

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

at the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA offers a statewide Community Revitalization Technical Assistance Program (CR TA Program) that encourages affordable housing development and planning in the state's most distressed areas. Community revitalization is the implementation of coordinated, intentional efforts that are likely to lead to measurable increases in access to employment, living wage jobs, healthcare, supportive services, community amenities, transportation, and high-quality affordable housing stock. These efforts play a critical role in ensuring the health and success of communities of all sizes.

The CR TA Program features a Community Revitalization team that works free of charge alongside communities to link them with official planning initiatives and resources, and provides direct technical assistance to smaller and rural communities across Illinois.

PILLARS OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION



IHDA is committed to expanding the planning capacity of underserved communities in rural/small metro Illinois to create, preserve, and access affordable housing. When a community forms a partnership under the CR TA Program, they work with a team of Community Revitalization planners to proactively create and undertake a formal Community Revitalization Strategy process. Each partnership under the CR TA Program is designed to be specifically tailored to the individual needs and desired outcomes of the partnering community. The CR TA Program offers a suite of products and services that can be incorporated within a Community Revitalization Strategy process, including:

- Community Outreach
- Community Needs Assessment

- Demographic, Economic, and Housing Market Analyses
- Housing Stock Survey
- Development of Community Planning Materials
- Funding Strategies

For partnerships that undertake most or all of the services listed above, the Community Revitalization Strategy culminates in the development of a final, cohesive planning document. This document serves as an official codification of the local revitalization activities undertaken throughout the partnership, and provides recommendations pertinent to the development goals and housing needs of the community as informed by these activities. Communities can utilize this plan to connect to development resources and funding, including those which are administered by IHDA. Within IHDA's Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, this plan can serve as evidence of a Community Revitalization Strategy for projects located in Qualified Census Tracts.

The partnerships that stem from the CR TA Program benefit communities by building strategies that encompass housing, community, and economic development, and mitigating barriers of access to housing development tools. Housing developers also benefit from these activities, as the plans developed in conjunction with IHDA's CR TA Program provide a better understanding of communities' housing needs and accessing appropriate resources. Additionally, developers are better able to connect to and utilize the market analysis tools and funding sources identified by the program's resulting plans and strategies.

OUTCOMES AND GETTING STARTED WITH COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

The Community Revitalization Technical Assistance Program has resulted in more fully realized LIHTC applications that integrate within broader community planning efforts to address local needs, enabling IHDA to assist the large swaths of the state that need affordable housing but lack the capacity to develop the desired units. IHDA's CR TA Program has worked to break down silos between disparate agencies and organizations to allow state government to better serve all the people of Illinois, reduce duplication of efforts across agencies, and more efficiently finance the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the State of Illinois.

To learn more about IHDA's CR TA Program, contact the Community Revitalization team at [**revitalization@ihda.org**](mailto:revitalization@ihda.org)

To learn more about Community Revitalization or access planning resources, visit [**ihda.org/developers/market-research/community-revitalization**](https://ihda.org/developers/market-research/community-revitalization)

