

There's money available to help communities plan for the future, determine their priorities and then undertake the construction needed to meet their goals.

The state's Office of Rural Affairs recently announced that communities are underutilizing Community Focus Fund Planning Grants (CFFs). The planning grants are the first step toward CFF construction grants.

It starts with a simple letter of intent, and SDG can help guide you through the whole process.

Community Focus Funds

What are Community Focus Fund Grants (CFFs)?

CFFs are how communities get things done. Projects throughout Indiana funded by this state-run program include:

- Downtown revitalizations
- Comprehensive plans
- Historic preservation
- Community centers
- Fire stations
- Daycare facilities
- Infrastructure

Funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program, they are designed to benefit low-to-moderate income residents or eliminate blight.

There are two forms of CCF grants: Planning grants, which are used to research need, set priorities and build community support; and construction grants, which cover items such as engineering and construction costs.

CFF Planning Grant

What can a CFF planning grant do for our community?

CFFs offer a chance to plan and pay for vital projects that have few other local funding streams available. The planning grants also offer communities the chance to determine what is needed, feasible and supported by residents.

What else should I know about the grants?

Small (non-entitlement) cities, incorporated towns and counties can apply. Residents of the project area must meet income guidelines.

The \$50,000 planning grant requires a 10% minimum match. Applications can be submitted at the end of each month and are usually awarded 30-45 days after submission.

The \$500,000 construction grant requires at least a 10% match. They are awarded in June and November.



SDG's process is built on
simplicity, buy-in,
implementation, and review.

SDG Can Help

How do we apply for a CFF planning grant?

You must submit a letter of intent to the Indiana Office of Rural Affairs. They will schedule a site visit and give advice on how to make your application more competitive. If you are going to use outside consultants to do the planning, design work, etc., they must be selected before the application is submitted.

How can SDG help?

SDG has over 14 years of community and economic development planning experience throughout Indiana. We have worked with many communities on CFF-driven downtown revitalizations, comprehensive plans and feasibility studies.

SDG will advise you on your application and conduct your planning process. We will help the steering committee manage the project and conduct the meetings. We will help your community reach consensus on project details and write the reports. When SDG finishes, you are ready to set your plan in motion and apply for CFF Construction Grants.

Give us a call at

1-800-939-2449

Strategic Development Group, Inc.

SDG

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SDG

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Who is **SDG**?

One of Indiana's most respected consulting firms, Strategic Development Group, Inc. has worked in more than 100 communities with clients in government, business and the non-profit sector. Our services include research, strategic planning, and project management. We will work with organizations of all sizes and budgets so they can improve their communities for the future.

SDG's Project Managers

THAYR RICHEY, Ph.D., president of SDG, has been an instrumental figure in Indiana economic development. Thayr has pioneered many of the successful methods used by SDG in information collection, report development, public input solicitation, and research analysis. In addition, Thayr has served as the director of a local economic development organization, taught at the post-secondary level, served as the executive director of the Indiana Department of Commerce and is past president of the Indiana Economic Development Association.

SCOTT BURGINS, Senior Project Manager, received his Masters of Public Administration from Indiana University. Scott has led projects throughout the state including work on downtown revitalization, economic development planning, affordable housing and community visioning. He is project manager for the 39-county Southern Indiana Rural Development Project. Scott also serves on the Bloomington Plan Commission and teaches journalism at Indiana University.

MARK KEILLOR, CED, is a Senior Project Manager at SDG with a primary responsibility for economic impact, workforce and community surveys, and related projects. Mark is a former director of a local economic development organization, has been responsible for the economic development activities of a major Indiana utility, and has won two national awards for development of an existing business and workforce survey and assessment.

BRIAN O'NEILL, Senior Project Manager, has over twenty years of experience in strategic planning. He holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame and Indiana University. He is also past President of both the Monroe County Commissioners and Plan Commission. He has facilitated strategic plans for a broad range of organizations including urban enterprise associations, municipalities, libraries, schools, and local economic organizations. Brian currently serves as the President of the Board for Options for Better Living.

MATT KINGHORN, Project Manager, is a 2003 graduate of Indiana University. His background in geography and GIS mapping systems allows him to provide GIS analysis and map production for a variety of SDG projects. Matt has managed a wide range of projects including SIRDP, downtown revitalizations, housing needs assessments, workforce development, and feasibility studies.

SUE WANZER, Project Manager, joined SDG after 30 years in higher education administration, teaching, and city government. She has been a consultant and frequent speaker on leadership development, service learning, diversity education, disability issues, organizational development and education. She serves as President of the MCCSC Board of School Trustees and as President of the Girl Scouts of Tulip Trace Council in south central Indiana.

Strategic Development Group...
helping your community see the future.



Recent SDG CFF Projects

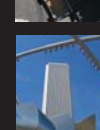
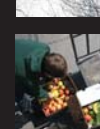
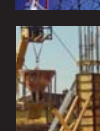
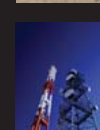
- City of Rensselaer Downtown Revitalization
- Town of Stinesville Revitalization
- Greene County Feasibility Study
- Town of Akron Downtown Revitalization
- Town of Hamilton Downtown Revitalization

Give us a call at

1-800-939-2449



Downtown Revitalizations



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**Monthly CFF
Planning Funds
Available Now!**

**Call us today to
find out how your
community can plan
for the future!**

1-800-939-2449

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