Summer 2020 Sustainability Extern
Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency

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 leading the regional climate change risk assessment and report. The report will cover eight of the nine counties in the region (Jefferson County already has a climate change risk assessment completed).

The climate change risk assessment and report 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 concrete mitigation projects contingent on FEMA funding. Few HMPs include climate change despite FEMA’s 2012 Climate Change Adaptation policy, which strongly encourages climate change integration within disaster planning.

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Committee (KIPDA) will use this report to help guide ideas for mitigation projects. River Hills Economic Development District will also use the report to inform their HMP update for Clark and Floyd County (IN). KIPDA will coordinate with River Hills to ensure that their criteria are met.

Depending on time, the extern may also assist the Community and Economic Development Division with a critical facilities energy assessment for the region.

The extern will gain critical disaster planning skills and further hone their GIS abilities. Disaster planning is a growing field, and there are many opportunities in both the public, private, and nonprofit sector to lead disaster planning projects. These skills are also transferrable to the fields of regional, urban, and environmental planning.

Extern Responsibilities:
• Research climate change integration in hazard mitigation planning and identify best practices.
• Collect and analyze spatial data from local and regional climate change models using ArcGIS.
• Employ Hoosier Resilience Index for Clark and Floyd County.
• Locate relevant journal articles relating to regional and local climate change data and trends.
• Create risk assessment based on research.
• Display findings on ArcGIS story map.
• Compose 7-10-page report on the impact of climate change on natural disaster occurrence/likelihood in region.
• Present report to Regional Hazard Mitigation Council and River Hills Economic Development District to help inform mitigation project formulation.
• Attend the 3-day Boot camp May 18 – 20, 2020.

**Qualifications**

- Strong GIS and spatial analysis skills
- 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

**Compensation**

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. The extern will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning May 25th and ending August 3rd. 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 2020.

**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 jobs available, email Danni Schaust, ISDP
Program Manager, at danmcphee@iu.edu. The application deadline is Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.