Faith Based Organizations
See page 7.

ANSWER - Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis
Habitat builds and renovates affordable homes for limited-income families by collaborating with churches, corporations, CDCs, social service agencies, and volunteer groups. To qualify for a Habitat home, applicants must agree to training and work provisions and meet income requirements. Contact 921-2121 or www.indyhabitat.org.

ANSWER - High Schools
Some local school districts build or rehab homes as a class project. Contact your local high school vocational department.



QUESTION (continued from page 15) - Who can help improve our neighborhood's housing options and conditions?

ANSWER - Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

Historic Landmarks Foundation helps save and restore old buildings. Marion County nonprofit community preservation organizations and historic neighborhood foundations can apply for loans from the Fund for Landmark Indianapolis Properties (FLIP) fund. FLIP loans can be used toward the purchase and/or restoration of endangered historic properties. Groups must attach Historic Landmarks' preservation covenants to the deeds of properties assisted by the loan funds. FLIP loans have a \$50,000 limit and low interest terms for the first three years. Contact 638-5264 or www.historiclandmarks.org.

ANSWER - Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

DNR's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology offers programs that might be beneficial in improving older buildings. Visit <http://www.in.gov/dnr/>.

- **Indiana Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit**
Income tax credits are available for privately owned and funded historic preservation activities. Both the federal government and Indiana offer a Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit (RITC) equaling 20% of rehabilitation costs for qualified work at income-producing properties that are certified historic buildings. A net subsidy equaling 40% of qualified rehabilitation costs may be yielded by participation in both programs. Eligible properties include commercial buildings, factories, and old houses (which must be income producing, such as rental properties). Owner-occupied private residences are eligible only for the Indiana Residential Historic Rehabilitation Credit.



- **Residential Historic Rehabilitation Credit**
Available to income taxpayers who undertake certified rehabilitation of historic buildings that are principally used and occupied by a taxpayer as that taxpayer's residence. The State incentive allows a taxpayer to claim a state income tax credit for 20% of the total qualified rehabilitation or preservation cost of a project.

ANSWER - Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (HCDA)

Through homeownership, rental housing and community development programs, HCDA administers financial vehicles and incentives to create affordable housing for rent or purchase and supportive facilities. HCDA administers First Home, First Home/Plus, First Home 100, Mortgage Credit Certificate, My Community Mortgage 100%, Community Solutions 100, Community Home Choice, Rental Housing Tax Credits (RHTCs), Indiana Low-Income Housing Trust Fund, and Multifamily Bonds. Visit <http://www.in.gov/ihcda/>.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development (ICND)

ICND is an association of Indianapolis neighborhood-based community development corporations (CDCs). ICND promotes communication, collaboration, and cooperation among Indianapolis CDCs and links CDCs with institutional partners. Indianapolis CDCs take a comprehensive approach to restoring neighborhoods by combining housing production and economic development with a variety of social support and community building efforts. Visit www.icndindy.org/.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP)

INHP provides safe, decent and affordable housing opportunities to low-to-moderate income residents. INHP offers educational programs and financial coaching to prepare clients for hom-

ownership, as well as assistance finding and closing a mortgage. Contact 925-1400 or <http://www.inhp.org/>.

ANSWER - Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

LISC helps resident-led, community-based development organizations transform distressed communities and neighborhoods. By providing capital, technical expertise, training and information, LISC supports the development of local leadership and the creation of affordable housing, commercial, industrial and community facilities, businesses and jobs. Contact 396-0588 or <http://www.lisc.org/indianapolis>.

ANSWER - The Rainbow Book

"The Rainbow Book", produced by the Information and Referral Network, Inc., has a section devoted to community housing solutions. Visit <http://www.irni.org/>.

QUESTION - Who can help individuals find affordable housing in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Indiana Housing Now

Indiana Housing Now is a free housing search service that provides information on affordable rentals, Section 8 properties, tax credit properties and special needs housing. Contact 1-877-428-8844 or www.indianahousingnow.org.



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Business Diversity:

Healthy communities possess a complement of retail and professional services.

QUESTION - Who can help bolster commercial development in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Ball State University Building Better Communities Program

Building Better Communities is designed to spur economic development and quality of life advancement by matching university expertise and resources to community needs. Visit <http://www.bsu.edu/bbc/>.

ANSWER - *Fostering Commercial Urban Strategies (FOCUS)*
See page 7.

ANSWER - *Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development (ICND)*
See page 16.

ANSWER - *Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)*
See page 16.

QUESTION - Who can help bolster small businesses in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Ball State University Midwest Entrepreneurial Center

The Center promotes entrepreneurship by providing educational programs and proj-



ects, offering assistance to emerging entrepreneurs and maturing businesses, and promoting cross-campus collaboration. Students assess local business development opportunities by holding focus groups with business and community leaders and conducting research. Project teams can assess several areas, including: potential markets for business development; funding availability for business development; availability of residents with sufficient education and skills to provide a base for business development; and barriers and advantages to complete new venture development, including transportation, logistics and taxes. In conjunction with a community entrepreneurship committee, staff assist in developing an entrepreneurship action plan based on the project's findings. Visit <http://www.bsu.edu/entrepreneurship/>.

ANSWER - *Community Development Corporations (CDCs)*

CDCs work with local communities and neighborhood associations on economic development issues. They take a comprehensive approach to restoring neighborhoods by combining housing production and economic development with a variety of social support and community building efforts. Contact ICND for the CDC in your area at www.icndindy.org/.

ANSWER - *Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce*

The Chamber is an association of large and small businesses. Contact 464-2200 or <http://www.indychamber.com/>.

QUESTION (continued from page 17)- Who can help bolster small businesses in our neighborhood?

ANSWER - Indiana Small Business Development Center

The Center offers free and low cost information, management counseling, and educational services designed to support small business owners and potential entrepreneurs. Contact 234-2082 or <http://www.isbdc.org/>.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Private Industry Council (IPIC)

IPIC finds workers with the skills companies need. Contact 639-4441 or <http://www.ipic.org/forbusiness.htm>

ANSWER - Indianapolis Small Business Loan Fund

The Fund provides alternative financing to stable small businesses in targeted core urban neighborhoods. Loans must create or retain jobs or help develop, rehabilitate, or revitalize the neighborhood. Contact Central Indiana Small Business Development Center at 233-7232 or www.isbdc.org.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Urban Enterprise Association (IUEA)

IUEA encourages business development, expansion and retention within the Urban Enterprise Zone. Contact 974-2240 or <http://www.u-e-a.org/>.

ANSWER - Neighborhood Self-Employment Initiative (NSI)

NSI helps individuals explore, start and grow successful small businesses. Contact 917-3266 or <http://www.nsibiz.org/>.

ANSWER - SCORE Association

SCORE helps small businesses by providing free confidential business counseling and low-cost seminars in all areas of business planning, start-up, and operation. Contact 226-7264 or <http://www.indyscore.org/>.

ANSWER - The Indy Partnership

The Indy Partnership provides specialized knowledge and assistance for companies and site selection consultants to make informed business location decisions. It provides information on available buildings and land, community profiles, and business incentive programs. Contact 236-6262 or www.indypartnership.com.

ANSWER - U.S. Small Business Administration

The Indiana branch offers free counseling to aspiring entrepreneurs as well as small business veterans through SCORE, Women Business Centers and Small Business Development Centers. It also offers assistance to businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals through the 8(a) Business Development Program. It has staff to advise women business owners and veterans who want to start their own business. Contact 226-7272 or <http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov/in/>.

Economy/Jobs:

Healthy communities have an integrated economic relationship with the surrounding region providing both producers and consumers and generating economic opportunity. Healthy neighborhoods provide a setting where individuals can become able to participate in the economy, either in the work force or through entrepreneurial activity.

QUESTION - Who can help our neighborhood residents find jobs and job training and help our neighborhood businesses find workers?

ANSWER - Indiana Department of Workforce Development (IDWD)

IDWD has employment programs. Contact 1-888-967-5663 or <http://www.in.gov/dwd/>.

ANSWER - Indianapolis Private Industry Council (IPIC)

IPIC helps people find jobs, provides job training, and helps businesses find workers. Contact 639-4441 or <http://www.ipic.org/forseekers.htm>.

ANSWER - The HELPLINE

Call the HELPLINE at 2-1-1 or www.imcpl.org/cgi-bin/irntop.pl.

ANSWER - The Rainbow Book

"The Rainbow Book", produced by the Information and Referral Network, Inc., has a section devoted to community employment solutions. Visit www.irni.org





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