

ABOUT CDI

The Community Development Institute Central (CDI) was established in 1987 to train community and economic development professionals in the mid-South. Participants move through the program curriculum in cohorts, and are exposed to a comprehensive, applied approach to the field of community and economic development. **The Louisiana program began in 2024 as an official satellite site of CDI Central in Conway, Ark and is now its own independent site as of 2026.**

The institute builds the capacity of individuals and communities to positively impact economic and social development. This is achieved by expanding individual's ability to identify community assets, set goals, encourage collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders, and bringing together groups of people to respond to a broad range of economic and quality of life issues.

CDI TIMELINE

The Louisiana CDI experience is different than other sites as we will train for three weeks within one year.

The 2027 dates are: Feb 23-26 (Year 1); June 7-10 (Year 2); September 27-Oct. 1 (Year 3)

CDI AUDIENCE

- Elected officials
- City planners and employees
- Chamber directors
- Community and economic developers
- Nonprofit leaders
- Bankers
- State employees
- ... anyone who is dedicated to making their community a better place to live, work, and play!

CDI is relevant for both new and seasoned professionals because it focuses on best practices and current trends. Anyone in a position of leadership in a community, including government, education, business, faith-based programs, and other areas, will benefit from the insights and knowledge gained at CDI and from the networking opportunities fostered through the CDI experience.

CDI INSTRUCTORS

The institute's faculty consists of development professionals from the corporate, academic, non-profit, and government sectors from North Louisiana and the mid-South.

CDI REGISTRATION

You can get on the waiting list for 2027 by emailing cdila@bossierchamber.com and including a Letter of Intent on why you should be included. Registration is \$1,800 for the entire year. **We only accept applicants who will commit to all three weeks, which will be in February, June and October 2027.**

CDI CURRICULUM

Curriculum is delivered through various formats including a combination of lecture, small group discussions, simulations, and individual projects. The focus is on active, rather than passive learning. Among the classes participants will take are:

YEAR 1

- Community Development Principles
- Understanding Community Economies
- Strategic Visioning & Planning
- Asset-Based Community Development
- Volunteer Engagement
- Workforce Development Ages 0 - 5
- Poverty Simulation

YEAR 2

- Community and Economic Development Finance
- Business Retention & Expansion
- Business Attraction & Site Selection Process
- International Trends
- Meeting Facilitation/Conflict Resolution
- Strategic Doing
- Communicating with Your Community
- Quality of Place

YEAR 3

- Historic Preservation Establishing & Managing CBOs
- Grants
- Workforce Development
- Measuring Impact
- Retail Development
- Community Leadership Development

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