

TWIN AIRE SKILLED TRADES ACCELERATOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

GRANTEE

**SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVELOPMENT**

INVESTMENT

\$12,000

Project Overview:

The MIBOR ECDC invested \$12,000 to fund the completion of a feasibility study for the Twin Aire Skilled Trade Business Accelerator to be located within the Twin Aire Economic Development Area. SEND is developing a Skilled Trades Accelerator to prepare two-generations of residents for high quality occupations and small business success to strengthen and diversify Central Indiana's skilled trades ecosystem. The Twin Aire Skilled Trades Accelerator will be a hub for job training and upskilling, hands-on learning, small business start-up and growth, high quality job connections, and supportive services for historically under-invested individuals in southeast and near east Indianapolis, including the robust Latinx/Hispanic community, multi-generational Black neighbors, diverse persons of color, and returning citizens transitioning from the Community Justice Campus.

The feasibility study is essential to determine if the Twin Aire Skilled Trade Business Accelerator is a viable project. It will also help SEND and other stakeholders refine their goals and develop plans to achieve them.

The Twin Aire Skilled Trades Accelerator feasibility study has confirmed the project/program is poised for positive impact on the Twin Aire community and with potential for greater regional impact as well. The feasibility study has found this project as feasible and has proposed the following description for what will become the Twin Aire Skilled Trades Accelerator in the coming years:

Southeast Neighborhood Development (SEND), in collaboration with Southeast Community Services (SECS), community, industry, and public sector partners, is developing a Skilled Trades Accelerator to prepare two-generations of residents for high quality occupations and small business success to strengthen and diversify Central Indiana's skilled trades ecosystem. The Twin Aire Skilled Trades Accelerator will be a hub for job training and upskilling, hands-on learning, small business start-up and growth, high quality job connections, and supportive services for historically under-invested individuals in southeast and near east Indianapolis, including returning citizens transitioning from the Community Justice Campus.

The Twin Aire Skilled Trades Accelerator will:

- Meet regional employers' short-term and projected talent needs in skilled trades – construction, infrastructure, utilities – by coordinating and scaling job training delivered through Indianapolis' six Bridges to Career Opportunity sites.
- Partner with industry to meet employers' real-time talent needs (i.e., micro-credentialing), deliver foundational training necessary for success in entry-level jobs now and in the future (i.e., spatial, mechanical, digital skills), and upskill current workers.
- Operate a skilled trades training lab that houses tools, equipment, and technologies for two-generational experiential learning, product prototyping, and small business exploration.
- Grow and support small businesses that can diversify supply chains in construction, infrastructure, green technologies, operation of the Community Justice Campus, and beyond.
- Provide access to supportive services, shared spaces, and public amenities to support the economic resilience and well-being of entrepreneurs and neighbors.

The Twin Aire Skilled Trades Accelerator feasibility study will be deemed successful after it is evaluated against EDA conditions and deliverables. The success of this study will be based on whether the specific objectives listed in the contract are detailed in the final report. Those deliverables are as follows:

- Identify placement of the incubator/accelerator based on the current development plans for the Twin Aire Economic Development Area
- Recommend an operator for the incubator/accelerator
- Recommend staffing plan for the incubator/accelerator
- Recommend financial strategies for the acquisition, construction, and sustainable operation of the incubator/accelerator, including possible lease up of building to thriving businesses
- Develop civic, community, private and philanthropic partnerships to deliver workforce development and entrepreneurial based services and training programs

+ Improves Quality of Life

+ Improves Community Livability

+ Encourages Community and Stakeholder Collaboration in Development Decisions

+ Encourages Approaches that are Community-Driven, Comprehensive and Collaborative

+ Encourages Collaboration Among Organizations, Agencies and Local Government

+ Encourages Talent Retention, Attraction and Development

+ Encourages Business Retention and Development

+ Encourages Workforce Development

+ Encourages Entrepreneurship and Innovation

+ Advances Racial Equity

+ Promote Inclusive Activation and Programming

+ Supports Minority and Women Businesses

+ Supports the Completion of a Feasibility Study