



## The City of Indianapolis announced finalist for Build Back Better Regional Challenge

*The Build Back Better Central Indiana Initiative awarded \$500,000, moves to next phase of Economic Development Administration's program to rebuild America's communities*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Today, the City of Indianapolis was announced as one of 60 regions selected for the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) "Build Back Better Regional Challenge," a federal American Rescue Plan program that aims to boost the economic pandemic recovery and rebuild American communities post-pandemic, with a focus on equity. Selected out of 529 applicants, the City of Indianapolis will receive approximately \$500,000 to build capacity and plan for the Build Back Better Central Indiana Initiative for projects including job creation, workforce development, infrastructure investment, and economic recovery.

"The City of Indianapolis is proud to lead the Build Back Better Central Indiana Initiative with a coalition of public, private, and community partners aligned on one shared vision: to expand our city's food processing and manufacturing cluster into an engine that drives shared economic prosperity," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "This effort will help bring much-needed opportunities to families who are struggling. Good-paying jobs and the chance to advance in your field are key to escaping cycles of poverty. Thanks to local and federal partners, we are one step closer to shaping a city that is more equitable and prosperous for all Indianapolis residents."

The Build Back Better Central Indiana Initiative coalition is led by the City of Indianapolis and includes local partners, Flanner House, 16 Tech Innovation District, IU Health, Marian University, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation. This collaboration aims to improve the competitiveness of and access to food processing and manufacturing clusters across the region.

"Today's announcement takes Flanner Houses' hopes and dreams and turns them into a reality," said Brandon Cosby, Flanner House executive director. "Designed to uplift the social, moral, and physical welfare of the Black community, the purpose of Flanner House is to invest in our people. Doing this work, building community is my passion and it's personal. This partnership is monumental for our city - it's vital for the future of our community and I can't wait to get to work on the next phase of Build Back Better: Central Indiana Initiative."

"The Build Back Better funding presents Indianapolis with an incredible opportunity to stimulate inclusive economic growth," said Bob Coy, president and CEO of 16 Tech. "16 Tech is excited to be a partner in this effort and serve as a connector, aligning industry employers with those who live in nearby neighborhoods through an equity-centric approach to advance the future of our region's manufacturing industry."

If awarded the second round of Build Back Better Regional Challenge funds, the City of Indianapolis will implement seven projects to drive regional competitiveness, including but not limited to:

- The Carrier-Bryant Redevelopment project will grow food processing and manufacturing in the region by redeveloping a brownfield site as a food aggregation and processing facility in partnership with Majora Carter Group, a developer, and Revolution Foods, an industry employer that produces healthy packaged

meals for institutional buyers. The site will additionally house CNTNR, an advanced manufacturing firm that repurposes shipping containers into modular spaces for housing, medical, and agricultural uses.

- In response to critical gaps identified in Talent Development for the food processing and manufacturing cluster, the coalition will activate an Industry 4.0 Learning Lab Network and a Citizen Science Center, expanding access to advanced technologies and hands-on learning; inclusive engagement at 16 Tech's makerspace; advanced manufacturing training; implementation of Cummins' Technical Education for Communities; on-the-job training at Revolution Foods and CNTNR; experiential learning with employer partners through Marian University's 2-year college; practice in the future of work & human arts through Marian University; and workforce training, upskilling, coaching, and supports through the IU Health's Mosaic Center and its community partners.

"This announcement brings us one step closer to transformational investment in Indianapolis. It will allow us to be intentional about addressing workforce, economic development and social needs in our community," said Adairius Gardner, director of government affairs at IU Health. "IU Health looks forward to continuing our work with coalition partners to advance equity and deliver on IU Health's mission to make Indiana one of the nation's healthiest states."

The City of Indianapolis and coalition will submit a phase 2 application for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge in March of 2022.

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