

Legacy Foundation

Neighborhood Spotlight

Launched: 2012

Public Partners: City of Gary, Indiana; Indiana Association for Community Economic Development; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Department of Transportation; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Legacy Foundation: This community foundation is the leading philanthropic partner in Lake County, Indiana.

www.legacyfdn.org

Through the Neighborhood Spotlight (NS) initiative, Legacy Foundation has partnered with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Partnership for Sustainable Communities and the City of Gary, Indiana, to embark on a multiyear collaborative effort to champion collective impact strategy that is led by local residents to effect positive change in their communities. NS, place-based initiative for investing in Lake County, Indiana communities, creates access to knowledge and funding for projects that result in positive transformation. NS seeks to revitalize the unique character of local places as part of enhancing regional identity.

In addition to collaborating with NS, the partnership has facilitated coordination around federal investments to maximize the impact on the community. The collaboration of the federal government, Legacy Foundation, and the City of Gary was critical in positioning the City of Gary to receive a Strong Cities, Strong Communities designation from the White House. Combined with the NS initiative and the federally supported Gary Northside Redevelopment Project, this partnership has created the catalyst for necessary change in the City of Gary.

The NS Task Force was created to help shape the program timeline, budget, and structure. Task force members were selected based on commitment to their roles as distinguished community leaders who could align knowledge and solutions with resources from the nonprofit, business, and government sectors.

Because NS is funded through the pooling of resources from local donors, private businesses, national foundations, and other interested parties, the program funding reflects a collective impact model. The collective impact model will provide a framework that Legacy Foundation will be able to replicate in other communities throughout Lake County, Indiana. In addition, the partnership with the federal government and Indiana Association for Community Economic Development provides relationships on state and national levels to help educate other organizations on implementing this model in their community.



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