

# Community Development Course for Regional Leaders

*A Foundation for Building Stronger, More Sustainable Communities*

Economic and demographic shifts continually and increasingly test communities of all sizes. To remain relevant and to thrive, community leaders must tackle challenges and pursue opportunities in a comprehensive and creative way. These ongoing changes and the need for new approaches demonstrate the value of community development. It is necessary for community leadership, both official and unofficial, to undertake the training required to build capacity and help pursue strategies that put people and places first.

The **Indiana Communities Institute (ICI)**, in partnership with **Creative Insight Community Development (CICD)**, has developed a community development educational experience that:

- Reflects current best practices in the field;
- Is rooted in applicable and proven research;
- Challenges participants with new and constructive paradigms;
- Utilizes different and creative teaching techniques;
- Helps establish a common language and shared responsibility; and
- Offers practical takeaways.

Experts with decades of community development experience lead participants through seven core sessions over 2.5 days with exercises and conversations facilitated throughout. This training is designed for elected officials, community leaders, civic group representatives, regional developers, engaged citizens, and anyone who is passionate about where they live and dedicated to making it even better.

## Learning Framework

➤ **Foundational Principles:** Defining community, growth vs. development, capacity building, trust + social capital, etc.

➤ **Civic Design:** Defining terms, space vs. place, elements of place, connectivity, placemaking, design as a solution, etc.

➤ **Readiness for Change:** Ubiquity of change, myth of status quo, risk, reluctance vs. openness, managing diversity, etc.

➤ **Integrated Storytelling:** Basic principles, starting with why, narratives, creative mediums and methods, etc.

➤ **Community Engagement:** Understanding power & conflict, framing issues, engaging contradiction, etc.

➤ **Comprehensive Wealth Approach:** Rethinking wealth, capital definitions, stocks & flows, decision making, etc.

➤ **Local Economies:** Overviews & definitions, waves of change, entrepreneurial ecosystems, export based theory, etc.

➤ **Tools & Resources:** Community visioning, facilitation tips, placemaking principles, etc.



**BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Indiana Communities Institute