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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.
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: 3,666,475 (57%)
(HUD non-entitlement)
Family Farms 52,553
% as sole source of income 42.9%
Indiana’s Agriculture Employment

Percent of total employment

Source: BEA, Regional Economic Accounts
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)
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