



**Testimony on HB 1001 (State budget)
Andrew Bradley, Prosperity Indiana
Senate Appropriations Committee, March 30, 2023**

Thank you Senator Mishler for the opportunity to testify today. I am Andrew Bradley, Policy Director for Prosperity Indiana, the statewide association for community economic development. I am also testifying on behalf of the Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition, a broad-based statewide coalition of affordable housing providers, community service organizations, and multi-sector stakeholders coming together to advocate so that every Hoosier can have a safe, healthy, and affordable place to live.

As the General Assembly considers the biennial budget, Prosperity Indiana and the Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition urges this Committee to include funding for a Housing Stability Pilot that would allow an already-existing network of community-based service providers to continue their work to prevent evictions and homelessness. I am joined today by Leslea Townsend Cronin, the Executive Director of the Homeless Coalition of Southern Indiana, who manages a three-county region for the current Housing Stability Network.

We are requesting \$5 million per year to allow IHADA to continue to provide eviction prevention funds and services through the existing [Housing Stability Program](#) and network currently managed by the Indiana Community Action Association to all 92 counties following the exhaustion of federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds, and to serve as a bridge to a sustainable program provided through U.S. Senator Todd Young's (R-IN) [Eviction Crisis Act](#).



The Housing Stability Program was established using federal [Emergency Rental Assistance](#) 'ERA2' funds from the American Rescue Plan Act allocated to provide [housing stability services](#) aligned with the [Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance \(IERA\)](#) Program administered by IHCDA.

Housing Stability Network providers can currently assist Indiana renters by providing housing stability counseling that focuses on improvement in life areas including education, income, housing, and employment. They can also provide housing counseling that can lead to home ownership and long-term housing security. But with the original funding for Emergency Rental Assistance running dry in Indiana and nationwide, there is little the network members can provide to actually prevent evictions. This is especially true since the state's IERA portal at [IndianaHousingNow.org](#) was closed to new applications in July 2022.

However, the risk of housing instability has not receded in Indiana. The [most recent estimates](#) from PolicyLink show 87,000 Hoosier households remain at risk of eviction and homelessness, with 150,000 children in those households. Numerous studies link eviction and homelessness to long-term health, education, employment, and economic damages for families and communities alike.

The proposed Housing Stability Pilot Program would provide funding to allow IHCDA to provide eviction prevention funding through measured batches of applications through the Network providers. This would allow Network members to address the most critical housing stability cases in their communities who are most likely to benefit from the Network's housing counseling and case management services, and to connect with other public-private service partnerships in their region. We propose that the fund be advised by a stakeholder body representing low-income and housing unstable households and their housing providers, as well as community based service providers and



affordable housing organizations, so that it is responsive to community-level needs.

Thank you for your consideration.