

THE GUIDING QUESTION

How can a flagship public research university **connect** its resources with rural and micropolitan communities to **improve** social conditions that **foster** economic development?



"The social determinants of health are conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality of life indicates." (HP2020)

IU Bloomington approaches this question with three distinct areas of strength:

- 1. Research and teaching of a comprehensive university campus
- 2. Volunteer power of more than 40,000 students
- Flexibility to develop academic programs to meet rural and regional needs

Research & teaching

The center leverages the IU Bloomington resources of:

- Nearly 9,000 faculty and staff
- 550+ academic programs
- **200+** research centers and institutes

Volunteer power

IU Corps has helped communities across the state, nation, and world connect with:

- **230+** student organizations
- **160** community engagement programs
- 200 service-learning classes

Flexible academic programming

New programs

- Masters of Social Work program focused on mental health and addictions
- Masters in Intelligent Systems
 Engineering projects focused on technological and data support

New opportunities

- School of Public & Environmental Affairs certificate focused on arts management in rural communities
- Masters of Architecture program developed in collaboration with the Columbus community



The center is a model for connecting resources

- Platform to bring the IU's distinct strengths to communities
- Portal for communities to more easily connect with IU
- People who make great things happen

THE OPERATION

How does the Center for Rural Engagement work?

The center focuses on six critical areas

- Health and wellness
- Sustainable communities and environments
- Quality of place

- Capacity building and leadership development
- Educational attainment
- Student-focused entrepreneurship and economic development

Meeting rural and micropolitan needs

- Community-identified challenges and opportunities
- Replicable, adaptable, data-driven scalable solutions
- Diverse partnerships
- Multiple methodologies

Key methodologies

- IU Corps
 Coordinating student talent and energy
- Data analysis
 Identifying common themes and long-term needs
- Buying and hiring power
 Focusing to support regional economic health

- Focus areas and centers
 Responding to community needs
 with existing and new resources
- Research engagements
 Conducting long-term,
 multidisciplinary initiatives focused
 on regional needs

Sustaining Hoosier Communities

The initiative has demonstrated **successful collaborations** and **evolving methodologies** with its work in Lawrence County.

By the numbers

- 15 projects
- 20 courses
- 550+ students engaged

Community surveys

- A survey on mental health and addiction by Masters of Social Work students helped identify integrated treatment models for rural communities.
- A survey by School of Public Health students led to recommendations for the sustainable use of the decommissioned Avoca Fish Hatchery.

Questions? Get in touch.

- Online: rural.indiana.edu
- Email: iucre@indiana.edu