



COVID-19 (A Community Development Response)

Presentation Notes

Andrew Bradley, Policy Director
Prosperity Indiana
(Indianapolis)

Thanks to Jessica Fraser for the policy recommendations from the Indiana Coalition for Human Services (ICHS). Prosperity Indiana is a proud member of ICHS and helped contribute to the housing recommendations on this list.

One active policy issue to highlight is that the eviction bill SEA 148 is currently sitting on the Governor's desk. We encourage members to continue to ask the Governor to veto this damaging, unvetted legislation.

Prosperity Indiana wants to be a resource during the COVID-19 crisis and eventual aftermath by representing your presence, experience, and voiced with those who are formulating policy responses at the local, state, and federal levels. For example, Prosperity Indiana has been asked to participate in Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCDA) housing workgroup that has been transformed into weekly calls on the state's COVID-19 response related to housing. Having a seat at this table is an excellent opportunity for Prosperity Indiana members to share what they are seeing on the ground, and what needs they have from the state, with the purpose of helping to shape a policy response.

The IHCDA housing workgroup COVID-19 call is currently in 'listening' mode, trying to assess the early impact of the pandemic statewide. Some representative responses from this week's call include:



- From housing organizations: Seeing a need for additional foreclosure and eviction prevention. Asking about availability of Hardest Hit Funds for foreclosure prevention. Switzerland County is using school buses to deliver food to affordable housing developments, wants to explore expansion. Concerns that services like Meals on Wheels and access to transportation for medical appointments will be limited. Management and owners need guidance on what to do if a tenant passes away in a unit.
- From local and county organizations: Concerns that county and municipal building closures will delay titles, closings, building permits. Requests that county offices remain open for essential services. Need more guidance on what authority locals have on travel bans and closures.
- From Prosperity Indiana: Thanked the Governor for the executive order temporarily pausing evictions and foreclosures, but expressed concern about new forms of eviction, retaliation, and lack of renter protections. In addition to triaging emerging needs, the State needs to start now to work with partners to measure how many renters and families are experiencing a shortfall on rent and housing services, in order to be prepared to roll out a long-term response once the temporary emergency orders are lifted.

What are members seeing in their organizations and regions? Let us know so we can elevate your concerns to IHEDA and the Lieutenant Governor's office.

We are also working closely with partners, including National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), National Alliance for Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA), and Americans for Financial Reform (AFR), on the federal response to the pandemic through legislation in Congress.

Make sure your staff are signed up for Prosperity Indiana updates, and please reach out individually at abradley@prosperityindiana.org to discuss your policy concerns.