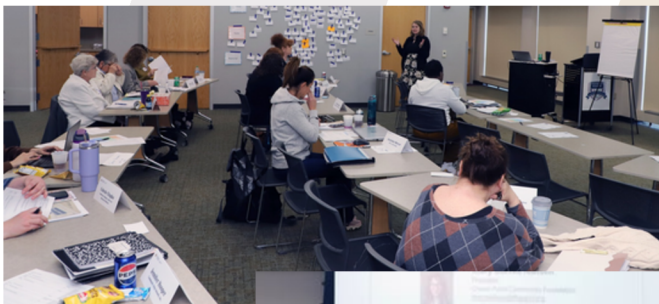


BRIDGING GAPS

APRIL 2025

YOUR EXTENSION EDUCATOR

Welcome to the Bridging Gaps Newsletter for the Community Development Section of Purdue Extension LaPorte County. Spring is a time of renewal, and much like the season, community development education programs offer opportunities for growth and transformation. These programs aim to equip individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to create positive change in their communities. Community development education fosters an environment where people can work together to address pressing issues, such as housing, education, and healthcare, while also promoting a sense of unity and shared responsibility. In essence, these programs help plant the seeds for stronger, more resilient communities that can thrive through cooperation and continuous learning.



MARY KOMENAS

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Please feel free to reach out for more information or to set up a meeting to learn more about Purdue Extension!



BOOST YOUR CAREER

WITH A

Remote Work Certificate



The Remote Work Certificate Program is a 4-week online educational course that teaches you how to be a successful remote worker. Nine self-paced modules jumpstart your journey, designed to equip remote workers, freelancers, or entrepreneurs with the tools and skills needed to work from home.



Want to switch to a remote work job?



Starting a small business?



Need remote skills on your resume?

Learn More & Sign Up at:

<https://pcrd.purdue.edu/remoteworkcertificate>

The Purdue Center for Regional Development is providing scholarships in a limited capacity, making this program only:



Center for Regional Development

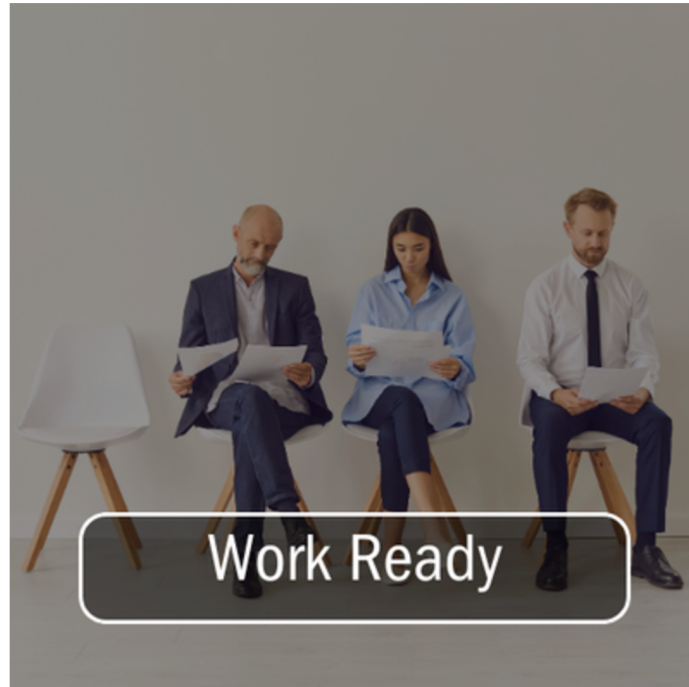
Extension



\$50

one-time fee

OFFER ENDS JULY 31, 2025



Purdue Extension's Work Ready Program is designed to teach life skills necessary to increase the number of qualified applicants for job openings in the United States. The program can be taught to youth as well as displaced adult workers who have limited work experience or education. Through this series of 10 interactive 1-hour modules, participants learn about personal accountability, career planning, time management, budgeting and money management and how to present themselves in a positive way when seeking a job.

Specifically, the Work Ready program's goals are:

- Increase participants' soft skills

- Increase participants' chances of securing a job and maintaining the position

- Resume development

- Successful interview skills

We currently offer these programs at Grace Learning Center and have done one off programs at High Schools around the County.



Extension



DIGITAL READY BUSINESS HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

PURDUE EXTENSION – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & JRS MAR + COM

Purdue Extension and JRS Mar + Com will host a workshop series designed to enhance your knowledge of digital business strategies and provide hands-on experience in elevating your business online. Register for one of these workshops to take advantage of digital tools to grow your business!

Topic	Date	Description
Claiming your Online Turf for Small Businesses	5/8	Learn how to establish your business' virtual identity on multiple platforms and take a step-by-step walk-through for your business led by JRS Mar + Com
Social Media for your Small Businesses	5/15	Learn about various types of social media, their strengths, weaknesses, and audience, then apply your learning in a hands-on exercise led by JRS Mar + Com
Evaluating your Online Marketing Effectiveness	5/22	Understand how to evaluate analytics and digital marketing campaigns to measure your return, then apply your learning with assistance from JRS Mar + Com

When: 9:00-10:30am

Where: Main Conference Room
Purdue Technology Center, 9800
Connecticut Dr., Crown Point, IN

What to Bring: Your business laptop

Register [HERE](#) by May 7th

Cost: \$20/workshop

Registration Limit: 25
participants per workshop

Questions?

walke422@purdue.edu



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COMMUNITY PLANNING

Support Your Community & Become a Master Citizen Planner Today!



SIGN UP FOR THE AMERICAN CITIZEN PLANNER - INDIANA PROGRAM

Three Sessions Starting in 2025

Program Overview

American Citizen Planner - Indiana is an online training program designed to help those currently, or potentially, serving on an area or advisory plan commission in Indiana learn at their own pace. Course participants also register for four live virtual events, which build and expand upon topics covered in the online course.

You'll understand the roles and responsibilities of public officials, community residents, and developers in the planning process, as well as tools and processes planners use to implement comprehensive plans.

Target Audiences

- Current or future members of area/advisory plan commissions or boards of zoning appeals
- Interested residents
- Elected officials
- Municipal, county or applicable nonprofit staff

2025 Course Timeline

Spring Session (Feb-Apr)

Registration Opens: January 2

Summer Session (Jun-Aug)

Registration Opens: May 1

Fall Session (Oct-Dec)

Registration Opens September 1

Participation is required during four live webinars during the session. All webinars are at 2:00pm ET, via Zoom. Upon registering for the course, you will receive links to these events.

Webinar Dates by Session

Spring	Summer	Fall
2/13	6/12	10/16
3/6	7/1	11/6
3/27	7/24	11/20
4/17	8/14	12/11

Ready to Enroll?

Visit: extension.org

Course Fee: \$200, which includes ACP-IN 101, ACP-IN 201 course access, the four webinars, and the final exam.

Questions?

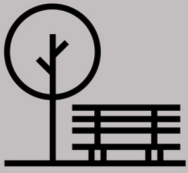
Contact Daniel Walker, AICP
Purdue Extension
walke422@purdue.edu

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.



**AMERICAN
CITIZEN PLANNER**



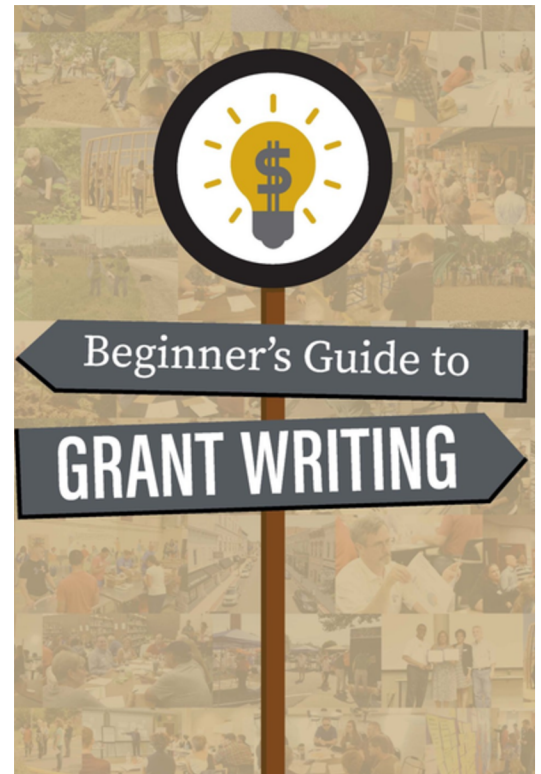


COMMUNITY PLANNING

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GRANT WRITING

For more than 20 years, the award-winning Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing program has been helping Hoosiers improve their communities by leveraging grants of all sizes. Participants of the Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing workshop draft and polish a grant proposal and learn how to navigate the grant process. Both beginners and experienced grant writers learn to develop ideas into winning proposals, identify and build relationships with potential funders, and speak and write confidently about how their proposal will make an impact.

We currently have 24 participants in the Michigan City class that started in March!



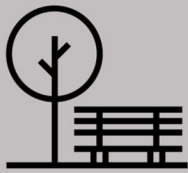
NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT CHILD CARE DATA

The NCR-Stat: Caregiving Survey is the regional household survey that NCRCRD conducted in collaboration with Ohio State University and the National Farm Medicine Center. It is a 15-minute survey that focuses solely on households in the NCR states and asks questions about household demographics, education, non-caregiving, and child, adult, and elderly caregiving.

The primary purpose of this survey is to learn more about individuals and families who provide care and how caregiving affects economic development and quality of life in the North Central Region. All data gathered via the NCR-Stat: Caregiving Survey are available for those who want to use the data as a baseline for further research and extend the portfolio of already existing databases. The information gathered from this survey is intended to be shared with communities, organizations, and decision-makers to help inform future policies and programs and better support caregiving and caregivers in the North Central Region.

Survey conducted: 2023 / Respondents: 4,532 households (1,596 child caregivers and 1,325 adult caregivers)

[NCR-STAT: CAREGIVING DATASET](#)



COMMUNITY PLANNING

Ned Kalb Leadership Award Winner

Leslie Coles was selected as the recipient of the 11th annual Ned E. Kalb Community Leadership Award, presented at the recent Purdue Extension La Porte County Annual Meeting held at the Silver Palace in La Porte. Leslie was recognized for her selflessness and dedication to serving others. She was presented a plaque and will have her name added to the permanent plaque on display at the Extension Office. The permanent plaque was donated by Dick Reel, who served as the Extension Director for many years. The award is named for former Extension Director Ned Kalb, who had a tremendous impact on La Porte County.

Leslie was nominated for the award by Amy Straka Wisor from Dunebrook of Michigan City. The nominator stated “Leslie has never boasted or looked for acknowledgement for any work she does in the community, “A Mama’s Heart Ministry” or through her many collection drives for existing organizations in the community, such as Keys to Hope or the homeless shelters. Wherever Leslie sees a thread unraveled, she seeks to mend it. She has a quiet, unassuming way of bringing people together to make anything happen. She treats everyone with a need with dignity, listens to them, and takes them at their word. She normalizes that all families struggle and encourages people to seek help, letting go of shame, and feeling connected in our village.”



All day, Leslie provides families support through home visits with the Healthy Families Program at Dunebrook. Her evenings and weekends are filled with her diligent work in the ministry she founded, “A Mama’s Heart Ministry”. She matches needs shared by a mom in our community with someone who can donate those items, whether hand-me-down clothes, furniture, appliances or sponsoring a family for a holiday. Leslie finds a way to make it happen. She collects the items on her porch and arranges for drop off and pick ups to protect the privacy of everyone who has a need, or gives. All behind the scenes, quietly



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Needs Assessment: We would love to hear your feedback!
Please reply to the email from which you received the
newsletter, or visit **[this link](#)** to share your thoughts!

- What topics would you like covered in this newsletter?
- Which Community Development programs would you like to see introduced?
- What partnerships do you believe should be established or enhanced?

**Follow us on Facebook to find out more about other Purdue
Extension events and happenings**

**Check out our Purdue Extension Page for more information on
4-H, Health & Human Sciences, ANR and Community Development**



PurdueExtensionLaPorteCounty



**La Porte County
Extension Page**

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Office Hours & Contact

Monday- Friday 8am-4pm | (219) 324-9407 | extension.purdue.edu/county/laporte



Extension - LaPorte County

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