



For Immediate Release

## **Indiana's Heartland Bioworks Wins \$51 Million for Bioscience Development and Workforce Expansion**

*Community Funding Accelerator-supported consortium won federal Tech Hubs program*

**[Bloomington, IN, July 2, 2024]** With support from the Community Funding Accelerator, Indiana's Heartland Bioworks will receive \$51 million through the federal Tech Hubs program to connect the state's growing biosciences industry to K-12 education and the future workforce, the [U.S. Economic Development Administration announced today](#).

[Heartland Bioworks](#) is a consortium of Indiana stakeholders – including industry leaders, research institutions, and school districts – who are coming together to cement Indiana's position as a global leader in biotechnology and biomanufacturing. The Tech Hubs proposal leverages Indiana's existing biotechnology industry to support a robust workforce development strategy that will prepare K-12 students to make breakthroughs in human, animal, and plant biosciences in their future careers.

The five-year project will take a multipronged approach to bioscience development and workforce expansion, including:

1. Building out the Bioworks organization so it can serve as a hub that coordinates activities;
2. Launching BioTrain, an equitable workforce development program that will support employer training systems and K-12 programming (in partnership with EmployIndy and others);
3. Supporting BioLaunch, a start-up academy and network for accessing bioresources; and
4. Constructing BioWorks HQ, a training and demonstration facility to prepare people for high-quality jobs in biomanufacturing operator and lab technician roles.

The project will closely integrate K-12 education and workforce development. In partnership with EmployIndy, a local nonprofit and workforce intermediary, Heartland Bioworks will expose students to life sciences manufacturing opportunities, engage students with interactive learning opportunities like field trips and meetings with employers, and connect pilot schools with hands-on training that will result in industry-recognized credentials and employment. The



project expects to serve at least 3,875 students annually and over 19,000 over the course of the grant.

The [Community Funding Accelerator](#) (CFA) helped develop the winning proposal through strategic advisory, grant writing, consortium engagement, and development of Heartland Bioworks' workforce model. CFA's expertise was crucial in navigating the federal grant application process and ensuring the success of Heartland Bioworks' bid.

Heartland Bioworks is led by the Applied Research Institute, a nonpartisan leader in technology innovation and strategy based in Bloomington.

The Economic Development Administration's Tech Hubs program is designed to foster innovation and technological growth across the United States by supporting regions to become centers for research, development, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

Heartland Bioworks' winning proposal focused heavily on transforming Central Indiana into a global leader in biotechnology and biomanufacturing by capitalizing on the existing institutions, infrastructure, and ecosystems to increase the region's capacity to make and deploy life-saving medicines. This work will build on Indiana's status as the national leader in pharmaceutical exports and its ranking as one of the top three states in exports for all life sciences products – pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and agbiosciences — for more than a decade.

In total, the winning proposal calls for a deep talent pipeline that begins in K-12 and stretches into higher education and upskilling opportunities for the current workforce. Notably, the proposal [advances inclusive innovation](#), which is a hallmark of this round of Tech Hubs funding.

Key initiatives will include:

- Attracting and connecting workers, including those historically excluded from the innovation workforce, to good jobs;
- Establishing a formal network to provide navigation resources, mentorship, and greater access to facilities and venture capital funding to help innovators successfully scale and launch their bioproducts in the region;
- Integrating stakeholders through a governance structure to ensure a cohesive, efficient ecosystem; and
- Providing the infrastructure and human capital needed to effectively convene and coordinate Indiana's stakeholders to provide a new, integrated collaboration model for the region's biotech sector.



Today's announcement of the \$51 million grant follows the October 2023 designation by the EDA of [Indiana as a regional Tech Hub](#) focused on biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

For more information:

- Visit [theari.us/initiatives/heartland-bioworks-hub/](https://theari.us/initiatives/heartland-bioworks-hub/) for the Heartland BioWorks consortium.
- Visit [communityfundingaccelerator.org](https://communityfundingaccelerator.org) for the Community Funding Accelerator.

### **About the Community Funding Accelerator**

The Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) helps underserved communities access competitive federal grants. With a focus on K-12 education and workforce pathways, CFA identifies relevant grant opportunities, builds coalitions, and provides deep technical assistance to submit winning applications. CFA also supports implementation to create innovative education and workforce solutions in communities across the U.S. The CFA pilot is led by Delivery Associates, a public sector consulting firm.

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