



Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana
(formerly Rebuilding Indiana Monthly)

October 2018

Executive Director's Letter

What are things that connect you to the people you're closest to? Are they part of your family? Did you go to school together? Are they colleagues or fellow churchgoers, perhaps? Maybe you met randomly and discovered you love or hate the same things. Whatever it is, it's probably something you have in common.

Well, what about the members of Prosperity Indiana's network?

As we're in the process of developing a new strategic plan, with a new executive director (me!) at the helm and new team members and board members in place, we've spent a lot of time of late talking about who we are, who are our members, and who we should be or become. And out of that has come some interesting debates.

What we know is that we've never had just one type of member. Our members have always come from different sectors – whether nonprofit, government or business. They've always come from across the spectrum of community economic development – meaning our members aren't all CDCs or shelters or banks or counselors or CAPs or United Ways or Habitats or private developers or or or ... So, what is it that connects us? Maybe it's the values that Prosperity Indiana upholds? (I hope that's at least part of it – something that I'll dive deeper on when we're closer to completion of our plan!)

But for now, I'm focusing on a more transactional question: When it comes to connections, do our members mostly come into our network because they can find like groups amongst it? Or do you come into membership because you want to interact with groups you wouldn't necessarily be connected to otherwise? Or is there some combination of the two? Which connections do you most value in our network? [Let us know in this quick, one-question survey!](#)

And speaking about connections across our vast membership, two of our greatest opportunities to connect each year are coming up in January. We will host our [Statehouse Day](#) on January 29 and our annual [Summit](#) on January 30! The Summit will provide solutions-oriented content that focuses on diversity and innovations to build capacity across the field to improve the lives of individuals, the performance of organizations, and the strength of our communities - and we need you there. Our membership wouldn't be what it is without you! So, please join us: To find what



Partners' Events

[October 18-19: Indiana Arts Homecoming \(Fort Wayne\)](#)

[October 23: Westside Development Summit \(Plainfield\)](#)

[October 24-25: Region V Fair Housing Law & Policy Conference \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[October 25: Indiana Public Health Celebration and Hulman Health Achievement Awards \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[November 1-2: IPA 2018 Fall Boot Camp \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[November 2-11: Spirit & Place Festival](#)

[November 7: Training - There is an Art to Major Gifts \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[November 7: InSOPHE Fall Conference - Empowering Indiana \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[November 11: Spirit & Place Presents - Conversations on Race \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[November 15: Fair Housing Rental Basics Training \(Bloomington\)](#)

[December 4: Civics Training on Indiana](#)

you have in common with other members, as well as what you'd never know if our network weren't so varied.

Many thanks to our sponsors who have already committed to making the Summit happen! We're also continuing to look for more to make this our best event yet. Please see details about our sponsorships, awards, sessions, and registration in this edition of our newsletter. And, as always, ...

Thank you for being a Piece of the PI network!



Jessica Love
Executive Director



We provide platforms for peer-to-peer learning and support.

Our biggest networking events of the year - the Prosperity Indiana Summit and Statehouse Day - are just around the corner! Read on for all of the ways YOU can participate in these events.

Registration is Open!

Be one of the First IN! for the **2019 Prosperity Indiana Summit**. This year's content will explore diverse strategies to build individual, organizational and community wealth. Sessions will be announced in the coming weeks, but register now to attend at the **lowest price!**

[Legislative Process \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[December 7: Partners in Housing Snow Ball Gala \(Indianapolis\)](#)

Social Media Recap

[Joined partners @ULI Indiana and @IndianaOCRA today @ FHLBI's community mentors meeting in Martinsville](#)

[ED Jessica Love joined a panel of Indianapolis community leaders at @IFFcdfi's 30th anniversary celebration today to discuss engaging residents in comprehensive community development efforts to improve outcomes and maximize impact around inclusive growth.](#)

["What we see is a need for expansion of investment across the board. We cannot singularly focus on one part of the \[housing\] continuum and not expect others to falter."](#)

[~Prosperity Indiana Policy Director @KatLaraIN speaking Thurs at the 2018 Indiana Housing Conference](#)

[@KatLaraIN an @Jess_Love777 proud to celebrate with Prosperity Indiana board member and](#)

REGISTER HERE

Also, be sure to [register for the 2019 Prosperity Indiana Statehouse Day](#) on January 29 to meet with legislators and discuss the issues important to your work!

Call for Proposals: 2019 Prosperity Indiana Summit

We are currently seeking engaging presenters to share strategies and tools for building capacity in individuals, organizations, and communities to create vibrant neighborhoods across Indiana. Session proposals are due on or before Friday, November 2.

Interested in presenting at the
2019 Prosperity Indiana
Summit?

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

[Click here for more information!](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities

Connect with Prosperity Indiana's members, partners, policymakers, community leaders, developers, and lenders from all across the state. This year's Summit attendees will build relationships, share best practices, and push the boundaries of traditional community and economic development.

[Click here for a full list of sponsorship packages.](#) If interested, contact Rita O'Donohue at rdonohue@prosperityindiana.org.

[2018 Influential Women of Northwest Indiana award finalist Jean Ishmon Thurs night!](#)

[We're fortunate to have great board leadership - and a strong, collaborative team - at Prosperity Indiana! Here, VP Nate Lichti setting the stage for our strategic planning session today. Starting our own nonprofit strategy revolution!](#)

Job Opportunity

[Walk & Bike Program Manager - Health by Design](#)



[Submit News or Events](#)

Prosperity Indiana Annual Awards

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for outstanding dedication to community economic development? Have you worked with an innovative program that's had a big impact on your community?

[Nominate them here!](#)

Winners will be announced during the 2019 Prosperity Indiana Summit. Award nominations are due by Friday, November 30.

Proposed CRA Reform Call to Action: Lunch & Learn Webinar

The Community Reinvestment Act is a landmark civil rights law to end discrimination that was once common in America's banking and housing markets. While some strides have been made, discrimination in lending persists and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is taking comments on ideas that they have proposed that may substantially weaken the law.



Join Prosperity Indiana and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) on **Wednesday, October 24** for a webinar discussing the proposed changes to CRA, what they could mean for low-and-moderate income communities in Indiana, and how to take action.

[Register here](#)

Congress Passes Short-term Funding for HUD/USDA, Looks to December for FY19 Bills

Despite budget negotiators working right up to the September 30 fiscal year deadline to pass Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) and U.S. Department of Agricultural budgets, there was no final agreement on the spending package. Instead, Congress passed a continuing resolution, or short-term spending bill, to continue current FY18 funding levels until December 7. [Find out more on our blog.](#)



Know Your Rights: Hoosiers Living in Mobile Homes at Risk of Losing Their Homes

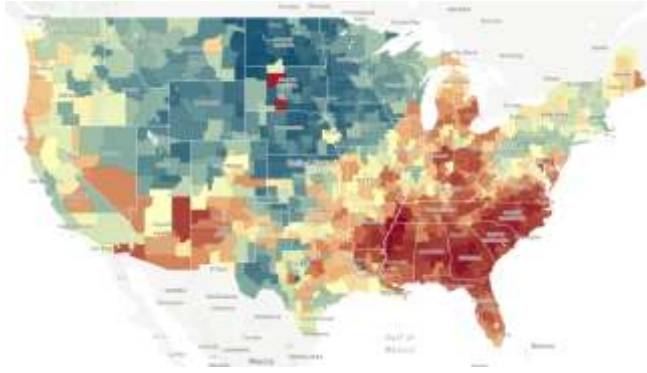
Personal property taxes must be paid on mobile homes yearly. If you owe as little as \$25, your mobile home is at risk of being sold at auction. The first sale of this kind in the state will happen later this month in Lawrence County. [Click here to learn more on our blog.](#)

Prosperity Indiana member Indiana Legal Services, Inc. has created a brochure to help those living in mobile homes to know their rights and explain how to avoid sale. [Access it here.](#)

New Opportunity Atlas Maps How Location Affects Economic Mobility

Earlier this month, researchers from Harvard and Brown University released [the Opportunity Atlas](#), a mapping tool that aims to address the basic question of how much location influences outcomes. The tool is comprised of U.S. Census tract-level data from IRS federal income tax returns and the 2005-2015 Census American Community Surveys (ACS) to evaluate income, parental characteristics, children's neighborhoods, and other variables.

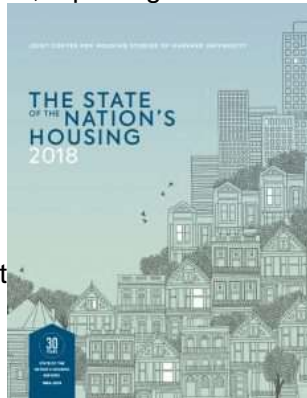
Learn more about the tool [here.](#)



JCHS releases 30th State of the Nation's Housing Report

The inaugural [State of the Nation's Housing report](#), published by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University (JCHS) in 1988, noted that the majority of Americans were well housed and some conditions have improved since then. More than 40 million units have been built over the past three decades, accommodating 27 million new households, replacing older homes, and improving the quality of the nation's housing stock.

Nevertheless, [several challenges highlighted in the first report persist today](#). Homeownership rates among young adults are even lower than in 1988, and the share of cost-burdened renters is significantly higher, with almost half of all renters paying more than 30% of their income for housing. Increases in the median sales price of homes have outpaced growth in median household income for six straight years. Furthermore, the homeownership rate between black and white Americans is widening. Between 1994 and 2016, black homeownership rates increased just 0.3% while white rates rose 2.2%, widening the gap to 29.2%.



[Click here](#) to download the full report and access interactive graphs which allow you to compare states and metro areas to the national numbers.

Prosperity Indiana's Response: "HPI wins court decision; county plans to appeal ruling"

After a 12-year appeal process, the Indiana Board of Tax Review (IBTR) ruled in favor of the nonprofit Housing Partnerships, Inc. (HPI), determining the organizations's ownership of scattered-site housing does qualify for property tax exemption. The county assessor's office decided to repeal the decision, which may force HPI to sell 11 affordable homes to pay off debt taken out to pay the taxes. Read more about the appeal in [this article](#) from *The Republic* and see Thrive Alliance's response in their [press release](#).

Prosperity Indiana's Executive Director, Jessica Love, responded to the decision in [this letter](#), pointing out the assessor's faulty logic that low-cost private landlords will be impaired by the exemptions, citing the [Out of Reach data](#) which shows that a minimum wage worker in Indiana must work 86 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rate.

"Prosperity Indiana hopes the IBTR's decision in HPI's case will stand and serve as a powerful precedent," Love said. "We urge the incoming assessor to look at the whole equation when weighing how to proceed, so HPI can continue serving the community's unmet needs."

Karen Freeman-Wilson to become NLC President

Gary Mayor and Aim 2nd Vice President Karen Freeman-Wilson will become the National League of Cities President at the City Summit in Los Angeles, California on November 9. Mayor Freeman-Wilson will be honored at an all-conference gathering the evening prior to taking office.



Alyssa Prince earns prestigious CCAP certification

Congratulations to Prosperity Indiana Board Member Alyssa Prince from Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation

who, along with Shannon Davis of Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Action Programs, completed the requirements to become a Certified Community Action Professional



(CCAP). "Becoming a CCAP was a wonderful learning experience," Prince said. "I am excited about using what I have learned to help fight poverty for years to come."

[Read the full article here.](#)

Michael Bloomberg visits ArtHouse he funded in downtown Gary

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg got a firsthand tour of the [ArtHouse: A Social Kitchen](#) culinary incubator that his charity funded in downtown Gary, Indiana.

Bloomberg took part in "a conversation about entrepreneurship, community building, and using nonprofit culture as a driver of urban revitalization" with Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson and artist Theaster Gates.

[Read the full story in the *Indiana Economic Digest* here.](#)

Sitting on a Porch Can Be Good for Your Health

"It was during those Sundays on the front porch that I began to observe how the social connections that were being formed had a profound effect not only on the emotional well-being of friends and neighbors, but on our community as a whole."



[Check out this article](#) in *Shelterforce* and see how Executive Director of the Harrison Center for the Arts, Joanna Taft, started the #PorchPartyIndy initiative to combat social isolation. Her step-by-step guide to porching has introduced the common "good old days" practice into 13 modern-day Indy neighborhoods and 52 Indiana counties.

OCRA announces Blight Clearance Grants for Indiana communities

The [Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs](#) has announced an opportunity for local Indiana officials to improve their communities by applying for federal funding through the Blight Clearance Grant Program. The Program encourages communities with blighted properties to focus on long-term community development and revitalization through improving quality of place, generating jobs, and spurring economic revitalization. Eligible projects include the removal of deteriorated or abandoned downtown buildings or vacant/unstable industrial sites.

[Click here to find the application packet.](#)

Training Opportunity: State and Local Poverty Data

Join the Indiana Institute for Working Families and the Indiana Community Action Agency Association for this "lunch and learn" where you will hear about statewide poverty trends as well as local level poverty data. Come with stories and policy solutions you'd like to see!

[November 19 - Columbus](#)

[December 14 - Logansport](#)

[December 17 - Fort Wayne](#)

[December 18 - Paoli](#)



Request for Proposals: 2019 Indiana Supportive Housing Institute

CSH is excited to announce its tenth Indiana Supportive Housing Institute. The 2019 Institute will address issues of homelessness with a focus on service people experiencing chronic homelessness. Get more information about the Institute [here](#), and [click here](#) to access the application.

Interested teams must submit full RFP response applications by Monday, December 3.

Translating Nonprofit "Legalese"

Do you know the difference between nonprofit, not-for-profit, and tax-exempt? Many people think they are synonymous, however, that is not the case! Charitable Allies' Zac Kester breaks it down in [this blog post](#).



Financial Coaching through Apprisen

Financial stress can affect employees' work productivity, health, and job satisfaction. You can help reduce your employees'


financial stress and increase productivity by offering individual financial coaching as an employee benefit.

Thanks to generous funding from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Apprisen has been awarded grant funds to work with employers to offer Financial Coaching as a benefit to their employees. Through the program, you can offer individual financial coaching to your employees at a low cost for each employee who signs up!

[Click here](#) for more info, or contact Lisa Piercefield at lisa.piercefield@apprisen.com.



Download the Mobile App!



The image shows three overlapping screens from the WildApricot mobile app. The leftmost screen is the login page with the WildApricot logo and a "Log In" button. The middle screen shows a user profile for "Jessica Love" with contact information and a "Prosperity Indiana" affiliation. The rightmost screen is a red membership card for "Understanding and Using Outcome Measures" in Indianapolis, with registration dates and a Prosperity Indiana Member ID.

Never miss an opportunity to connect!
Download the WildApricot app

Mobile App Available Now

Download the WildApricot app and log in with your Prosperity Indiana account to view upcoming events, register for trainings, and search our directory of member contacts.

You can now access Prosperity Indiana member contacts and events on your smartphone through the new WildApricot App! Simply download [WildApricot for Members](#) from the App Store and log in with your Prosperity Indiana account information.

Log into the [member portal](#) on our website and make sure your profile information is up-to-date so that you can easily connect and engage with other Prosperity Indiana members!

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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. Send your stories to info@prosperityindiana.org.

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

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