



# Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs



INDIANA OFFICE OF

**Community & Rural Affairs**

*Where Rural Matters*

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**Indiana Agriculture**  
**and**  
**Rural Development**

**November 9, 2010**

# OCRA's Mission Statement



To work with local, state, and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to aid communities in shaping their vision for community/economic development.



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# ISDA's Mission Statement



To support growth in Indiana agriculture by serving as an advocate at the local, federal and state level; defining and nurturing economic opportunity in the food, fuel and fiber sectors; and enhancing the stewardship of natural resources on agricultural land.

# Indiana Data

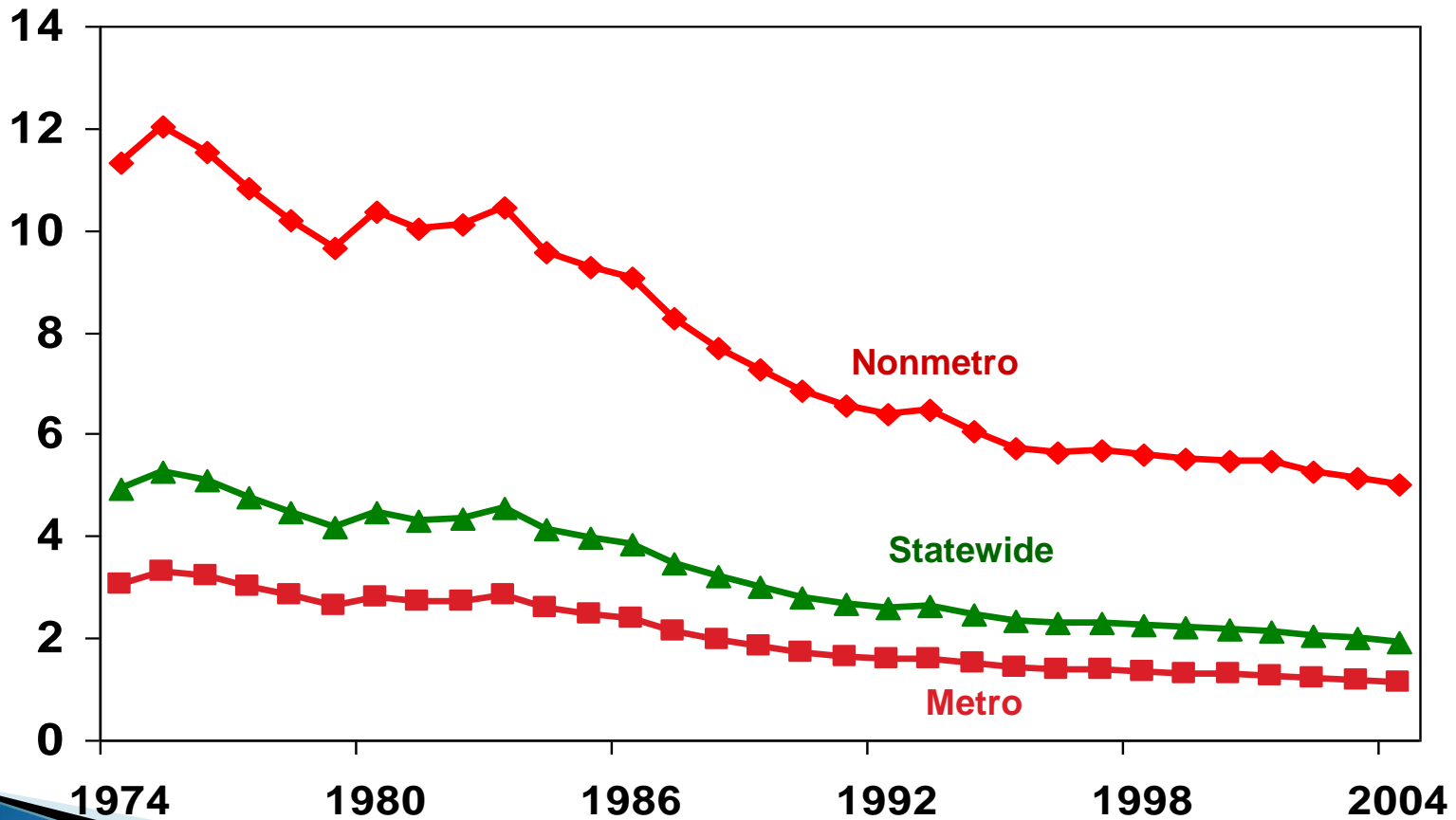


|                                       |           |       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Population (est.):                    | 6,423,115 |       |
| Rural (OMB):                          | 1,387,771 | (21%) |
| OCRA-Served:<br>(HUD non-entitlement) | 3,666,475 | (57%) |
| Family Farms                          | 52,553    |       |
| % as sole source of income            | 42.9%     |       |

# Indiana's Agriculture Employment



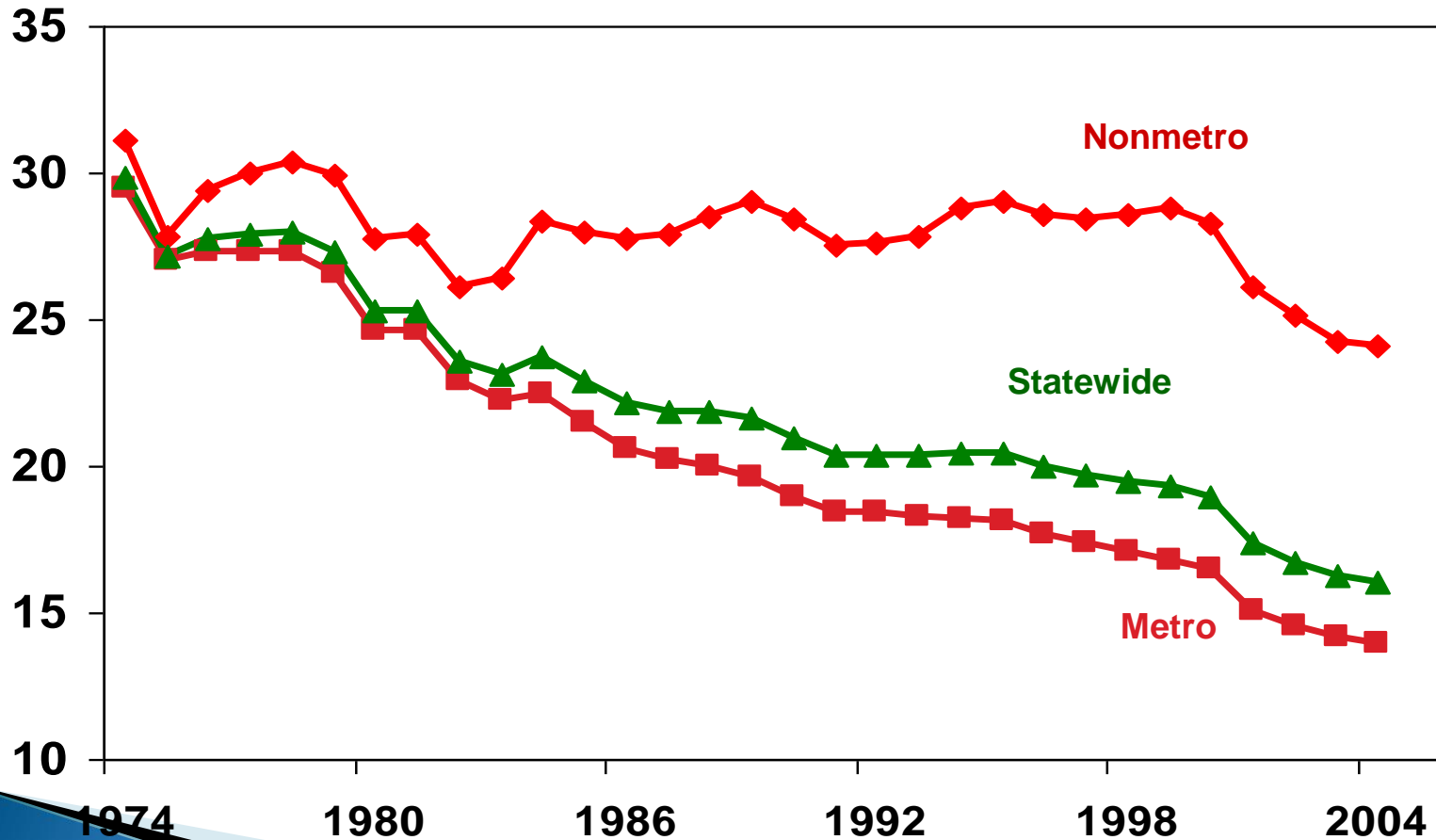
Percent of total employment



# Indiana's Manufacturing Employment



Percent of total employment



# Operational Premise



- ▶ Agriculture is important to Indiana
  - Market diversification
  - International Trade (exports and direct foreign investment)
  - Hardwoods
  - Livestock production
  - Bio Fuels

However,



- ▶ A robust rural economy is critical to the success of our agricultural economy
  - Wealth Retention and creation
  - Infrastructure
  - Entrepreneurial support
  - Economic capacity

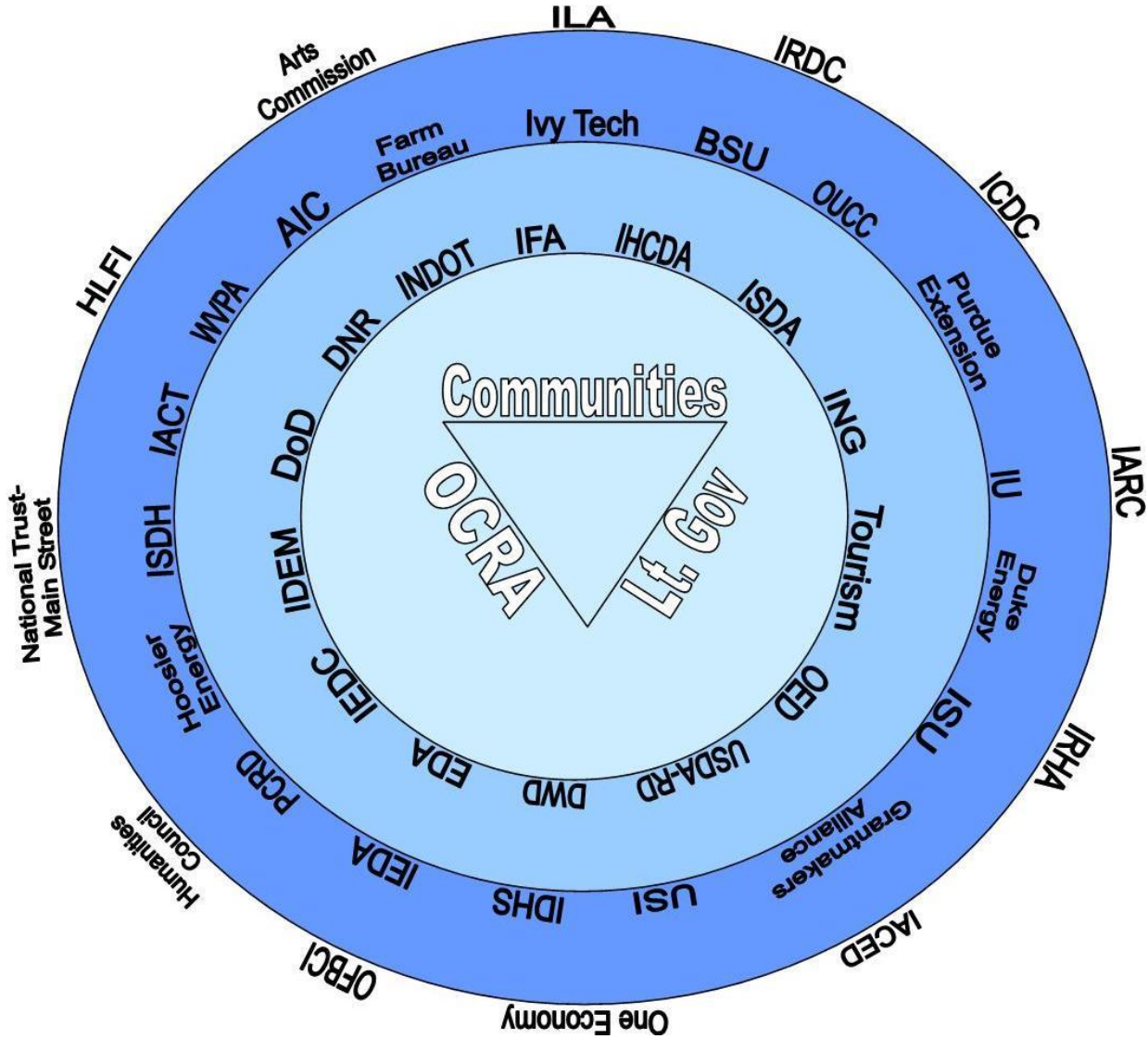


# Rural Economic Development

- ▶ Capacity Building for Resiliency
- ▶ Strategic Action
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Regional Approaches



# Operational System



# OCRA Collaborations



- ▶ Disaster funding partnerships with RLF, RD, DNR, etc.
- ▶ Partnerships with INDOT
- ▶ Home Town Competitiveness (HTC)
- ▶ ED Working Group
- ▶ Rural Roundtable (Farm Bureau, USDA-RD, USDA-FS, Purdue, Ball State, Indiana State, OCRA, ISDA)

# Stellar Communities



- ▶ Focus on Rural Communities
- ▶ Collaboration between OCRA, IHCDA, INDOT, RLF
- ▶ Three-year commitment to funding
- ▶ Focus on strategic investment and planning
- ▶ Pilot program
- ▶ Deadline for letter of interest: October 1, 2010

# Final Thoughts



- ▶ The best regions are organic
- ▶ Regional is contextual
- ▶ Regional is going to happen
- ▶ Communities need to be prepared
  - Collaboration
  - Strategic Action
  - Identify their own regional value-added
  - Community conversations