



For Immediate Release
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Jacobsville Join In kicks off Early Action and Block Party Blitz grants

Evansville, Indiana – ECHO Housing Corporation’s Jacobsville Join In announces two opportunities for neighbors to take action for improving the quality of life in the Jacobsville neighborhood. Early action grants are available to residents, businesses, groups and associations for neighborhood improvements. The purpose of the early action grant program is to build on the quality of life process taking place in Jacobsville. Grant projects may include a wide range of themes such as, community greenscapes, organized litter cleanup, graffiti removal, or youth programs.

Early action grants will be awarded from \$250 to \$1,000 per project. Projects should engage and bring together residents and stakeholders throughout the Jacobsville neighborhood. Project proposals are asked to incorporate four goals benefiting Jacobsville, which include:

- Have an immediate impact on the quality of life in Jacobsville
- Involve a diverse representation of residents and stakeholders from the area
- Encourage collaboration among organizations and businesses in the area
- Build a foundation for future impact through the Jacobsville Join In process.

In addition to early action grants, residents, businesses, groups and associations can host their very own neighborhood block party. Three hundred dollar grant awards will be distributed to five block party organizers in April.

The exciting part begins today with the release of the Jacobsville Block Party Blitz grant application!

Like early action grants, the Jacobsville Block Party Blitz grant campaign is part of the Jacobsville Crime Free Alliance initiative taking place through Jacobsville Join In. Neighborhood block parties help boost neighborhood pride, social bonding and increase awareness of community resources for residents, which are all key factors to what’s driving crime in Jacobsville. “Knowing what resources are available, as well as establishing relationships with neighbors and police are vital tools to preventing crime,” said Jennifer Mason Evans, Community Mobilizer for Jacobsville Join In.

The goals of the Jacobsville Block Party Blitz are to:

- Increase awareness and organization of community resources.
- Reduce the number of physical locations in Jacobsville suitable for criminal activity.
- Improve perceptions of and sense of fear regarding crime.
- Boost neighborhood pride, social bonding and cohesiveness.

Jacobsville Join In!
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The capital (\$6,500 total) for both grant projects comes from the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grant award ECHO Housing Corporation's Jacobsville Join In received to assist the Jacobsville community carry out core concepts through comprehensive research, identifying crime "hot spots" and crime drivers; and utilizing evidence-based programs to impact neighborhood crime.

"Since the Join In initiative began in 2012, block parties and making small improvements in the neighborhood has been frequently talked about by residents and stakeholders – We're excited to offer these grant programs, and can't wait to hear ideas from the neighborhood," said Evans.

Individuals, groups, businesses and organizations are eligible to apply for early action grants and neighborhood block party grants beginning February 1, 2016. The deadline for both grant applications is April 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Visit jacobsvillejoinin.com "News & Information" to download the Early Action Grant and Jacobsville Block Party Blitz applications or stop by Jacobsville Join In to pick up a copy. Follow Jacobsville Join In on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.

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