



COVID-19 (A Community Development Response)

SCRIPT

Good morning and welcome everyone! Prosperity Indiana is pleased to offer this webinar. We have 185 individuals participating and representing a variety of groups – Community Development Corporations, affordable housing groups, human services agencies, community foundations, United Ways, federal, state, and local units of government, financial institutions, utilities, and the list goes on and on. So, thank you. Let me begin by saying that we are all in this public health crisis together and, I think it's safe to say, operating somewhat blindly as this pandemic is unprecedented in the modern era.

This morning, we will hear from our partners concerning what steps their organizations are taking to manage the COVID-19 crisis in terms of its impact on their operations and services. We will also learn what challenges they are currently encountering or likely to face in the weeks and months ahead. Finally, we will discover how they are collaborating with other groups in response to changing community needs.

A few brief housekeeping items for your consideration and those of your fellow participants. We plan to keep all computer and telephone lines muted throughout the webinar. Please know that we welcome your participation by asking questions, making comments, and sharing ideas. You can communicate those by using the chat box feature on your screen. After each presentation, the webinar moderator will share your questions, comments, and ideas with the entire group. So, feel free to jump in!

Before we begin with our first speaker, I want to share with you some practical steps the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives and the National Council of Nonprofits recommend for community-based groups.

First, make plans to stay connected. Make sure your contact lists are updated. Maintain open lines of communication with your staff, board, volunteers, donors, and, most importantly,

the people you serve – check in regularly. Be transparent about the decisions you make, whether its closing your organization, scaling back business hours, or temporarily canceling events or services. Try moving meetings and training to online forums like GoToWebinar, WebEx, or Zoom.

Second, make plans to provide ongoing care and services. If your organization must require staff to work from the office, protect them as best you can. Childcare and homeless facilities, meal preparation and service sites, and other human needs agencies should pay particular attention to daily cleanliness and hygiene.

Third, make plans to maintain operational continuity, support staff, and those whom you serve. Review your organization's business continuity and recovery plan. If you do not have one, create and implement it immediately. Prepare for leadership coverage in case members of your team become ill. Consider strategies to address the ongoing financial needs of staff: employee payroll, telework accommodations, etc. Especially consider staff who depend on hourly wages and may lack health insurance. Review your organization's sick leave policy. Continue to take care of your organization's finances. As the National Council of Nonprofits notes, "Conversations about sustainability have turned into conversations about survivability."

Fourth, make plans to partner. Consider how the resources of your community can assist with the unique needs of the vulnerable and/or isolated populations by collaborating with service agencies in your area. Participate in public decision-making. Demand a seat at the table, if necessary. Consider how your community might partner with local public health officials in providing the most up-to-date information and guidance. Advocate for your organization and those you serve.

Finally, be a voice of facts, civility, and healing.

By the end of business today, Prosperity Indiana will open a COVID-19 resource hub on its website (www.prosperityindiana.org). The purpose of the hub is to communicate important information about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on a wide range of community economic development topics, share ideas and documents and recommend solutions in real-time through live Google Sheets, pose questions and receive answers. Please know that Prosperity Indiana is also learning lessons from its cohorts in other states, and we will share best practices as they become available.

Now, I would like to invite Steve Camilleri, Executive Director of the Center for the Homeless located in South Bend, to speak on their work with the local homeless population during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**STEVE CAMILLERI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS (SOUTH BEND)**

Thank you, Steve, for your insights. Marie Morse, Executive Director of HomesteadCS in Lafayette, will share information about the impact of COVID-19 on their agency's finances, what that means for the vital housing and other financial counseling services they provide. Moreover, Marie will also talk briefly about Homestead's Community Loan Center program.

**MARIE MORSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HOMESTEADCS (LAFAYETTE)**

Thank you, Marie. We are now going to turn our attention to the subject of housing and the critical role that affordable housing groups are playing at this time.

Next, we will hear from our partners at Indiana United Ways. Rachel Scott, Chief Strategy Officer, will discuss United Way's response to the COVID-19 in local communities.

**RACHEL SCOTT, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER
INDIANA UNITED WAYS (INDIANAPOLIS)**

Thank you, Rachel. Unfortunately, none of our partners at the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance could join us this morning. However, community foundations and other philanthropic groups are also engaging on the frontlines during the pandemic. For example, the Hendricks County Community Foundation reached out to county-wide nonprofits last week to assess local needs. The HCCF is granting \$1,500 to community nonprofits to support needs like rent and food assistance. Allen and Saint Joseph and central Indiana counties have set up economic relief funds to help Hoosiers impacted by job layoffs and other types of financial hardships caused by the pandemic. These funds are partnerships between area United Ways, community foundations, and other philanthropic institutions. IPA is continuously updating its COVID-19 resource hub. Prosperity Indiana will share these resources as they are made available.

Jessica Fraser, Director of the Indiana Institute for Working Families, will discuss what the Indiana Human Services Coalition is doing to advocate for Hoosiers during this crucial time.

**JESSICA FRASER, DIRECTOR
INDIANA INSTITUTE FOR WORKING FAMILIES (INDIANAPOLIS)**

Thanks, Jessica, for that very insightful presentation. Lastly, Andrew Bradley, Prosperity Indiana's Director of Policy, will give an update on governments' response.

**ANDREW BRADLEY, POLICY DIRECTOR
PROSPERITY INDIANA**

Thank you, Andrew. Before we end today's webinar, we want to check to see if there are any more questions, comments, or ideas. Please remember that you can also offer these up on the Prosperity Indiana COVID-19 resource hub located at www.prosperityindiana.org.

Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the work you do in your communities to make Indiana a great place to live and work. Also, many thanks for participating in today's webinar. Please stay healthy and safe.