



**NORTHEAST  
INDIANA  
REGIONAL  
PROFILE**

**PIONEER STARTS *HERE***

# Northeast Indiana: Your Gateway to Unbridled Growth and Exceptional Living

**Northeast Indiana is a bustling region where industry thrives, talent abounds, and a vibrant community embraces innovation.** Indiana is the fastest-growing Great Lakes State, and Northeast Indiana with our low cost of living and competitive tax structure is part of the reason why! We are an 11-county region strategically nestled in the Great Lakes region of America, offering a unique blend of connectivity, economic opportunity, exceptional quality of life, and a collaborative spirit that empowers businesses to flourish.

We host an array of industries from **startups to global corporations** including categories from advanced manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, and agribusiness. Fortune 500 giants like Steel Dynamics, Inc. and global leaders like Zimmer Biomet, Depuy Synthes, Do it Best Corp., Sweetwater, Dana Corporation, Vera Bradley, and many others anchor our economic landscape.

Our region boasts a network of **10 top-tier universities**, such as Purdue University Fort Wayne, Indiana University Fort Wayne, Indiana Tech, Trine, and others that continuously produce thousands of graduates annually. These graduates are equipped with cutting-edge knowledge and industry-specific skills.

Our region also has an **unparalleled quality of life** with a vibrant arts and culture scene, music festivals and concerts from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and renowned museums, theaters and galleries. Lush green spaces, like Pokagon State Park and Chain O'Lakes State Park, offer opportunities for outdoor recreation. Additionally, a diverse array of restaurants and shops cater to every taste and preference, making Northeast Indiana a truly desirable place to live, work, and raise a family.

The **Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership** will serve you as your one-stop shop, providing your business with assistance in site selection and valuable connections for workforce development, business financing and beyond.

There are so many reasons why Northeast Indiana should be on your short list. We hope your search ends with us as Pioneer Starts **Here!**



**Stéphane Frijia**  
Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership



**Stéphane Frijia**  
CEO + President

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# 11 COUNTIES ONE REGION

**This is Northeast Indiana. Pioneer Starts *Here*.**

**We exist solely to help you make the ideal choice for your business expansion or relocation.**

The Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership's mission is to drive business investment and strengthen the region's global competitiveness and economic resiliency. We were founded in 2006, and are a public-private partnership with approximately 140 investors. We represent the 11 counties of Northeast Indiana and convene economic development partners across the public, private and academic sectors to collaborate and focus on sustaining a business-friendly environment. In Northeast Indiana, we come together to quickly design solutions to integrate your business into our community. We are a free service and exist solely to help you.

**NEI represents 11 member counties: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley.**

## **Our Mission:**

Drive business investment and strengthen the region's global competitiveness and economic resiliency.

## **Our Vision:**

Be the location of choice for all businesses and people committed to being tomorrow's market leaders.

## **We offer confidential and complimentary assistance with:**

- Single Point of Contact & Project Management
- Connectivity to Key Resources
- Site Selection
- Data, Research & Economic Modeling
- Workforce Analysis & Search
- Public Relations
- Partnership Search

**We commit to supporting you from initial assessment to fully operational and beyond. We are confident our region is an ideal location for business, and we want you to come see why Northeast Indiana is perfect for you.**



## Housing

*Balancing urban and suburban amenities with wide expanses of farmland, woods, and lakes, Northeast Indiana provides a wide range of lifestyle options for its residents.*

## Sports

*We have access to world-class minor league teams representing hockey, baseball, and soccer, among others.*

## Seasonal

*We boast four seasons in Northeast Indiana, giving you the opportunity to enjoy our 300+ lakes and hundreds of miles of trails.*

## Arts

*Highlighted by our arts campuses, galleries, murals, and museums, the creative culture reaches every corner of Northeast Indiana.*

## Culinary scene

*Welcoming creative chefs and locally-sourced farm-to-fork restaurants, we have become a foodie hot spot.*

## Entertainment

*While there is a small-town feel throughout Northeast Indiana, you are never too far from great dining and exciting nightlife.*

# A STATE THAT MEANS BUSINESS

**Ranked #1 Best** in the Midwest, #1 in the Great Lakes and #6 nationally for 2024 **Best and Worst States for Business** by **Chief Executive**

**Ranked #2** nationally for 2025 **Best States to Start a Business** by **Forbes Advisor**

**Ranked #1** in the Midwest, #1 in the Great Lakes and #5 nationally for 2024 **Top States for Doing Business** by **Area Development**

**Ranked #1** in the Midwest, #1 in the Great Lakes and #3 nationally for 2024 **Business Incentives Programs** by **Area Development**

**Ranked #3** in the Midwest, #1 in the Great Lakes and #10 nationally for 2025 **State Business Tax Competitiveness Index** by **the Tax Foundation**

**Ranked #3** in the Midwest, #2 in the Great Lakes and #9 nationally for 2024 **Top States for Business – Infrastructure** by **CNBC**

**Ranked #2** in the Midwest, #2 in the Great Lakes and #5 nationally for 2024 **Top States for Business – Cost of Doing Business** by **CNBC**

**Received AAA Issuer Credit Rating** by **S&P, Moody's and Fitch**

## STATE TAX DATA

**4.9%**

Corporate Income Tax

**3.00%**

Top Individual Income Tax for Tax Year 2025

**\$0.77**

Worker's Comp Premium Rate per \$100 Payroll

**7%**

Sales Tax

**0%**

Gross Receipts Tax, Inventory Tax, Local Sales Tax

**Right-to-Work**

Indiana was the first right-to-work state in the Great Lakes region.



# OUR REGION BY THE NUMBERS

## Middle of Millions

Nearly **37 million residents** and **18.6 million workers** live within a **200-mile radius** of Northeast Indiana.

## Growing Metro

Fort Wayne, the state's **second-largest city**, experienced the **second highest rate of growth among all Great Lakes MSAs** from 2020 to 2023. Northeast Indiana has grown **every year** over the last ten years **at a rate of over 0.5%**.

## Investing in Our Future

**Over \$9 billion** in capital investment has been invested in the 11-county region over the last decade. **The Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) has catalyzed more than \$750 million in direct investment** into projects improving air service, housing availability, early childhood education, downtown vibrancy, trail expansion and accessibility, higher education, arts and culture, and entrepreneurship.

## Talent Starts Here

There are nearly **250,000 graduates** annually from Tier 1 and Tier 2 universities within **200 miles** of Northeast Indiana, including more than **60,000 students** and **13,000 graduates** annually from members of the Northeast Indiana Colleges & Universities Network.

## Hub of the Midwest

Northeast Indiana allows access to more than **80%** of the U.S. and Canadian population **within a 24-hour drive**, with 43% of that population living **within an 8-hour drive of Northeast Indiana**.

## Life at a Higher Standard

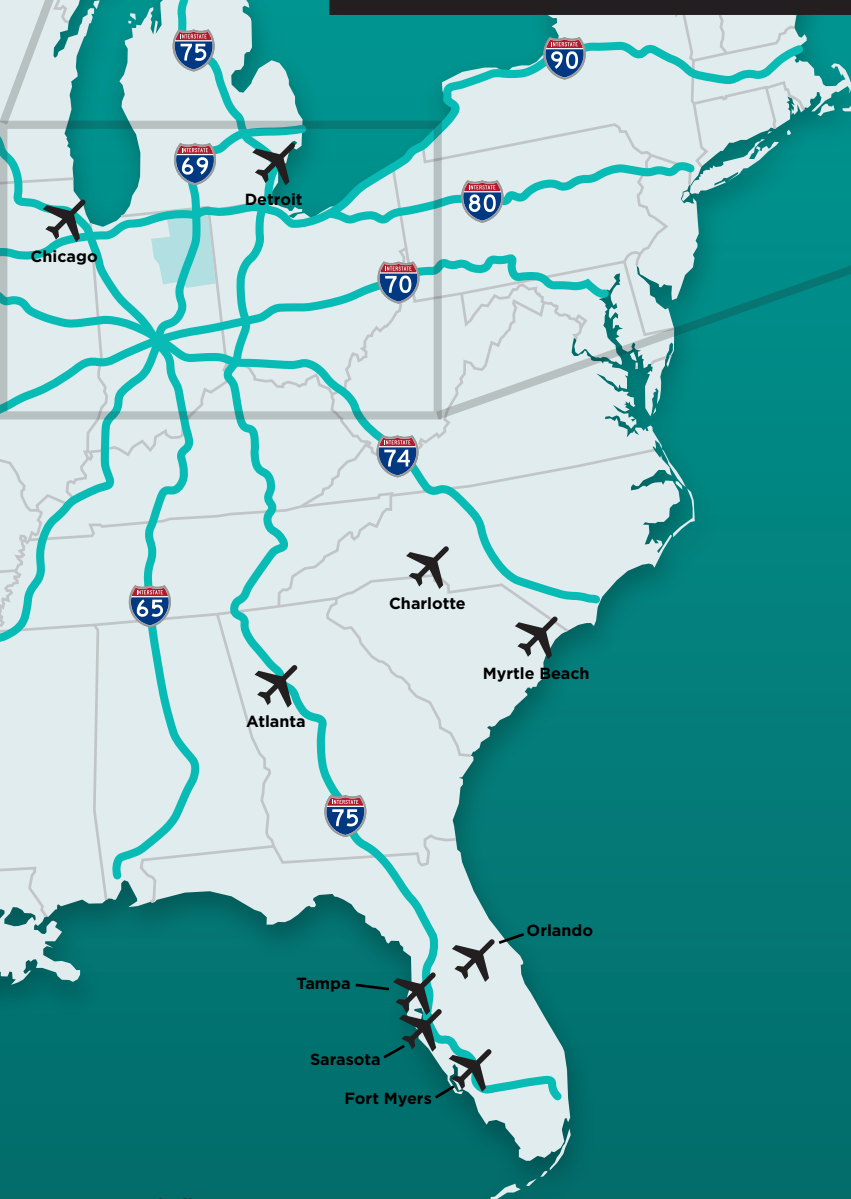
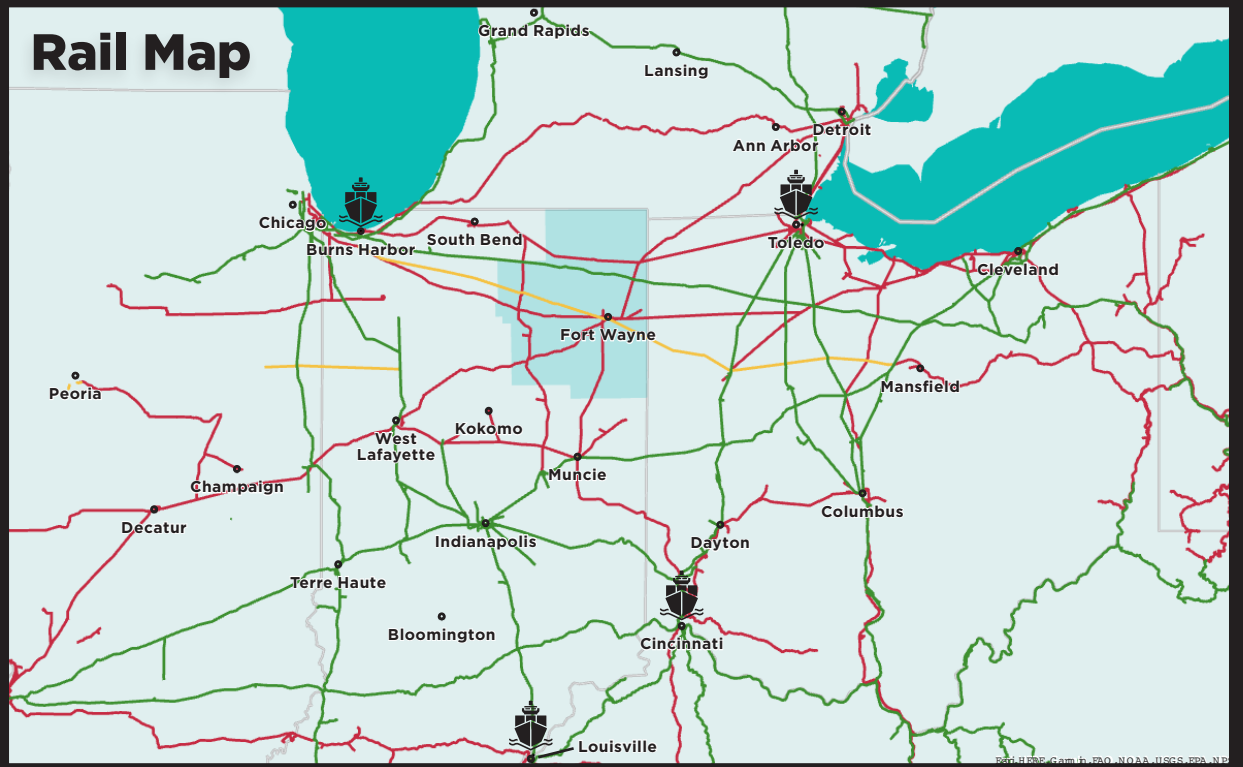
Northeast Indiana offers a high-value quality of life that costs **10%** less than the national average and residential property tax is capped at just **1%**. Additionally, housing costs in Northeast Indiana are over **38% less** than the national average, and Northeast Indiana is home to **85 libraries, museums, and cultural institutions**.

# REGIONAL MAPS

-  Interstate Highways
-  Genesee & Wyoming Rail Line
-  CSX Rail Line
-  Norfolk Southern Rail Line



# Rail Map



## Non-stop flights to major hubs

Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Fort Myers, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Myrtle Beach, Orlando, Phoenix, Sarasota, and Tampa



## Class I freight railroads

CSX, Norfolk Southern, and Genesee & Wyoming



## Ports

Toledo-Lucas, Burns Harbor, Louisville-Jefferson, and Cincinnati-Northern KY



## Foreign trade zone

FTZ #182



## Interstate access

I-65, I-69, I-70, I-74, I-75, and I-80/90 are within a two-hour drive



# KEY CLUSTERS

## Defense + Aerospace

- Indiana has the highest concentration of manufacturing jobs in the nation among states competing for defense contracts.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) named Indiana the 5th most attractive state for aerospace manufacturing in 2022.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Northeast Indiana's Defense & Aerospace industry:



## Distribution + E-Commerce

- Indiana is ranked #3 in the Midwest, #2 in the Great Lakes and #9 nationally for 2024 Top States for Business – Infrastructure by CNBC.
- I-65, I-70, I-74, I-75 and I-80/90 are within a two-hour drive. I-69 is planned to connect Canada to Mexico, and I-80 and I-90 connect the east and west coasts.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Northeast Indiana's Distribution & E-Commerce industry:



## Food + Agriculture

- The food and agriculture industry contributes over \$15 billion to the state's annual gross domestic product.
- In 2023 Indiana was 3rd nationally in egg production, 4th nationally in soybean production, and 3rd nationally in chicken production.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Northeast Indiana's Food & Agriculture industry:



Northeast Indiana combines advanced materials, cutting-edge technologies and a hardworking Midwest work ethic to create an environment where companies thrive.



## Medical Device

- Indiana has one of the highest concentrations of life science companies in the U.S., employing more than 60,000 state residents.
- Medical device manufacturing, including orthopedic devices, has an employment concentration 28x the national average in Northeast Indiana.

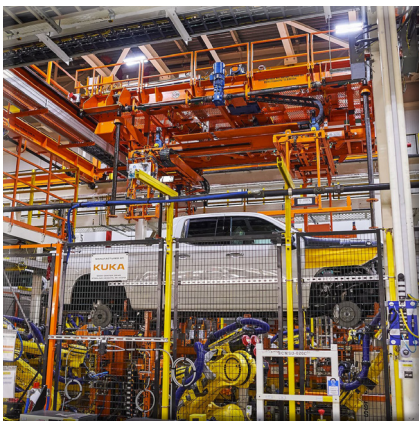
Scan the QR code to learn more about Northeast Indiana's Medical Device industry:



## Specialty Insurance

- Over 52% of all jobs in the finance and insurance industry in Indiana are within the specialty insurance industry, compared to 45% nationally.
- Northeast Indiana has over 3x the national average of employees in the direct life insurance carrier industry working for companies such as Lincoln Financial.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Northeast Indiana's Specialty Insurance industry:



## Vehicles

- Automobile and Light Duty Truck Manufacturing employment is over 7x more concentrated in Northeast Indiana than anywhere else in the nation. Indiana is the #2 state in the U.S. for automotive production.
- Nearly 84% of recreational vehicles in the U.S. are made in Northern Indiana, fueled by companies such as THOR, Forest River, and REV Group.

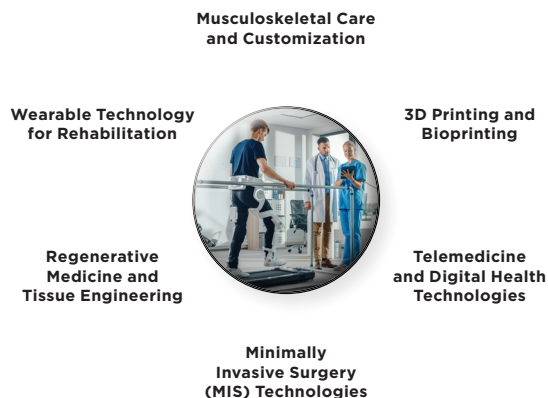
Scan the QR code to learn more about Northeast Indiana's Vehicle industry:



# TARGET CLUSTERS

## MedTech

The MedTech industry is a \$573 billion annual market that is driven by innovation, presenting significant opportunities for Northeast Indiana given its strong position in this industry for:



*Plug and Play is partnering with Zimmer Biomet and Paragon Medical to open a MedTech hub in Warsaw, IN, the Orthopedic Capital of the World.*

## EV & Zero-emissions

Rapid market growth, driven by increasing consumer interest, technological advancements, and supportive government policies aimed at reducing carbon emissions, presents significant opportunities for Northeast Indiana given its strong position in this industry for:



*The Indiana Off-Highway Vehicle Electrification Center (INOVEC) plays a leading role in managing and facilitating storage, transfer and use of big data for eOHVs and systems.*

## Biotech

Indiana's strong life sciences sector, marked by substantial investments in biotech R&D, extends its benefits to Northeast Indiana, creating a favorable environment for biotech companies.

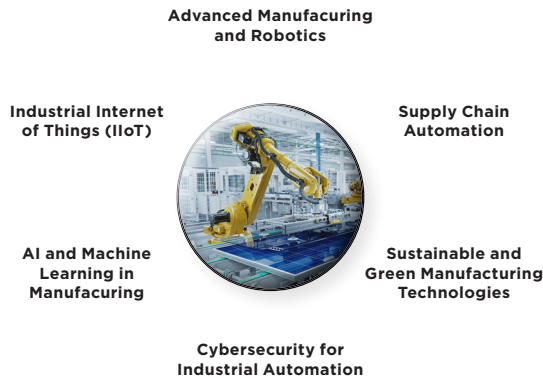


*2024 saw 14 bioscience-specific venture investments in Indiana, totaling \$64.3 million.*

## Northeast Indiana is expanding its industry clusters by seeking opportunities in various emerging markets.

### Hardtech & Automations

Northeast Indiana has a rich history in manufacturing, providing a robust foundation for hardtech industries. This established industrial base means there is already significant expertise and infrastructure in place, which is essential for hardtech and automation technologies.



*Indiana's share of venture capital deals has doubled in the last 10 years, including 139 tech investments totaling \$649.4 million in 2024.*

### Film, Music, & Animation

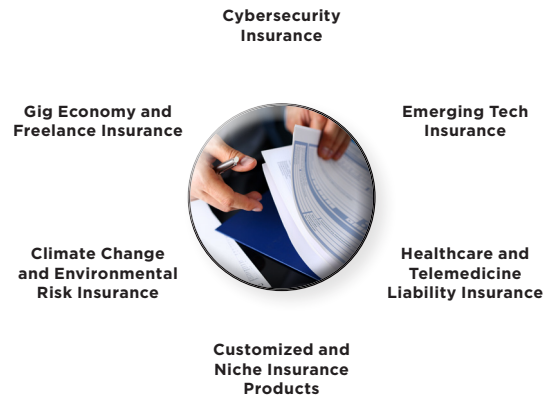
Graduates from Northeast Indiana universities are highly pursued and currently employed in the film, music and animation industries across the country from Los Angeles to New York to Chicago.



*Newly established incentives and programs are laying a strong foundation for these industries in Northeast Indiana.*

### Specialty Insurance

Northeast Indiana is already home to several established specialty insurance companies offering a developed ecosystem and synergies around talent, networks, collaboration, training, and influence.



*The region boasts a skilled workforce educated in relevant fields like finance and actuarial sciences, essential for the insurance industry. Its strategic location enhances market access, and the growing technology sector supports the evolving needs of modern insurance companies.*

### Aerospace & Defense

Existing aerospace and defense companies in Northeast Indiana foster collaboration, supply chain integration and partnerships. This is supported by a robust manufacturing base, tech ecosystem and a well-established talent pool.



*The presence of specialized educational institutions like Trine, Indiana Tech, and Purdue University Fort Wayne supports a steady flow of qualified engineering professionals.*

# STATE OF INDIANA INCENTIVES

## Northeast Indiana means business.

And our incentives are designed for you. With over 10 state incentives and countless local options, Northeast Indiana will do what it takes to make your business thrive.

- Bond Financing
- Build and Leaseback
- Cash Grants
- County Economic Development Income Tax Assistance (CEDIT)
- Eligible Vacant Building Deductions
- Energy Credits
- Equipment Loans/Grants
- Industrial Revenue Bonds
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Land Incentives
- Loan Guarantees
- Local Economic Development for Growing Economy (LEDGE)
- Low-Interest Loans
- Opportunity Zones
- Permitting & Legal
- Project-Investment Fund
- Tax Abatement
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Training Reimbursement

*\*Programs vary by county*

For more information on incentives, please visit: [www.iedc.in.gov](http://www.iedc.in.gov)

## JOB CREATION AND BUSINESS INVESTMENT

### **Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit**

Provides a refundable tax credit to businesses that create new jobs that improve the standard of living for Indiana residents.

### **Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit—Non-Resident (EDGE-NR)**

Provides a nonrefundable tax credit to businesses that create new jobs that are filled by residents from another state.

### **Hoosier Business Investment (HBI) Tax Credit**

Provides incentives to businesses to support job creation and capital investment, and to improve the standard of living for Indiana residents.

### **Innovation Development Districts (IDD)**

IDDs are an IEDC-designated district that capture certain incremental taxes from the district. Funds collected from the district may be used for economic development, infrastructure upgrades, or the training of employees within the designated area.

### **Industrial Development Grant Fund (IDGF)**

Provides assistance to municipalities and other eligible entities with off-site infrastructure improvements needed to serve the proposed project site.

### **Film and Media Tax Credit**

Provides an income tax credit up to 30% that can be applied to offset certain production expenses, such as acquisitions, filming and sound, labor, and story rights.

### **Data Center Sales Tax Exemption**

Provides a sales and use tax exemption on purchases of qualifying data center equipment and energy to operators of a qualified data center for a period not to exceed 25 years for data center investments of less than \$750 million. If the investment exceeds \$750 million, the IEDC may award an exemption for up to 50 years.

### **Headquarters Relocation Tax Credit (HQRTC)**

Provides a non-refundable tax credit to a business that relocates its headquarters to Indiana.

### **Small Headquarters Relocation Tax Credit (SHQRTC)**

Provides a refundable tax credit to a small, high-growth business that relocates its headquarters or a number of employees equal to 80% of the company's total payroll to Indiana.

## **INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

### **Patent Income Tax Exemption**

Certain income derived from qualified patents and earned by a taxpayer are exempt from taxation. The Tax Exemption for Patent-Derived Income defines qualified patents to include only utility patents and plant patents.

### **Venture Capital Investment (VCI) Tax Credit**

Provides a non-refundable tax credit to individuals or corporate investors who provide qualified debt or equity capital to Indiana companies, improving access to capital for fast-growing Indiana companies.

### **Research and Expense Credits**

A taxpayer may be eligible for a credit on qualified research expenses.

### **Research and Development Sales Tax Exemption**

A 100% sales tax exemption for qualified research and development equipment and property purchased.

## **SKILLS TRAINING**

### **Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF)**

Provides assistance to companies to support training of employees required to support business growth in Indiana.

### **Northeast Indiana Works**

Provides public and private financial and employment resources for education and skills training, including customized recruitment/hiring events, applicant screening and assessment activities, development and support of training programs for new hires, and assistance with a variety of new hire processes based upon employer needs.



# TALENT PIPELINE



The Northeast Indiana Colleges and Universities Network will work with you to fill your pipeline. Businesses have access to more than 60,000 students and 13,000 graduates annually from 260 degree and credential programs.



Within 200 miles, we have over 250,000 graduates annually from major universities such as Purdue, Notre Dame and Michigan.



## Workforce Development

Northeast Indiana Works, the region's workforce development organization, provided access to more than \$13 million for employer-based worker training since 2020.

## Trade & Credentials

Northeast Indiana organizations invest millions of dollars annually in creating, equipping and offering industry-recognized certificates and paid apprenticeships for high school students in manufacturing, construction, logistics and other trades, with more than 5,500 students enrolled in engineering, manufacturing, precision machining and welding programs alone.

## Strong Philanthropic Investment in Education

The Don Wood Foundation, Questa Education Foundation, Dekko Foundation and others invest heavily in education, including promises of over one hundred million dollars in career and technical education over the next 10 years.

With high school training, technical programs and up-skilling, Northeast Indiana has programs to ensure businesses have a robust talent pipeline. For more information, go to [www.neinworks.org](http://www.neinworks.org).



# EMBRACE THE PIONEER SPIRIT

Northeast Indiana has become a path of opportunity and invites you to capitalize on our momentum and growth.

We are investing our future, and we are just getting started. Northeast Indiana is fertile ground for business growth.

We have the business climate, talent and infrastructure necessary for your business to thrive – and the region is committed to continuing the momentum. Experience the advantages and seize the opportunities.

Welcome to Northeast Indiana. **Pioneer Starts *Here*.**

To learn more about the **Pioneer Starts *Here*** platform, visit [www.pioneerstartshere.com](http://www.pioneerstartshere.com).



## CONTACT



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