



Good Works Indiana

A Blueprint for Community Renewal

“All great communities start with Good Works”

goodworks
indiana

Office of Faith-Based and
Community Initiatives





Good Works Indiana

Good Works Indiana is a model for cities and towns that mobilizes the full energy of government to support the community-building work of value-shaping institutions:

**Churches, Neighborhood Associations,
Community-Based Agencies**

Who are uniquely designed to support families, provide activities for children, and enhance community renewal.



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Good Works Guiding Principles

- o Local pains are best healed with local hands.
- o Sustainability is best achieved through community capacity-building.
- o There is always a solution to a problem.
- o A disaster is not the time to hand out business cards.



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Good Works Indiana Mission

To encourage the *full energy* of the State of Indiana to enhance the community-building work of religious congregations, neighborhood associations, and other *value-shaping organizations* – the grassroots institutions that are *uniquely capable* of strengthening families, providing positive activities and mentors for children, and community renewal.



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Core Strengths

Faith Community

- Ability to Stabilize: Individuals and community
- Ability to Mobilize: The individual and community around a just cause.
- Ability to Transform: Individuals to transform communities

Community-Building

- Ability to Value: The skills and resources of all stakeholders.
- Ability to Harness: The power of voluntary collaborative partnerships
- Ability to Identify: The assets in a local institutions, physical infrastructures and local economy

Government

- Ability to Convene: People together not unlike a civic switchboard.
- Ability to Leverage: By attracting additional resources
- Ability to Highlight: Good Works and best practices



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Building Better Neighborhoods

A Brief History

- In the early 1990's the city of Indianapolis faced a lack of collaborative structures for individuals of all ages to work together to bridge the gap between community needs and viable solutions.
- Communities faced these challenges continually as individuals, often unaware of resources, (whether absent or existent), struggled to find support in addressing the challenges faced by their youth and families.
- Although this broken cycle between resources and needs exacerbated and hindered solutions from being applied to interconnected problems; great opportunities existed for all ages to serve their communities, assume leadership responsibilities, and develop the necessary skills for effective leadership and participation.



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Building Better Neighborhoods

A Brief History

- o In 1992 the City of Indianapolis engaged in the first phase of a strategic urban revitalization plan dubbed **Building Better Neighborhoods** that invested over \$400 million “bricks and sticks” investments in urban neighborhoods.
- o The second phase starting in 1996 placed more emphasis on resources and personnel hours to assist communities in rebuilding, repairing and restoring the social infrastructure.
- o **Building Better Neighborhoods** became a collaborative effort among city government, churches, synagogues, mosques, and neighborhood organizations enhancing the “community-building” work of these entities.



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Building Better Neighborhoods

“Community Successes”

- Received “Best Practices” Award from Housing and Urban Development in 1998.
- Developed the largest faith-based collaboration in Indianapolis with over 700 churches and grassroots programs involved with Initiative.
- Leveraged over \$1,000,000.00 of public and private resources and funds to support faith-based and grassroots efforts.
- Conducted the first Latino Town Hall meeting in Indianapolis, with over 12 Marion County agencies and over 100 attendees.
- Hosted a nationally recognized “Faith-Based Strategies To Reduce Teen Pregnancy” in Indianapolis.
- Co-sponsored the first Urban/Suburban Church Partnership to engage dialogue around the issue of racial diversity through building relationships between urban and suburban congregations.



Good Works Indiana

A Blueprint For Community Renewal

Good Works Indiana engages collaborative partnerships between state government and local faith-based and community organizations to strengthen their ability to renew communities and transform lives. Housed within the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, **Good Works Indiana** supports value-shaping organizations by :

- Connecting like-minded individuals to share ideas, resources, and mentor relationships. *(Convening)*
- Enhancing relationships through partnerships that connect to or increases resources. *(Leveraging)*
- Bringing attention to best practices that exist statewide. *(Highlighting)*



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Good Works Stakeholders Roles

Communities

- Value-shaping institutions are vital to our community
- These institutions are doing important and necessary work to renew the social fabric of communities.
- They need to see local government as a partner.
- They must be encouraged to do the work they are uniquely suited to do – the task of renewing communities and transforming lives.
- They must be called upon to collaborate in the times of disasters.



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Good Works Stakeholders Roles

Local Government

- Government should support the work of faith and community-based organizations and other value-shaping institutions.
- Public officials often can use their roles as public servants to spotlight positive efforts and emphasize the importance of these institutions.
- Government can help faith and community-based groups form partnerships and connect with community renewal efforts by leveraging existing private and public resources.
- Government can assist faith and community-based agencies keep the community functioning during the event of a disaster.



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Key Components

“Good Works” Directive Director of “Good Works” Initiative

“Good Works” Capacity-building Matrix

“Good Works” Service Awards

“Good Works” Commission

“Good Works” Outreach Team

“Good Works” Tours

“Good Works” E-Newsletter

“Good Works” H.A.M. List

“Good Works” Hotline

“Good Works” Neighborhoods

“Good Works” Pledge

The logo for Good Works Indiana features a stylized map of the state in green and blue, with a yellow swoosh. The text "goodworks indiana" is written in a sans-serif font, with "goodworks" in blue and "indiana" in green. Below the map, it says "Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives".

Good Works Indiana

Toolkit

Useful Strategies and Resources

Adopt-A-Block

Adopt-A-School

Adopt-A-Park

AmeriCorps*State Program

BAN “Bond Anticipation Note”

CDBG “Community Development Block Grants

City Surplus Giveaways

TIFS and HoTIFS (Housing Tax Increment Finance)



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12 Tips for Success

1. Develop the resolve to do this.
2. Adopt a non-prescriptive attitude.
3. Send this attitude down the pipeline.
4. Lay the groundwork before the public announcement.
5. Be Creative
6. Establish Trust
7. Follow through
8. Exercise Patience
9. Encourage Variety
10. Promote Collaboration
11. Monitor Scale
12. Plan for Sustainability



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..a few words of wisdom Challenges

- Managing the perception of “scarcity of resources” conflict that occurs between Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs).
- Reduce the feeling of neglect faced by non-targeted neighborhoods who may struggle with other less pronounced issues within their neighborhoods.
- There’s always the potential for tension between the executive branch and the legislative branch when initiatives such as these are announced and implemented. Keep an open line of communication between **Good Works** staff and city council members.

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