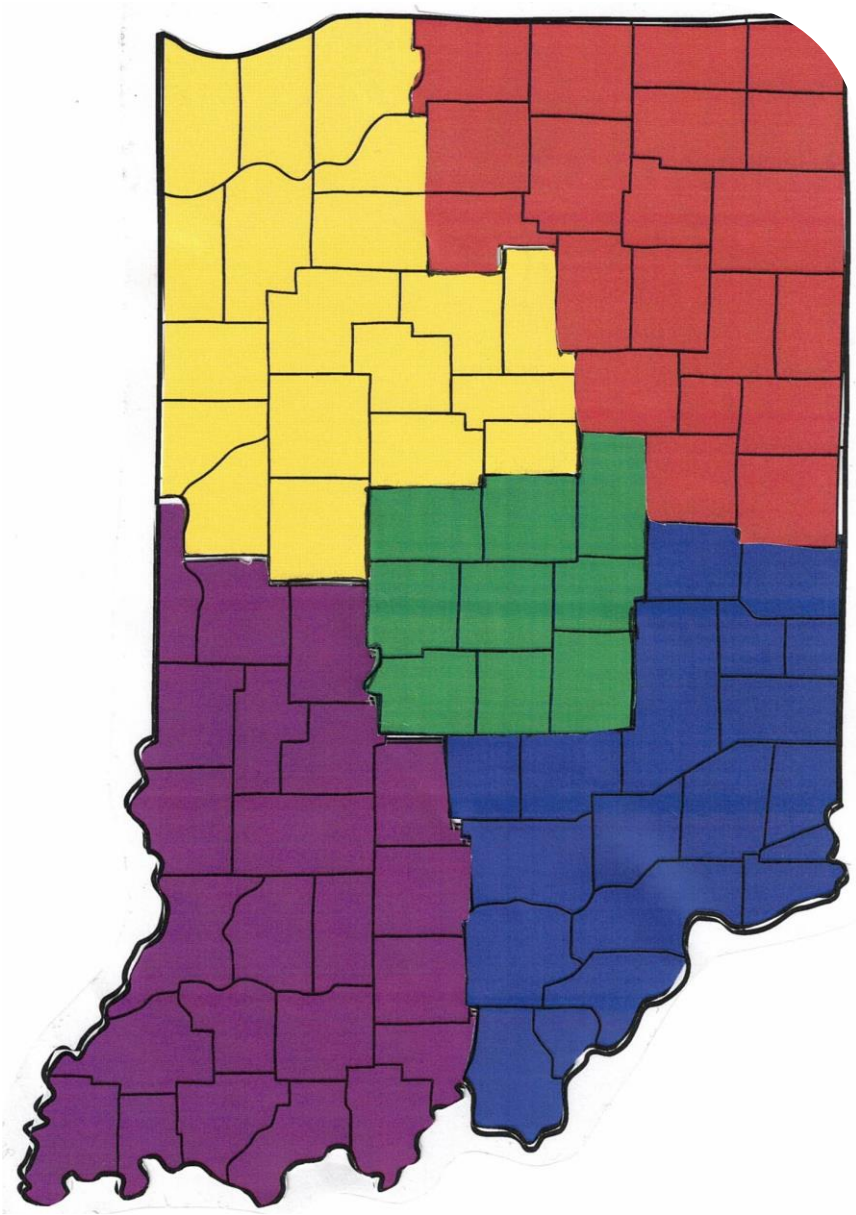
JOURNEY
REGIONAL NETWORKS

WHAT'S THE GOAL WITH REGIONAL NETWORKS?

- Grounding, Connecting and Inspiring Youth Workers
- Building community in the field of youth work
- Widening The Journey experience at the local level
- Giving regions around the state an opportunity to shine
- Keeping fellows engaged in The Journey network
- Sharing resources and connections among regions
- Providing more consistent outreach, belonging, and engagement throughout the state
- Smaller scale introduction to The Journey

"This is a much-needed space of connection and support that I think most of us have been longing for!"



If you were able to attend one of our 5 regional retreats this spring, you heard about our plans to create local regional networks throughout the state of Indiana.

The five regions cover a large portion of the state, including these cities:

- NW Indiana: Gary, Lafayette, Kokomo, etc.
- SW Indiana: Evansville, Terre Haute, Bloomington, etc.
- NE Indiana: Fort Wayne, South Bend, Muncie, etc.
- SE Indiana: Richmond, Columbus, Jeffersonville etc.
- Central IN: Indianapolis, Greenwood, Anderson, etc.

Region 6 – that is youth workers beyond Indiana, please be patient, we see you and will offer you resources as soon as we can.

Regional Networks



ESTABLISHING REGIONAL NETWORKS

The Journey is in the beginning stages of setting up Regional Networks throughout the state of Indiana. A few key points about Regional Networks:

- To begin, there will be 6 regions, serving a large geographical area. Over time, smaller regions or sub regions may form organically.
- You may choose which regions you follow and participate in – and you may participate in more than one.
- Most regional events and activities will be open to include youth workers who are not Journey Fellows.
- A budget has been established for each region to financially support events and activities in each region.
- Sample events and activities, including but not limited to networking, social gatherings, town festivals and celebrations, learning opportunities and service events.
- Regional networks will meet in-person 3 times in 2024 and 6 times in 2025 – there may be additional offerings in-person and/or online.
- Journey Fellows are encouraged to choose when and how they participate. The intent is to be welcoming and inclusive every time a Journey Fellow shows up in the circle.
- Each regional network will have a "Leadership Crew" of 3-5 Journey Fellows, who meet regularly to plan, host and facilitate Regional Network activities. They will also be responsible for communicating with their network and The Journey staff.
- The Journey Community – which is made up of all of us, will continue to operate on a large scale, sharing information and hosting events to bring any and all fellows together.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CREW

The Regional Leadership Crews will be made up of up to 5 people who represent the people who live and/or work in each region. It's important for us to have diverse crews, representing the many of the different areas and sectors in each region.



Each crew will work together to determine the best processes and practices for meeting, planning and moving the network forward. They will have a budget to spend on events and activities as well as a stipend for their leadership role.

Additionally, all the crews will have state-wide support from other Crew Leaders and Journey staff. Melinda, Director of Journey Community, will be a primary lead and support for Crew Leaders. There will be a monthly Zoom check-in and a retreat for all crew leaders in September.

Crew leaders will work together to set intentions for events and activities, including but not limited to: networking, social gatherings, town festivals and celebrations, learning opportunities and service events. It is encouraged to make these events and activities as inclusive to other youth workers when possible.

We are currently seeking applications for those interested in bringing together Journey fellows and youth workers in your region of the state.

Do we have your attention? Applications will be accepted from June 17-July 1, 2024. To apply, fellows must meet some basic requirements:

- Be willing to commit to this position through 2025
- Be a Journey Fellow
- Live or Work in the region they are serving (Yes, we will be inclusive of fellows who are living or working just outside of Indiana borders, such as Louisville, Cincinnati, Chicago, etc.)
- Commit to integrating the mission and values of The Journey locally

The Journey will host 2 informational sessions for those interested in serving a regional crew position:

- Monday, June 24 at 8 PM Eastern/ 7 Central
- Wednesday, June 26 at 10 AM Eastern/9 Central
- Here's the zoom link to join: https://zoom.us/j/612973627?pwd=TnRXR0liWUJJYWNFNkREMWpMdHNQdz09

APPLY HERE BY JULY 1, 2024:
https://indianayouthservicesassociation.formstack.com/forms/regional_leadership_crew_application

Questions: Contact Melinda – mbowman@indysb.org or 260-224-1014

APPROXIMATE TIMEFRAME

Whether you are a crew leader, a cheerleader, a lurker or an active participant, we hope that you pay attention to your email and The Journey Online in coming months and connect with your region. This only works when people engage in the groups and activities.

June-July Forming Regional Crews

- June 17 Begin Accepting Applications
- June 25-27 Zoom Info Session
- July 1 Deadline for Applying
- July 15 Announcement of Regional Leadership Crews

Aug-Dec Establishing Local Networks

- Leadership Retreat for all crews - September 17-19 @ Country Lake Retreat Center
- Kickoff informational session and gathering for each of the 5 regions (Aug-early September)
- Crews plan/host at least 2 additonal in-person events for local network during this time frame
- Promote/engage in local recruitment efforts for 2025 Fellowships

2025 Setting up Networks for Success

- Regional Leadership Crews continue to establish practices and policies for local networks
- Crews offer at least 6 in-person events for local network during this time frame
- Establish procedure for rotating leadership beginning in 2026

