

Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



February 6, 2024

Help expand broadband

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program is a federal program with a goal of connecting unserved and underserved locations to broadband service. Indiana received an allocation of \$868 million to connect as many Hoosiers as possible.



The BEAD program uses the [FCC National Broadband Map](#) to determine these levels of service. The Indiana Broadband Office is starting its Challenge Process to correct these locations. Say an individual's home is identified as "served" on the FCC map, but that location is in fact not able to receive service at all - this would be the way to correct the map and, therefore, increase the likelihood of getting services to that location.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs), governments, and non-profit organizations are the only ones who can submit corrections to the FCC map. Be Noble Inc. encourages governments and non-profits who serve individuals who lack internet services in Noble County to attend an upcoming webinar to learn more about how to submit challenges to correct the FCC map. Learn more about the challenge process [here](#).

Broadband Challenge Seminar Thurs. Feb. 8 3 PM

CHILD CARE TRI-SHARE PROGRAM

PILOT PROGRAM COMING
TO NOBLE COUNTY IN 2023

Grant doubles employer investments in child care

The Community Foundation of Noble County, on behalf of Thrive by 5, has received an Employer-Sponsored Child Care Fund Grant from the state to match employer investments in the Noble Count Tri-Share Program. The Tri-Share Program addresses child care affordability for families by splitting the cost of care three ways: funding from the Noble County Commissioners, funding from employers, and funding from the family.

Families who have a child or children in a participating child care program and earn between 150% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$45,000 to \$90,000 for a family of four) could qualify for enrollment in the Tri-Share Program. When their employer opts-in and invests through the Community Foundation of Noble County to support their workers with the cost of child care, the grant from the Employer-Sponsored Child Care fund will double their investment, up to \$5,000.

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WORKPLACE PREPAREDNESS GRANT



[Apply now](#)

Grant for workers -Deadline Feb. 16

The application for the **Workplace Preparedness Grant**, announced by Be Noble Inc. in partnership with the Community Foundation of Noble County, is February 16, 2024.

The Workplace Preparedness Grant is targeted to help workers who have prospective or secured employment in Noble County and are enrolled in a program to earn, or who have recently earned, a workforce certification, Associates Degree, or Bachelor Degree. Eligible workers may receive up to \$1,000 for the exclusive purpose of acquiring tools, equipment or other supplies needed in their occupation, but not provided by their employer or prospective employer.

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READI 2.0 Updates

Unlike [READI 1.0](#) and the Regional Cities Initiative (RCI), the READI 2.0 application will not feature a pipeline of individual projects. This time, we were challenged by the IEDC to focus on regional investment strategies and the region's vision for its future. So, to prepare the submission, the RDA board and NEI team have been working with the region's Local Economic Development Organizations (LEDOs) and representatives from each member of the RDA, including the 11 counties and 16 second- and third-class cities, to identify barriers to community growth.

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\$6.7M in ag grants announced

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture has announced a cooperative agreement to bring over \$6.7 million in competitive grant funding for projects designed to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain. Indiana businesses and producers that work in the middle of the food chain sector (from the farm gate to the end retail market) are eligible to apply. Eligible product ideas include creating a produce packing line, value-added dairy and egg products, establishing or expanding a co-packing facility or building a commercial kitchen. Much more information is available via the link provided. Click the button above for more information.



[Learn more](#)

Mainstreet Ligonier to hold public meeting Feb. 8

Mainstreet Ligonier, an organization recently restructured, looking to discuss a new direction with a mission to revitalize Ligonier's historic commercial district downtown, will hold a free, public meeting on February 8 at 7 PM at the Ligonier Fire Station. The group will look to elect board members and welcomes community volunteers to serve on committees focused on Design, Organization, Promotion, and Economic Vitality. Current board members will present projects for 2024.



Supporting the workforce

Part of the mission of Parkview Health is to improve the health of the communities they serve. Parkview Employer Solutions combines four services to improve the financial health of area employers and physical and mental health of their employees. Services include Parkview Signature Care PPO Network, Occupational Health, Employee Assistance Program, and Workplace Wellness.

[Explore Employer Solutions](#)

Employers can recruit at Trine Career Fair Feb 13-15

Trine University's Career Center will host a Spring Career Fair Week February 13-15. Employers are invited to participate to recruit for specific majors on designated days. Sign up for one or more days, based on need, by registering using the links below.

[Civil/Mechanical Engineers](#)

[Other Engineers & Business](#)

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

News & Opportunities



SACA Certified!

Advanced Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC)

80 Hours

This course is comprised of two SACA certified micro-credentials. The credentials include PLC Troubleshooting 1 and PLC Systems 1.

\$2,034

3/5/2024-5/9/2024
Tuesdays & Thursdays
4:00pm-8:00pm

Industry 4.0 Maintenance Specialist- Level 1

160 Hours

This course is comprised of four SACA certified courses. The course covers Electrical Systems, Pneumatic Systems 1, Mechanical Power Systems, and Hydraulic Systems 1

\$3,995

3/4/2024-7/17/2024
Mondays & Wednesdays
4:00pm-8:00pm

Classes Located in Kendallville

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT ANITA SHEPHERD @
ashepherd@freedomacademy.net
800.200.6499



[Facebook Page](#)

Young professionals Breakfast Club

Noble County Young Professional Network (YPN) invites young professionals to join them for The Breakfast Club, a professional networking and business development opportunity in Noble County. The event takes place every second Thursday of the month at Jen's Bistro, located at 107 S Main Street in Kendallville. Find more information on the Noble County YPN Facebook Page.





Members of the small business community in the Albion area gathered on February 5 for a networking event and to hear updates from Albion Town Manager Jacob Ihrie, as well as supports available for small businesses through Be Noble Inc. More than 40 people attended the event, hosted at One10 West Main. Discussions are under way to come together on a regular basis. (Photo contributed.)

LEDO supports co-working launch in Noble

Noble County's first dedicated co-working space, 231 Main in Kendallville, moved another step closer to opening with the approval of a \$29,000 investment by the board of directors of Be Noble Inc. The local economic development organization's (LEDO) board approved a recommendation of its Investment Trust Fund committee after Historic Downtown Kendallville (HDK) coordinator, Kristen Johnson, pitched the project. Funding will be used to replace and upgrade garage doors, as recommended by a contractor overseeing building renovations, and to complete the purchase of the building. The Kendallville Redevelopment Commission also granted \$83,000 towards the purchase. HDK will be debt-free as a result of the building payoff and says operating costs will be covered by membership and other use fees by patrons. Renovations are expected to be completed this spring.



231 Main Kendallville Co-Working



Enhancing public use maker space in Albion

The Bridge, a public maker space located at the Noble County Public Library in Albion, will soon add a full-color, multi-function printer thanks to funding support from the Town of Albion, made possible by tax increment financing (TIF) dollars.

The user-friendly printer will be available to help individuals who have do-it-yourself projects for their family, nonprofit, or growing small business. Users will also enjoy the ability to scan and copy documents. Members of the public are invited to explore, share, and use all of the equipment in The Bridge and no library card is required. Noble County Public Library offers these technologies, not typically found in homes or start-up businesses, to help people discover and learn new technologies and to give entrepreneurs a leg up. Users pay low fees for use that cover the costs of materials (an inventory is available on site, and in some cases, users can provide their own), maintenance, and use. Staff are available to train users as well.

The Bridge is also home to 3D printers, a large format poster printer that accepts a variety of mediums, a heat press, a vinyl cutting plotter, a laser cutter that can cut and engrave wood, leather and acrylic; a photo printer, and an entire Library of Things available for check-out for library patrons including projectors, a sewing machine, portable public address system, metal detector, and more. Learn more at <https://www.myncpl.us/>.

Explore The Bridge



Application deadline is February 9

Teen entrepreneurs who live, attend school, or are homeschooled in Noble County are invited to participate in the NoblePalooza Youth Business Fair to introduce their business concepts, receive feedback, network, and/or sell their merchandise or services at NoblePalooza, an Expo to Thrive. NoblePalooza takes place on Saturday, March 9 at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville.

[More info & application](#)

Gaming on the big screen



Kevin Robbins, part-owner and operator of the Strand Theatre in Kendallville, is hoping to build greater sustainability for his business by thinking outside the box. The Strand is one of the state's longest operating theatres and an anchor for Historic Downtown Kendallville. Equipped with digital projectors, Robbins is now offering gamers the opportunity to game on the giant screen. Gamers can reserve two-hour blocks of time to hook up their gaming systems on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. for \$125. One console can be used during any two-hour block. Projectors support Xbox, Nintendo Switch, and PlayStation. Robbins will even work with gamers who may need to rent one of his own systems to play. Soon, Robbins plans to also offer the venue for birthday parties. For more information, or to schedule gaming time, contact the Strand at (260) 347-3558.

[The Strand Theatre](#)

Invest in Noble County!

[Donate now!](#)



Cornerstone Christian School took an idea presented by Albion resident **Terrie Beckley** and ran with it! **Albion Parks Department** superintendent, Casey Myers, shared Beckley's idea on Facebook, which spurred the school, also located in Albion, to donate three sleds and a custom-built stand, creating a Little Free Sled Library at Hidden Diamonds Park. Local donors also contributed to bringing the project to its completion. Children can borrow a sled to enjoy the snowfall at Hidden Diamonds where a large hill awaits.

The **Community Foundation of Noble County** announced \$34,911.80 in grants awarded from the Community Impact Fund and Celebrate Community Fund. 10 local organizations received funding support for a variety of projects impacting quality of life and community in Noble County. These gifts are an example of Community Investment, one of the 5 Pillars that provide a foundation for Noble County to thrive! Upcoming application deadlines for Community Impact Fund proposals are March 2, July 2 and November 2. Learn more at cfnoble.org.

Noble County will receive \$18,032 to supplement food and shelter programs. Funds were made available through the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. A local board made up of several local charities is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds. To learn more, contact Julie Poertner of **Crossroads United Way** at poertnerj@crossroadsuw.org.

John Admire of Ashley Industrial Molding, with a plant in Kendallville, has been selected to the board of directors of the Indiana Manufacturers Association. He joins a new chair for 2024, Angela Holt, president of Rathburn Tool & Manufacturing also located in Northeast Indiana in Auburn.

A former executive director of the Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau, still a champion for Noble County, has been elected to serve on the national Main Street Leadership Council by his peers from across the nation. **John Bry**, a native of Northeast Indiana and current administrator of local business development and program coordinator for Oakland County, MI, was selected to serve an initial three-year term. Bry was instrumental in helping communities in Noble County establish Main Street organizations and, more recently, consulted with the City of Kendallville as they applied for and were named a PreservING Main Street Pilot Community and won a \$2 million grant. Bry is slated to join a panel of local experts on February 15 in Ligonier to discuss Retail and Commerce as part of the [Engage Noble Leadership Academy](#) curriculum.

Congratulations to the **Ligonier Police Department** for achieving a three-year accreditation from the Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. They join the likes of Terre Haute, Lafayette, Carmel, Bloomington, Kokomo and other communities, by meeting high bars of excellence in their work.

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