

Partnership Parke County Newsletter

Want to know about some of the exciting developments in Parke County and be a part of the positive conversations taking place? Continue reading our newsletter and visit our website at www.partnershipparkecounty.com.

Parke Vermillion Adult Education

Parke Vermillion Adult Education (PVAE) is reaching out to local businesses and organizations with opportunities for job training and building employee soft skills (including communication skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities).

Currently, PVAE offers certification classes in CDL A/B, CNA, ParaPro, Logistics, ServSafe, and Welding. These certification classes are in addition to helping Parke and Vermillion County residents earn their high school equivalency diploma or improve basic educational skills.

PVAE also has access to a variety of national learning platforms which improve employee soft skills. Students who enroll with PVAE can choose this track once they have demonstrated academic strengths which are needed to successfully complete the challenges.

Classes and materials are free, with many certifications available free of charge as well.

Anyone interested in partnering with PVAE for employee training can contact the PVAE Program Director, Donna Hardesty, at donnahardesty.pvae@gmail.com or call 765-731-1350 for more information.

Interested students can also go directly to PVAE's website to start the enrollment process at: www.parkevermillionadulthood.org

Indiana Historical Society

The Indiana Historical Society (IHS) is pleased to support Indiana's local, county, and regional historical societies museums and sites in their important work through Heritage Support Grants, made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Grants are for projects that will help Indiana's local history organizations meet high priority needs in areas of Collections Stewardship, Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion, Sustainability, and Planning. In addition to the grant awards, IHS also offers fundraising education workshops, ongoing coaching for grant applications and opportunities to serve on grant award selection committees.

During its first five years, the program offered 11 grant opportunities and awarded more than \$2.6 million through 173 awards to 100 different organizations, which are located in 57 of Indiana's 92 counties. These grants helped history organizations in Indiana improve stewardship of the cultural materials in their care and develop institutional capacity to play greater, more effective roles in their communities.

Heritage Support Grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Visit www.IndianaHistory.org to learn more about the Heritage Support Grants.

Early Care & Education Strategic Plan

Whew! This initiative is BIG! Please use this [link](#) to access the 2022 Early Care & Education plan. Our aggressive timeline is leading us to look for funding to hire a 5-year contracted employee to coordinate and execute the deliverables in the Strategic Plan. More conversations to happen and more information available soon!

Commercial Building – Parke County 4-H Fair

We hosted 29 vendors/exhibitors in the Commercial Building again this year during the Parke County 4-H Fair in July. There was a great flow of visitors in the building during the four evenings that the building was open to the public. The participation of the visitors to the building to take part in a little scavenger hunt which prompted interaction between the visitors and the vendors/exhibitors was fantastic. A drawing was done each evening to select a winner of the scavenger hunt who then received a \$100 Visa Gift Card from Partnership Parke County.

We also want to thank all the businesses who donated to have their company name/logo put on our banner showing their support. We could not do what we do without your assistance.



County-wide Housing Needs Assessment

Our April Housing Summit was a great success! Federal, State, and Regional agencies provided overviews from their departments supporting housing initiatives. Click on the link for the complete presentation. [Link to presentation](#)

Purdue Extension Community Development will provide the final report in August 2022.

Discussion of housing has opened the door for conversations regarding infrastructure. We look forward to sharing more in the near future.

Thank you to all that took part in completing the assessment survey, participating in the focus group discussions, and attending the summit event!

Here are a few pictures of the working groups in action.



Group lead by Dr. Michael Wilcox



Group led by Heather Strohm



Group lead by Jeff Pell



Group lead by Daniel Walker

Broadband – Affordable Connectivity Program

What Is It?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect facilities and households struggling to afford internet service.

The Benefit Provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider

Who Is Eligible?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Participates in any of the following assistance programs:
 - SNAP
 - Medicaid
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance
 - Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
 - SSI
 - WIC
 - Lifeline
- Participates in any of the following Tribal specific programs:
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
 - Tribal TANF
 - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
 - Tribal Head Start (income based)
- Participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year, or meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program

Two Steps To Enroll

1. Go to www.AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application or print a mail-in application
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill. Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete. Eligible households must **both** apply for the program **and** contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

Learn More

Call 1-877-384-2575 or visit www.fcc.gov/acp

The Purpose of Partnership Parke County

The purpose of Partnership Parke County, Incorporated is to enable Parke County, Indiana to improve their quality of life and provide direction for economic growth. As a non-profit organization, we have performed vigorous investigation of other successful like counties, multiple discussions with Parke County, Indiana's incorporated towns, residents, and local organizations to identify needs, and in-depth discussions with our local county government.

Our Programs, Services & Responsibilities

Partnership Parke promotes programs and activities once performed by Parke County Redevelopment Commission in the pursuance of economic growth and development by implementing those activities and programs for private individuals, businesses, local municipalities, and community groups.

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or visit our website: [Partnership Parke County](https://www.partnershipparkecounty.com)

