



HOMETOWN
COLLABORATION INITIATIVE
Building Blocks for Energizing Communities

CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY FORUM REPORT



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Crawford County Hometown Collaboration Initiative

In the winter of 2016, Crawford County was selected to be part of the Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI) program offered through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for communities of 25,000 people or less. As a part of the initiative, the Logansport team conducted a community forum at the Crawford County 4-H Fairgrounds on August 22, 2017. About 40 community members participated.



The purpose of the forum was to share the survey results and capture ideas on how to build on the placemaking, economic and leadership assets of the community.

During the forum, attendees participated in three rounds of discussions, where they were asked about placemaking items critical for making the community an attractive place to live in the future, strategies to achieve their vision of a thriving economy and how to create a new generation of leaders and get more people involved in community improvement activities.



Our Team



The Crawford County HCI team consists of a diverse set of community members interested in fostering collaboration to make Crawford County even better. The team has been meeting since January preparing to select a building block on which to focus. These include developing a new generation of leaders, growing small business and entrepreneurs and enhancing community design and public spaces.

In addition to the forum, the HCI team surveyed local community members with nearly 600 responses.

Stay Informed!

Find the latest HCI information, meeting minutes, and reports at www.indianahci.org/communities/crawford



Placemaking



During the Placemaking round, community members were asked if they agreed with the top three placemaking priorities from the community survey, and if not, what they felt the community should prioritize. Each table picked a placemaking priority and then gave 2-3 strategies to improve this priority in the community. Forum participants voted individually for their top three items.

Tourism 50

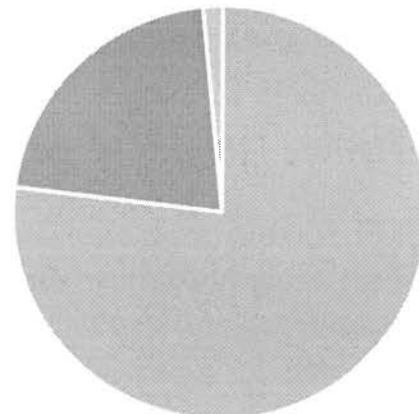
County wide branding	14
Overnight accommodations	11
Appropriate "Land management" (zoning)	10
Expand recreation opportunities: sustainable funding, economic development (incentives, hotels)	6
Promotion/marketing	4
Bring money in	4
Cross promotion	1

Downtown 14

Beautification	9
More emphasis on jobs/retail	4
Housing strategy	1

Other 1

County codes	1
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■ Tourism ■ Downtown ■ Other



Economy



During the Economy round, community members were asked:

- How can we support existing businesses in our community?
- What can we do to help people who want to start a business in our community?
- And as a table they decided and reported on the top 2-3 economy-related strategies from their discussion.

How can we support existing businesses in our community?

- Buy Local
- Promote businesses
- Economic Development Director
- Mentorship program
- Educate and train
- Incentives



Brainstorming Economic Development Strategies

Improve Local Business Climate	32
Tourism website (plan a trip: rates, places, etc., coupons, webpage maintenance)	14
Community leaders joining together "infrastructure"	11
Access to water and sewer	3
Support network for new businesses (mentoring)	2
Mentorship for small business	2
Leadership-business	
Training sessions/education (social media, marketing, etc.)	
Retain Existing Businesses/Promote Local Businesses	21
Tourism package-itinerary, incentives	14
Buy local campaign	6
Small town feel (heart for what they do)	1
Create Economic Development Plan	9
SBDC (small business development council)	6
Bring more economic growth (open land at Carefree, tax breaks)	3



Leadership

During the Leadership round, community members came up with strategies to improve the top 4 leadership items that were indicated on the survey.



Improve interpersonal skills of current leaders.

- *Be involved in your county-improving in, spending time in*
- *Positivity outweighs negativity*
- *More involved/more communication/transparency*
- *Leadership collaboration*
- Spend time to get to know business owners
- Get out and talk to population of county
- Understand where people are coming from
- Know your audience
- Skill development
- Leadership training
- Prioritize what's important to residents, improve quality of life, establish a "think tank"
- More to county government than county roads
- Convince leaders to improve their skills
- Remove politics from their agendas (control power)
- Non-profit board presidents to meet regularly
- How you make people feel and what they hear is more important than what is said
- Mandatory for council members to attend meetings like these
- Teach leadership about active listening
- Protocol for meetings
- Engage community in community leadership development, new leaders
- Be here
- Talk to citizens more than just to "get a vote"
- Pass out bumper stickers
- Truly care about what is going on in your community
- Be present in your community
- Seek and mandate continuing education
- Show people you care, empathize
- Be proud of your community-same level as basketball

Build skills of emerging leaders to take on new roles.

- *Encourage attendance*
- *Practice leadership skills*
- *Teachers recommend youth for leadership membership and roles*
- Read the Clarian and other local publications/social media
- Seek and mandate continuing education
- Identify "leaders"
- Identify skills needed by a leader
- Establish communication skills
- Acknowledge "emerging leaders" can be any age or anyone willing to step to the challenge
- Greater inclusivity
- Engaging retired seniors
- Volunteer Fair
- Instill desire and responsibility into our youth to become leaders
- Shadowing program (especially youth)
- Teach and challenge new leaders by providing new roles and opportunities to grow personally
- Creating or finding new roles
- Leaders can be identified by qualities that can be mentored
- Making times flexible so all can attend

**Items that are italicized were the top picks for action items.*



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Provide leadership skills training to youth.

- *Schools-Keystone CB and GC (Afterschool)*
- *Promote others who want to mentor*
- *Youth mentors younger kids*
- Incorporate pets and animals
- Practice writing
- Soft skills
- Teach core values
- Teach speech/public speaking
- ROTC and Jr. Military
- Parents/guardians serving as role models
- Internships-relationships with businesses
- Relationships with unions
- Retirees mentoring
- Career classes with community service (W.I.N requirement)
- Volunteer fire trainings
- YPC (GFCC)
- Coaches require community service/leadership
- Scouting
- Churches
- 4-H (Jr. Leaders)



Form leadership networks and opportunities for leaders to interact.

- *Adult leadership academy "Leadership Crawford County", youth leadership have Keystone and 4-H Jr. Leaders*
- *Include all types of community leaders*
- Cheat sheet of job descriptions and roles electronically and paper version
- Education to individuals on procedures (Robert's Rules of Order)
- Putting youth in leadership positions so they grow into adult leaders
- Web forum to discuss topics
- Leadership retreat for commissioners, council, school board, county offices, and town boards all at once

To see the survey report shared at the forum visit:

www.indianahci.org/Crawford.

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