

# Indiana Uplands Digital Inclusion Grant Workshop

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020



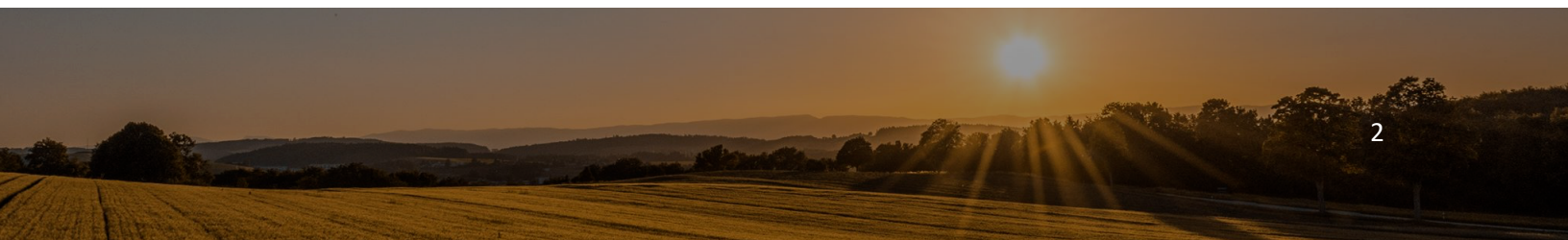
## Information Sheet

### Comprehensive Digital Inclusion Plan Opportunity

Regional Opportunity Initiative, Inc. (ROI) was established in 2016 to support economic and community prosperity in 11 counties of the Indiana Uplands: Brown, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Owen and Washington. Through coordinated initiatives designed to address workforce, education, and quality of place in the Uplands, ROI works with stakeholders across the region to grow, attract, and retain workforce, industry and investment in the Indiana Uplands

As the current socio-economic landscape continues to digitize, regions must make sure they are digitally inclusive to prosper and increase the quality of life for their residents. As the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly shown, communities with inadequate connectivity and/or digital proficiency struggle to implement mitigation strategies such as e-learning and remote work. Digital inclusion strategies must be interwoven into any community and economic development efforts. This need was noted in the 2018 county Quality of Life and Workforce Attraction plans. To facilitate solutions to this need, ROI will work with the Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD) on the creation of county Digital Inclusion Plans that will form the basis for the Regional Digital Inclusion Plan.

The Digital Inclusion Plan process will provide counties with resources necessary to evaluate the threats digital exclusion poses, determine community digital assets and deficiencies, and create a plan to help their community adapt and prosper in this digital age. It is expected that this planning effort will equip communities to successfully seek funding from available sources to implement the plan. Each county that makes use of the provided resources must complete and submit the county Digital Inclusion Plan template by the noted deadline.



## Timeline

Planning Timeline	
September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Inclusion Planning effort announced</li> <li>Invitation for DAT's to attend Kick-off Meeting</li> </ul>
October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kick-off meeting: Scheduled for Oct. 5<sup>th</sup></li> <li>ROI to award facilitation grants/agreements</li> <li>CDATs complete the Intelligent Community checklist (due Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>CDATs facilitate the dissemination of the Digital Capital survey (available for 3 weeks starting Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>). The survey is available electronically and the responses will go directly to PCRD</li> </ul>
November 2020 – January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCRD data analysis</li> <li>PCRD/ROI jointly develops the questions/instruments and facilitate public meetings</li> </ul>
January - March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public input sessions to validate the Digital Capital survey data</li> <li>PCRD to incorporate additional data into findings</li> </ul>
February – April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDATs to complete the PCRD Digital Inclusion Plan template (due April 23<sup>rd</sup>)</li> <li>Create Regional DAT (RDAT)</li> </ul>
May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from PCRD/ROI on county plans</li> <li>Kick-off meeting for Regional DAT</li> </ul>
May – July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional DAT to work with PCRD/ROI on Regional Plan</li> </ul>
August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROI review of Regional Plan</li> </ul>
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of the Plan</li> </ul>



## Virtual Workshop

The counties participating in the Digital Inclusion Plan should attend the 2-hour workshop on October 5, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. Each county will be asked to bring key members from their community to be on their county Digital Advisory Teams (CDAT). Possible candidates to be team members might include leaders from business/industry, county, city or town government, education, health care, financial institutions, service providers/REMCs, non-profit organizations, and other key populations in your area. Meeting schedules for each CDAT will depend on each county's previous work in this field. Regardless, ROI and PCRCD will be prepared to meet each county where they are to create a comprehensive and robust digital plan to contribute to the region.

ROI will provide information on process requirements, timeline, expected deliverables, funding parameters, and final product. Each county will complete a Notice of Participation form outlining the following:

- County
- Lead organization
- Organization type
- IRS status: 501(c)(3), 501(c)4, 501(c)6, for-profit
- Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Address
- Website
- Name, title, and email/phone of primary project contact



## **Responsibilities**

Responsibilities for each CDAT will include: completing PCRD's Intelligent Community Checklist, brainstorming best ways to disseminate the Digital Capital survey in their community, and working with ROI and PCRD to complete a county Digital Inclusion Plan template to be included in the Regional Digital Inclusion Plan. The CDATs must lead the effort in survey distribution in their area because residents are far more likely to complete a survey given to them by a local entity over one they are unfamiliar with. This strategy is liable to produce a high participation rate and create reliable data resulting in a comprehensive plan poised to positively impact the digital inclusiveness of the entire Upland region. As mentioned above, some counties may have to meet more often than others depending on their digital plan baseline. Data collected from the survey will go directly to the staff of PCRD who will use their expertise in data analysis to draw conclusions for each county. ROI and PCRD will then work with the CDATs to fill out the county Digital Inclusion Plan template using the data from the survey.

## **Funding Guidelines**

Facilitation grants will be available to public entities with a county-wide focus. One grant will be made available to each county within the Uplands region. Eligible applicants include organizations that meet the definition of exempt entities as defined by the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)3, and treated as a public charity described in Code section 170(b)(1)(A). Other exempt organizations that do not possess 501(c)(3) status (such as organizations described in Code sections 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6)), may be eligible for funding but will be subject to an enhanced level of due diligence and expenditure responsibility to ensure such grants are used exclusively for charitable purposes.

County-level entities that receive planning grants will use funds for the collection data and the preparation of the county Digital Inclusion Plans. Expenditures are eligible if the expense directly contributes toward the



To receive funds, county Digital Advisory Teams must submit the required Notice of Participation to ROI no later than October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Deliverables must be received by ROI as outlined in the timeline.

If you have any questions at any time, feel free to contact:

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