



Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

August 2020

Executive Director's Letter

Never. Have. I. Ever ... seen the world so full of advocates. Anyone able to drink to that? Didn't think so. (If you've ever played that game, hopefully you get me here.)

These days, everyone is an advocate for something. It might be pro-masks. It might be anti-masks. It might be your presidential vote. It might be around the opening or closing of schools, or virtual vs. in-person. It may be around racial injustice and police brutality. And (aside from Congress recessing), it seems there's "virtually" (see what I did there?) no break in all of the advocacy happening around us.



With so many advocating on both sides of every issue imaginable these days, there's also a lot of noise. That's why it's more critical than ever for our members to respond to our [policy survey](#) and attend our [regional meetings](#) with legislators. Because, when we come together united, and refine our policy asks into a few measures, we help cut through some of that noise. And then later, when we have the stage to make our case because one of our joint asks is introduced as a bill, we can multiply our impact by collectively and individually saying the same things matter.

And when I say later, this year, I don't mean much later. We're hearing from state legislators in our regional meetings that 2021 will be an "interesting" year, and that agendas are being formed and legislation is being drafted earlier than ever, and yet allowable bill filings will likely be fewer than usual. Know that we're doing our best to get ahead of this. But also, PLEASE do your part to help us refine what we'll rally behind this coming year. It matters NOW.

So, please don't tire of the relentlessness of this uber demanding and distracting time. The work you're doing is more important now than ever. And your voice – speaking up for those who need you most – is critical to driving the changes we'll seek.

And soon, I hope to be in a position to say ... never have I ever ... seen such boldness, unity and clarity around our policy goals and accomplishments. And then, I think we can bend the rules a bit and all drink to that!

Thank you, as always, for being a Piece of the PI Network!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed in a blue oval. The signature appears to read "Jessica Love".

Jessica Love
Executive Director

This month's Piece of the PI: ADVOCACY



The work you're doing is more important now than ever. And your voice – speaking up for those who need you most – is critical to driving the changes we'll seek.

We **REAP** prosperity by providing **R**esources, **E**ngagement, **A**dvocacy, and **P**rograms that support our members' work!

R ESOURCES

Technical Assistance & Virtual Real Estate Development Academy

For more than 30 years, Prosperity Indiana has been a leader in providing capacity development to its member organizations to strengthen community economic development (CED) and empower practitioners across the state. We offer an array of services that include:

- Housing Needs Assessments
- Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice
- Market Studies
- Community and Organizational Needs Assessments
- Comprehensive and Consolidated Plans
- Quality of Life Planning
- Community Housing and Revitalization Strategies
- Organizational Strategic Planning

Our staff consultants provide expert guidance for organizations and communities to build resilient, quality places. We focus on strengthening linkages between sectors, quantifying and communicating impact, and mobilizing community players for organizational and community change. Our team at Prosperity Indiana offers services at discounted rates to member organizations.

Additionally, Prosperity Indiana, in partnership with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB), offers technical assistance to rural nonprofits engaged in creating community and economic development opportunities and affordable housing for low-income communities in rural areas. Assistance includes program design and implementation, organizational strategic planning, resources development and financing planning, and affordable housing development. Service might be free for organizations depending on the size and scope of the proposed project.

For more information, please contact [Carey W Craig](#), Capacity Development Manager.

Mark Your Calendar - Virtual Real Estate Development Academy

Prosperity Indiana will host a virtual "Real Estate Development Academy" in October. We

plan to release more information, including registration details, later this month.

The Academy's purpose is to teach the fundamentals of developing affordable housing in Indiana using HOME as a tool for community and neighborhood revitalization. The goal is to equip individuals to learn the current trends and standards, as well as the fundamentals of this complex industry, with a focus on: (1) the development process; (2) market identification; and, (3) site selection and control.

The Academy is great for community, economic, and housing developers, especially those who are new to the industry or those who wish to refresh their knowledge and skills.

COVID-19 Hub

Share the wealth! Have a resource or tool you could share with your peers? We'll add it to the hub! If you're willing to share COVID-19 or other re-opening and recovery policies with peers, [please share it here](#).

[Access the COVID-19 Hub](#)



Regional Meetings Happening Now!

Regional meetings are underway. We have had great discussion with you, our members, on COVID-19 responses and our 2021 policy priorities. Regional policy makers and philanthropy organizations have been invited to be in the "room" and hear from our members during these meetings too.

Join the discussion at one of our upcoming meetings. Missed your region's meeting? Feel free to register for another one to hear what Prosperity Indiana is doing to advocate for our members!

Please refer to this [regional map](#) and register:

[Central/West: Thursday, August 20, 10-11:30 EDT](#)

[Southeast: Monday, August 24, 12:30-2 EDT](#)

[Southwest: Thursday, August 27, 10-11:30 EDT](#)

It's also not too late to complete our [2021 Policy Priorities Survey](#)! We want your voice to be heard and this survey sets our 2021 policy agenda. It will take approximately 15 minutes or less to complete.

Additionally, please complete the [Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis' 2020 Community Lending Survey](#). Respondents will be providing input for FHLBI's Community Lending Plan. The survey closes August 21, 2020, at 5 p.m.



Expiration of IN's Eviction Moratorium

Indiana's eviction moratorium expired on Friday, August 14, per Governor Holcomb's decision. The Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition has continued to advocate for tenant protections and a [Housing Stability Yardstick](#) and Stability Dashboard. The HHNC is also calling on Indiana courts to issue a Court Order for renter protections, with an articulated Housing Stability policy plan.

In a webinar hosted last week by Prosperity Indiana, "Preparing Hoosiers for the End of Indiana's Eviction Moratorium," [resources were provided](#) for Hoosier tenants. Panelists included Jeff Bennett (Deputy Mayor of Community Development, City of Indianapolis), Brandon Beeler (Housing Law Center Director, Indiana Legal Services), Jennifer Layton (President/CEO, Lafayette Transitional Housing), and Mandla Moyo (Director of Community Engagement, AARP Indiana). If you missed the webinar, view the [recording here](#) to hear the discussion.

The Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network (A&O), a program of Prosperity Indiana, participated in the Stop the Debt Trap Coalition's Week of Action. The A&O Network and partners advocated for consumer protections during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [View the press release here.](#)

View our recent blog posts to see how Prosperity Indiana has been advocating for our members:

- [Coalition Calls for COVID-19 Housing Stability Dashboard, Court Order for Renter Protections as Governor's Eviction Moratorium Ends](#)
- [Hoosiers Should Continue to Apply for Rent Assistance as Indiana's Eviction Pause Extended to August 14](#)
- [With maxed-out rent assistance, Indiana running out of time to prevent a tsunami of evictions as COVID-19 resurges: Housing Coalition provides Housing Stability Yardstick](#)



Opportunity Starts At Home

In 2019, Prosperity Indiana was endorsed as the official Indiana state partner for the national [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) campaign. The goal of the Opportunity Starts at Home - Indiana Coalition (OSAH-IN) is to achieve ambitious increases in affordable housing - through existing and new infrastructure - and direct support to organizations supporting those who are unstably housed or homeless. The OSAH-IN will also seek to expand voucher supports that fund deeply targeted housing assistance for extremely low-income households, including vulnerable populations, such as youth, seniors and those with disabilities. To find out how to join the alliance, contact OSAH@prosperityindiana.org.



OPPORTUNITY
STARTS AT HOME

Upcoming Events

Please check with the organizer(s) of events for updated cancellations and changes due to COVID-19.

[August 26: Governor's Celebration of Community Service Awards \(Virtual\)](#)

[August 26: NLIHC's 38th Annual Housing Leadership Awards Celebration \(Virtual\)](#)

[August 28, September 25, October 23: 2020 Suburban Housing Conference: HAND \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 2: Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Recovery to Resilience: Funding Trust through Philanthropy \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 10: Love Thy Neighborhood Awards Gala \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[September 16: Indiana Philanthropy Alliance, Lessons Learned Through Rural Economic Development \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 23: Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Recovery to Resilience: Self-Leadership \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 30-October 2: 2020 Prosperity Now Summit \(Virtual\)](#)

[October 27-29: NACEDA Summit 2020 \(Virtual\)](#)

Date & Time TBD: West Indy Development Corporation's Housing Resource Fair (Virtual)

Job Opportunities

[Senior Program Officer – Family Income and Wealth Building - Local Initiatives Support Corp \(LISC Indianapolis\)](#)

[Deputy Director - Local Initiatives Support Corp](#)

[\(LISC Indianapolis\)](#)

[Coalition Builder - Prosperity
Indiana](#)

ICYMI: Media Spots

[At least 400 eviction filings
in Marion County after
moratorium expires](#)

[Coalition calls for eviction
prevention measures as
state moratorium expires](#)

[State eviction moratorium
expires, thousands face
notices](#)

[Coalition Calls For COVID-
19 Housing Stability
Dashboard, Courtourd For
Renter Protection](#)

[Tenant advocates expecting
'waves of evictions' after
moratorium ends Friday](#)

[Coronavirus: A wave of
evictions could soon hit
Evansville and all of Indiana](#)

[State leaders work to
determine how President
Trump's executive orders
will impact Hoosiers](#)

[Indiana boosts funding for
rental assistance during
coronavirus pandemic](#)

[Hoosiers should continue to
apply for rent assistance as
Indiana's Eviction Pause
extended to August 14](#)

[Eviction moratorium
extended through August 14](#)

[Landlords file lawsuit
against Indiana's eviction
ban](#)

['Eviction crisis': Hundreds
locally could lose housing as
state lifts moratorium](#)

[Housing advocates push for more CARES Act funding for rental assistance](#)

[Stimulus package contains concepts offered by Young](#)

[Coronavirus roundup](#)

[With maxed-out rent assistance, Indiana running out of time to prevent a tsunami of evictions as COVID-19 resurges](#)

[10K Indianapolis residents rushed to apply for rental assistance; others didn't know about program](#)

[New pandemic rental assistance programs see huge demand](#)

[Young Cosponsors Bill to Address Housing Affordability, Create Jobs, and Encourage Economic Development](#)



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Tools & Resources

OCRA Planning Grant Cycle Now Open

The Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) announced the Planning Grant program is now open for applications. The goal of the program is to encourage communities to plan for long-term community development.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2020.

If you intend to submit an application for a plan that was initiated prior to the program's suspension, OCRA recommends contacting your [Community Liaison](#).

OCRA noted to use the updated application and minimum plan requirements, which can be found on [OCRA's website](#).

Fund Increases for State and Indianapolis Rental Assistance Programs

Indianapolis' City-County Council assisted in adding \$7.5 million to the current [Rental Assistance Program](#) for Marion County.

Originally, the City-County Council approved \$15 million for the program. Funding came from the \$80 million the city received from the federal CARES Act. [The additional \\$7.5 million](#) was added after Governor Eric Holcomb added increased the state rental assistance program by \$15 million.

Applications are currently on a waitlist for Indianapolis (Marion County), but tenants are encouraged to add their name to the list.

The [state program](#) now has a total of \$40 million available to renters in the state except those in Marion County. The state's program deadline for applications is Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.

Long-term Housing Affordability for Our Communities

An article in Shelterforce highlights the importance of housing affordability for our communities for long-term COVID-19 response and recovery. The author noted that, "increasing national racial equity and resilience requires an intersectional, cross-sectoral, coordinated approach of which housing is only one piece."

Suggested solutions include linking financial assistance to long-term affordability, giving community organizations priority to purchase rental properties and remain committed to affordability, acquiring vacant properties, and more.

[Read more here.](#)

Census Ending Counting Efforts Early

The U.S. Census Bureau will [conclude counting efforts](#) for the 2020 Census on September 30, 2020. This includes door-to-door, phone, mail, and online response collection.

This update is intended to, "accelerate the completion of data collection and apportionment counts by our statutory deadline of December 31, 2020, as required by law and directed by the Secretary of Commerce," according to Director Steven Dillingham in the [written statement posted on the bureau's website](#).

The 2020 Census is crucial for informing how federal funds are allocated to states and communities. Additionally, the Census determines how many seats in Congress each state is provided.

[Complete the 2020 Census online here.](#)

Prosperity Now's Latest Report

Prosperity Now has released, "How are the Most Vulnerable Households Navigating the Financial Impact of COVID-19?" During June and July 2020, Prosperity Now conducted a national survey of over 2,000 lower-income households. Highlights of their findings include:

- Nearly 40% of lower-income households feel worse off financially as a result of the pandemic.

- About 84% of all lower-income households surveyed received the Economic Impact Payment (EIP). Households self-identified as White were roughly eight percentage points more likely to receive a stimulus check than their Black or Latino counterparts.

- Common strategies lower-income households relied on to navigate the financial impact of COVID-19 included using the Economic Impact Payment, resorting to savings, skipping bill payments, and filing taxes to obtain a refund.

[Read more here.](#)

Evolving into an Anti-Racist Organization

This article by Pamela Ross, Vice President of Opportunity, Equity and Inclusion at Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF), highlights what organizations can do to evolve and be inclusive and anti-racist.

Ross stresses the importance that neither she nor CICF have all of the answers. The first steps include being comfortable with uncomfortable conversations and spaces. Ross states, "The space must also be safe for your Black colleagues and other people of color.... Do not expect your Black colleagues to share their trauma as merely a learning opportunity."

[Read more of this important and timely article here.](#)

How to Stay Healthy



Resources

[Back on Track Indiana](#)

[Be Well Indiana](#)

[Indiana Press Releases](#)

[Indiana State Department of Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[HUD COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Prevention Steps for Close Contacts](#)

General Information & Precautions

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Encourage teleworking when feasible.
- Practice social distancing when possible and avoid close contact with others. This may include staggering work schedules and decreasing social contact in the workplace.

Decisions about the implementation of community measures will be made by local and state officials, in consultation with federal officials as appropriate, and based on the scope of the outbreak and the severity of illness. Implementation will require extensive community engagement with ongoing and transparent public health communications (CDC).

Prosperity Indiana's Response

As of July 15, Prosperity Indiana team members are able to return to the office to work. Staff will be rotating days that they are present in the office. While most team members continue to work remotely at this time, we have compiled the following information about our return to work plan.

Our re-opening plan includes:

- Limiting staff in the office to no more than three at a time and fewer than 10 short-term, staggered visitors daily to allow for physical distancing
- Providing adequate PPE for staff and visitors, along with extra hand sanitizing supplies, tissues and wipes for high touch surfaces.
- Implementing a return-to-work plan that complies with the Back on Track Roadmap, CDC, Indiana Department of Health, and OSHA guidelines.

The best way to reach us during this time is via email. Here is a [link](#) to contact information for full-time staff. You can also reach out to [Teresa Reimschisel](#) with admin/operations questions.

Prosperity Indiana is here to support you through this difficult time. If you have specific suggestions for webinars, FB live chats, or other resources for us to share related to COVID-19 or other topics, please reach out to our [team](#).

Please stay healthy and take the necessary measures to protect yourself and those around you. We will be sure to inform you of any further updates as needed in the coming weeks.

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Shopping on Amazon.com? Switch to our Amazon Smile page and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Prosperity Indiana!

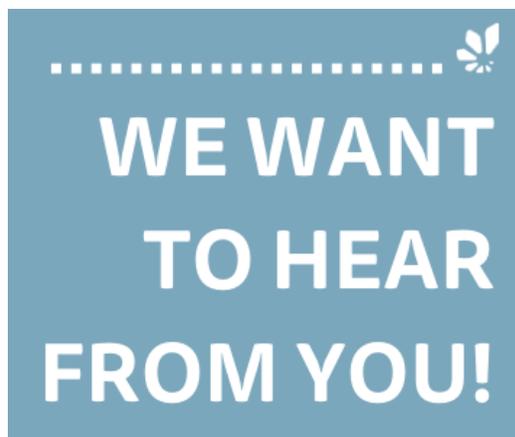
Shop, Smile, & Donate



If you have a success story, an upcoming event, or a job opening, please let us know! Prosperity Indiana is seeking guest bloggers and success stories from our membership to broadcast across the network. We want to highlight our greatest asset, our members!

[Send your stories.](#)

Visit [our blog](#) for more of the latest community economic development news in Indiana.



Connect with us



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