

Community Mentors Program

PROGRAM GUIDE

OVERVIEW

The Community Mentors Program is a community engagement and economic development leadership event hosted in partnership with FHLBank Indianapolis. The event is intended to bring together FHLBank Indianapolis member financial institutions with local community leaders to help make connections, stimulate thinking, and challenge conventional wisdom about community development.

Applicants (Lead Partner) can either be FHLBank Indianapolis member financial institutions or local community organizations (government entities, community foundations, or nonprofit organizations) that host a full-day workshop in their community. Before the workshop convenes:

- The Lead Partner identifies three community or economic development issues they would like discussed at the workshop.
- FHLBank Indianapolis will assist in identifying appropriate community development experts (Mentors) to present on their experiences addressing similar issues.

The workshop concludes with an interactive roundtable session where attendees break out to discuss the topics addressed in the workshop. Led by the community mentors, each roundtable identifies actionable items the community can implement or coordinate following the workshop.

The recipient then receives a grant up to \$50,000 to host Community Mentors and fund the initiative identified at the event.

PURPOSE

Community financial institutions play a key role in community development. The Community Mentors Program provides the opportunity to introduce our member financial institutions to community development partners and vice versa, ultimately building partnerships and strengthening communities in Indiana and Michigan.

ELIGIBILITY

Member financial institutions, nonprofit community partners, community foundations, or government entities (a local unit of government) are eligible to apply (as the Lead Partner) to host an event on behalf of their community. A nonprofit community partner, community foundation, or government entity can apply to host the event in partnership with a FHLBank Indianapolis member financial institution. If a lead partner does not apply with a FHLBank Indianapolis member financial institution, then the bank will invite members from the surrounding area. This provides an opportunity to introduce and cultivate relationships amongst community partners and our members.

The Lead Partner will identify and invite community stakeholders to attend the event. It is recommended the maximum number of attendees should be limited to no more than 50 in order to ensure meaningful and conducive conversations during the roundtables. Community inclusiveness is key to implementing community objectives that result from the Community Mentors workshop. FHLBank Indianapolis recommends representation from key stakeholders in the community, including but not limited to, community-based organizations, government leadership, local business community, real estate developers, economic development professionals, community foundation, youth, nonprofit sectors, school corporations, religious institutions, and resident groups.

Mentors will be selected by FHLBank Indianapolis based on the discussion topics identified by the Lead Partner. Mentors are subject matter experts that come from existing partnerships, FHLBank Indianapolis member financial institutions, the FHLBank Indianapolis Affordable Housing Advisory Council, or board of directors.

Learn more at fhlbi.com/communitymentors



LOCATIONS

Two Community Mentor workshops will be held each year, with one event in Michigan and one in Indiana. The workshop can be held virtually or in-person, whichever is best for the community. If the event is held in-person, the venue should be a community event space of the Lead Partner's choice. The event space must comfortably accommodate the attendance size, parking, lunch and snacks, and presentation equipment. The Lead Partner will coordinate with FHLBank Indianapolis staff to secure the event space and cover rental and food expenses associated with the workshop.

TIMELINE

In preparation for the Community Mentors Program in 2024, the application cycle will begin in 2023 with the anticipated schedule:

- **September 29, 2023:** Program and Application Materials Released
- **October 3, 2023:** Application Webinar
- **November 17, 2023:** Applications Due
- **December 20, 2023:** Communities Announced
- **Spring - Summer 2024:** Community Mentors Workshops

Applicants must identify the preferred month to host their Community Mentors event (March - August). FHLBank Indianapolis will try to accommodate preferences and schedule the event upon announcement of the selected communities, dependent on the availability of the venue.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please refer to the Community Mentors Program Application to address the following:

APPLICANTS

- Eligible applicants are: (must be in Indiana or Michigan)
 - FHLBank Indianapolis Member Financial Institutions;
 - Government entities;
 - Community foundations; or
 - Nonprofit organizations (with an affordable housing or community development affiliation)

APPLICATION

- The application must identify key details of the event at the time of application, including:
 - **Lead Partner** — entity responsible for planning event with FHLBank Indianapolis. FHLBank Indianapolis member financial institutions, government entities, community foundations, or non-profit organizations (with an affordable housing or community development affiliation) in Indiana or Michigan are eligible to apply.
 - **Partner Organizations** — organization that is supporting the Lead Partner to host the event. This can be a FHLBank Indianapolis Member financial institution, government entities, community foundations, or non-profit organizations. A Partner Organization is not required.
 - **Community** — the specific area that is intended to benefit from the Community Mentors Program. Community can mean a single neighborhood, multiple neighborhoods, city, county, or region (multiple cities and/or counties). The following must be provided:
 - Brief description of the community
 - Strengths and weaknesses of current local economy
 - Brief overview of housing market
 - Current community challenges and efforts taken to address them
 - **Event Information** — description of why you want to host the event, three community issues/topics you want help in addressing at the event (including, but not limited to: blight elimination, land banking, leadership capacity, housing needs and attraction (market rate, affordable or workforce), placemaking, rural development, land use issues, redevelopment opportunities for specific sites, etc.)

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- **Event Participants** — key stakeholders in the community to be invited to attend the workshop (including but not limited to: community-based organizations, government leadership, local business community, real estate developers, economic development professionals, community foundation, youth, nonprofit sectors, school corporations, religious institutions, and resident groups.)
- **Event space** — If the event will be hosted in-person rather than virtually, the event space must be a centrally located community event space that provides enough seating for entire invitation list, lunch, and round table discussion. The space must have a projector, screen, and microphone available. The space must have available parking for attendees. On-site catering is preferred, but not required. If catering is not available, the Lead Partner must identify a local caterer.
- Applications will be reviewed by FHLBank Indianapolis staff and the strongest applicant will be awarded. The most complete and well addressed application with location, previous FHLBank Indianapolis program engagement, and opportunity to engage Members will be taken into consideration. FHLBank Indianapolis' decision on which applicant to award the grant under this program shall be made at the sole discretion of its staff and is not subject to appeal.

AWARDS

- Two applicants will be awarded—one in Michigan and one in Indiana.
- FHLBank Indianapolis will award each recipient up to \$50,000 implementation grant that will cover the cost of event and the initiative as identified. Grants can go towards the cost of creating a community plan or study, hiring a consultant, a specific community project already identified in a previous plan, or a specific initiative identified at the Community Mentors event.
 - Implementation grants cannot be paid to a member financial institution.

Please submit application to housing@fhlbi.com by 5:00 pm (Eastern)
November 17, 2023 with Subject heading: **Community Mentors Application**

For program questions, please contact either:
Ashlen Sharpe at asharpe@fhlbi.com
Erica Petty-Saunders at epsaunders@fhlbi.com

