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IndyEast Promise Zone Announces Five Grants for \$3.5 million

Indianapolis –The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$3.5 million through federal grants to city-wide nonprofits, neighborhood-based Community Development Corporations and the State of Indiana to further initiatives in the newly designated IndyEast Promise Zone (IEPZ), advancing both the Live IndyEast and Work IndyEast Promise Zone goals.

“Today’s announcement is exciting news and demonstrates the benefit of Promise Zone designations for Indianapolis neighborhoods,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “These grants will expand economic opportunity for our residents and bring permanent jobs to Indianapolis neighborhoods.”

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services granted awards to four different organizations.

- RecycleForce will use \$800,000 to expand its recycling business by purchasing equipment and expanding their hours of operation. This project will create 40 full-time jobs and will support implementation of the Work IndyEast goals of the Promise Zone.
- Englewood Community Development Corporation will use \$770,050 for the tenant build out of the new headquarters of 360 Services located in the Koweba Center. This project will create 35 new permanent full-time jobs, with 27 jobs reserved for low-income project area residents and will support implementation of the Work IndyEast goals of the Promise Zone.
- King Park Development Corporation will use \$800,000 to capitalize a low interest loan fund to finance two businesses within the Promise Zone. The purchase of equipment, building upgrades, and working capital will create 40 full-time, permanent jobs, with 30 jobs reserved for low-income residents and will support implementation of the Work IndyEast goals of the Promise Zone.
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority will utilize a \$1 million grant to increase the number of Individual Development Accounts (IDA) provided to low-income family and individuals. IDAs are used as an asset-building tool to enable low-income families and individuals to save towards homeownership, post-secondary education and business ownership. A portion of these accounts will be set aside specifically for residents of the IndyEast Promise Zone.

In addition, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development also granted the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana \$174,005 to ensure the compliance of fair housing laws and advocate quality placement of affordable housing opportunities. This grant will also provide outreach on the need for affordable housing to educate and eliminate bias and stereotypes around affordable housing projects.

“Today’s announcement demonstrates how the Promise Zones Initiative is working to expand economic development, promote job growth, and increase economic opportunity for thousands of Hoosiers who live and work in Indianapolis,” said Congressman Andre Carson. “I look forward to continuing to help coordinate the effort between local and national resources to strengthen these and all Indianapolis neighborhoods.”

The John H. Boner Community Center, in conjunction with the City of Indianapolis and ten implementation partners, put forward a successful application leading to the Promise Zone Designation by the Federal government on April 28, 2015. The Promise Zone’s ten-year designation will provide new opportunities to achieve goals set by the Near Eastside residents through the Quality of Life Plan. The IndyEast Promise Zone received its designation a mere five months ago and has already assisted seven different organizations in securing over \$7.2 million in funding from four different federal agencies.

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About the IndyEast Promise Zone

The IndyEast Promise Zone (IEPZ) was designated by the federal government on April 28, 2015. This ten-year designation provides priority access to federal investments that further the IEPZ strategic plans, federal staff on the ground to help implement goals, and five full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members to recruit and manage volunteers and strengthen the capacity of the Promise Zone initiatives. The IEPZ includes the John H. Boner Community Center as the lead organization along with the following partners:

- City of Indianapolis
- East 10th Street Civic Association
- Englewood Community Development Corporation
- Indianapolis Housing Authority
- Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership
- Indianapolis Public Schools
- Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis/Indiana University Public Policy Institute
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Near East Area Renewal
- United Way of Central Indiana
- Westminster Neighborhood Ministries

The IndyEast Promise Zone will work with the implementation partners and the federal government to develop strategies around the following five goals to improve the quality of life and accelerate revitalization.

- Live IndyEast – Housing Redevelopment
- Work IndyEast – Job Creation
- Buy IndyEast – Increase Economic Activity
- Safe IndyEast – Reduce Serious and Violent crime
- Learn IndyEast – Improve Educational Opportunities

www.indyeast.org (For more information about the IEPZ)

www.hud.gov/promisezones (For more information about the Promise Zones initiative)

About the John H. Boner Community Center

The John H. Boner Community Center is a not-for-profit agency founded to serve residents of the Near Eastside of Indianapolis. Throughout the years, the Center's philosophy led to the creation of numerous services and programs in response to changes within the neighborhood. Neighborhood-driven efforts are essential in developing a healthy, thriving and vibrant community. The Center provides an array of tools for change and growth for our residents and community partners. Through our work, the Center is inspiring hope and fostering change to improve the lives of neighborhood residents.

About RecycleForce

RecycleForce is an Indianapolis-based 501(c)3 nonprofit with a twofold mission: 1.) to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter civil society by providing paid employment and training coupled with social services; and 2.) to keep as much recyclable material as possible out of Indiana's landfills, with an emphasis on electronics (e-waste).

About King Park Development

King Park Development Corporation, a community economic development entity, is a catalyst for improving quality of life for our community through collaborative partnerships. Located just north of downtown Indianapolis, King Park is a welcoming residential and commercial community of neighborhoods, providing a full range of housing options, community services, educational choices, and recreational opportunities for a diverse population.

About Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization incorporated in August 2011. The mission of the FHCCI is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. The FHCCI recognizes the importance of "home" and envisions a country free of housing discrimination where every individual, group and community enjoys equal housing opportunity and access in a bias-free and open housing market.

About Englewood Community Development Corporation

Englewood Community Development Corporation (ECDC) is committed to community and economic development by providing affordable housing and focusing on creating and supporting local business initiatives. With the help of the East Washington Street Partnership, ECDC fosters sustainable economic development and revitalization in Indianapolis' urban corridors.

About Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) creates housing opportunities, generates and preserves assets, and revitalizes neighborhoods by facilitating the collaboration of multiple stakeholders, investing financial and technical resources in development efforts, and helping build capacity of qualified partners throughout Indiana.