OCTOBER 2026

LEGACY LEDGER

THE CHAMBER OF LAGRANGE COUNTY



3 SMART Q4 STRATEGIES TO SAVE SMALL BUSINESSES TIME, MONEY AND STRESS

MAPPING INDIANA'S $82B LIFE SCIENCES CLUSTER: EMPLOYMENT, WAGES AND GDP

Indiana Governor Mike Braun's $1 billion agriculture and life sciences initiative, announced in March 2026, puts one of Indiana's most economically distinctive and strategically important industry clusters at the center of the state's growth strategy.

BEYOND THE WELLNESS BENEFIT: A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO WORKPLACE WELLNESS

True workplace wellness goes beyond benefits. It starts with creating a culture that supports the whole person.

October's Featured Article on page 9.

Fostering Community Connection. Driving Business Success.

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BUILDING A LEGACY TOGETHER. Your business. Your community. Your Legacy.

The LaGrange County Chamber exists to champion local businesses, strengthen leadership, and build generational prosperity across our communities.

Whether you're a business owner, community leader, entrepreneur, or resident, there's a place for you here.

YOUR PARTNER IN BUSINESS & COMMUNITY



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CELEBRATING OUR NEWEST MEMBER FROM AUGUST



D.A. HOCHSTETLER & SONS

Mark Your Calendars

OCTOBER

- **08** Member Luncheon
- **15** Legacy Launchpad
- **20** Connect with the Candidates
- **28** Woman2Woman Roundtable

NOVEMBER

- **11** Power of the Purse (Lunch & Dinner Event)
- **11** Legacy Awards Nominations Close
- **12** Member Luncheon
- **13** LCIC Open House (Chamber/EDC)
- **20** Coffee with the County
- **24** Table for 10

DECEMBER

- **10** Christmas Luncheon (BREAKFAST)
- **14** Legacy Award Finalists Reception
- **21 - JAN 1** OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

SCAN HERE
for full calendar of events and registration links



WHY GET INVOLVED?

Your Chamber membership is more than a logo on a directory. It's an opportunity to build connections, grow your business, and leave a lasting Legacy in LaGrange County.

Attend an event. Meet a fellow member. Sponsor a program. Share your expertise. The more you get involved, the more you get out of your membership.

513 W Central Ave., LaGrange, IN

260-463-2443

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Scan for Chamber's Linktree

MAPPING INDIANA'S $82B LIFE SCIENCES CLUSTER

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES AND GDP

ADAPTED FROM THE INDIANA BUSINESS REVIEW

When you hear the term "life sciences," you might immediately think of hospitals, doctors, pharmaceutical companies, or laboratories. But Indiana's life sciences economy is much broader than that.

It includes healthcare, medical manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agriculture, food production, research, distribution, and the many businesses that support these industries.

And it is big business.

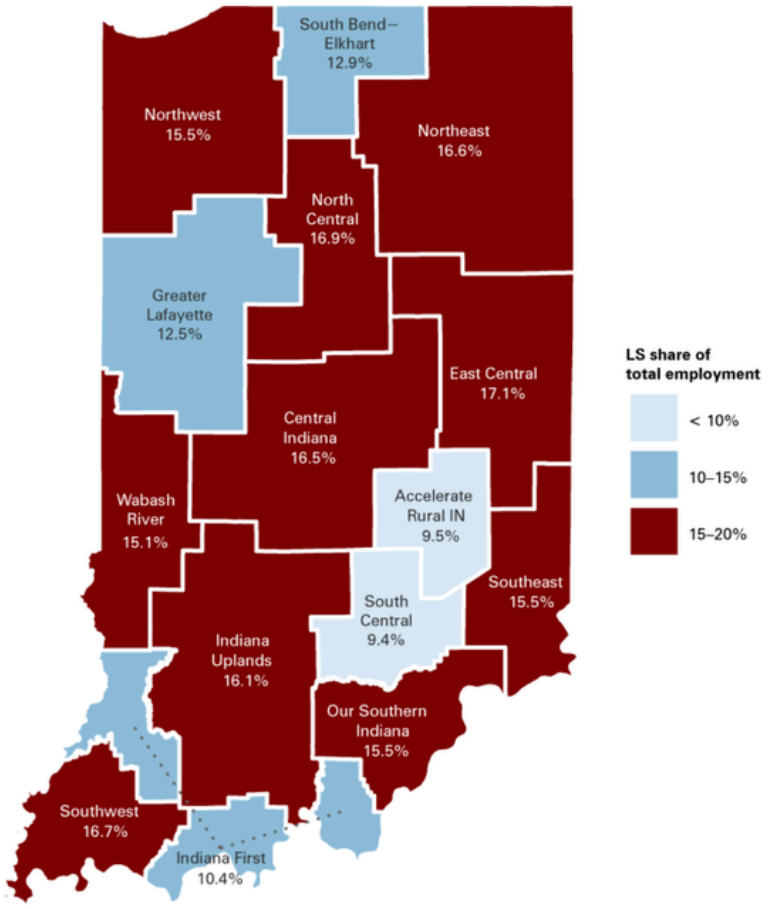
According to the Indiana Business Research Center, Indiana's agriculture and life sciences industries supported nearly 573,000 jobs and generated $81.9 billion in GDP in 2025. That represents a significant part of Indiana's economy and demonstrates just how important these industries are to communities across the state.

But what does a statewide $82 billion industry have to do with businesses and residents here in LaGrange County?

More than you might think.

Life sciences employment and wages across READI regions

Figure 1: Life sciences share of total employment by READI region, 2025



Source: Author's calculations and Lightcast 2025 estimates

Life Sciences Are Already Part of Our Economy

Northeast Indiana is home to a significant life sciences workforce. In 2025, the region had more than 70,600 life sciences jobs, representing 16.6% of total employment. Those jobs had an average annual wage of $72,432.

That means life sciences aren't simply a Central Indiana story. They are already part of the economic landscape in Northeast Indiana.

And because our local economy is connected to the broader regional economy, what happens in Northeast Indiana matters to LaGrange County businesses, employers, and workers.

It's More Than Healthcare

One of the most important takeaways from the IBRC report is that life sciences cannot be viewed as a single industry.

Healthcare is certainly a major component, but the sector also includes manufacturing, agriculture, wholesale and distribution, research, medical equipment and other supporting industries.

For example, a growing healthcare or manufacturing operation may need:

- Accountants and financial professionals
- Technology and IT services
- Construction and skilled trades
- Marketing and communications
- Transportation and logistics
- Banking and financial services
- Insurance
- Equipment and maintenance
- Restaurants and retail
- Human resources and workforce services

That means economic growth in one industry can create opportunities for businesses in many others.

Your business doesn't have to be a life sciences company to be part of the life sciences economy.

The Workforce Connection

For business owners, perhaps the most important part of this conversation is people.

Every growing industry needs a workforce with the right skills. As life sciences, healthcare, manufacturing, and agriculture continue to evolve, employers need employees who can adapt to new technology, solve problems, communicate effectively, and bring specialized skills to the workplace.

That makes workforce development a community-wide issue.

It starts long before someone applies for a job.

Students need opportunities to explore careers. Educators need meaningful connections with employers. Businesses need opportunities to introduce young people to their industries. And communities need to create pathways that allow people to develop skills and build careers without necessarily leaving home.

This is where work-based learning, internships, job shadows, career exploration, and employer partnerships become more than educational opportunities.

They become economic development tools.

What Can Local Businesses Do?

You don't have to be a large employer to contribute to the workforce pipeline.

Local businesses can start by asking:

What skills will I need three, five, or ten years from now?

Then consider how you can begin developing that talent today.

That might mean hosting a student for a job shadow, participating in a career fair, offering an internship, working with a local school, speaking to students about your industry, or creating opportunities for current employees to expand their skills.

For established businesses, these connections can help introduce future employees to your company.

For students, they can provide a clearer understanding of what careers actually look like beyond the classroom.

And for the community, they can help create a stronger connection between education, employment, and economic opportunity.

Why This Matters to LaGrange County

Economic development isn't simply about recruiting a large company and hoping it creates jobs.

A strong local economy is built through connections between businesses, education, workforce, infrastructure, healthcare, and community development.

When one part of that system grows stronger, it can create opportunities throughout the community.

That's why understanding broader economic trends matters to local business owners.

Indiana's $81.9 billion life sciences economy isn't just a statistic. It represents hundreds of thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in economic activity, and a network of businesses and workers connected across the state.

For LaGrange County, the opportunity is to understand where our community fits within that larger picture and make sure our businesses and workforce are prepared for what comes next.

Looking Beyond the Numbers

The IBRC's research provides an important reminder: economic growth doesn't happen in isolation.
Industries overlap. Businesses depend on one another. Workers move between industries. Students become employees, employees become business owners, and local businesses become part of larger regional supply chains.

The strongest communities recognize those connections and work together to build them.

For Chamber members and local businesses, that means staying informed about where Indiana's economy is headed, understanding the industries influencing our region, and looking for ways to participate in the opportunities ahead.

Because ultimately, economic development isn't just about attracting business. It's about creating a community where businesses can grow, people can build careers, and future generations have opportunities to succeed right here at home.

The Takeaway

Indiana's agriculture and life sciences economy is already a major economic force. Northeast Indiana is a significant part of that story, and LaGrange County is connected to the region through our businesses, workforce, schools, and communities.

The question isn't simply "How big is the industry?"

The more important question for local businesses and community leaders is:

"How can we make sure our people and businesses are ready to participate in what comes next?"

Source: Indiana Business Research Center, Indiana University Kelley School of Business, "Mapping Indiana's $82B life sciences cluster: Employment, wages and GDP," Summer 2026.

BUSINESS

3 SMART Q4 STRATEGIES TO SAVE SMALL BUSINESSES TIME, MONEY AND STRESS

ADAPTED FROM KANSAS CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL

For many small business owners, the fourth quarter can feel like walking a tightrope. Between balancing budgets, managing inventory, preparing for holiday sales, and trying to finish the year strong, managing cash flow is critical. But for business owners staring down the looming October 15 tax extension deadline, that tightrope suddenly feels a lot higher.

They're not alone. According to the Internal Revenue Service, more than 20 million taxpayers request an extension to file their federal tax returns each year. While an extension gives them more time to file, it doesn't extend the deadline to pay taxes owed. In a recent Small Business Economic Trends survey from the National Federation of Independent Business, 20% of owners identified taxes as their top business problem, the highest level since 2021.

From a business banking perspective, relying on tax extensions every year might be a symptom of deeper issues. Lapsed bookkeeping, an incomplete cash flow picture, or neglected financial planning don't just make tax season stressful – they can compromise your long-term success. Because banks may require recent tax returns to consider new or updated credit requests, habitual filing delays can limit your ability to access capital when you need it.

Fortunately, there are three simple financial habits that, if followed consistently before January, can help you avoid the cycle of filing extensions, improve borrowing power, and ensure you're better prepared to file on time in April.

Keep your financial records current

For many business owners, the struggle isn't a lack of information. It's that the information you need is scattered across receipts, credit card statements, spreadsheets, and software that hasn't been updated in months. Businesses that reconcile their accounts regularly and review their financial statements throughout the year experience the least stress during tax season.

Digital bookkeeping systems and cash management tools can automate expense tracking, organize receipts, and provide a real-time snapshot of income and expenses, simplifying tax preparation and helping business owners make better decisions throughout the year.

Just as important, keeping your business and personal finances separate using dedicated business checking accounts and credit cards creates cleaner financial records. This doesn't just simplify your bookkeeping and reduce complications during tax prep – it gives your bank a clear, accurate picture of your business's health when you need to access capital.

Know your cash flow before you need it

One of the biggest hurdles to Q4 growth is realizing you owe more in taxes than expected, which suddenly drains your working capital. The fourth quarter is an ideal time to project year-end cash flow.

Estimate upcoming revenue, payroll, rent, insurance renewals, subscriptions, and other significant expenses. Work with your accountant to estimate your tax liability and determine whether additional quarterly payments or reserve funds are needed. Knowing where your cash stands today allows you to make informed decisions and may also help prevent borrowing money just to pay taxes or cover routine operating expenses.

Meet with your advisors before year-end

By January, most opportunities to optimize your year-end finances have already passed. Meet with your business banker, CPA, and financial advisor before the end of the year to align your strategy.

While your CPA will guide your tax strategy, your business banker is there to help you execute.

Whether you're evaluating end-of-year equipment purchases that require financing, looking to maximize interest on cash reserves, or needing a line of credit to smooth out Q4 payroll, your banker can provide the liquidity and treasury management solutions to make it happen.

Most successful businesses don't wait until spring to think about their taxes. They use the final months of the year to better understand their finances, strengthen their cash flow, and make informed decisions while there's still time to act.

Smart Q4 planning can help you enter the new year with confidence and peace of mind. When your finances are organized and your banking partner is in the loop, you can stop stressing about past deadlines and focus entirely on serving your customers and growing your business.



Beyond The Front Door

- 🍽️ **THE STORY**
  - *Fritz and Tina Helmuth purchased the restaurant in 1987, when it was a small drive-in with just 58 seats and a tiny kitchen. In 1992, they expanded the restaurant to approximately 4,200 square feet and 194 seats.*
- 🎂 **WHY "TIFFANY'S"?**
  - *The restaurant was named after the Helmuths' youngest daughter, Tiffany. Even more fitting, opening day, June 6, 1987, happened to be Tiffany's birthday.*
- 🥧 ***MORE THAN A MEAL***
  - *Today, Tiffany's serves hearty breakfasts, lunches, suppers, buffets, and homemade desserts, with a special reputation for its home-style cooking and pies. Located in the heart of LaGrange County's Amish Country, the restaurant welcomes both local guests and visitors exploring the area.*
- 🤝 ***BEYOND THE RESTAURANT***
  - *For owner Fritz, being a local business means being an active part of the community. Tiffany's supports local youth through sponsorships of softball, soccer, basketball, and baseball, helping create opportunities for young people throughout the area.*
- 🏢 ***DID YOU KNOW?***
  - *Tiffany's is part of a larger family of local businesses. Fritz also owns S&H Metal Products, a metal fabrication business, and Freedom Finish Works, a powder-coating business, both located in Topeka.*

THE LEGACY CONNECTION

From a 58-seat drive-in to a hometown gathering place that has served generations of customers, Tiffany's story is a great example of how a local business can become part of the fabric of a community.

Thank you, Tiffany's Restaurant, for being a Chamber Partner and for continuing to invest in the community beyond your front door.

Biz Spotlight





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BEYOND THE WELLNESS BENEFIT: A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO WORKPLACE WELLNESS

TRUE WORKPLACE WELLNESS GOES BEYOND BENEFITS. IT STARTS WITH CREATING A CULTURE THAT SUPPORTS THE WHOLE PERSON.

BY LIANA TAYLOR

When we talk about workplace wellness, the conversation often begins with benefits: health insurance incentives, biometric screenings, gym memberships, wellness challenges, PTO, financial wellness benefits, or an on-site fitness center. All have value. With years of experience as a Corporate Health Consultant, time on the insurance side, coaching individuals, and my own health journey, I've come to see a much bigger picture.



Meet Liana Taylor, a Women's Holistic Lifestyle & Alignment Coach, Neuro Coach, and Yoga Instructor who helps high-performing women move beyond overwhelm and burnout to create lasting, sustainable change in their health and lives.

Workplace wellness is bigger than benefits. It's how the whole workplace supports the *whole* person.

Health does not exist in separate boxes. The American College of Lifestyle Medicine recognizes six interconnected areas that influence health: nutrition, physical activity, restorative sleep, stress management, positive social connection, and avoidance of risky substances.

Consider how those factors interact during an ordinary workweek. Stress can affect sleep. Poor sleep can affect energy, concentration, food choices, and physical activity—all of which influence how someone feels and functions at work. This is the mind-body connection in a practical sense: what happens during our workday affects our health, and how we feel affects how we show up at work.

Benefits are one piece. Lifestyle is interconnected. Our workplace influences that lifestyle, and our culture influences whether people feel supported in making healthy choices. Lasting wellness requires both the organization and the individual.

That means looking beyond benefits and asking whether the workplace supports employees mentally, emotionally, and physically. Can employees step away and move? Are lunch breaks actually taken—not spent in front of another screen? Are healthier food options accessible? Can employees communicate when they're overwhelmed, take needed breaks, and actually use the benefits available to them?

Perhaps most importantly, **have we asked employees what support they actually need?**

Employers aren't responsible for every aspect of an employee's health, but they can create a culture that makes taking care of oneself easier rather than harder. That doesn't necessarily require another expensive initiative. It might mean walking meetings, healthier food options, meaningful wellness education, encouraging PTO, reducing unnecessary stressors, or simply **creating a safe space to ask, listen, and respond.**

Wellness also has to work from the individual side. Most of us already know lifestyle affects our health. We're surrounded by information about what to eat, how to exercise, how much to sleep and everything we "should" be doing. The challenge often isn't

.

knowing more. It's identifying **what will have the greatest impact for YOU and how to make it work in a life you can actually sustain.**

Through Liana Wellness, I work across this spectrum—as a wellness consultant, coach, and educator helping organizations create healthier, more supportive workplaces, and as a holistic health and lifestyle coach helping individuals turn what they know into what they actually do.

Creating healthier workplaces—and healthier lives—may not start with doing or offering more. It may start with a different way of looking at wellness.

Ready to explore what that could look like for your organization or for you personally? Let'sstart with a conversation. Contact Liana Wellness at 330-704-7565 to schedule a consultation.

Liana WELLNESS

> **WORKPLACE WELLNESS IS BIGGER THAN BENEFITS. IT'S HOW THE WHOLE WORKPLACE SUPPORTS THE WHOLE PERSON.**
>
> *– Liana Taylor, Liana Wellness*



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17th Annual

LaGrange County

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Children 1st First Center

BENEFITING LaGrange County Students

Wednesday November 11th
Lunch - 11:00 am
Dinner - 6:00 pm

Blue Gate PAC
760 S Van Buren St
Shipshewana, IN

Cruising through 17 years of ensuring No Tummy Goes Hungry

Purchase tickets @ www.lagrangechamber.org/POP

BUILDING A LEGACY TOGETHER

A Legacy isn't built alone. It's built through businesses and leaders who choose to invest in their community.

We are incredibly grateful to the members who participated in the 2026 Legacy Campaign. Your support helped create opportunities for businesses to connect, grow, lead and make an impact throughout LaGrange County.

And as we look ahead, we're excited to recognize the businesses already building their 2027 Legacy through sponsorships and investment in Chamber programs, events and initiatives.

To every member who has raised their hand and said, "Count us in," thank you. Your investment helps us continue creating opportunities that strengthen businesses, connect our community and shape what comes next.

Your business. Your community. Your Legacy.

ABC Seamless of Lake Country
Agape Construction
AlphaVet Animal Clinic
AlphaVet Animal Clinic
Avail Portable Toilets
Bill's Heating Inc.
BIllman Propane
Bloomfield Creative
BlueLine Bookkeeping Group
Bowen Health
Brethren Retreat at Shipshewana Lake
Caldwell Appraisals, Inc.
Camp Lutherwald
Cariloha
Children First Center
Chupp Auctions & Real Estate
Community Health Clinic, Inc.
Cook's Bison Ranch
Crossroads United Way
Daryle Lambright, Realtor with RE/MAX Results
Dutch Blessing Floral
E&S Sales
E&S Wood Creations
Eberhard, Weimer & Glick, P.C.
Edward Jones - Samantha Cunningham, Financial Advisor
Eminence Home
Family Value Flooring
Farmers State Bank
First Federal Savings Bank
First State Bank
Five Lakes Coffee Shipshewana
Foltz Bakery
Freedom Finish Works
Frurip May Funeral Home
Gifted Hands Villages
Haven of Hope
Heartland Mattress LLC
Helmuth Quality Power
Hite Auto Body Inc.
Horizon Bank
Hosler Realty Inc.
Hostetler & Young Insurance Agency Inc.
Howe-LaGrange Agency
Hummel Group
Indiana Farm Bureau
Interra Credit Union
JICI
Kids Kreations
LCYC
LaGrange County REMC
LaGrange First Church of God
LaGwana
Lake City Bank
Lake Country Landscaping
Lakeland School Corporation
Lakeland Title Company
Lakeland Towing and Recovery
Lasting Impressions
LCCF
Lewis & Lambright
Liana Wellness
Lighthearted Candle Co.
Ligtel Communications
Linders Tavern on Main
Michiana Builders
Michiana Event Center
Miller Poultry
Mongo General Store
Nathan Nisley, Certified EOS Implementer
NIPSCO
Oriole Energy Solutions
Parkview LaGrange Hospital
Pattern Energy
Polish Girl Collectibles
Prairie Heights
Precision Financial Group
Raber Patio Enclosures
Rainbow Years Learning Ministry
Red Door CPA
Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana
Right to Life of NEI
Shipshe Automotive Service
Shipshe Popcorn Co
Shipshewana Towing Service
Shipshewana Trading Place Auction & Flea Market
Shur Ply
Silver Star Leather
Simply Essential
Springfield Acres
St. Martin's Healthcare
State Farm Insurance - Jason Lenardson
Stedfast Auctions & Real Estate
Stutzman Power Equipment
The ARC of LaGrange
The Fancy Farm Girl Boutique
The Waters of LaGrange
Tiffany's Restaurant
Tire Star of Wolcottville
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Westview School Corporation
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THESE NEWSLETTERS WERE PREPARED BY OUR FRIENDS AT THE ARC OF LAGRANGE COUNTY

DIAMOND
FSB Farmers State Bank
LaGwana
PLATINUM
Freedom Fulfilled Workers
BH Bowen Health
Tiffany's "Fine Food & Fellowship"
Parkview LaGrange Hospital
GOLD
Michiana Event Center | Lake City Bank | Tire Star of Wolcottville | Precision Financial
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