



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Prosperity Indiana to host Statehouse Day on January 31

INDIANAPOLIS – Prosperity Indiana will host *Prosperity IN Action* at the Indiana Statehouse on Tuesday, January 31. The event is designed to bring together representatives from Prosperity Indiana's membership, representing community economic development drivers, with state lawmakers. Prosperity Indiana, its members and partners will urge lawmakers to act on critical policy priorities that respond to urgent human needs, help expand economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in communities of all sizes.

Kathleen Lara, Prosperity Indiana's Policy Director, said, "We want to see our members directly engaged with their legislators so policymakers better understand the impact of members' work. We believe it is important for legislators to hear firsthand how our policy priorities affect their constituents and communities."

Lara identified Prosperity Indiana's key priorities for 2017 as clarifying the affordable housing property tax exemption, defending key programs in the budget, protecting consumers and strengthening asset building opportunities for low-income Hoosier families. In terms of the affordable housing property tax exemption, Prosperity Indiana wants to see the enactment of legislation that clarifies that tax exemption for 501(c)3 non-profit organizations that own and operate affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families should be consistently applied throughout all of Indiana's 92 counties. Senate Bill 559 addresses this concern.

The organization's advocacy around asset-building strategies for low-wealth individuals and families includes SB227 and its companion bill HB1097 related to the extension of the \$50 foreclosure filing fee, which funds statewide counseling and legal assistance to help borrowers avoid foreclosure. Predatory lending products and practices that disproportionately impact low-income consumers, including debt garnishment, exceedingly high-interest loans and attempts to undermine the judicial foreclosure process, are also priorities. Prosperity Indiana is opposing SB245, which would expand payday lending in the state.

About Indiana Association for Community Economic Development D/B/A Prosperity Indiana

Community economic development is any local action that creates economic opportunities and improves social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged. Founded in 1986, Prosperity Indiana is a statewide organization that supports a network of organizations that builds vital communities and resilient families. We advocate for public policies and assist the network in developing comprehensive solutions that engage local leadership to generate private and public investment.



Prosperity Indiana also supports measures that improve access to economic opportunity through affordable childcare resources, including expanded pre-k educational opportunities, and by eliminating restrictive asset limits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Any proposed changes to state appropriations for Individual Development Accounts, as well as modifications to the IDA tax credit, Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credit and State Earned Income Tax Credit, are also being monitored by the organization.

Scheduled from 1 to 4 pm, the Prosperity IN Action event will start with individual, scheduled meetings with legislators and move into a reception in the 3rd floor South Atrium at 2:30 pm. Participants can register for the event at www.prosperityinaction.org.

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