



## Lafayette Community Revitalization Plan, Takes Next Steps to Win Millions for Economic Development

*Funded by the America's Best Communities competition, Community Revitalization Plan outlines vision for Lafayette's future and action plan to achieve it*

*America's Best Communities, sponsored by Frontier, DISH, CoBank and The Weather Channel, aims to revitalize small towns and rural communities across the country*

Lafayette, Indiana NOVEMBER 16, 2015 – For six months, local leaders in Lafayette have been hard at work developing a Community Revitalization Plan to guide the city's economic future. Today, they unveiled the plan, which will determine whether Lafayette will advance in the America's Best Communities (ABC) competition for a chance to win the contest's \$3 million grand prize.

The comprehensive plan aims to fuel the momentum behind ongoing efforts to attract, build and retain talent. By putting this at the heart of the community's plan, local leaders believe they have constructed a strategy that can drive the community forward.

"We know we have a winning revitalization plan," said Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski. "No matter what happens next, our journey to become America's best community will not end when the semifinalists are announced. This Community Revitalization Plan has set us on a bold course that ensures a prosperous future, and I am excited for the opportunity to bring this vision into reality."

When it advanced into the ABC quarterfinals Lafayette was awarded \$50,000 to construct a Community Revitalization Plan. Frontier Communications, DISH Network, CoBank and The Weather Channel — the sponsors of the America's Best Communities competition — provided \$35,000 of the award, with the remaining \$15,000 in funding coming from Lafayette's Adopt-a-Community mentor Staff Management.

While the revitalization plan centers on helping children prepare to move Lafayette forward, it outlines several different tactics and initiatives Lafayette intends to pursue in order to strengthen the local economy and enhance quality of life.

When implemented, the Community Revitalization Plan will:

- Engage children in grades 1-3 as stakeholders in both their own and Lafayette's future
- Implement and assess an innovative mentoring model that opens children's eyes to the possibilities that adult work holds for them

- Inspire children to consider how they will shape the world through science, technology, and engineering
- Give community, business and industry leaders a child's eye view of Lafayette and its future
- Model a strategic research partnership between Lafayette and Purdue University to capture, assess, and disseminate the results of the program

"With support from America's Best Communities and input from hundreds of residents, we have constructed a revitalization strategy that effectively lays out the steps we need to take to continue to prove we are a community that digs deeper and dreams bigger," said Lafayette Economic Development Director Dennis Carson. "With the resources necessary, it will change the trajectory of our economy and strengthen our community for generations to come."

When Frontier Communications launched America's Best Communities, the company envisioned it helping to uncover new business plans that have the potential to create the next great American city. Frontier hoped to develop roadmaps to revitalization for rural communities across the U.S.

"We're excited to see which ideas rise to the top and how they will help not only an applicant's local community grow and thrive, but how the proposals can benefit all communities across America," said Frontier Executive Chairman Maggie Wilderotter when the competition first launched.

Lafayette is one of only 50 communities across the country that advanced into the quarterfinals of the America's Best Communities competition. A panel of expert judges will now review the revitalization plans, and the best proposals will be awarded additional funding in the next rounds of the competition.

In January 2016, up to 15 communities will be named semifinalists and invited to attend the America's Best Communities Summit, where they will present their revitalization plans. Eight communities will then be selected to receive \$100,000 to implement their plans, with the opportunity to secure one of the grand prizes.

Spearheaded by Frontier Communications and cosponsored by DISH Network, CoBank and The Weather Channel, America's Best Communities is a multi-stage, three-year competition that is providing \$4 million in seed money and other support to assist communities as they develop new economic growth strategies. The top three communities will share a total of \$6 million in grand prize money. The winning community will be awarded \$3 million, with \$2 million for second place and \$1 million for third. To learn more, visit [americasbestcommunities.com](http://americasbestcommunities.com).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis Carson, City of Lafayette Economic Development Director, 765.807.1093

Kara Bishop, City of Lafayette Communications Director, 765.807.1006

Mike Boebinger, Frontier Communications, 765.423.3009

###