



# Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

## June 2021

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### Mission

Prosperity Indiana builds a better future for our communities by providing advocacy, leveraging resources, and engaging an empowered network of members to create inclusive opportunities that build assets and improve lives.

### Vision

Prosperity Indiana believes in a society where all persons can live and work in an environment that provides equitable access to economic and social opportunity.

### Values

Collaboration, Empowerment, Impact, Integrity, Social Justice

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## Executive Director's Letter

It's so interesting to see yourself through the eyes of others.

And I don't mean the opinions shared by people who you know are intentionally just stroking your ego (that just feels gross) or people you can recognize have decided they are not going to like you no matter what. But people who know you and don't really have to pronounce judgement on you either way but decide to speak up – to either defend, encourage or challenge you. That's the stuff that sticks with you. And a few moments like that stick out for me.

For example, I'll likely never forget the fact that a friend of mine once told me, "You're one of the most forgiving people I know." This is not someone who is naturally profuse with praise. And it wasn't something I was expecting her to say during an awkward conversation she and I were having. She was just very matter-of-factly sharing an assessment she had made. And she probably has no memory that she said it. But it's stuck with me for over 20 years and sort of defines me, in fact, as well as emboldens me to be better when I'm not living up to that standard.



More recently, I made a comment during a meeting with a member about how I stayed out of

a series of partner meetings because I cared more about the progress that might be made if I wasn't at the table – and that I didn't want to have a polarizing effect. (And we had other staff participating, so it's not like we weren't "at the table" without me there.) The immediate and sarcastic quip back was, "Oh yeah, Jessica. You're so polarizing."

This partner of PI's said this so matter-of-factly, like it's so obvious that I'm not, that I think those words will be another comment that will stick with me over the years – to remind me of who I am and who I want to be. I'm thankful for that kind insight into how I'm viewed by some who know me.

And yet, there are surely people who don't know me, who would absolutely decide things about me that are untrue because they think all people who "do this = that". [You can fill in the blanks on the "this" and the "that" over and over again – we all make so many assumptions!] And while there are many who are staunchly of certain persuasions and tow specific political lines at all costs, it's also not fair or helpful to make assumptions about others with no basis. Because when you engage in getting to know people – including legislators – who are different than you, you'll find commonalities and nuance. And in nuance, you can find progress.

And I think that's why this year's legislative session was so tough. So many barriers to relationship-building got in the way. (Thanks, COVID!) And that's a potentially vicious cycle we'll be looking to break later this summer. We've got to get in front of legislators in person again. Because then, they can see what we care about and what we're fighting for, and we can do the same. We'll stop *just* being people who post and tweet and blast press releases and issue op-eds and send emails. (Let's be real, we'll still do all of that, but ...) We'll be real-life constituents sharing real-life issues that our communities and clients are facing, in-person. And in getting back to that "old norm", hopefully we can make some new friends and allies along the way.

With all of that said, I hope you'll be watching for the opportunities we'll soon be announcing. (We have some things in the works that are requiring lots of coordination!) Because once we get back together again, we won't automatically agree with people who don't naturally share our concerns. And in truth, everyone in our network doesn't share all of the same concerns. But we will be able to take off some of the virtual masks that we have all been wearing over the past 15 months. And tear down some of the walls of assumptions we can apply when we don't really know someone. And then, we can get back to providing honest, matter-of-fact, constructive feedback that moves all of our communities forward because we'll communicate and we'll champion and we'll challenge and we'll compromise where we need to and can – and we'll say some things that "stick" – to make a real-life *impact* on those we serve. Because the work of our network is integral to strengthening our communities. Through relationships. Through advocacy. Through you.

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



Jessica Love

## This month's Piece of the PI: ADVOCACY



**We'll communicate and we'll champion and we'll challenge and we'll compromise where we need to and can – and we'll say some things that “stick” – to make a real-life impact on those we serve. Because the work of our network is integral to strengthening our communities. Through relationships. Through advocacy. Through you.**

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

## **R**ESOURCES

### Changing4Good Webinar

Register now for "Achieving Family Financial Resiliency Through Asset Building Strategies" at 10 a.m. EDT on Monday, June 21. The need for family financial stability has never been greater. As Indiana emerges from the economic challenges of the pandemic and works toward creating racial equity, the imperative for economic resiliency becomes more and more pronounced. This webinar will help you understand how to integrate both technical and adaptive solutions to meet the challenges of creating economic opportunity for all Hoosiers. Join the conversation with Tyronne Spann, Indiana Program Officer of the Asset Funders Network, and Andrea Proulx Buinicki, Vice President of Community Impact for Lake Area United Way. [Register now!](#)

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

The Changing4Good Series is sponsored by:



## 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

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### Free Webinar Winner & Leader Member Highlight

#### And the Winner is....

Congratulations Pastor Adrian Brooks of Memorial Community Development Corporation! Your name has been drawn for ONE FREE WEBINAR! Thank you Pastor Brooks and all that provided a membership referral as part of the 2021 Annual Member Survey. You are helping our network grow and remain strong!

#### Leader Member Highlight: Pathfinder Services, Inc., Danielle Tips, President & CEO



Tell us about your organization, its mission, and services.

- "Pathfinder Services, Inc. is strengthening people and communities by enabling people with disabilities or economic challenges to achieve autonomy, inclusion, and stability so they can live fulfilled and meaningful lives. Pathfinder Services envisions a community in which all people are valued, accepted, and have control over their own destinies."

Which of Prosperity Indiana's values resonate most with you and why?

- "The Core Values of Pathfinder Services align directly with those of Prosperity Indiana. Our Core Values of People First, Integrity, Contribution, Growth, and Empowerment are at the heart of our organization and have significant meaning as we live and breathe them every day for ourselves and for those we serve."

What are some challenges your organization is facing?

- "Some of the challenges we are facing and working diligently to find solutions to are finding qualified staff in a competitive labor market, being a more person-centered

organization, and ensuring we are expanding our services to meet all of the needs of the communities we serve."

Describe a success story that resulted from your organization's community development efforts.

- "We have a big fundraiser every year to support our Creative Abilities Art Studios, which provide space in our communities for creative opportunities for people we serve. Due to COVID, we had to cancel the event in 2020 and come up with a way to still raise money for the artists and expose people to the Creative Abilities Program. We decided to have an online art auction supported through marketing with news releases to the media, television interviews, social media posts, and an email campaign. We were able to sell every piece of art profiled in the auction and raise more money than in past events. It was so successful that we are combining the in-person event with the online auction this year and in the future."

All Leader members will be highlighted in various newsletters this year, and [Michaela Wischmeier](#) will contact you directly to schedule. [Click here](#) to see interview questions.



### **Regional Meetings**

WE'RE BACK! We are excited to be travelling to six regions of the state this summer for our 2021 Regional Meetings on "Moving Your Community from Surviving to Thriving Through an Equitable Recovery." Dates and locations are forthcoming.

### **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](#).

### **Join Private Facebook Group for Members Only**

This discussion forum is yours to collaborate and connect with other members, ask questions of PI staff, and share your events and happenings. To join the group, [CLICK HERE](#).



**OSAH-IN & 'HoUSed' Campaign Impact Opportunities**

## Join the Opportunity Starts at Home-Indiana Coalition

The goal of the Opportunity Starts at Home - Indiana Coalition (OSAH-IN) is to build a statewide multi-sector coalition of advocates interested in learning about and affecting affordable rental housing policy at the federal level. Organizations will learn about ways to get involved in order to aid ambitious increases in affordable housing - through existing and new infrastructure - in addition to direct support to organizations assisting those who are unstably housed or homeless. Healthcare, racial equity, or economic mobility related organizations interested in learning more about affordable housing should contact [Natalie James, Coalition Builder](#).

## National 'HoUSed' campaign

The National Low Income Housing Coalition has been [collecting signatures](#) for their 'HoUSed' campaign for (U)niversal, (S)table, and (A)ffordable housing for all. Take a few moments to [sign your organization on](#) to the [campaign letter](#)!

The HoUSed campaign has [four broad objectives](#) to strengthen housing stability and affordability, including two areas where Indiana especially needs federal assistance and investment:

- Bridge the gap between incomes and housing costs by expanding rental assistance to every eligible household, prioritizing those families with children.
- Expand and preserve the supply of rental homes affordable and accessible to people with the lowest incomes.
- Provide emergency rental assistance to households and families with children in crisis by creating a national housing stabilization fund.
- Strengthen and enforce renter protections.

## Join Policy Brief Released

Prosperity Indiana co-released with the Indiana Institute for Working Families and Indiana Youth Institute, [Policy Brief: A Year in Review: Housing Instability Trends for Hoosier Families and Counties Most Affected by COVID-19](#). The report considers data from the weekly U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Unemployment Claims Monitor, and EvictionLab's Eviction Tracking System to analyze the economic and social demographics and geographies of COVID-19 housing instability. The brief also provides policy recommendations designed to inform Indiana's state and federal policymakers regarding measures needed to rebuild housing stability and move towards long-term housing security. [View the policy brief here](#).

## Overview of Indiana's Emergency Rental Assistance

Additionally, PI published ["Indiana's Emergency Rental Assistance: Program Outlines and Recommendations for Equitable Outcomes."](#) Currently, there are seven emergency rental assistance programs across Indiana, including six local programs and one statewide program that serves Hoosiers that are not covered by the local programs. This overview reviews the requirements of each program and includes recommendations on maximizing the equity and efficiency of ERA programs. [View the overview and recommendations here](#).

## Eviction Moratorium

The [CDC Eviction Moratorium](#) remains in effect 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.](#)
- 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.

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# P PROGRAMS

## Community Loan Center

Prosperity Indiana is the Indiana statewide coordinator for the 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.

If you would like to see this program available in your community, please [reach out to us](#).

View [more information here](#).



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### Sponsor

Piece of the PI is sponsored  
by the Federal Home Loan

Bank of Indianapolis  
(FHLBI).



## *Upcoming Events*

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

[June 16: Creating a Shared Vision for an Inclusive Indianapolis - Nonprofit Learning Center at United Way of Central Indiana](#)

[June 17: How to Leverage Social Capital to Benefit Your Organization - Nonprofit Learning Center at United Way of Central Indiana](#)

[June 17-18: IEDA Virtual Conference - Indiana Economic Development Association](#)

[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 23 - December 14: Fair Housing Workshops - Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana](#)

[June 23-24: Jodi Pfarr's Bridges Out of Poverty - Bridges Alliance of Johnson](#)



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## County

June 25: Eviction 101:  
Volunteering After the End  
of the Moratoria - Indiana  
Bar Foundation

June - October: Strategic  
Management for CHDO and  
Nonprofit Development  
Executives - Indiana  
Housing & Community  
Development Authority

July 8 - Data Literacy: Find  
Existing Data - SAVI

August 27: Golf Scramble -  
PACE Community Action  
Agency, Inc.

September 16-17: 2021  
Indiana Housing  
Conference- Indiana  
Affordable Housing Council  
and Indiana Housing &  
Community Development  
Authority

October 18-20: 2021  
Summit - National Alliance  
of Community Economic  
Development Associations

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## ***Job Opportunities***

Community Leadership  
Officer, Economic Mobility -  
Central Indiana Community  
Foundation

Community Leadership  
Officer, Education - Central  
Indiana Community  
Foundation

Community Programs

[Manager - Indiana Housing  
and Community  
Development Authority](#)

[Director of Communications  
- Indy Chamber](#)

[Director of GIFT Technical  
Services - Indiana  
Philanthropy Alliance](#)

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

[Marketing &  
Communications Associate -  
Women's Fund of Central  
Indiana](#)

[President & Chief Executive  
Officer - Merchants  
Affordable Housing Corp.](#)

[Project Manager, Strategic  
Initiatives - Indianapolis  
Neighborhood Housing  
Partnership](#)

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

[Senior Financial Accounting  
Manager - Indiana Housing  
and Community  
Development Authority](#)

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## ***ICYMI: Media Spots***

[Indiana preparing for  
evictions to resume](#)

[Indiana agencies prepare  
for spike in evictions as  
national moratorium ends  
June 30](#)

[Van Hollen, Young](#)

[reintroduce legislation to boost housing mobility vouchers, increase Americans' access to opportunity.](#)

[Cycle of debt: State's ongoing coddling of predatory lenders keeps neediest Hoosiers from progress](#)

[New 50-state survey finds losses for Indiana consumers in larger, longer high-cost predatory loans](#)

[Grant to Expand the Reach of Indiana Nonprofits to Improve Housing Affordability](#)

[Grant to help expand reach of Indiana nonprofits improving housing affordability](#)



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## Tools & Resources

### OCRA's PreservINg Main Street Program

The [Office of Community and Rural Affairs](#) (OCRA) has begun its [PreservINg Main Street](#) program, a community development program designed to

### Internships for Future Housing Leaders

[Future Housing Leaders](#) are seeking leaders through their [Student Internship program](#). This program connects

### CSBG Funding Opportunity

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) is offering a new funding opportunity for 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporations

support historic preservation and revitalize [Main Street](#) communities. The selected pilot community will be eligible for implementation of downtown preservation projects and operational expenses up to \$2 million through [OCRA's Community Development Block Grant](#) program.

Eligible communities must already have a downtown historic district listed in the National Register, be located in a non-entitlement community, and be a Main Street organization in good standing with OCRA.

Applications are being accepted until Friday, June 18, 2021.

Applicants are encouraged to initially contact their [respective Community Liaison](#) to discuss the project.

[View more information on the program here.](#)

college students to potential paid internships and entry-level job opportunities with top employers in the housing industry.

Employers may reach out through a [Fannie Mae-led recruiting service](#) that helps companies create a more diverse workforce.

[View more information here.](#)

that are addressing the impacts of COVID-19 in Indiana. Individual grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded, using a portion of IHCD's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) award from the CARES Act.

Target outcomes for this funding opportunity include:

- Increasing vaccination rates
- Connecting individuals with living wage jobs
- Connecting families with safe and affordable housing
- Offering mental health services to those impacted by the pandemic and resulting shutdowns
- Making community services more accessible

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. EDT on June 21, 2021.

[View the application for additional requirements and instructions here.](#)

## **Request for Proposal of Professional Services**

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) is requesting proposals from professionals who are able to offer services and/or products required to administer the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF).

IHCDA is responsible for providing HAF assistance to eligible homeowners that are residents of Indiana. The HAF funds will provide financial assistance for mortgage payments, property taxes, homeowner's insurance, and homeowner or condominium association fees.

The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. EDT on June 21, 2021.

[View the request for proposals here.](#)

## **Indiana United Ways COVID-19 Impact Survey Report**

Indiana United Ways released the [COVID-19 Impact Survey Results Report](#), which provides an initial understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic and economic disruption affected and continue to affect Hoosier communities around the state. The survey provides insight into the challenges specifically faced by ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households in Indiana.

[Read the full release and access the report here.](#)

## **Child Tax Credit Non-filer Sign-up Tool**

The IRS released a sign-up tool for non-filers to access Child Tax Credits and Economic Impact Payments.

According to the IRS, non-filers will use this tool to report qualifying children born before 2021, if individuals:

- Are not required to file a 2020 tax return, didn't file one and don't plan to; and
- Have a main home in the United States for more than half of the year.

Also, if an individual did not receive the full amounts of the first and second Economic Impact Payment, they may use this tool if:

- Are not required to file a 2020 tax return, didn't file and don't plan to, and
- Want to claim the 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit and get your third Economic Impact Payment.

[Access the tool here.](#)

## Indiana Housing Assistance Fund (IHAF) Program Design Survey

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Indiana has been allocated \$167.9 million from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assist Hoosier homeowners affected by the crisis. To assist with developing the best program for Hoosiers the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) is asking for input on the program design.

The program will be developed during the summer under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Treasury, which will include a limited test program to assess a proposed plan. [Complete the survey here.](#)

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## Member News & Publications

- [2020 Annual Report](#) - Brightpoint
  - [2020 Annual Report](#) - LISC Indianapolis
  - [ISU receives \\$1.48M grant to address rural health disparities](#) - Indiana State University
  - [U.S. Treasury Awards \\$1.25 Billion to Community Development Financial Institutions to Support Economic Relief in Communities Affected by COVID-19](#) - PI members include Brightpoint, Community Investment Fund of Indiana (CIFI), HomesteadCS (Lafayette Neighborhood Housing Services), Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP), and Renew Indianapolis (Build and Edge Funds)
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## 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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## Support Prosperity Indiana while you shop with AmazonSmile!

Shopping on Amazon.com? Switch to our Amazon Smile page, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Prosperity Indiana!

Shop, Smile, & Donate



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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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