



Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

April 2020

Executive Director's Letter

Two things are top of mind for me today: 1) Has “necessity is the mother of invention” ever meant so much to you? I know it hasn’t for me. 2) Now that we’re balancing work life and home life with school life all at once and all in the same place, I’m now partly responsible for ensuring my child’s participation in things like “Work Together Wednesday”, which happens to be today – this third day of “Week of the Child”. (Which, technically, is EVERY WEEK these days. But we’ll play along.) So, the #inthistogether notion is certainly taking on a lot of meaning nowadays. Reinvention and reimagined teamwork are basically the overarching themes of most of our lives in this COVID-19 era!



I’ve been amazed to find invention, or reinvention, abounding in my own home of late. For instance, I knew my 5-year-old son was creative. But now I know JUST HOW creative he is. We’re now saving things that would normally go into the recycling bin, just so he can have all of the materials he might need to create. And create, he does!

And I’m seeing that in every element of our work and the world that surrounds us these days. Government is re-envisioning its role, relaxing regulations that may slow us down when time is of the essence, creating temporary orders that protect the community at-large over individual interests, and governmental partners openly discussing their ability and willingness to shuffle resources around (including people/traditional roles) to make what needs to happen – HAPPEN.

Likewise, entrepreneurs are now in the business of producing and selling different things than they’ve ever done before. They’re doing it because our nation needs it and because they, as a business, need the work as well. Breweries now make hand sanitizers, automakers now make respirators, nice restaurants have learned how to turn themselves into pantries and drive-thrus.

And nonprofits!!! We are doing it too! With the help of funders who are proving to be nimbler than ever, we’re getting more and new things done to meet the needs in our communities. In our work, the number of coalitions and joint initiatives that have popped up in this brief time are just stunning. Just a couple of them include: A new housing coalition we’re helping lead that is formalizing its identity and role now to better advocate for the needs of renters and homeowners across the state immediately, but being built for the long haul. We’re also part of a coalition of statewide associations that are now working together to create a “no wrong door” approach for sharing resources needed to inform referrals across our various memberships. (Stay tuned for more on both of those!)

All in all, where collaboration is beating out competition, we’re all winning ... or soon will be! So, as tough as this time is, I’m thrilled to see how isolation has brought togetherness, innovation and teamwork in ways we have never seen. And if you’re seeing these things pop up organically as well, would you be willing to share a brief story with us to highlight the positive happening around us? Please [reach out to me here!](#)

And, as always, thank you for being a Piece of the PI Network!



Jessica
Executive Director

P.S. On a related note, also having a 5-month-old at home during this season, I'm pretty sure I will be ambidextrous by the time this is all said and done. So, yet another example of reinventing oneself as a result of COVID-19.

This month's Piece of the PI: ADVOCACY



**We amplify your voices through
togetherness, innovation, and teamwork.**

We continue to advocate for you during this pandemic. Looking to get more involved in advocacy, but not sure where to start? Look at our Advocacy Action Center for resources and information on current policies affecting community and economic development.

We **REAP** prosperity by providing **R**esources, **E**ngagement, **A**dvocacy, and **P**rograms that support our members' work!

RESOURCES

COVID-19 Hub & Survey

As you can imagine, we're regularly being asked by funders and policy makers what Hoosiers are facing and need. To better answer that, we have created a survey for you to tell us how COVID-19 is affecting your organization and work. We plan to use this information to advocate on your behalf with those stakeholders, as well as develop and share resources pertinent to you. Please take a few minutes to [complete this survey](#). Our goal is to publish a summary report and use the results to inform short- and long-term strategies.

Next Monday, April 20, at 10 A.M. we are hosting a webinar, "Leadership in Times of Stress". Being a leader in times of stress creates fear, worry, and doubt. Join together with peers and other leaders for an engaging discussion about where we are spending our time and energy during this rapidly changing time and how to increase clarity and focus on what matters most. Erin Slater of Intentional Coaching + Consulting, based in Central Indiana, will lead this webinar. She provides executive coaching services to nonprofit leaders nationwide. [Register here.](#)

Monday, May 4, at 10 a.m. we are hosting "Fundraising in an Economic Downturn". Dr. Shariq Siddiqui, assistant professor of philanthropic studies and director of the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative at the Indiana University Lilly School of Philanthropy, will present key lessons for nonprofits on how to fund raise in tough economic times. [Register here.](#)

Share the wealth! Have a resource or tool you could share with your peers? We'll add it to the hub! If you're willing to share COVID-19 or other emergency response policies with peers, [please share it here.](#)

Giving Tuesday & Member Interaction

As part of Giving Tuesday on May 5, Prosperity Indiana is featuring "adopt a member." We encourage you to start thinking of other organizations that would benefit from being a member yet lack the means to pay dues. More information will be provided later in the month. Please contact [Rita O'Donohue](#) with any questions.

Join our newest Facebook group for members, [Piece of the PI General Online Forum](#). This group provides another method to interface and share resources with fellow members, as well as interact with Prosperity Indiana staff for updates related to COVID-19.

In case you missed it, member packets are now available electronically. Access [the member packet](#) here.

We have an additional [Member Forum](#) available on our website if you do not have access to Facebook.

Advocacy Efforts for Hoosiers through COVID-19 crisis

On March 25th, [we thanked Governor Holcomb](#) for heeding our call to protect Hoosier renters from dangerous expansion on retaliatory evictions in SEA 148. The Governor [recognized](#) that the bill was "overly broad" and would have undermined the state's "numerous steps to protect Hoosiers from the spread and effects of COVID-19", including enacting an executive order pausing eviction and foreclosure from residential properties. That executive order is currently set to expire on May 5th, but Prosperity Indiana has [recommended](#) that Indiana take steps to go farther to protect Hoosier renters.

Earlier this month, Prosperity Indiana [submitted a letter](#) on behalf of our network opposing the federal government's proposed rule change that would undermine the CRA just as the COVID-19 crisis is causing PI members to shift much of their focus to the immediate needs brought about by the pandemic.

PI also joined state partners to [petition](#) the Indiana Supreme Court to protect CARES Act stimulus payments from being seized by creditors, arguing that "[g]arnishment of the stimulus funds threatens families' access to food, shelter, medicine and other necessities. These threats in turn will likely make the public health crisis even worse."

This week we were [awarded a grant](#) from the National Low Income Housing Coalition to conduct longer-term education and research and convene partners needed to achieve federal, state and local policies for an equitable response and recovery to the pandemic. We will be in touch with ways for members to be part of this ongoing advocacy effort.

Community Loan Center

(CLC), an affordable small-dollar loan program that serves as a payday-lending alternative. The CLC program allows local lenders to make online loans directly to employees of participating employers. Borrowers apply for a CLC loan online, the loan is deposited in the borrower's bank account, and borrowers then repay their loans each payday through payroll deduction. Twenty-three counties in Indiana are currently served by an Indiana-based CLC lender.

We're considering ways to expand this program in response to COVID-19. If you would like to see this program available in your community, please [reach out to us](#).

View [more information here](#).



Upcoming Events

Please check with the organizer(s) of events for updated cancellations and changes due to COVID-19.

[April 17: Life Skills Launchpad Webinar](#)

[April 27-29: NCRC's Just Economy Conference 2020 \(Washington D.C.\)](#) **CANCELLED**

[May 2-12: Our Homes, Our Voices National Housing Week of Action](#) **CANCELLED**

[May 27-29: Corporation for Supportive Housing Summit 2020 \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

[June 2-4: Philanthropy Leads - IPA Conference & 30th Anniversary Celebration \(Indianapolis\)](#)
VIRTUAL/ONLINE

[June 2-6: 57th International Making Cities Livable Conference \(Carmel\)](#)

[September 10: Love Thy Neighborhood Awards Gala \(Indianapolis\)](#)

Job Opportunities

[Senior Program Officer – Family Income and Wealth Building - Local Initiatives Support Corp \(LISC\)](#)

[President and CEO - TechPoint Foundation for Youth](#)

[Research Associate - United Way of Central Indiana](#)

[Director of Development - The Julian Center](#)

[Marketing and Communications Manager - Gleaners Food Bank](#)

View [Charitable Advisors Nonprofit Job Board](#).



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Tools & Resources

Paycheck Protection Program

The [Paycheck Protection loan program](#) from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will help small businesses with their payroll and other business operating expenses. It will provide critical capital to businesses without collateral requirements, personal guarantees, or SBA fees – all with a 100% guarantee from SBA. All loan payments will be deferred for six months. Most importantly, the SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

View the [SBA's Coronavirus relief options](#) information here.

View a [comparison chart of loan options](#) available to nonprofits, created by the National Council of Nonprofits.

Central Indiana Community Foundation Response

CICF and its affiliates have adopted a four-pronged approach to the COVID-19 pandemic in Central Indiana to ensure that the health, economic stability, and service to the most vulnerable communities are being met during this crisis. Among its actions are to create two flexible funds, one for Marion County – the Neighbor Relief Fund for Marion County -- and one for Hamilton County – Hamilton County Crisis Response Fund. Details on how to request support from both of these funds will be available in the coming weeks. [Learn more here.](#)

IHCDA's Hardest Hit Fund Announced

IHCDA has re-instituted the mortgage payment assistance program through [Indiana's Hardest Hit Fund \(HHF\)](#). The federally funded program allows them to provide up to 6 months of assistance or \$30,000 for Indiana homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage. [Apply online here.](#)

IHCDA has also worked with partners (Indiana Department of Financial Institutions, Indiana Apartment Association, Indiana Bankers Association, Indiana Mortgage Bankers Association, and Indiana Credit Union League) to compile a [Coronavirus Eviction and Foreclosure Guide](#) for homeowners and renters.

COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

USDA and its Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long-term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses and communities through:

- technical, training, and management assistance
- financial assistance
- state and local assistance

The resource matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.

View the [Federal Rural Resource Guide here.](#)

View more information on the [immediate actions USDA is taking to respond to COVID-19.](#)

The Unequal Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on Households' Financial Stability

Prosperity Now's [new Scorecard brief](#) discusses the disproportionate effects that COVID-19 will have on the finances of families and individuals who were facing economic uncertainty even before the virus began to take aim at the U.S. economy.

According to the organization, the brief "describes a tale of two kinds of communities – one that will be greatly impacted by COVID-19, but stands to recover; and one that will face economic devastation if we don't take immediate policy action."

New Tool for Non-Filers and Economic Impact Payments

To help millions of people, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service launched a [new web tool](#) allowing quick registration for Economic Impact Payments for those who don't normally file a tax return.

The non-filer tool, developed in partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, provides a free and easy option designed for people who don't have a return filing obligation, including those with too little income to file. The feature is available only on IRS.gov.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for 2019 or 2018 will receive the payments automatically. Automatic payments will also go in the near future to those people receiving Social Security retirement, survivors, disability (SDDI), or survivor benefits and Railroad Retirement benefits.

View the [press release](#) here.



Main Street Grants Celebrate Women

Preserving Women's Legacy Grants will support historic preservation work, public art and other projects that commemorate Indiana women's history and promote visits to Main Street communities.

Main Street communities may view details and apply for the grants through May 15 at the [Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial website](#).



AARP Community Challenge Application Deadline Extended

AARP invites your organization to submit applications for quick-action projects that can help your community become more livable for people of all ages.

Eligible applications for the AARP Community Challenge are being accepted for small grants to improve housing, transportation, public space, technology, civic engagement, and more.

The application deadline has been extended to May 15, 2020, 11:59 p.m. ET, and all projects must be completed by December 18, 2020.



Census Response Rates

The U.S. Census Bureau has developed a map of self-response rates with a ranking list. [View the map](#) to see how well Indiana residents are responding.

Still need to complete your census questionnaire? [Access the online version here.](#)

How to Stay Healthy



COVID-19

Resources

[Indiana State Department of Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Prevention Steps for Close Contacts](#)

[Interim Shelter Guidance](#)

[Homeless without Shelter Guidance](#)

General Information & Precautions

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Encourage teleworking when feasible.
- Practice social distancing when possible and avoid close contact with others. This may include staggering work schedules, decreasing social contact in the workplace, and avoiding large work-related gatherings.

Decisions about the implementation of community measures will be made by local and state officials, in consultation with federal officials as appropriate, and based on the scope of the outbreak and the severity of illness. Implementation will require extensive community engagement with ongoing and transparent public health communications (CDC).

Prosperity Indiana's Response

Until May 4, 2020, our team will primarily be working remotely. We will reassess this return date, in light of available information and any stay at home orders related to COVID-19, and will provide updated information to member regarding any changes.

During this time, we will be available to support you through our virtual operations plan. In-person meetings will be rescheduled or changed to a call by individual team members. If you have not heard from us about a meeting you have scheduled during this time, please reach out.

The best way to reach us during this time is via email. Here is a [link](#) to contact information for full-time staff. You can also reach out to [Teresa Reimschisel](#) with admin/operations questions.

Prosperity Indiana is here to support you through this difficult time. If you have specific suggestions for webinars, FB live chats, or other resources for us to share related to COVID-19 or other topics, please reach out to our [team](#).

Please stay healthy and take the necessary measures to protect yourself and those around you. We will be sure to inform you of any further updates as needed in the coming weeks.

Governor's Recent Executive Order

Governor Eric J. Holcomb issued a new two-week Stay At Home order designed to limit interactions among Hoosiers to increase containment of COVID-19 on April 6.

"Hoosiers have done a great job adapting to the new rules put in place during this public health emergency, but I believe the next two weeks to month could be the most critical for all of us," said Gov. Holcomb. "So I am asking you to take even more precautions: only make in-person purchases when absolutely needed and use other delivery and pickup options when available. Limit who is traveling with you and entering stores."

View [Executive Order 20-18](#) here.

View the [Press Release](#) here.

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