



## Stronger Communities for a Stronger Indiana

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) would like to invite cities and towns to participate in the Community Readiness Initiative (CRI). Through the CRI program, teams will gain insight into the strengths and opportunities within their community to determine the best course of action to foster better community planning and growth for the future.

The Community Readiness Initiative is the vision of the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs with support from Ball State University.

### What Is the Community Readiness Initiative?

The Community Readiness Initiative (CRI) is a low-cost, high-impact evaluation process to assist communities in planning for positive, productive growth.

The CRI program focuses on providing a method of objective, high-quality data-driven analysis to communities to evaluate the current state of their community and economic development realities.

### Steps Toward Community Readiness

1. Contact your OCRA Community Liaison to express your interest or sign up at [www.ocra.in.gov/cri](http://www.ocra.in.gov/cri).
2. Complete leadership alignment assessment (for public officials)
3. Complete the community alignment assessment (for organizations)
4. Discuss preliminary community readiness findings during a town meeting
5. Receive the community readiness report and establish economic development policy

### How Long Does the CRI Take to Complete?

Most of the steps require feedback from multiple individuals and groups, so completion of each step will vary, with some steps taking a few weeks and others taking a few months. For more details on the steps in the CRI process, visit [www.ocra.in.gov/cri](http://www.ocra.in.gov/cri).

### What Is My Community Getting Ready for?

Effective planning comes from effective understanding. The Community Readiness Initiative is designed to allow Indiana cities and towns to identify their economic strengths and challenges to foster positive community growth.

Benefits of effective community planning include:

- Prepare for more impactful and focused strategic planning to position teams to become more competitive communities
- Reduced “brain drain” of talented workforce
- Improved competitiveness for grant opportunities, economic development, and community projects
- Enhanced quality of place and community pride

Completion of all five steps in the Community Readiness Initiative will better prepare communities to work with OCRA and other agencies on future projects.

### Where Can I Find Additional Information on CRI?

Additional information about the Community Readiness Initiative is available online at <http://cri.cberdata.org>. You’ll find information on enrollment and pricing, a list of frequently asked questions, and contact information for the organizers and consultants involved with this project.

The website also offers examples of the final community readiness report (part of CRI Step 5) using PWR<sup>3</sup>™, a customized analysis tool developed by Ball State University.

Visit the Community Readiness Initiative online at <http://cri.cberdata.org>.



## How Do I Sign Up My Community?

Enroll online at [www.ocra.in.gov/cri](http://www.ocra.in.gov/cri). Once you have completed the contact form, the CRI project team will contact you to begin the process. For questions in the interim, contact your OCRA Community Liaison or email the Ball State CRI team at [cri@bsu.edu](mailto:cri@bsu.edu).

Each community should assemble a local team to lead this project and select one primary contact person to serve throughout the CRI process.

Your local team may include (for example):

- Town council members
- Economic development persons
- Members of special committees, e.g. local school boards, planning commissions, tourism councils, municipal department representatives, etc.

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CBER-Y2016M01D19

# COMMUNITY READINESS INITIATIVE

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