



Indiana Uplands READI Frequently Asked Questions

What is READI?

The Regional Economic Acceleration & Development Initiative (READI) was formally launched by Governor Holcomb on May 3, 2021. The purpose of this initiative is to create an “opportunity to accelerate economic resilience and growth and become magnets for the talent Hoosier businesses need to thrive.”¹

What types of regional development strategies is IEDC interested in funding?

According to the IEDC website, the IEDC urges regions to select strategies that will make positive developments in quality of place and quality of life, quality of opportunity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and talent attraction and development.

Who was involved in the process for the Uplands READI Development Plan?

Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI) and Radius Indiana (Radius) assembled a 17-member regional steering committee comprised of anchor institutions and regional organizations. ROI, Radius, and its partners, Indiana Innovation Institute (IN3) and the IU Center for Rural Engagement (CRE), conducted a listening tour in all 11 counties in June 2021 to hear about the accomplishments and priorities of each county. Over 200 community stakeholders participated in the listening sessions.

The information from the listening sessions formed the basis for the steering committee’s development of eight working groups. Each working group was formed with regionally relevant subject matter experts in the areas of digital inclusion, housing, innovation & entrepreneurship, quality of place, talent & business attraction, talent development, transportation & tourism, and health. The working groups met multiple times to identify, assess and explore projects and programs to enhance each of these areas.

How were programs/projects submitted?

ROI created an online tool that allowed Uplands organizations and individuals to provide information on potential projects and programs that have the capacity to grow the region’s economic outcomes through investments in talent, business, and quality of place opportunities. ROI, Radius, anchor institutions, and community organizations publicized the tool widely among regional media outlets, organizational newsletters, social media, and word of mouth.

¹ Regional Economic Acceleration & Development Initiative Frequently Asked Questions --
<https://www.iedc.in.gov/program/indiana-readi/about>

How were programs/projects selected?

More than 270 program/project proposals were received through the portal. The proposals were categorized by focus area and provided to the appropriate working group for review. The proposals had varying degrees of completeness; many of them were purely conceptual. Of course, not every great idea was included in the plan. Working groups prioritized projects, and there was a lot of work done to garner some concrete budget numbers in order to get projects included.

Many projects aligned along similar themes. Those programs/projects were often grouped together, and an overarching program was created to allow for a more comprehensive regional reach. An example would be the recapitalization of Ready Communities to assist the many wonderful quality of life projects submitted through the portal. Proposals were reviewed and/or selected by their working groups to serve as examples or a sampling of what things the Uplands could do should it receive funding. Moving forward, whether we are funded or not, is to implement as many of these great projects as we are able for the improvement of our region and the people who call it home.

Are programs/projects that are identified in the RDP guaranteed to receive READI funding?

The projects and programs identified in RDP serve as strong examples of how READI funding could be deployed to meet our regional goals and objectives. However, inclusion in the plan does not guarantee that READI funding will be available for a particular project or program. Should the Uplands receive READI funding, a process will be defined for deploying the funds in accordance with the guidance and parameters established by IEDC. Proposals included in the RDP and others that were not yet fully developed may be considered for READI funding. Until IEDC has approved the Uplands for funding and has outlined funding parameters, there is no guarantee any proposal will or will not receive funds.

When will we know if our region will receive READI funding?

IEDC will announce funding decisions in December 2021.

Who will manage READI funding opportunities on behalf of the Indiana Uplands?

ROI will serve as the administrative entity responsible for the implementation of the region's strategic plan and successful deployment of funding made available through READI. Once clear guidelines on what can and cannot be funded are received from IEDC, a process for moving forward will be determined by the steering committee.

How can the Uplands region use the READI Regional Development Plan?

This plan is designed to be used as a road map for achieving the region's goals and objectives. The plan brings together a wealth of data and regional information that can be used as the foundation for local governments, businesses, and organizations to establish priorities, pursue resources, and find partners to help communities achieve their goals.

How can I stay involved?

ROI and its partners will be doing a follow-up READI session in every county in the Uplands to talk about the READI process and next steps. Please make sure to attend. Please check our website at <https://regionalopportunityinc.org/readi/> for updates.