



Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

April 2021

Executive Director's Letter

Not sure about you, but I'm feeling a little needy these days. I NEED the weather to conform to my idea of spring (and not the full-on snow of yesterday or non-committal, haphazard, come-and-go wintry mix of today). I NEED to emerge more from the retreat from normalcy we invoked over a year ago now. (And, as of Sunday, I'm now two-shot vaccinated – woo-hoo! – and have felt an amazing burden lift this week, but now also feel urgency to act on the new freedom this – somewhat – affords.) And I NEED to hear from YOU!



Cyclically, by April, beyond season changes and the need to get out and about that spring stirs up, at PI, we're usually two or three months out from our summit, but haven't yet launched registration for our regional member meetings, and we're generally gearing up for our audit and also have been zeroed in intensely on the happenings at the statehouse since January. So, in a "good" year, I'm generally pretty ready for a strong round of member convenings by now. Basically a "booster shot" of engagement with all of you.

But now that we're hitting "seconds" on annual experiences happening during COVID, the distance we've experienced through our virtual lifestyle is sinking in a bit more for me. What about you? Could you use a boost as well? What are you doing to stay connected these days, as the pandemic continues to wax and wane? What would you like to see us do differently or more of this year?

Seeing that vaccinations have slowed of late and Indiana may not meet its goal of herd immunity by Memorial Day as hoped, we'll still be virtual for the time being. But we can still make the best of it!

Will you [let me know](#) what you'd love to hear from your peers when we gather later this spring/summer? What's worked well for your team and how have you been connecting with your partners of late? How can we help you feel more connected to others in our amazing network? Want to set up a time to chat? [I'm here](#).

Our national association NACEDA does a great job with regional gathering breakout discussions. What topics would be of interest to you? Will you please [let us know through this quick poll](#)?

Because truthfully, our member gatherings really aren't about my needs, no matter how needy I get. They're about YOURS! So, please [help us tailor our upcoming engagement opportunities around your needs](#) and respond today.

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



Jessica Love
Executive Director

This month's Piece of the PI: ENGAGEMENT



What are you doing to stay connected these days, as the pandemic continues to wax and wane? What would you like to see us do differently or more of this year? How can we make you feel more connected to others in our amazing network?

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

RESOURCES

Changing4Good Webinar Series

Join us for "[Planning for Uncertainty: COVID's Impact on Project Planning & Project Management](#)" at 10 a.m. EDT on Monday, April 26! COVID-19 wreaked havoc with special event, real estate development, and program plans. As we move past the pandemic, how will what we learned from the past 12 months impact how we plan and manage our projects? Bring your post-pandemic planning and project management questions to this conversation with Kathy Koehler and Mark Warner from [Koehler Partners](#). [Register today](#).

Thanks to the generosity of First Financial Foundation, the entire Changing4Good series is free to attendees! [Registration is now open](#) for the remainder of the series.

- May 10 – [Building Racial Equity: Pursing Adaptive and Technical Solutions](#)
- May 24 - [We Will Meet Again: COVID's Impact on Building Teams, Engaging Boards,](#)

[and Managing Volunteers](#)

- June 7 - [Post-COVID Narratives: Solutions to Changing Communication & Philanthropic Priorities](#)
- June 21 - [Financial Resiliency: Technical and Adaptive Solutions for Family Asset Building Strategies](#)

For additional questions, [contact Capacity Building Director Marie Beason](#).

PI Receives Grant from First Financial Foundation

We are pleased to announce that Prosperity Indiana has been awarded a grant from First Financial Foundation. This financial support not only covers the cost of the Changing4Good series, but supports the organization's other capacity building efforts to better serve our members.



Thank You to PI's Resources & Programs Committee!

Thank you to our Resources and Programs committee members for working to ensure that PI provides robust and relevant resources for members.

- Alyssa Prince, Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corp. (Chair)
- Adam Mueller, Indiana Legal Services (Vice Chair)
- Jadira Hoptry, First Merchants Bank
- Terri Johnson, Indiana Philanthropy Alliance
- Jason King, Old National Bank
- Elizabeth Leachman, South Bend Heritage Foundation
- Anna Schoon, Northwest Indiana Community Action
- Pamela Torzewski, First Financial Bank

COVID-19 Hub

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 policies, plans, best practices, or funding opportunities with peers, [please share it here](#).

Access the COVID-19 Hub



Member Packets, Intern, & Opportunities

Member Packets

We will be sending member packets and member directories electronically again this year after our Spring Member Campaign concludes.

Engagement Intern Search

Prosperity Indiana is looking for an Engagement Intern for the summer. [View the details here.](#) Contact [Rita O'Donohue](#) for additional information or questions.

Send Your Events & Career Opportunities!

We want to share our members' events and career opportunities. Events are highlighted in the monthly newsletter and career opportunities are additionally posted [on our website](#). Send your event or job posting information to [Michaela Wischmeier](#).

Thank You, Leader Members!

Prosperity Indiana would like to thank Leader members for the successful launch of our new Adopt-a-Member program! A portion of Leaders' \$1500 dues covers membership for another organization for one year. Inaugural Leaders include:

- 1st Source Bank
- Brightpoint
- Cinnaire
- First Merchants Bank
- Herman & Kittle Properties, Inc.
- John Boner Neighborhood Centers
- New Hope Services
- Pathfinder Services
- PNC Bank
- Renew Indianapolis



HB 1541, Session, Rental Assistance, & Tenant Resources

HB 1541 & End of Session Update

HB 1541, a trailer bill for SEA 148, has been passed in both chambers and is on its way to Governor Holcomb's desk for signing. The bill will remedy two of the [problems](#) created when SEA 148 was enacted into law in February. Look for a PI press release when the bill is signed into law. The 2021 session of the Indiana General Assembly will come to a close tomorrow,

April 22. Prosperity Indiana will be sending a final summary of session in the next week.

Thank You to PI's Policy Committee

Thank you to PI's Policy Committee for working to ensure that we continue to advocate for issues pertinent to our members.

- Amy Nelson, Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (Chair)
- Justin Barker, Pathfinder Services
- Rob Evans, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP)
- Tim Eckerle, Grant County Economic Growth Council
- Steve Hoffman, Brightpoint
- Mark Lindenlaub, Thrive Alliance
- Anne Mannix, Neighborhood Development Associates
- Rebekah Metzger, HAND, Inc.
- Lewis Ricci, Indiana Arts Commission

State of Indiana Action Plan

The State of Indiana draft [2021 Action Plan](#) is open for comment through May 13. Keep an eye out for an email on the Prosperity Indiana comment process.

Homeowner Assistance Fund

It is confirmed that Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) will be applying for Indiana's allocation of \$167,921,663 from \$10 billion of the [Homeowner Assistance Fund](#). This Fund is from the American Rescue Plan Act.

CFPB Interim Final Rule on Debt Collection & Eviction Moratorium

The Consumer Protection Financial Bureau (CFPB) has [released an interim final rule](#) on debt collection practices during COVID-19. According to the CFPB, the rule requires debt collectors to provide written notice to tenants of their rights under the eviction moratorium and prohibits debt collectors from misrepresenting tenants' eligibility for protection from eviction under the moratorium. It will go into effect on May 3, 2021. [View the interim final rule here.](#)

Eviction Moratorium

The [CDC Eviction Moratorium has been extended](#) until June 30, 2021. Residents who previously submitted a declaration to their landlord should not be asked to resubmit and should have continued protection until June 30. [View the FAQ from the CDC here.](#) [View the NLIHC's moratorium updates here.](#)

COVID-19 Housing Resources

- For a complete list of and links to the state's various emergency rental assistance programs, visit the Housing4Hoosiers [COVID-19 Assistance & Resources](#) page.
- The Indiana Legal Services Tenant Help Desk hotline is available every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the remainder of 2021. [For more information, view the flyer.](#)
- For [Mortgage Assistance](#), Indiana's Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) is available to help Indiana homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage payments or who are unable to

make future payments. [The deadline to apply is May 3, 2021.](#)

- The [Indy Affordable Modification Program \(IndyAMP\)](#) allows Marion County homeowners negatively affected by COVID-19 to refinance mortgage debt at a below-market interest rate for up to 30 years. IndyAMP allows owners to remain in their homes, become current with their mortgages, and lower their monthly payments.
- Applications are being accepted for [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#). LIHEAP provides a one-time annual benefit to help with the high cost of home energy. An additional \$350 CARES Act benefit is also available to qualifying households experiencing a reduction in income due to COVID-19. The last day to apply is May 14, 2021.

P PROGRAMS

Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network

Prosperity Indiana is working with our Indiana A&O Network partners to advocate for policies that will allow Hoosiers to 'rebuild better' assets and opportunities following the pandemic. Recent advocacy efforts have included urging Congress to overturn the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) "fake lender" rule. This regulation was approved in 2020 and preempts state usury laws if a national bank is named as the lender on the loan agreement. The rule could protect loans charging high annual percentage rates (APR) approaching 200% APR or more that are laundered through a bank to evade state- and voter-approved interest rate caps. [Contact Congress and urge them to overturn the "fake lender" rule here.](#)

The Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network creates learning opportunities for community leaders, advocates for policies that affect low-to-moderate income families, and builds capacity for organizations aimed to increase financial stability. It is co-led by Prosperity Indiana and the [Indiana Institute for Working Families \(IIWF\)](#), which is a program of the Indiana Community Action Association skilled in research, policy analysis, and advocacy.

[Click here to join the A&O Network.](#)



| *Upcoming Events*

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

[April 23 and 30: Inside the Statehouse 2021 - Indiana Institute for Working Families](#)

[Now - April 29: Nonprofit Capacity Building Series - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance](#)

[April 26: Planning for Uncertainty: COVID's Impact on Project Planning & Project Management - Prosperity Indiana](#)

[April 28: The Color Tax - Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, Kheprw Institute, and Indiana Legal Services](#)

[April 28: The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: What You Need to Know About Taxes and Unemployment Income - Indiana Legal Services and Prosperity Indiana](#)

[May 3-4: 2021 Just Economy Conference - National Community Reinvestment Coalition](#)

[May 5: Sparking Cross-Sector Collaboration for COVID Recovery - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance](#)

[May 5: Be Prepared for the New Monthly Child Tax Credit Payments Coming July thru Dec 2021 - Indiana](#)

[Legal Services and Prosperity Indiana](#)

[May 10: Building Racial Equity: Pursuing Adaptive & Technical Solutions - Prosperity Indiana](#)

[May 24: We Will Meet Again: COVID's Impact on Building Teams, Engaging Boards, & Managing Volunteers - Prosperity Indiana](#)

[June 7: Post-COVID Narratives: Solutions for Fund Development - Prosperity Indiana](#)

[June 8, July, 13, August 5: Advancing Racial Equity in Your Organization - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance](#)

[June 21: Financial Resiliency: Technical & Adaptive Solutions for Family Assets Building Strategies - Prosperity Indiana](#)

[June 21-25: 2021 Mortgage Conference - National Consumer Law Center](#)

[June - October: Strategic Management for CHDO and Nonprofit Development Executives - Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority](#)

[August 27: Golf Scramble - PACE Community Action Agency, Inc.](#)

Job Opportunities

[Community Leadership Officer, Economic Mobility - Central Indiana Community Foundation](#)

[Community Leadership Officer, Education - Central Indiana Community Foundation](#)

[Engagement Intern - Prosperity Indiana](#)

[Fair Housing Specialist - Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana](#)

[Grants Officer - Central Indiana Community Foundation](#)

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

[Stewardship Manager - United Way of Central Indiana](#)

ICYMI: Media Spots

[Lawmakers pass 'fix' to landlord-tenant bill. Advocates say it doesn't solve all problems.](#)

[Federal Bench Needs Judicial Nominees with Consumer Perspective](#)

[What Action Is The City Taking To Improve Housing Options For People Experiencing Homelessness?](#)

[Indiana bill attempts to fix controversial landlord-tenant law](#)

[Lawmakers look to fix landlord-tenant law](#)

[Indiana Supreme Court declines to protect stimulus payments from private debt judgments](#)

[Indiana high court rules creditors can take your stimulus check](#)

[Prosperity Indiana Hires Two](#)



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Tools & Resources

Renew Indianapolis Selected for NeighborWorks America

[Renew Indianapolis](#) has been selected as a [NeighborWorks America](#) Chartered Member. The organization joins three other Chartered Members in Indiana.

With this designation, Renew Indianapolis will receive an \$85,000 unrestricted federal grant. These funds will increase the organization's access to technical assistance and training opportunities for community-based revitalization efforts.

[View the entire press release here.](#)

New IDA Guidance & Survey

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) has released [new guidance](#) for Individual Development Account (IDA) administrators.

The guidance provides flexibility on collecting social security numbers and allowing funds for participants' education expenses or purchase of an LLC for a business.

View the complete guidance [here](#).

Additionally, IHCDA is reviewing the IDA Participant Application and looking to make the process easier for participants and administrators. IHCDA has created a survey for administrators to identify questions that they actively use for decision-making. The deadline to complete the survey is 5 p.m. EDT on Monday, April 26.

Access the survey [here](#).

Public Meetings on QoL for African Americans

The [Indianapolis Urban League](#) and [African American Coalition of Indianapolis](#) are hosting a series of public meetings to discuss the quality of life of African Americans in the Indianapolis/Marion County area. The organizations will be using the input to shape the grantmaking process for the \$100 million Lilly Endowment contribution to the National Urban League. Community members are encouraged to participate.

To attend any of the meetings, use [this link to join](#). The remaining dates and times are listed below.

- April 22, 5:30-7 p.m. EDT
- April 24, 10-11:30 a.m. EDT
- April 29, 5:30-7 p.m. EDT

IU Researchers to Study Farm Ownership

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded researchers from Indiana University a \$500,000 grant to study ways that the government can encourage new farm ownership among young and beginning farmers, farmers of color, and women.

The article states that, "According to the project proposal, 70,000 new farms are started in the U.S. every year. New farmers help to bring prosperity to rural communities and make outsized contributions to sustainable agriculture. However, they also face significant obstacles when trying to obtain land." The project's goal is to help revitalize rural communities.

[View the article here.](#)

NLIHC Releases Updated Advocates' Guide

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) has released the [2021 Advocates' Guide](#).

Written by NLIHC staff and field experts, the Advocates' Guide includes resources about federal affordable housing programs and policies for low-income people. It also contains summaries of housing and community development programs, housing policy advocacy tools, and more.

[View the Advocates' Guide here.](#)

IHCDA Request for Qualifications

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) has released a [Request for Qualifications](#) (RFQ) for a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Approved Housing Counseling Agency. Applicants need to be prepared to provide Housing Counseling Services for households participating in IHCDA's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Homebuyer program.

The deadline to respond is 5 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 24.

[View the Request for Qualifications here.](#)

How to Stay Healthy



Resources

[Be Well Indiana](#)

[Indiana Press Releases](#)

[Indiana State Department of Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[HUD COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Prevention Steps for Close Contacts](#)

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 and decreasing social contact in the workplace.

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

Since July 15, 2020, Prosperity Indiana team members have been able to return to the office to work. Staff will be rotating days that they are present in the office. While most team members continue to work remotely at this time, we have compiled the following information about our return to work plan.

Our re-opening plan includes:

- Limiting staff in the office to no more than three at a time and fewer than 10 short-term, staggered visitors daily to allow for physical distancing
- Providing adequate PPE for staff and visitors, along with extra hand sanitizing supplies, tissues, and wipes for high touch surfaces.
- Implementing a return-to-work plan that complies with the Back on Track Roadmap, CDC, Indiana Department of Health, and OSHA guidelines.

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.

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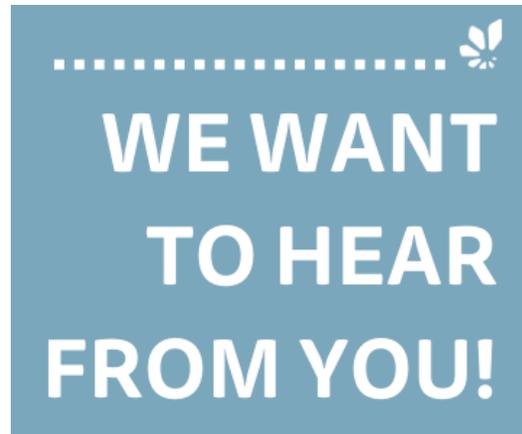
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If you have a success story, an upcoming event, or a job opening, please let us know! Prosperity Indiana is seeking guest bloggers and success stories from our membership to broadcast across the network. We want to highlight our greatest asset, our members!

[Send your stories.](#)

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



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