



FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Greater Fort Wayne Inc. Leaders' Luncheon: Expanding CDFI Capacity in Allen County

Purpose

To address the regional designation of Allen County as a CDFI desert and catalyze new capital partnerships that expand access to financial resources for underserved individuals and entrepreneurs.

The luncheon aimed to:

- Share the current state of CDFI lending in Allen County
- Raise awareness of flexible, mission-driven capital
- Explore opportunities for collaboration between CDFIs, banks, government, and philanthropy
- Mobilize leaders toward joint action and sustainable economic inclusion

Key Takeaways

- Allen County lacks sufficient mission-driven financial infrastructure.
- CDFIs play a unique role in meeting borrowers where they are, using flexible underwriting and wraparound support.
- Local success stories, like Brandon Johnson's, illustrate the transformational impact of accessible capital.
- Sustained collaboration is essential with banks, CDFIs, and public sector partners. Alignment of all parties is essential for collective impact.

Call to Action

Councilwoman Rohli Booker closed with a challenge to the financial community:

- Bank and credit union presidents will receive a follow-up letter from Steve Hoffman, President/CEO of Brightpoint, requesting a meeting to discuss specific ways to partner with Brightpoint Development Fund and other CDFIs.
- A post-event survey will guide future action.
- Leaders are invited to invest in loan loss reserves, participate in co-lending, refer clients, and explore CRA-aligned partnerships.