

# Future State: Realizing the Mission

This closing page of the *Indiana Vision 2025* blueprint was first published in the 2012 release of the statewide economic development action plan. Its principles still apply. It's why the work, from partners throughout the state, must go on.

The premise of this plan is that by engaging now in thoughtful consideration of the future we may shape it. We are not willing to leave the future prosperity of Hoosiers to chance, but rather seek to enhance it by our actions today. Through this plan, we have attempted to establish a roadmap to prosperity where Hoosiers can achieve a higher quality of life than otherwise possible.

Today, Indiana is a very, very good place to live, work and raise a family. But we are greedy, in a good sense. We want Indiana to be the very best. We want to build on our current advantages and shore up our weaknesses. An honest self-assessment reveals that we must improve on today's reality when:

- At least one in four young people fail to achieve the bare minimum of a quality high school education.
- Only slightly more than one-third of high school graduates go on to achieve the postsecondary credentials necessary to succeed in today's competitive jobs market.
- High smoking and obesity levels contribute to ever-rising health care costs and, most importantly, cut short far too many lives.
- We waste tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on local government systems that are inefficient and, in many cases, ineffective.
- A few "chinks" in an otherwise positive tax system drive some business and personal resources elsewhere.
- Our valuable energy and water resources are at risk due to a lack of upkeep and long-term planning.
- Despite robust investment, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure is likewise at risk.
- We don't provide entrepreneurs with nearly enough resources to start and grow their businesses close to home.
- We send subtle (and sometimes more blunt) messages that some people are not welcome based on who they are or their country of origin.

While the year 2025 may appear far off, it is never too soon to begin going from "very good" to "great" as a state. Embodied in *Indiana Vision 2025* is a framework for action that will lead to numerous desirable outcomes.

If we work together to accomplish initiatives within this plan, we see Indiana as a future leader in which:

- At least 90% (with the ultimate goal of 100%) of students are fully prepared to enter college or the workforce.
- A minimum of 60% of Indiana residents have the postsecondary credentials or degrees that lead to personal achievement and

business development.

- Individuals embrace wellness to enhance their own quality of life, workplaces and communities.
- Local government becomes a more effective resource, rather than serving as an impediment, to facilitate jobs and economic growth.
- Tax policy attracts additional investment and allows successful individuals to remain in our state and serve as valuable mentors and contributors throughout their lifetimes.
- We are assured that flipping the light switch and turning on the faucet will deliver the affordable power and water we are accustomed to for personal and business needs.
- Our physical and digital infrastructure prove to be valuable advantages over regional and national competitors.
- We not only keep more young people and future business leaders at home, but attract talented individuals from around the country and across the world.
- We have a culture that is open and accepting, paving the way for invention, creativity and prosperity.

As we examine each key economic driver, we can foresee the likely benefits: By striving to educate and train Hoosiers better than we do today, we make them better citizens and prepare them for a lifetime of productive work, adaptable to changing labor markets and less vulnerable to economic upheavals.

By constraining the size and scope of government, we create an attractive place for new investment and job creation. We will ease the financial burden government places on Indiana families, farms and businesses while making government more transparent and accountable. We will maximize individual liberty and economic opportunity while promoting the social welfare.

By creating strategies for long-term investments in key infrastructure, we ensure that Hoosiers will have available to them the necessary tools for commerce

and a high quality of life. We will make the state more accessible and attractive to investment.

By promoting a tolerant, open society, we lay the groundwork for creativity and innovation. By encouraging public institutions and private enterprise to embrace diversity and risk-taking, we make it more likely that the next crucial breakthroughs in science, technology and business will be Indiana-born.

By planning, debating and then working hard toward a shared vision for the future, we can ensure that indeed "Indiana will be a global leader in innovation and economic opportunity where enterprises and citizens prosper."



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