

The Journey of Affordability Criteria

Indiana's Version

November 2023



Crossroads of America

Where *were* we?

Where are we *now*?

Where are we *headed*?

How did all of this come about?

Drinking Water:

- Affordability (post-project annual water bill/median household income)
 - Less than 1% = 1 point
 - More than 1.5% = 5 points
- Population Served:
 - Less than or equal to 10K = 1 points
 - Greater than 10K = no points

Clean Water

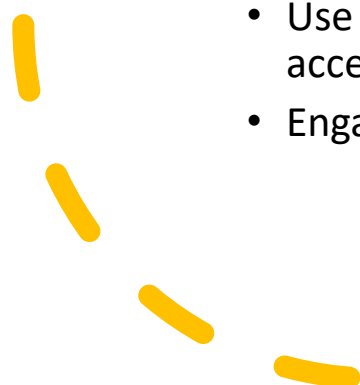
- Financial Capability (post-project annual water bill/median household income)
 - Less than 1% = no points
 - More than 2% = 5 points

Where
were we?



Where were we asked to go?

- EPA's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law SRF Implementation Memo (March 2022)
 - Increase Investment in Disadvantaged Communities
 - Evaluate and revise, as needed, the DWSRF disadvantage community definition and the CWSRF affordability criteria.
 - Evaluate the SRF priority point system for project ranking commensurate with need.
 - Use technical assistance funding to help disadvantaged communities identify needs and access funding.
 - Engage residents and community stakeholders in disadvantaged communities.





Where are we *now*?

- Affordability Criteria, Disadvantaged Communities, and Population (DWSRF & CWSRF)
 - Disadvantaged Communities (Self-reported Census Tracts)
 - Median Household Income
 - Percent of Population over 65
 - Percent Minority
 - Population Trend
 - Affordability Criteria (Self-reported Census Tracts)
 - Post-Project User Rate as Percentage of Lowest Quintile Upper Limit Income
 - Percent of Population below the Poverty Line





Eek! Methinks not.

Meh. I've experienced better.

A-OK.

Yay! I'm a fan.

Woohoo! As good as it gets!

How do we like it here?

- Good:
 - New communities
 - Holistic Approach
 - Consistent Data
- Not so Good:
 - Title VI
 - Binary Scoring
 - Validation of Data
 - Is this *actually* working?



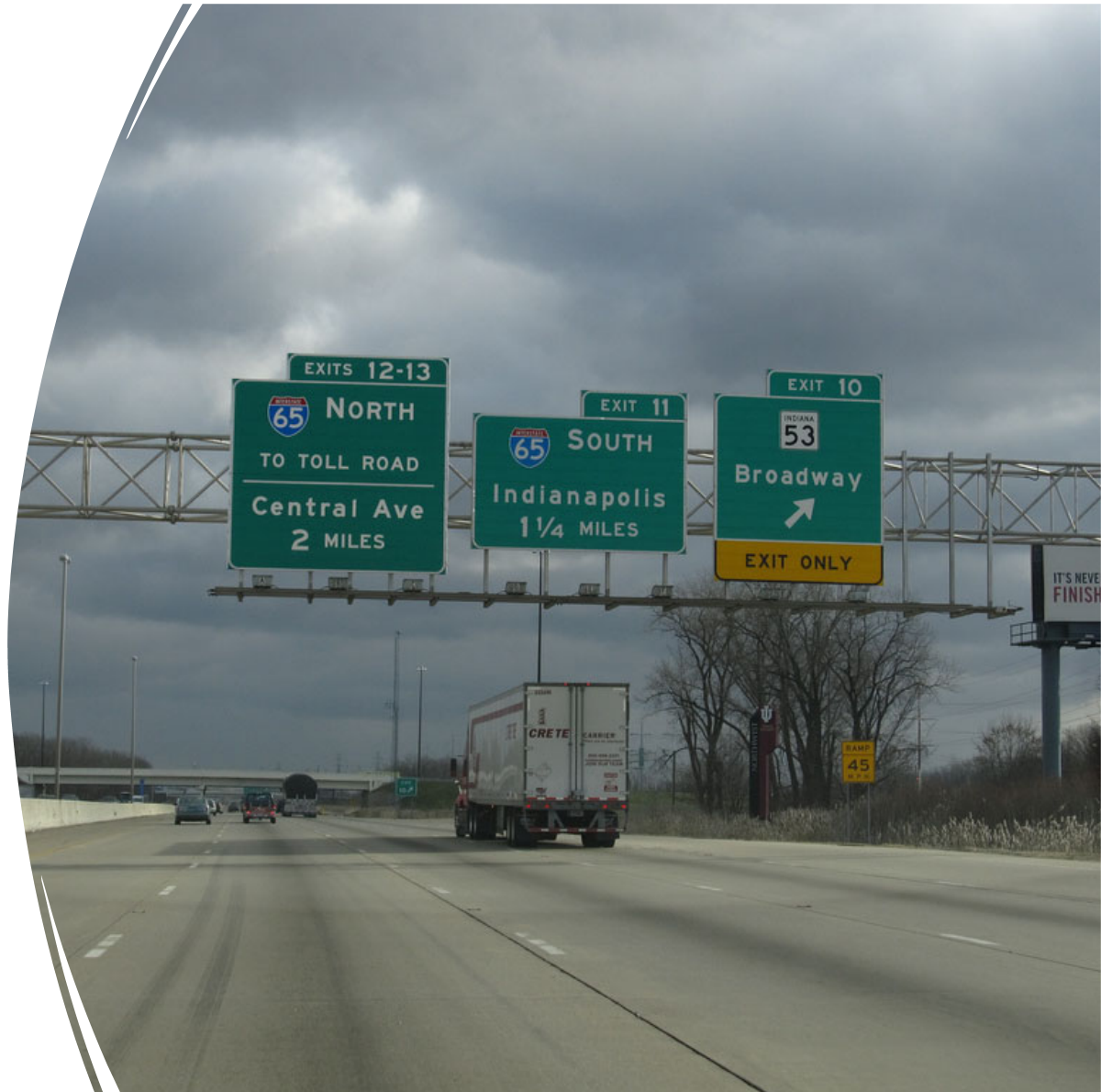
Have we completed our journey?

- EPA's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law SRF Implementation Memo (March 2022)
 - Increase Investment in Disadvantaged Communities
 - ✓ Evaluate and revise, as needed, the DWSRF disadvantage community definition and the CWSRF affordability criteria.
 - ✓ Evaluate the SRF priority point system for project ranking commensurate with need.
 - Use technical assistance funding to help disadvantaged communities identify needs and access funding.
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Where do we *need* to go?

- Need to address:
 - Title VI
 - Binary Scoring
 - Validation of Data
 - Is this *actually* working?

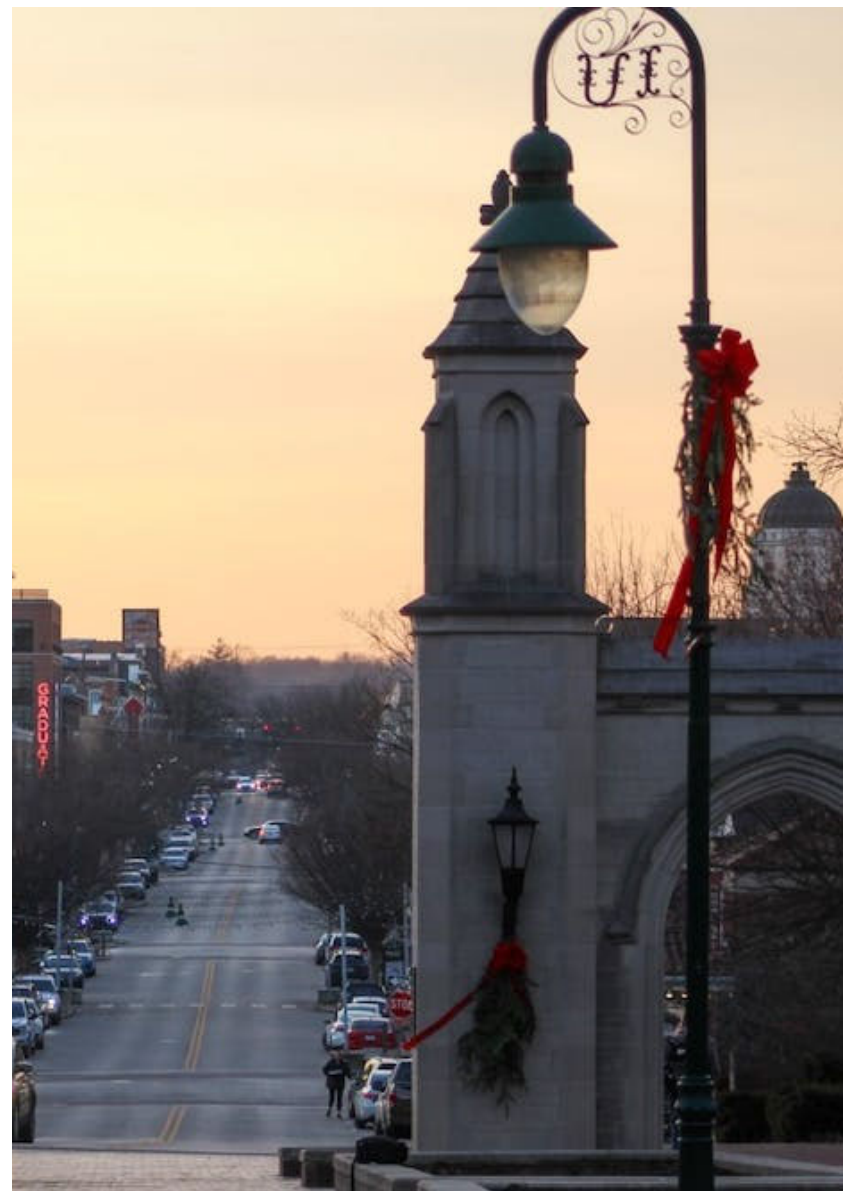


How do we plan to get there?

- Indiana University - School of Public Health
 1. Where are the areas of need in the state?
 2. Do our criteria match the locally identified areas of need?

Officially:

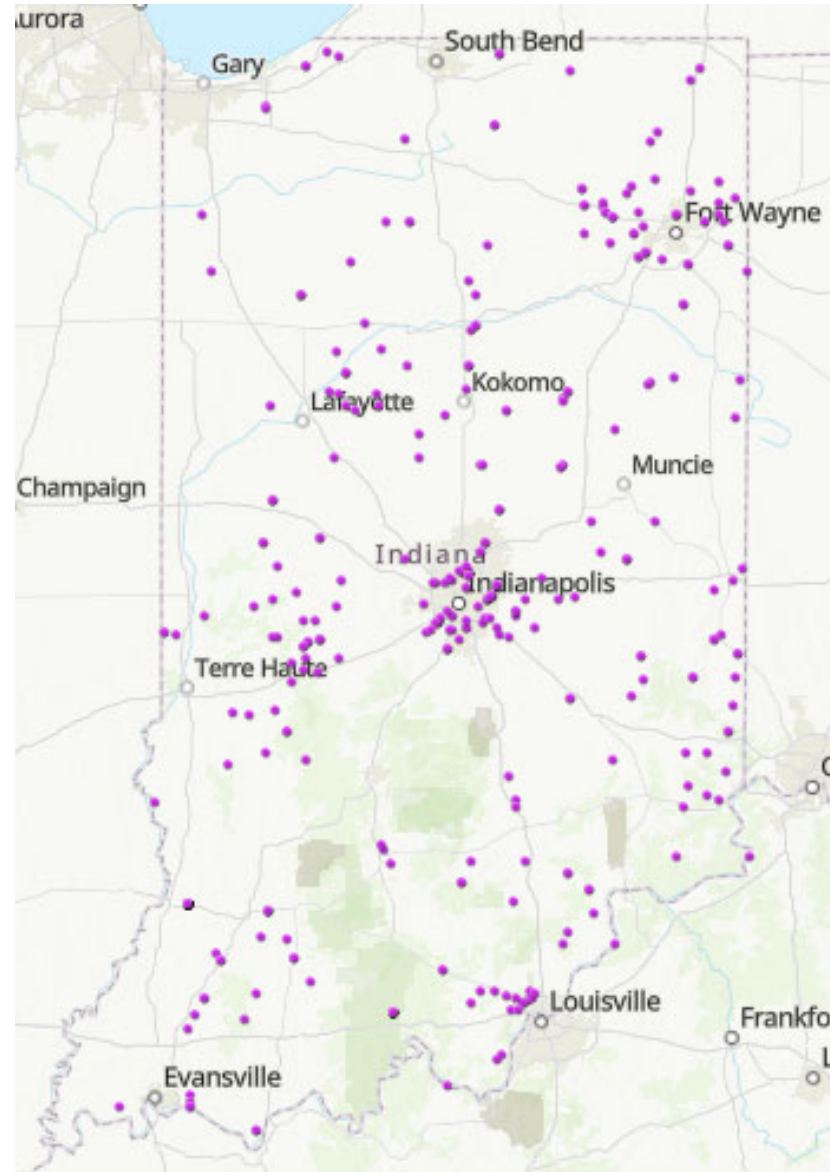
“Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) of Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure Needs in Indiana”



Areas with Technical Needs

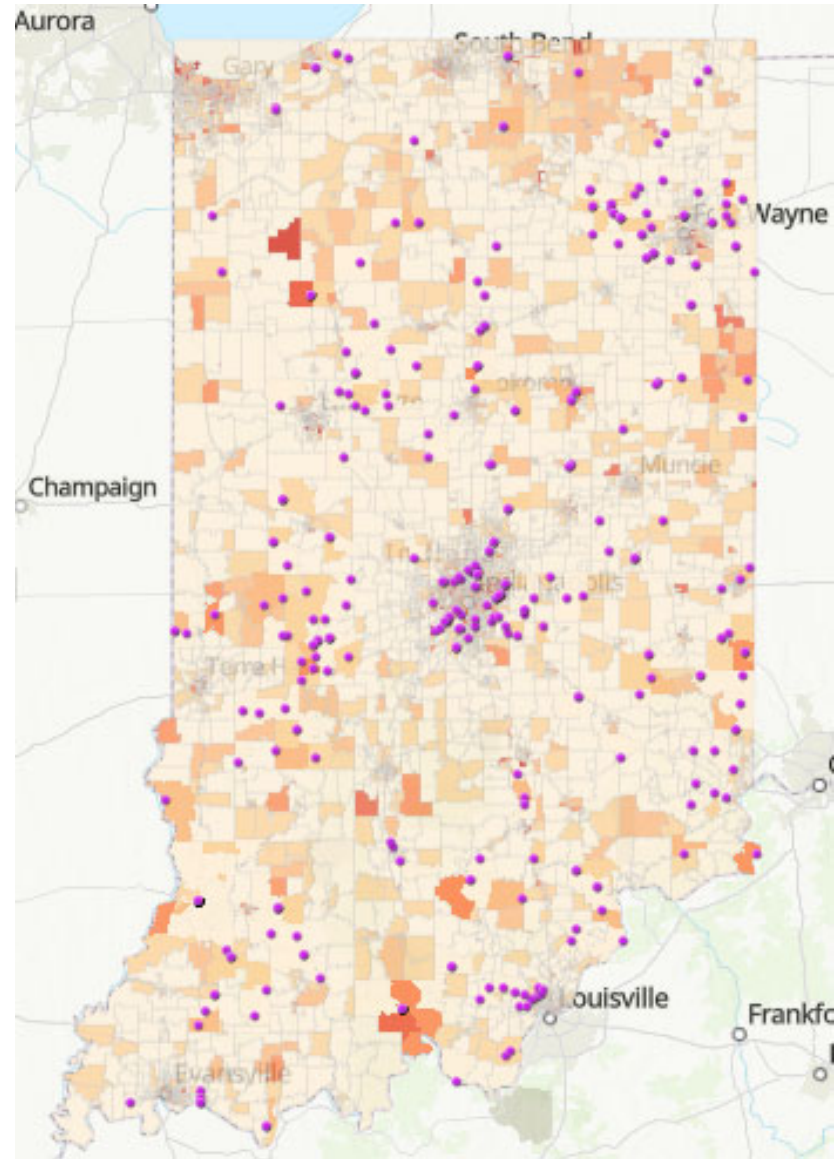
- As identified by county sanitarians
 - CW: 83.4%
 - DW: 30.1%
 - SW: 12.1
 - Other: 0.7%

Some areas reported as both DW and CW area of need.



Areas with Socioeconomic Need

- Indicators:
 - Over 64
 - Under 5
 - People with a Disability
 - Less than HS Education
 - Limited English
 - Low Income
 - People of Color



How are
we
adjusting
the route?



Date Level Validation

Census Tracts *and* Census
Block Groups



Indicators

Moving away from Percent
Minority
Moving toward Percent of
Education Attainment



Rurality

Discussions around how we
define rural vs. urban



Scoring Procedure

Scale for points based on
percentage thresholds

What is on the horizon?

- Updating scoring and ranking process for next SFY
- Continue to update the thresholds based on new ACS data
- Continue to monitor how these indicators change over time
- Reaching out to these communities



An aerial photograph of the Indiana State Capitol building, a grand neoclassical structure with a prominent central dome and multiple wings. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and a well-maintained lawn. In the foreground, a statue on a pedestal is visible. The sky is overcast.

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Chicago from Indiana Dunes

