

WHIN’s Regional Cultivation Fund (RCF) —Round 1 Awards

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Through the generous support of Lilly Endowment, Inc., WHIN’s Regional Cultivation Fund awarded its first round of innovative grants aimed at enhancing regional quality of place. These big-impact, multi-county projects will increase vitality, education and connectivity in the Wabash Heartland Region. Collectively, these projects represent an exciting mix of technology, learning, placemaking, and art that will benefit residents in each of the region’s 10 counties, including Benton, Carroll, Cass Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, Warren and White. More than 60 different local and regional organizations collaborated to bring these eight great projects to fruition.

Frontier School Corporation, planning grant - \$10,000
Digital Agriculture Testbeds at Regional High Schools

Project description – Turn FFA land plots managed by partner school districts into digital agriculture testbeds and living labs for students, area farmers, and ag businesses to experiment with data collection in practice.

of counties involved: 3 (Pulaski, Carroll, White)

Regional impact: Agricultural IoT education, workforce development



MSD of Warren County School Corporation, planning grant - \$104,663.35

Wabash River Career & Technical Education Program



Project description – Create a Department of Education-approved, dual-credit precision agriculture course and externship program offered to juniors and seniors. Share the curriculum with all Wabash Heartland schools via a train-the-trainer model.

of counties involved: 3 (Benton, Fountain, Warren)

Regional impact – Agricultural IoT education, workforce development

North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council, impact grant - \$242,769 *Regional Mini-Ecosystems Broadband Project*

Project description – Engage Watch Communications to identify infrastructure needs within the 10-county region. Design a unified regional network of fixed wireless and fiber infrastructure via collaboration with local Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Enable broadband coverage to 80% of WHIN Region, specifically in rural areas. Build at least one IoT Beta site in cooperation with LEDOs.

of counties involved: 10

Regional impact – Civic leadership, economic and community development



Indiana Recycling Coalition, planning grant - \$95,110



Region-wide Recycling Collection Infrastructure: Inventory & Analysis

Project description – Analyze existing regional infrastructure for recycling collection (including processing & education) in partnership with local solid waste management districts and Purdue Environmental and Ecological Engineering. Produce an infrastructure inventory and use-case for sensors/IoT to increase system/cost efficiency.

of counties involved: 10

Regional impact – Quality-of-life, IoT education

Indiana West Advantage and Ivy Tech Community College, planning grant- \$38,295 *Regional Precision Agriculture Study*

Project description – Conduct a regional survey of agricultural businesses and producers to analyze the skills that are necessary in the precision agriculture industry. Deploy a quantitative online survey and perform qualitative, in-depth interviews with key informants. Share the results of the survey with the region in a full report format posted online.

of counties involved: 10

Regional impact – Digital agriculture technology, workforce and economic development



Tecumseh Area Partnership, Inc., impact grant - \$360,000
Advancing the Next Generation for Manufacturing Competitiveness



Project description – Expand capacity of the region to offer hands-on, K-12 STEM education, teaching skills and knowledge related to additive manufacturing, prototyping, IoT technologies, programming, robotics, logistics, design, and electronics. Change the perception of manufacturing careers by exposing students to popular educational programs such as Manufacturing Week, Coder Dojos, and Robotics Camp.

of counties involved: 10

Regional impact – Education, workforce development

Tippecanoe Arts Federation, impact grant-\$150,000
WHIN Walls

Project description – Develop a region-wide public art project through community collaboration. Commission community-themed pieces of art and place them in prominent locations in each of the 10 WHIN counties.

of counties involved: 10

Regional impact – Placemaking, community pride, celebration of art



Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, planning grant - \$35,000
Planning to Plan; 90-Mile River Corridor Project



Project description – Direct the preliminary planning for the development of a five-county Wabash River Greenway Corridor master plan that would ultimately connect the entire 10-county region. Involve regional stakeholders in localized decision-making efforts that would shape the project’s reach and outcomes.

of counties involved: 5 (Carroll, Cass, Fountain, Tippecanoe & Warren counties)

Regional impact – Regional vitality and connectivity, quality of life, placemaking