

PRESS RELEASE

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Monroe County Commissioners Invited to White House for 'Communities in Action' Summit

Local officials to share best practices, discuss ARPA funding impacts during February 1st D.C. event.

Monroe County, IN—Monroe County Commissioners Penny Githens, Julie Thomas, and Lee Jones will join other Indiana- and Illinois-based government officials at the White House in Washington, D.C. this Thursday, February 1 for a special event organized by the Biden-Harris Administration.

Part of the ongoing “Communities in Action” series, “Building a Better Illinois and Indiana” affords area leaders the chance to cover local and regional challenges, share best practices, and more. “We're looking forward to joining other elected officials as we discuss how the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has impacted people at the local level,” says Penny Githens, vice president of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to share the incredible projects Monroe County government has launched utilizing ARPA funding,” adds Julie Thomas, president of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

One of those recent ARPA-funded programs includes Monroe County's Rural Housing Repairs Program. Made possible with \$400,000 in ARPA funds, the program was developed to help low- and moderate-income Monroe County homeowners pay for essential repairs like window installations, roofing, or plumbing.

“[Our ARPA-funded projects] serve various sectors of Monroe County's population and address basic needs such as shelter, food, childcare, and housing,” says Monroe County Commissioner Lee Jones. “During this special event, we anticipate that we'll learn a great deal from other local governments as well—and bring those lessons back to Monroe County.”

“Communities in Action: Building a Better Illinois and Indiana” is one of a series of such events arranged by the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Office of Public Engagement.

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