



*An intermediary between employers, education providers, and talent to address talent and workforce development to better align the labor market.*

**Location:** Central Indiana

**Purpose:** To make Indiana a place of economic opportunity for all

**Lead Stakeholders:** Business, Philanthropy

**Process:** Established in 2016, Ascend Indiana serves as the talent and workforce development initiative of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP). Early funding for this initiative came from a \$5 million grant from Lilly Endowment, which supported the first three years of the organization's operations.

Ascend Indiana conducted in-depth research and engaged key stakeholders to understand the workforce landscape in Central Indiana, resulting in four areas of focus: engaging employers, identifying and connecting talent, building talent pipelines, and informing public policy.

Ascend Indiana connects people to careers through three main offerings: The Ascend Network (job matching platform), Ascend Services (consulting and capacity building), and Ascend Insights (conducts labor market research & shares best practices).

**Outcomes:**

- Provided nearly **23,000 career navigation activities** to students and job seekers.
- Built **64 talent pipelines and talent strategies** alongside employers, with **2,047 individuals** participating in training programs.
- Grew its Community of Practice (COP), which **engages more than 100 members and 60 organizations** statewide to actively address systemic barriers to scaling **modern youth apprenticeships**.



**Ascend Network**  
job matching platform



**Ascend Services**  
consulting and capacity  
building



**Ascend Insights**  
labor market research and  
best practices