



IndyEast Economic Mobility District

A Coordinated System for Neighborhood Economic Mobility

Proposal Summary

The IndyEast Economic Mobility District (IEMD) is a place-based strategy designed to create lasting economic mobility for families on the Eastside of Indianapolis. Rather than operating as separate housing, workforce, and economic development programs, IEMD aligns these investments into one coordinated system. Families do not experience their lives in silos, and therefore solutions cannot operate in silos. Stable housing, access to good jobs, and a thriving local economy must advance together.

This comprehensive, coordinated approach represents the natural progression of intentional collaboration among three community anchor institutions committed to addressing pervasive challenges in a holistic manner. Through shared governance, aligned budgets, integrated data, and neighborhood-rooted implementation partners, IEMD connects these strategies so that each reinforces the others. The result is a mobility engine that moves families from stability to opportunity and from opportunity to wealth-building.

The Challenge

For decades, residents on the Eastside have faced overlapping barriers that limit economic advancement. Housing instability, low wages, limited access to capital, and fragmented services create a cycle that is difficult to escape. Traditional approaches often address these issues independently, resulting in many good programs that rarely add up to sustained change.

- Families without stable housing struggle to maintain employment
- Workers without credentials cannot access family-sustaining wages
- Local businesses lack the capital to grow and hire
- Residents must navigate disconnected systems of support

These conditions compound rather than resolve one another. Breaking this cycle requires a coordinated, neighborhood-wide strategy that addresses the full ecosystem at once.

Our District Approach

IEMD replaces fragmentation with coordination. By concentrating investments within one geography and aligning partners under a shared framework, the District creates an integrated set of solutions that operate together.

Housing Innovation – Stability

Housing stability is the foundation for mobility. Families cannot pursue training or employment when housing is uncertain. IEMD preserves affordability, prevents displacement, and expands homeownership opportunities to build long-term wealth.

Workforce Development – Earnings

With stability in place, residents can focus on skill-building and career advancement. Employer-aligned training, industry credentials, and paid work experiences connect neighbors to quality jobs and sustainable wages.

Economic Development – Opportunity

A strong neighborhood economy creates the jobs residents are preparing for. Access to capital, business coaching, and site activation help local businesses grow, hire, and keep wealth circulating within the community.

How the System Works Together

These strategies are intentionally interdependent. Housing supports employment retention, workforce pipelines supply talent to local employers, and business growth generates more neighborhood jobs. Higher incomes make homeownership and savings possible, which in turn strengthen neighborhood stability. Each pillar reinforces the others, creating cumulative impact rather than isolated outcomes.

- Housing stability improves job retention and educational success
- Workforce training prepares residents for jobs created locally
- Business growth expands employment opportunities and wages
- Increased income supports homeownership and neighborhood investment
- Shared data and case management ensure seamless resident support

Governance and Alignment

IEMD is anchored by trusted neighborhood institutions working through shared governance and accountability structures. Partners coordinate staffing, budgets, reporting, and evaluation to ensure alignment. This structure transforms individual programs into a unified system and ensures that resources are deployed efficiently and equitably.

Expected Results

Over five years, this coordinated approach will produce measurable neighborhood-wide outcomes, including:

- Stable housing for hundreds of residents, preventing displacement and housing crisis
- New pathways to homeownership for 62 families
- Preservation of 1,000+ homes, ensuring seniors and long-time residents can remain rooted in the community.
- 180 families build savings and assets, unlocking opportunities for education, entrepreneurship, and homeownership
- Hundreds of workforce pathways, connecting residents to credentials and training supports, aligned with high-demand sectors
- 20 employers enter inclusive hiring partnerships that strengthen the local labor market
- Access to capital for 35 local contractors and small businesses, fueling local participation in housing and redevelopment projects
- Redevelopment readiness for catalytic sites, positioning underutilized 122+ acres of vacant land for productive reuse
- Nine stronger neighborhood-based organizations, building long-term leadership and capacity
- Integrated data and accountability systems to drive continuous learning and impact

These outcomes represent more than program outputs; they reflect a sustained shift in the economic trajectory of families and the neighborhood as a whole.

Conclusion: One Community. One System. One Pathway to Mobility.

IEMD is not housing plus workforce plus economic development. It is a coordinated neighborhood ecosystem where stability leads to skills, skills lead to jobs, jobs lead to wealth, and wealth reinforces stability. By aligning investments and working collectively, the District is building a self-reinforcing cycle of opportunity that delivers lasting economic mobility for residents.

The culmination of three neighborhood anchor agencies' commitment to alignment, the proposed District weaves each neighborhood's unique assets and characteristics in a manner that continues to respect distinct neighborhood identity, while ensuring common best practices translate in a unifying way. When realized, this innovative approach has the potential not only to transform a significant City geography, but also to inform and influence how social service sectors can operate with mutual investment and accountability.