

Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

December 2019

From the Policy Director:

Greetings!

On behalf of the Prosperity Indiana team, we wish you happy holidays! During this festive season, we look forward to time spent with family and friends, rejuvenating and reflecting over the past year. In my personal reflections, I feel profound gratitude for the incredible network we represent, the ways in which your commitment to your clients and your communities translates so naturally to devoted advocacy as we saw throughout Statehouse Day, testimony on critical bills during session, attending early Third House meetings on weekends, Capitol Hill visits, our regional meetings, and our Policy and Pizza meetings. This year has truly been a year of exceptional progress in working to educate our policymakers about the issues critical to our work, working to stop harmful bills that threaten to harm those we serve, and moving forward legislation and coalitions that will propel us forward. That is all thanks to you.

As the temperatures dropped outside, our advocacy work continued to heat up. In just this past month, we spent the first week in Washington, D.C, meeting with our delegation. We had great conversations focused on sharing our 2020 policy agenda, advocating for a robust, full-year budget for programs our members and communities rely on, the need to enact new bills targeting evictions and voucher supports for families, educating offices about the need to enact consumer reforms to reduce predatory lending, and [speaking up about harms that can result from revisions to the Community Reinvestment Act that undermine its charge](#) to affirmatively meet the community needs for credit and services in low- and moderate-income communities.

Since then, we have seen great gains with a [budget passed that substantially increases funding for many programs](#) within the Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Just this week, Senators Young (R-IN) and Van Hollen (D-MD), introduced the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act, to provide 500,000 additional housing vouchers to low-income families with young children, enabling them to access safe, stable housing in areas of opportunity — Jessica's quote in support of the measure on behalf of our network can be found in [Senator Young's press release](#).

Together, in 2020, Prosperity Indiana and our members must continue to tackle our affordable housing crisis, work to empower Hoosiers working hard to build assets and access opportunity, and share the issues critical to us with legislators at the federal and state levels. **The first way we need your help in the new year is register to [join us on Statehouse Day, Tuesday, January 14, from 1-4pm EST](#).** We will set up meetings with your legislators and provide all materials as speak up with a united voice about the need to implement critical protections for renters, expand resources to develop affordable housing, and enact consumer reforms so that Hoosiers are not trapped in cycles of debt, undermining their housing and financial security.

We hope you have a wonderful, restful holiday season and greet 2020 with renewed energy for the important work ahead.

Warmly,

Kathleen Lara

Policy Director

Upcoming Webinars

[Building Backbone Support 101](#)

December 20, 2019

Under collective impact, backbone organizations cover six key activities: supporting vision and strategy, supporting aligned activities, establishing shared measurements, building public will, advancing policy, and mobilizing funding.

This webinar delivers an overview of the backbone in supporting collective impact efforts, how to build backing for it, and its importance in keeping collective impact on track.

Take Our Training Survey!

We want to know what is important to you! Help us plan our training program for 2020 by responding to our training survey.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Renew Your Membership Today!

It's time to renew your Prosperity Indiana membership for 2020! Members get discounted rates on all Prosperity Indiana training and technical assistance, regular policy updates and action alerts, exclusive access to the Member Portal where you can find resources on a variety of topics, and [much more](#). PLUS, renew before February 12 and get one FREE ticket to the 2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Don't Forget to Register for the 2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit!

The theme this year is 20/20: Seeing Opportunity Through the Lens of Values with sessions focused on opportunities in asset building, affordable housing, and inclusive development strategies.

REGISTER HERE

Group hotel rate now available! [Click for details.](#)

2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit Keynote Speaker - Anne Price

President of the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, Anne Price, will be the keynote speaker for the 2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit. Anne sparks ideas for innovative, multi-dimensional solutions to economic and racial inequities and advocates for transformative change that addresses the root causes of economic inequality. She has spent more than 25 years working in the public sector on issues that range from child welfare to hunger to workforce development and higher education. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Congratulations Award Nominees!

Nominations are in for the 2020 Prosperity Indiana Annual Awards! These individuals and programs have been nominated for their contributions to and leadership in the community

economic development field. Winners will be recognized during the awards luncheon at the Prosperity Indiana Summit. [Click here to view the list of nominees.](#)



Join us at the Indiana Statehouse on January 14 to urge lawmakers to act on critical community development priorities! And don't forget to let us know if you'd like to schedule a meeting with your legislator.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Senators Young and Van Hollen Introduce Legislation to Expand Critical, Targeted Housing Assistance to Low-Income Families

New legislation introduced by Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act, aims to provide 500,000 additional housing vouchers to low-income families with young children that would enable them to access safe, stable housing in areas of opportunity. If enacted, this measure would dramatically reduce family and youth homelessness and improve life outcomes for those assisted.

[Click here to read our full press release.](#)

Congress Reaches Agreement on FY20 Budget, Tax Package

On December 16, congressional negotiators revealed the details of two "minibus" spending bills - one for domestic programs and the other for the defense budget. These packages will fund the federal government through the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2020. On December 17, the House passed both measures, sending them to the Senate and then, upon passage to the President. [Read our blog post for key highlights and what Prosperity Indiana members need to know.](#)



Proposed Major Changes to CRA Cause for Concern

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) proposing substantial revisions to the examination process in ways that do not all appear to align with the intent of the Act. CRA was established to address a legacy of redlining and divestment in low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. However, the proposed changes raise concerns about how it will affect CRA's charge to affirmatively meet the needs for credit and services in LMI communities. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Community Leaders Use Opportunity Zones to Bring New Life to Small Town Indiana

Valley House Flats demonstrates how a small and creative group of individuals were able to utilize the Opportunity Zone tax incentive to support the hopes and dreams of a small, rural community. Every aspect of this mixed-use project had barriers to traditional finance and the Opportunity Zone designation opened a new avenue to round out critical gaps. It also demonstrates how local investors can be mission-minded with their personal wealth and willing to take risks on behalf of their community. Read the full case study written by the [Opportunity Investment Consortium of Indiana](#).

[Read the Case Study](#)



Exploring Alternatives to Payday Lending

In the latest webinar from the [Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network](#), Matt Hull, Executive Director of the Texas Association of CDCs, and A&O Steering Committee Member Marie

Morse, Executive Director of Homestead Consulting Services, discussed the payday lending debt trap many vulnerable consumers fall victim to, as well as what your organization can do to bring an alternative - the [Community Loan Center](#) - to your community.

[Click here](#) to view the webinar recording.

Upcoming Events

[January 29: IPA Day at the Statehouse \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[February 11-13: Facilitative Leadership Workshop \(New Harmony\)](#)

[March 9-11: Foundations on the Hill 2020 \(Washington, D.C.\)](#)

[March 10-11: National Walking Summit \(St. Louis, MO\)](#)

[April 9: FHCCI's 8th Annual Fair Housing Conference \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[April 14-17: Preserving Historic Places Conference \(South Bend\)](#)

[May 27-29: CSH Summit 2020 \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

[June 2-6: 57th IMCL Conference \(Carmel\)](#)

Social Media Recap

[Excited to be joining with advocates from across the country working on strategies to eliminate high cost lending designed to trap consumers in cycles of debt! @RealBankReform #stopthedebtrap #36isthefix @ConsumerFed](#)

[Much like the House side of the Capitol, work is already underway today in sharing Prosperity Indiana's 2020 Policy Priorities with our delegation! Great conversations so far on the budget, increasing access to safe, affordable housing & increasing Hoosiers' economic stability.](#)

[Happy Thanksgiving from Prosperity Indiana! We are so THANKFUL for our members and the incredible work they do every day to strengthen Hoosier communities.](#)

Job Opportunity

[Vice President of Community Foundation Programs - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance](#)

Piece of the PI Sponsored by:

News from the Field

LISC Indianapolis Accepting Nominations for Love Thy Neighborhood Awards

Created to celebrate community game changers in the Indy region, the [Love Thy Neighborhood Awards](#) awarded \$15,000 last year to incredible community projects improving Livability, Opportunity, Vitality, and Education in Indianapolis. The nomination deadline is January 30. The 2020 Love Thy Neighborhood Awards will take place on Thursday, April 16.

Funding Opportunities from the Indiana Arts Commission

The Indiana Arts Commission's [On-Ramp](#) and the [Individual Advancement Program](#) are opportunities that give artists the resources to leverage their greatest impact. Applications are due January 16, 2020 and February 6, 2020, respectively.

Housing Affordability Breakthrough Challenge

Enterprise Community Partners and Wells Fargo are pleased to announce the [Housing Affordability Breakthrough Challenge](#), a bold initiative designed to spark innovations that support housing affordability in the areas of construction, financing, and resident services and support, with an opportunity to receive a grant and technical assistance. Learn more during the upcoming webinars on [January 7](#) and [January 16](#).

Support Prosperity Indiana while you shop with AmazonSmile!

Shopping on Amazon.com? Switch to smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1695379 and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Prosperity Indiana!

We'll share your stories!

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.](#)

Connect with us

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