Thank you for a successful Midwest Asset Building Conference!

On October 5-6, attendees from across the region convened in Indianapolis to make connections and have discussions around predatory lending, financial capability services and the racial wealth divide. The conference included sessions on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Federal Policy, and Financial Coaching Tools.

Search #midwestconf2017 to see what attendees had to say!

Asset building is no longer silos like housing & savings, now we connect the dots & see big impact #midwestconf2017 @prosperitynow

— Karianna (@thekarbar)

Inspired by the justice fighters I'm meeting at #midwestconf2017 ingenious initiatives aimed at creating economic justice #assetbuildingpic.twitter.com/qZbqb3tU9e

— BMartinez (@Martinezbarbie1)

Thinking about hope, community, goals, and telling stories through financial education. #MidwestConf2017 #FinancialEducation@melindacroes pic.twitter.com/S6yVIIHqLX
Thank you to our incredible team of organizers and to everyone who attended for helping to make the first Midwest Asset Building Conference a success! Attendees should be watch for a follow-up email with links to all of the presentations and resources shared at the event.

If you have further questions about the conference, or would like access to a specific resource, contact Allegra Maldonado, Indiana Assets & Opportunities Network VISTA.

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**Save the Date: Prosperity Indiana Summit & Statehouse Day**

The 2018 Prosperity Indiana Summit and Statehouse Day with be held January 23-24, 2018. The focus of this annual gathering of Prosperity Indiana's members and partners will be the intersection of community health and community development.

Strengthening our communities requires us to consider the ways that people and their environment interact with one another. Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play (known as social determinants of health) affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. For more on the social determinants of health, see this A&O Network blog.

Join us at the Summit to learn from local leaders and national experts working at the intersection of community health and community development, connect with peers from around the State, meet with elected state officials about legislation that impacts your work, and celebrate excellence in the field of community economic development in Indiana.
Click here to register now at a reduced fee!

Want to sponsor? Contact Jessica Love.

Introducing a New Resource: Community Development Legal Project

The Community Development Legal Project is a new endeavor launched by Indiana Legal Services (ILS). It will help meet the underserved legal needs of non-profit organizations that serve low-income individuals. Legal services can be expensive (and often unaffordable) for small non-profit community organizations. Resources spent on legal services also take away from programming.

With this project, ILS will offer free legal services to eligible non-profit groups, including: entity formation, real estate services (including quiet title actions), contract review, and governing document review, lease review, etc.

This project will be housed in ILS’s Indianapolis regional office. It will primarily focus on central Indiana organizations, but can serve other parts of the state. While ILS has expertise in many of the above areas, we will partner with pro bono attorneys in the community to help meet the need.

To learn more about this project and whether your organization may be eligible, please contact the project attorney, Marcus Bickle at marcus.bickle@ilsi.net. To learn more about Indiana Legal Services, click here.

Upcoming Training Opportunities - Strategies for Engaging:

With Local Decision-Makers

Join Prosperity Indiana's Director of Training Services, Rachel Mattingly on October 24 for training on Effective Strategies for Local Advocacy. This two-hour event led by Rachel and Ryan Crum, the Director of Planning and Building for the Town of McCordsville, will help participants understand the roles of government officials and other community leaders, key planning and decision-making processes, and how residents can effectively influence both.
Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

**With Communities**

The Indianapolis Resource Center (INRC) and Purdue Extension will provide training on Community Engagement. This training, held on October 25-26, will provide practical tools and strategies for engaging the community, including sessions on cultural awareness, asset mapping, and engaging with diverse populations such as youth, LGBT youth, people with disabilities, immigrants, and Hispanic and Black communities. Click [here](#) to register.

**Policy Update: CFPB Aims to Crack Down on Predatory Lending Practices**

Prosperity Indiana’s policy team joined faith-based, veterans, and consumer advocates as well as a former payday lending client for a press call on the release of the new CFPB rule. Representatives spoke in favor of the rule, but noted that the CFPB did not have the authority to change the cost of payday loans. They called on Indiana lawmakers to take further action to lower the interest rate.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

**Job Opportunities: Join the Prosperity Indiana team!**

Prosperity Indiana is seeking two new staff: an AmeriCorps Program Coordinator and a part-time Administrative Assistant. For more information, and to see the full job descriptions, see our [blog post](#).

Prosperity Indiana is also recruiting two AmeriCorps VISTA members: a Nonprofit Impact VISTA and a Communications and Events VISTA. See our [AmeriCorps](#) page for more information about the positions and how to apply.

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Visit our blog for more of the latest community economic development news in Indiana.