

Annual **2024 Report**

Board of Directors

President

Scott Wesseler

Delta Faucet

Vice President

Chris Bierhaus

Miers Farm Corp

Secretary

Brett Abplanalp

Decatur County REMC

Treasurer

Chris Bower

First Financial Bank

Decatur County Community Schools

GDC Chamber of Commerce

Greensburg City Council

Decatur County Council

Greensburg Community Schools

Centerpoint Energy

City of Greensburg

Decatur County Memorial Hospital

Decatur County Commissioner

Duke Energy

RESONAC

Honda Indiana Auto Plant

KOVA

JCBank

Runnebohm Construction

WB Koester

Jarrod Burns

Dawn Lowe

Darryl Tressler

Deanna Burkhart

Tom Hunter

Nathan Kunkler

Mayor Joshua Marsh

Rex McKinney

Mark Koors

Kylie Foster

Eric Berkemeier

Roxanna Metz

Brad Reed

Dan Anderson

Bob Carmony

Mark Winternheimer

Director's Note

2024 was a year of momentum and partnership for Greensburg and Decatur County. Through the Accelerate Rural Indiana (ARI) READI 2.0 program, our region secured a record-setting \$30 million award – the highest per capita in Indiana. Locally, these funds will help advance projects like new downtown apartments, utility extensions for the Business Enterprise Park, and redevelopment efforts like St. Mary's and the fairgrounds. Beyond the funding itself, ARI's leadership in fully disbursing over 65% of its earlier READI 1.0 allocation positioned our region as a state leader in execution and impact. Business development continued to be a central focus. Highlights included the Fletcher Power Battery Energy Storage System, which will add 118 MW of grid capacity and bring new tax revenue and jobs. We also supported Valeo Engine Cooling's growth with incentives leading to 11 new jobs and nearly \$9.5 million in investment. Our revolving loan fund helped Mayasari Tempeh scale production, and we welcomed delegations from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for business tours that spotlighted local innovation and workforce needs.

Our workforce and community development work remained strong in 2024. The Opportunity Expo connected our high school juniors and seniors to over 50 local employers, while the launch of the JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) programs at Greensburg High School as well as North and South are set to help at-risk youth build future careers. We also supported the growing need for childcare by exploring a partnership with ALL4Kids LLC, whose potential new facility could add up to 150 much-needed childcare spots for local families.

Looking to the future, we remain focused on critical areas like housing, utility infrastructure, and workforce growth. Many of these issues can only be addressed through strategic partnerships and community engagement, and we will keep building on this momentum to ensure Greensburg and Decatur County remain places where families thrive, businesses invest, and opportunity continues to grow.

Thanks for all your support,



Bryan Robbins
Executive Director

Community Development

Focus on St. Paul

A meeting organized by St. Paul Town Council President, Josh Sangl, brought together representatives from St. Paul, Waldron, Curry and Associates, the EDC and the Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission to explore forming a regional water/wastewater organization. The discussions were productive with a strong outlook for cooperation, and a proposal was developed for a preliminary engineering study. Funding will be pursued among the towns and regional partners.

Addressing Childcare Needs

As a means of helping address the need for 700+ additional childcare spots in the county, the EDC engaged with ALL4Kids LLC, a for-profit childcare provider operating in several southeastern Indiana communities with interest in expanding to Greensburg. They offer competitive wages, employee benefits, and fees comparable to local providers like Carousel. Existing facilities in West Harrison, St. Leon, and Batesville were toured, gaining valuable insight into their care model and renovation approach. If established in Greensburg, their facility could add up to 150 much-needed childcare seats to the community.

More Housing

The new PSM Apartments officially opened in Greensburg, offering 48 modern, market-rate rental units designed to meet growing demand for quality housing in the community. Featuring a mix of one- and two-bedroom floor plans, the development includes on-site amenities such as a fitness center, outdoor green space, and secure parking. Early occupancy rates are strong, reflecting increased community interest and bolstering efforts to expand local housing options.



ShopSmall” SBA Neighborhood of the Year

Due to the coordination and efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Greensburg, and the Small Business Administration, Downtown Greensburg has been named the Neighborhood of the year. The EDC helped with hosting the SBA officials and their official tour of the space which provided a great way to promote our local shops, and provided some great networking opportunities for our state elected officials.





Jobs for America's Graduates

Both Decatur County Schools and Greensburg Community Schools will soon launch a JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program through a partnership with the Southeast Indiana Workforce Board. The program targets students at risk of dropping out or disengaging and offers support to help them succeed. The EDC Staff was honored to judge a Career Development Center Employment Competition in Jennings County, where JAG students competed in areas like entrepreneurship, public speaking, and financial literacy.

8th Grade Reality Check

EDC Staff participated in the Annual Reality Check event for the area's 8th graders. South Decatur, Greensburg, and St. Mary's sent kids to learn about the costs of life outside of school, including housing, vehicles, childcare and even pets. The results were eye-opening for many participants, and all had fun planning their future.

Opportunity Expo

The 2024 Opportunity Expo in Greensburg brought together over 50 local employers, educational institutions, and community organizations, creating a dynamic platform for job seekers and students. Attendees engaged in career workshops, résumé reviews, and on-the-spot interviews, resulting in numerous potential job matches and internship opportunities. The event highlighted emerging industries in Decatur County and introduced new pathways for workforce development, including hands-on demonstrations and training resources. Feedback indicated that the Expo effectively connected talent with local businesses and strengthened regional partnerships, setting the stage for continued growth in 2025.

Genesis: Emerge Summit

Robbins was asked to sit on a panel of area LEDO Directors, covering topics ranging from best practices for young entrepreneurs to programs we have available to help them get started. The educational event was hosted by Genesis Pathways, an initiative that connects students with career exploration, work-based learning, and post-secondary opportunities to prepare them for future success, operating out of Ripley County.



Business Development



Indy Global Summit

The EDC attended the 2024 Indiana Global Economic Summit, held May 23–24 in Indianapolis. The event drew around 800 attendees, including 41 international delegations, to discuss global priorities such as AI, national security, integrated health, and supply chain resilience. It also featured high-profile speakers and major job and investment announcements, including a \$100 million state-backed venture capital fund to support growth-stage startups.

Valeo Expansion

Multiple meetings with representatives of Valeo Engine Cooling in Greensburg led to two new project incentives, representing 11 new jobs and around \$9.5 million in total investment. These projects will help the plant support new and existing business growth, and further establish the company in our community.



Trip to Indonesia with the Indiana Soybean Alliance

In February 2024, the EDC joined a 10-person delegation led by the Indiana Soybean Alliance on a trade mission to Indonesia to explore new markets for Indiana-grown soybeans. The group, which included local farmers and business leaders, was led by Decatur County's own Maya Effendi, who arranged meetings with potential buyers and highlighted a high-protein soybean variety tailored for use in tempeh products aimed at pregnant mothers. This visit aims to deepen trade ties, support local agriculture, and expand export opportunities for Decatur County producers.

Business Tours with IEDC

In 2024 we hosted the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for tours for local businesses including: Shepherd Boy Farms; NCT Tech; Houck Industries; and Gecom. These visits allowed for both our organization and the state to be aware of business trends, local needs, and where our entities may be able to assist in their growth strategies.

Ag Innovation Conference

The Southeastern Indiana Ag Innovation Conference, held in January 2024, at Greensburg City Hall, brought together agricultural producers, renewable energy experts, and local students to explore agrivoltaics, bio-digesters, and sustainable practices. Sponsored by a Duke Energy grant, the event featured diverse presentations—from dual-use solar farming to manure-to-energy solutions—and highlighted value-added opportunities under the Inflation Reduction Act. With strong attendance and active engagement, the conference emphasized the synergy between agriculture and renewable energy in shaping the region's sustainable future.





Leading the State in READI 1.0

In 2024, Accelerate Rural Indiana became the first READI region to disburse 65% of its \$20 million 1.0 allocation, unlocking access to READI 2.0 funds and demonstrating strong project momentum. Eleven of seventeen awarded projects have been fully funded, including notable community investments like Greensburg’s Inclusion Park and Batesville’s Skate Park, delivering tangible quality-of-life benefits.

Indiana Power Partners Site Selection Event

At the June Chicago Indiana Power Partners (IPP) Site Selection Event, Robbins represented the I-74 Corridor and met with 12 site selectors active in Indiana through a speed-dating style format. From the interactions, trends in the industry were discerned showing project interest remains high, though timelines are stretching due to supply chain issues, utility delays, and uncertainty around federal programs like the IRA. Industries such as food processing and data centers are strong prospects, with automation addressing labor shortages but adding upfront costs.

READI 2.0 Projects Awarded

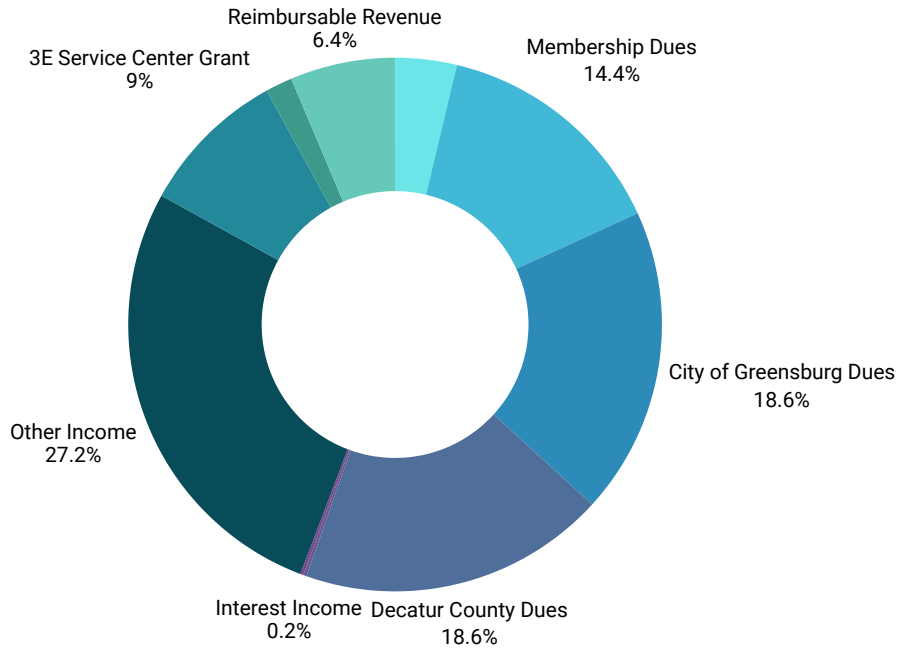
Decatur, Rush, Shelby counties and the cities of Batesville, Greensburg, Rushville, and Shelbyville—collectively Accelerate Rural Indiana (ARI)—were awarded \$30 million in READI 2.0 funding in April 2024, the highest per-capita award of any region in the state. Projects will focus on housing growth, income expansion, population increases, education access, and regional marketing. Decatur County’s approved projects include utility extensions to the Business Enterprise Park, downtown apartments, a learning center/childcare, St. Mary’s redevelopment, fairgrounds improvements, and Park Road housing.

Columbus Blue Jackets Hockey Game

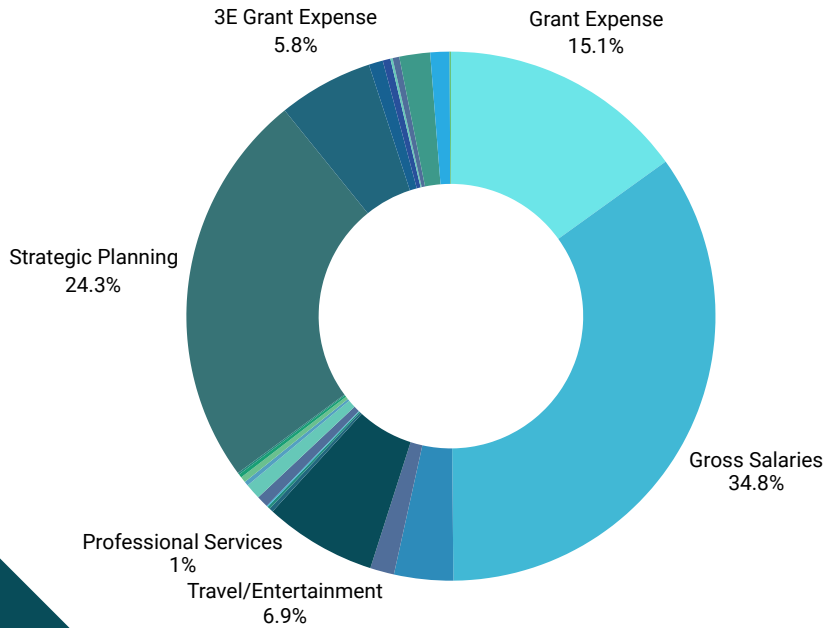
Robbins attended the annual hockey game, organized through South Central Indiana Economic Development Group (CIEDG) and Radius Indiana. Jeff Reed from Honda was our guest, along with reps from the Montrose Group, Hicks Partners, Agracel (all site selection), and Marti Brenner (incentives).



Financial Statement



**Total
Income**
\$322,252.10



**Total
Expenses**
\$345,271.89

**Total
Assets**
\$782,121.99

**Revolving
Loan Fund**
\$247,787.50



Mission Statement:

To be a catalyst in increasing economic wealth and growth in Decatur County through collaboration with government officials and business partners.

Annual Meeting Minutes

July 10th, 2025
Greensburg City Hall
11:30 AM

11:30

Lunch Served

Scott Wessler, President

President's Welcome

Review of Financials and Minutes

Financials were motioned for approval by Brett Abplanalp, seconded by Brad Reed
Minutes were motioned for approval by Darryl Tressler, seconded by Chris Bierhaus

Election of Officers

Brett Abplanalp, Vice President
Called for nominations: no nominations
Vote to close nominations: motioned by Brad Reed, seconded by Deanna Burkhart
Motion Passed
Slate of officers presented:
Chris Bierhaus, President
Brett Abplanalp, Vice President
Dan Anderson, Secretary
Chris Bower, Treasurer
Vote on presented slate: Motioned by Scott Wessler, seconded by Rex McKinney
Motion Passed

EDCGDC Update

Bryan Robbins gave an update on the EDC. He gave an update on the diversifying local markets, events, and industry.

Bryan Robbins introduced Campbell Ricci from Accelerate Indiana Municipalities

Program

Campbell Ricci, Policy Director at AIM, shared many updates from the statehouse. He covered provisions in business personal property taxes, local income taxes, budget procedures, and more.

Closing and Adjourn

Chris Bierhaus, New President
Vote to close: motion by Eric Berkemeier, seconded by Brett Abplanalp
Meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM