The Rensselaer CDC facility was awarded a Community Focus Fund grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs in the amount of $433,867. Edwin Buswell, KIRPC Executive Director, and Randy Mitchell, KIRPC Project Development Manager accepted the award from Lt. Governor Becky Skillman on behalf of CDC Resources at the awards ceremony in Indianapolis on Dec. 17, 2007.

KIRPC applied for the grant at the request of CDC Resources and Jasper County and will administer the grant through to closing.

The Rensselaer CDC facility is a not-for-profit organization which provides comprehensive services to severely disabled individuals, and serves Benton, Jasper, and Newton counties. The Rensselaer facility also has an inclusionary day care/preschool that serves disabled and non-disabled children.

Construction will begin in early 2008 to add an additional 1,149 square feet for office space, as well as to renovate 1,647 square feet of existing space for new classrooms. In addition, a new conference room and staff lounge, a new metal roof, a new rubber membrane on an existing flat roof area, new windows on the north side of the building, a new fence, a security system, a commercial dishwasher, and a newly paved parking lot will be part of the project.

The total cost of the project is $516,707, and the local matching funds are broken down by $93,500 provided by CDC Resources and $10,000 coming from the Jasper Foundation.

The expanded child care area will allow the organization to serve more children than space currently allows them to serve. Safety will also be improved with the new parking lot, reduction of leaks in the building, and a new security system.

In the long term, the project will result in a more financially stable CDC Resources organization that provides better services to the community. CDC will continue to serve the three county area with a regional approach.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES $1.95M INVESTMENT IN STARKE COUNTY AND HAMLET

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez announced on September 25, 2007 a $1.95M Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to Starke County and the Town of Hamlet, IN., that was submitted by KIRPC. The investment will help the town provide infrastructure improvements and a newly constructed water treatment plant which will afford businesses the opportunity to expand in this developing industrial corridor. The investment is expected to create 560 jobs and generate $81 million in private investment.

“President Bush and I are committed to partnering with communities to promote innovation and competitiveness. Through economic development grants like these, the Commerce Department will continue to encourage investments in local areas, grow the economy and create jobs,” said Gutierrez.

EDA serves as a venture capital resource to meet the economic development needs of distressed communities throughout the United States.
In 2006, the town of Winamac received a Community Focus Fund Grant to restore the Vurpillat Opera House. Now in December, 2007, the town has received a second CFF grant in the amount of $525,000 from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for Wastewater Utility Improvements. KIRPC applied for the grant on behalf of the town, and will administer the grant until it is closed.

The Winamac Wastewater Improvements project will make critical upgrades to the Winamac Wastewater Treatment Plant as a result of an agreed order from IDEM stating the town needs to meet phosphorus removal limits.

The short term benefit for the community will be meeting the new IDEM standards. If the problem were not to be fixed, the town could be subject to fines and other punitive actions.

The long term benefit will be a clean and safe environment for the community. The phosphorus being discharged into the Tippecanoe River could have considerable impacts on the environment in the long term if the project were not completed.

The estimated total cost for the project is $1,655,000. The town will use bonds for $1,145,000 of the local match, and they have received a $10,000 grant from the Pulaski Co. Community Foundation for the remainder of the match.

“Education is something we have to have. It’s important to have the resources that everyone needs. Whether it’s books or computers, this is where kids have come for years to find the tools they need.”

Joyce Crane, Director of the Goodland—Grant Twp. Public Library

“Wheel chair and limited mobility riders are grateful for the new addition to the Pulaski County Human Services transportation fleet.”

Jaqueline Frain, Director of Pulaski County Human Services, Inc.

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Goodland Library Celebrates 100 Year Anniversary With New Face Lift

The Goodland—Grant Twp. Public Library received a CFF grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs in the amount of $443,000 to renovate the 100 year old structure. KIRPC is administering the grant on behalf of the town of Goodland, who is the sponsor for the grant.

On November 17, 2007, the library celebrated the completion of the renovation by hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Rep. Donald Lehe and local officials.

The Goodland—Grant Twp. Public Library was organized in 1907 and housed in various locations before Thomas Mitten, as a memorial to his parents, funded the construction. The building was completed in 1931.

The library was added to the state and national historic registers in 2004, and has about 25,000 items. The library serves 1,100 residents—539 of whom are active library users.

Pulaski County Human Services, Inc., Updates Their Transportation Fleet

Pulaski County Human Services, Inc., hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 21, 2007 to celebrate the receipt of a new 2007 Ford Modified Passenger Van for transportation use throughout the county.

The grant was awarded by INDOT through KIRPC, who is the Grantee of Arrowhead Country Public Transit Service, Inc. The transit service is funded through the Federal Transportation Administration and INDOT.

KIRPC applied to INDOT for the vehicle through a Section 5311 Capital Grant. The grant award covers 80% of the cost of the vehicle. The remaining 20% equaling $6,187 was provided through the generosity of the Pulaski County Commissioners and Council, the Pulaski County United fund, and local contributions.

Local officials, board members, Commissioner Young, and local riders dedicate new van.
Medaryville Awarded Funding for Senior Center Improvements

The Town of Medaryville has been awarded funding in the amount of $196,560 to renovate their existing Senior Center.

The funding came in the form of a Community Focus Fund grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and was the result of a successful application from KIRPC, who will also administer the grant.

Pulaski County Human Services, Inc. currently rents a building in the Town of Medaryville for its senior center for the western six townships of Pulaski County. Services provided at the center include senior meals and senior activities. The center also provides access to the community for other programs, such as energy assistance, computer classes, other adult education classes, and Healthy Families meetings.

The CFF grant will be used to purchase the building and renovate currently unused portions of the building so that PCHS can expand and improve the services it provides at the center. The currently unused space will be renovated to add a meeting room, a kitchenette, office space, and storage space. The building is appraised for $109,000 and construction costs are estimated at $73,000. PCHS will provide $15,300 in local cash for the project, and they have also obtained two grants from the Pulaski County Community Foundation which totals $5,500.

The total local match for the project is $20,800.

Community Services of Starke County, Inc. Dedicates a New Wheelchair Lift Van

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the Community Services of Jasper office on Thursday, October 11, 2007. The celebration was for receipt of a new 2007 Ford Modified Passenger Van for use in the Arrowhead Country Public Transit Service.

KIRPC is the Grantee of Arrowhead Country Public Transit, and has contracted for provision of service with community service agencies in the counties of Jasper, Pulaski, and Starke for the past 23 years. The transit service is funded through the FTA and through INDOT.

KIRPC applied to INDOT for the vehicle through a Section 5311 Capital grant. The grant award covers 80% of the cost of the vehicle. The remaining 20% equaling $6,198 was provided with funding from Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Kankakee Valley REMC Operation Roundup Trust and other donors.

Monticello, Wolcott, and Pulaski County Awarded Planning Grants for Development

On November 30, 2007, the city of Monticello, the town of Wolcott, and Pulaski County were awarded planning grants from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

KIRPC submitted and will administer the three grants for the communities.

Monticello was awarded $20,000 to complete a 5 year Master Park Plan. The plan will be developed in three parts: data gathering, a land acquisition study, and a study of existing park facilities and future park facility needs.

The town of Wolcott was awarded $46,620 to develop a Comprehensive Plan for the community. With the possibility of growth, the town needs to address what type of growth they want to see and where the growth should be directed. Additionally, the study will analyze improvements to the downtown district as well as transportation. The comprehensive plan will ultimately help to build consensus and set common goals for the town.

Pulaski County was awarded $49,500 to complete a Comprehensive Plan for the community. The plan will include studies in the following areas: Transportation, Housing, Public/Environmental infrastructure, Recreation, Economic Development, Central business districts, Land Use analysis, and quality of life.

The planning grants will provide the communities with information by which to formulate definitive action plans going forward.
KIRPC MISSION STATEMENT

KIRPC is a voluntary public partnership serving Benton, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, Starke, and White Counties that provides assistance to local units of government to maximize community and economic development opportunities for the benefit of all citizens.

Representation/Governance

The KIRPC agency is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of appointees from each member county, city, and incorporated town within the region. At least two-thirds of the membership consists of locally elected officials. While KIRPC personnel work in cooperation and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies on behalf of the member units of government, they remain directly responsible to the governing board.

KENTLAND LIBRARY RECEIVES COMMUNITY FOCUS FUND GRANT FOR EXPANSION

On December 17, 2007, the Kentland Library was awarded a Community Focus Fund grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs in the amount of $525,000 to renovate and expand their existing building.

The Library Board and the Town of Kentland requested KIRPC to apply for the grant on their behalf, and KIRPC will administer the grant until final close out.

Now that funding is secured, the library will proceed with construction plans early in 2008.

The current facility has become overcrowded and outdated and no longer meets the community’s needs. The building is a Carnegie Library that was constructed in 1911 and opened in January, 1912. The building has not been expanded from its original size, and has only 4,104 square feet.

The Carnegie Library serves residents of the Town of Kentland and Jefferson Township. The primary objectives of the project are to increase available space for the library, increase the number of services provided to residents, and to make the facility ADA accessible.

The project will include a two-story expansion on the south side of the building that will approximately double the size of the existing building. The renovation of the existing building will also be included in the project. Approximately 4,200 square feet will be added to the building. Important elements of the project will be increasing the stack space, study areas, increased computer areas, work rooms, storage areas, restrooms, and other improvements.

Total costs for the project are estimated at $1,300,000, and the library will bond for the $800,000 local match for the project.