Indiana Sustainability Development Program
2021 Indiana Climate Fellow – KIPDA

Organization Overview
Based out of Louisville, the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA) helps oversee environmental and community planning, economic development initiatives, transportation projects, and social services for the greater Louisville region, which includes seven counties in Kentucky (Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble) and two counties in Indiana (Clark and Floyd).

Position Summary
The extern will be placed within the Community & Economic Development Division of KIPDA and will be responsible for creating a regional flood policy guide. The regional flood policy guide will cover KIPDA’s Indiana counties, Clark and Floyd, as well as KIPDA’s Kentucky counties, Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson (Louisville Metro), Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble.

This project is critical because the KIPDA region will likely experience heavy precipitation in coming years. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates that the Ohio River Basin, which includes the KIPDA region, will see as much as 50% more precipitation. The climate group, Four Twenty-Seven, ranks extreme rainfall as the greatest climate threat for KIPDA’s counties.

The regional flood policy guide will include a suite of potential policy actions for KIPDA’s urban, suburban, and rural communities. This policy guide will be included in the 2021 KIPDA Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Bullitt, Henry, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble. The HMP is a FEMA-required planning document that details the region’s vulnerability to natural disasters and provides policy suggestions and concrete mitigation projects contingent on FEMA funding.

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Committee (KIPDA) will use this report to help guide ideas for flood policy updates and mitigation projects. KIPDA staff will also reach out to each planning director in the HMP area to discuss potential actions. In Indiana, River Hills Economic Development District will also use the policy guide to inform their HMP update for Clark and Floyd County. KIPDA will coordinate with River Hills to ensure that their criteria are met. Finally, KIPDA will share the report with Louisville Metro Planning & Design Services, which is currently updating its land development code.
Extern Responsibilities:
- Research flood mitigation policies and projects in similar communities
- Review hazard mitigation planning and how it can propose flood policies and projects
- Create a list of current flood policies and projects for all KIPDA counties
- Locate additional resources for flood analysis
- Compose flood policy guide for KIPDA region
- Author separate report for each county
- Present findings to KIPDA Regional Hazard Mitigation Council and River Hills Economic Development District

Qualifications:
- Prior coursework or research experience in environmental science, geography, public policy, or related field
- Experience summarizing research in reports and presentation
- Self-motivated, proactive, and flexible with careful attention to detail
- Passion for spatial analysis, environmental planning, climate change, or related topic
- Willingness to take initiative and present new ideas to supervisor

Preferred Skills:
- Experience creating professional reports through Canva, Adobe InDesign, or other platform
- GIS and spatial analysis skills

Compensation:
Compensation will be in the form of a stipend through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. The extern will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning May 24th and ending August 2nd. However, there is flexibility with this schedule, and the extern can begin and/or complete the externship earlier or later given that 10 weeks of work is completed in the summer of 2021.

Feedback and evaluation
Olivia Ranseen, KIPDA’s Community and Economic Development Specialist and 2017 ISDP extern, will serve as the extern’s direct supervisor. Ms. Ranseen is overseeing the KIPDA HMP update. She will provide feedback as necessary and evaluation will be based on the quality of the extern’s work.

Application instructions
To apply for this position, complete an application on the Sustain IU website. If you have questions about the program or any of the positions available, email Danni Schaust, ISDP
Program Manager, at danmcphe@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Friday, Feb. 19, 2021.