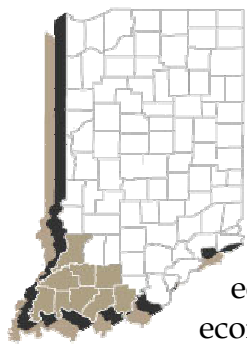


## Southwest Indiana



Despite some improvement from the 2001 economic recession, Southwest Indiana's economic climate remains tepid. In fact, the region's growth has been slower than half of the metro regions in the U.S. since 2001. Southwest Indiana, a 9-county region anchored by Evansville, is seeking ways to stimulate economic growth and attract high tech jobs in high growth industries. As a Second Generation WIRED region, Southwest Indiana plans to transform the region's economy and empower workers to compete for jobs in today's global economy.

Southwest Indiana Go (SWIGO) was formed to develop and implement strategies to expand employment and advancement opportunities and catalyze the creation of high skill and high wage opportunities. As part of their proposal to participate in the WIRED Initiative, they established five core objectives for improving the economic conditions in the region:

1. Collaboration and new governance
2. Networking
3. Connectivity
4. Restructured incentives
5. More perfect information

Using partnerships with representatives from the public and private sectors, SWIGO will promote civic dialogue and work toward improving the quality of life in the region. These partners include the University of Evansville, University of Southern Indiana, Workforce Investment Board of Southwestern Wisconsin, Vectren Corporation, Welborn Foundation, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana and the City of Evansville. As a Second Generation WIRED region, SWIGO will also take the first step in finding solutions to create a pool of talent to work in innovative, demand-driven jobs.

By promoting postsecondary education, SWIGO will help implement the tools necessary to empower young workers and prepare them for today's changing economy. Currently, the region's five institutions enroll more than 38,500 students, which accounts for approximately nine percent of the region's population. In addition to developing curriculum to familiarize students with jobs in the private sector, SWIGO plans to increase enrollment at postsecondary schools; thus increasing the number of young professionals available for the workforce. Through education, the region's workers will be better prepared for careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.

