

IndyEast Promise Plan



Children from the Brookside Dance Academy conduct a performance for IndyEast neighbors at Clifford Apartments (courtesy of the East 10th Street Civic Association).

Lead Applicant: John H. Boner Community Center

Key Partners: City of Indianapolis; Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; Indiana University on behalf of IUPUI and Indiana University Public Policy Institute; United Way of Central Indiana; Indianapolis Housing Agency; Indianapolis Public Schools; Near East Area Renewal (formerly known as IndyEast Asset Development); Indianapolis Eastside Revitalization Corporation (doing business as East 10th Street Civic Association); Englewood Community Development Corporation; Westminster Neighborhood Services

View [IndyEast Fact Sheet](#).

View [IndyEast Promise Zone website](#).

About the Promise Zone

In the 1980's, the Near Eastside of Indianapolis was home to middle-class families with manufacturing jobs. With the loss of the manufacturing sector, residents moved and the lack of investment and concentrations of blight have stifled economic growth.

In 2007, Near Eastside residents came together to develop a comprehensive, grassroots, and resident-led approach to neighborhood redevelopment. The John H. Boner Community Center has

been the leader in coordinating of efforts, supporting and building capacity and creating public-private partnerships to drive revitalization.

Promise Zone Plan

The John H. Boner Community Center and the residents of Near Eastside Indianapolis have enlisted the assistance of multiple organizations to develop strategies around the following five target goals that have been identified as instrumental to increasing the quality of life and accelerating efforts to create comprehensive community revitalization.

Affordable Housing and Redevelopment

Create an economically diverse community that embraces existing and new residents by recapturing vacant housing and developing new and affordable options.

Strategies

- Promote balanced development of housing for people of all ages, income levels and abilities.
- Increase homeownership by aiding existing property owners and promoting and creating opportunities for new homeowners.

Job Creation

Develop neighborhood businesses, industries, and commerce that employ residents in living wage jobs. Support entrepreneurship, job training, and the repurposing of vacant industrial spaces.

Strategies

- Redevelop six neighborhood legacy industrial sites or corridors into zones of commerce that support emerging economic sectors and existing post-industrial opportunities.
- Decrease unemployment and increase household income for unemployed or underemployed neighborhood residents.
- Support infrastructure improvements along transit corridors to connect residents with employment opportunities aligning with system upgrades and supporting transit oriented development.

Increase Economic Activity

Create vibrant commercial corridors that provide desirable goods, services, and amenities to residents, and establish IndyEast as a regional destination for shopping, dining, and recreation.

Strategies

- Provide comprehensive commercial district development resources and incentives targeting new and existing neighborhood serving businesses, commercial property owners, and neighborhood commercial developers.

- Strategically target neighborhood-centered commercial redevelopment nodes to implement Arts-based Community Development (ABCD) initiatives as an economic catalyst for commercial development, entrepreneurship and creative programming.
- Implement innovative infrastructure including public gathering spaces, dedicated trail systems and streetscape improvements to attract a strong consumer base and utilize place making practices as a catalyst for business development.

Reduce Serious and Violent Crime

Create a welcoming environment in which all families and visitors feel safe and secure. We aim to accomplish this by focused efforts on crime prevention, youth intervention programming, and supportive reentry services.

Strategies

- Work cooperatively with Department of Public Safety and neighborhood residents to develop initiatives that aim to prevent serious and violent crime through community policing and focused activities to address mental health and repeat offenders.
- Expand and develop youth crime-intervention programming, focusing on at-risk youth populations to curb systemic crime and empower youth to become more engaged in their community.
- Partner with community organizations to support families and neighborhoods impacted by incarceration and develop strategies to integrate holistic, community-focused reentry services.

Improve Educational Opportunity

Children will receive exceptional education from cradle to career, including developmentally appropriate early childhood services, high-quality and innovative schools and access to post-secondary education and training.

Strategies

- Improve school readiness for young children from infancy to pre-kindergarten so that they are physically, socially, and academically ready to start kindergarten.
- Improve academic achievement of school-age children through supplemental programs including out of school time providers, in-school interventions and community services, that ensure children come to school healthy and ready to learn.
- Implement a comprehensive strategy that increases student retention and graduation rates as well as development of a post-secondary plan.