



Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

September 2020

Executive Director's Letter

One of the best things that came from one of the most awkward strategic planning processes ever (ours in 2018/2019) was not just permission, but an invitation, to be flexible and innovative to quickly respond to challenges and opportunities we face. And although COVID-19 has affected us as well, we have sought to rise to the challenge rather than be squashed by it, albeit sensitive to the fact that the line between the two can be very thin at times.

When talking a few months ago about our adaptability during COVID-19, I mentioned to a board member who was on our strategic planning committee that his committee was integral in our ability to pivot this year. He laughed and said something like, "Well, I had no idea what we were doing at the time. But if this is the outcome, then you should bottle it up and sell it."



And we're happy to. If you'd like us to walk you through real-time strategic planning and a strategy mapping process, [let me know](#). We're happy to scope out a project for you – informed (and hopefully improved upon) by our own experiences.

But speaking of pivoting, let me get back to the topic at hand.

An opportunity was presented to us last month, resulting from a member's challenge. And let's be frank: A very unfortunate reality now is that another fatality risk of COVID-19 is the livelihood of businesses, including nonprofits. So, as South Central Indiana Housing Opportunities was considering its own shuttering, the staff and board looked for a new home for its Housing4Hoosiers program. This largely web-based information hub and helpdesk was started as a tenant resource for Monroe County, but ultimately served a broader footprint, especially during COVID-19, as housing stability became an increasing concern for renters statewide. Because of our work with the Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition, we were seen as a natural place to rehome housing4hoosiers.org, and all that came with it. We were honored by the offer to consider this opportunity and worked out a plan to transfer management of it over to PI and have added staff capacity to support this work. (See our exciting announcement below.)

We're now proud to say [we've adopted H4H as our own](#). This will be a place to meet the resource, referral and advocacy needs of our members and those they might serve, and we'll seek to evolve the space over time as well. So, please, [check it out](#), connect with us there, and let us know how we might better resource it to serve your community's needs! Also please, by all means, let us know how we might better serve your organization as you plan for pivoting as well.

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



Jessica Love
Executive Director

This month's Piece of the PI: PROGRAMS



We're now proud to say we've adopted Housing4Hoosiers as our own. This will be a place to meet the resource, referral and advocacy needs of our members and those they might serve. We'll seek to evolve the space over time as we continue planning to pivot.

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

RESOURCES

Virtual Real Estate Development Academy Registration Open!

Registration is now open for Prosperity Indiana's inaugural Real Estate Development Academy. Thank you to our sponsors, [Fifth Third Bank](#) and the [Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis](#). The virtual event will take place from **Tuesday, October 27** to **Friday, October 30, 2020**, from 1.00 PM to 5.30 PM (Eastern Time) daily. For more information and to register, please check out the Academy's webpage [here](#). Registration is limited to the first 25 individuals. Additional registrants will be placed on a waiting list.

Technical Assistance

We offer an array of services that include:

- Housing Needs Assessments
- Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice
- Market Studies
- Community and Organizational Needs Assessments
- Comprehensive and Consolidated Plans
- Quality of Life Planning
- Community Housing and Revitalization Strategies
- Organizational Strategic Planning

Our staff consultants provide expert guidance for organizations and communities to build resilient, quality places. We focus on strengthening linkages between sectors, quantifying and communicating impact, and mobilizing community players for organizational and community change.

In partnership with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB), we also offer technical assistance to rural nonprofits engaged in creating community and

economic development opportunities and affordable housing for low-income communities in rural areas. This TA is HUD-funded and generally provided at no cost to our members. For more information, please contact [Carey W Craig](#), Capacity Development Manager.

Community Recovery Coalition Joint Statement

Prosperity Indiana is a participating member of the Community Recovery Coalition, a group of Indiana organizations and state government agencies working on collaborative efforts to help Hoosier communities respond to and recover from COVID-19. The Coalition released a [joint statement](#) highlighting their work and collaboration during the pandemic.

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](#)



Drawing Winners, New Members, and Board Nominations

Congratulations Drawing Winners!

The following members were selected via a random number generator from regional meeting attendees to receive a free webinar registration.

- Northeast- Kristi Stanley, Lutheran Social Services
- Northwest- Elizabeth Leachman, South Bend Heritage Foundation
- Central East- Kathryn Habecker, Indiana United Ways
- Central West- Doris Sims, City of Bloomington
- Southeast- Liz Stauth, Anthem
- Southwest- Gale Brocksmith, Community Action Program of Evansville

The winner of a free webinar registration from participants of the FHLBI survey is John M. Cazier, a board member with R A Streb Complex (Apartments), located in Kendallville, Indiana.

All six of our regional member meetings were well attended this year! With a focus on Policy and Philanthropy, members shared their most important COVID-19 and Policy challenges with legislators and foundations in each region. Many thanks to all that participated!

Nearly 70 member organizations also met individually last month with Engagement Director, Rita O'Donohue. Members shared how COVID has impacted their work and brainstormed networking and membership ideas. Look for these to be offered annually each summer.

Welcome Our New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the newest members of Prosperity Indiana.

- [Anderson Housing Authority](#)
- [Anthem](#)
- [City of Fort Wayne](#)
- [Community Action of Southern Indiana, Inc.](#)
- [Fort Wayne Metropolitan Human Relations Commission](#)
- [George and Frances Ball Foundation](#)

- [Hendricks County Bank & Trust Company](#)
- [Horizon Bank](#)
- [I & D Squared Consulting, LLC](#)
- [Indiana Recycling Coalition](#)
- [Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement](#)
- Indigo Investments Inc.
- [Ivy Tech Community College Central Indiana](#)
- [Jackson County Visitor Center](#)
- [Lake City Bank](#)
- [Noblesville Housing Authority](#)
- [Northern Indiana Community Foundation](#)
- [Planning Plus, LLC](#)
- Ruth Metzger
- SKB Solutions
- [The Gifted Word](#)
- [United Northeast Community Development Corporation](#)
- [US Census Bureau](#)
- [Vincent Village, Inc.](#)

Board Member Nominations

Prosperity Indiana is actively seeking applications for new board members. While preference is given to those representing nonprofits, we welcome applications from any member. The Governance Committee seeks to present a diverse slate to the Board of Directors for approval in the last quarter of the fiscal year and issues the Board approved slate for Voting Member approval at least 30 days prior to the end of the fiscal year. New board members would begin their 3-year term of service at the January 2021 board meeting. [Apply here.](#)

Master Facebook Group for Members

Join our master Facebook group for Prosperity Indiana members only! We'll moderate a single general forum to pose questions, get to know other members, and share best practices across community development topics. [Click here to join!](#)



CDC's National Eviction Moratorium

On Friday, September 4, the CDC's National Eviction Moratorium took effect. Prosperity Indiana released a blog post on [what the moratorium means for Hoosiers](#). PI also created a [Federal Eviction Moratorium Flier](#) for renters to know if they are covered and their responsibilities.

To be protected, qualified renters facing eviction should immediately provide a signed declaration to their landlords. For more details about the moratorium and a sample declaration that renters can use, refer to the NLIHC's and NHLP's [Overview of National Eviction Moratorium](#) and our [National Eviction Moratorium: FAQ for Renters](#).

Statewide Rental Assistance Program Closed

The state's Rental Assistance Program has been closed to applicants since August 26, 2020. The Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition called for a state waiting list, similar to the waiting list used by the City of Indianapolis at [IndyRent.org](#) (the city's rental assistance program portal). The state program now allows those interested in rental assistance to add their name to a notification list.

The HHNC is also continuing to urge the state to establish a [Housing Stability Dashboard](#) to track eviction data & assistance outcomes. Data from a COVID-19 Housing Stability Dashboard could inform policy decisions to mitigate the risks of future evictions and homelessness.

Submitted Comments on OCC's Rent-A-Bank Rule

On September 3, [Prosperity Indiana submitted comments on OCC's damaging 'Rent-a-Bank Rule'](#) on behalf of our network. Comments opposed the federal Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's proposal "National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders" or "Rent-a-Bank Rule" and offered recommendations to instead strengthen our communities.

2021 Member Policy Priorities Survey Results

Thank you to members who took our 2021 policy priorities survey and talked with legislators from across the state during Regional Meetings. Your feedback is critical and will inform PI's 2021 Policy Agenda. Please note that some questions were removed from the results due to responses that contained identifying information. [View the results.](#)

P ROGRAMS

Prosperity Indiana Acquires Housing4Hoosiers

Prosperity Indiana is pleased to announce the acquisition of the [Housing4Hoosiers website](#) and Help Desk service, formerly managed by [South Central Indiana Housing Opportunities](#) (SCIHO).

Prosperity Indiana will maintain Housing4Hoosiers as an affordable housing resource to promote educational information about housing options and tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities in Indiana. The goal of the program is to ensure Hoosiers have safe, affordable, and stable homes they can count on in their community. "[Renting in Indiana: A Handbook for Tenants and Landlords](#)" was created and was recently updated by SCIHO and has been housed on the Housing4Hoosiers website.

Individuals may reach out to Housing4Hoosiers for assistance and resources related to affordable housing issues. [Contact Housing4Hoosiers via email.](#)



0Upcoming Events

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

[September 23: Indiana](#)

[Philanthropy Alliance's Recovery to Resilience: Self-Leadership \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 26: West Indianapolis Development Corporation- Community Housing Fair \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 28: Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center- Annual Meeting \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 30-October 2: 2020 Prosperity Now Summit \(Virtual\)](#)

[October 6: National Low Income Housing Coalition- Racial Equity and Housing Justice during and after COVID-19](#)

[October 8: Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana- Fair Housing Basics \(Virtual\)](#)

[October 13-23: National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations Summit 2020 \(Virtual\)](#)

[October 28: Central Indiana Community Foundation- Inclusive City 2020 \(Virtual\)](#)

[October 30 \(Application deadline\): Indiana Philanthropy Alliance- The Mutz Philanthropic Leadership Institute](#)

Job Opportunities

[Executive Administrative Assistance/Collaboration Hub Coordinator - Hamilton County Community Foundation](#)

[Deputy Director - Local Initiatives Support Corp \(LISC Indianapolis\)](#)

ICYMI: Media Spots

[Prosperity Indiana Buys Housing4Hoosiers](#)

[Prosperity Indiana Adds Two](#)

[COVID-19 in Indiana: September 2020](#)

[Statewide Organizations Collaborate To Mobilize Resources During COVID-19](#)

[Advocates Say Federal Eviction Moratorium Delays Problem, Should Prompt State Response](#)

[Indiana Associations and State Agencies Forge New Collaborations to Address COVID-19](#)

[South Central Indiana Housing Nonprofit Closes Its Doors Amid Pandemic](#)

[Indiana courts seeing backlog of eviction, foreclosure cases](#)

[Housing Advocates Say Eviction Waves Will Spread COVID-19](#)

[Indiana rental assistance program ending 2 weeks after eviction moratorium expires](#)

[Settlement program aims to reduce eviction filings](#)

[News Brief – August 25, 2020](#)

[All IN: Indiana's Eviction Moratorium Is Over. Now What?](#)

[Fears rise as renters looking at evictions](#)

[AT LEAST 400 EVICTION FILINGS IN MARION COUNTY AFTER MORATORIUM EXPIRES](#)



Connect with us on
[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and
[LinkedIn!](#)

Welcome PI's New Staff Members!

On September 9, Prosperity Indiana announced [exciting staff updates](#) with two additions to our full-time staff: Michaela Wischmeier as Research & Communications Specialist and Natalie James as Coalition Builder.

Michaela Wischmeier began a new role as Research & Communications Specialist on September 1, after serving as an AmeriCorps Fellow with Prosperity Indiana since January 2020. As Research & Communications Specialist, Michaela will be responsible for developing and publishing effective communications across multiple platforms for the organization. She will also perform research, training, and consulting services throughout various program areas to assist Prosperity Indiana members.

Natalie James will join Prosperity Indiana in the new role of Coalition Builder on September 21. Natalie will serve as the lead staff person for several of Prosperity Indiana's issue-based coalitions. Across each of these coalitions, Natalie will help advance Prosperity Indiana's mission and policy priorities by engaging current members and expanding the reach and influence of these coalitions. By building diverse and inclusive partnerships with communities and individuals throughout the state, she will develop relationships and the advocacy capacity of members to achieve coalition goals.



Michaela Wischmeier



Natalie James

Tools & Resources

Landlord and Tenant Settlement Conference Program

The Landlord and Tenant Settlement Conference Program is a resolution method to help residential landlords and tenants talk about their situation with the help of a "facilitator", a neutral helper, to see if a settlement can be reached before an eviction case is filed.

If an eviction case has already been filed, they also evaluate if an agreement can be reached between the parties before the court makes a decision in the eviction case. There is **no cost** to participants for participating in this program.

Residential landlords and tenants wanting to participate in a settlement conference should [create a facilitation request](#). Both parties must agree to participate and only one settlement conference is permitted between the parties under this program.

NALCAB Rural Capacity Building Loan Program

The National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB) [Rural Capacity Building Program](#) provides short-term, 0% interest, no-origination-fee lending capital to eligible entities serving LMI rural communities in 15 states and Puerto Rico, including Indiana..

Eligible rural entities must demonstrate that capacity building assistance is needed to improve their ability to engage in community development and affordable housing in eligible rural areas. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

[View the program flier.](#)

CFPB's EIP Guide

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) just released the guide [Helping Consumers Claim the Economic Impact Payment: A guide for intermediary organizations](#). The guide contains step-by-step information for direct service and community organizations' frontline staff.

The CFPB will also offer [two webinars](#) on Helping Consumers Claim the Economic Impact Payment: A guide for intermediary organizations.

As a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, consumers started to see some financial relief through Economic Impact Payments (EIP) issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). However, millions of individuals who do not normally file income taxes are entitled to EIP. These individuals have until October 15, 2020, to enter their information in the IRS [Non-Filers Tool](#) to receive their payment.

[View the post from the A&O network.](#)

Emergency Rental Assistance Priority Index

[Urban Institute launched the Emergency Rental Assistance Priority Index](#), a tool that estimates the level of need in a census tract by measuring the prevalence of low-income renters who are at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The Index examines neighborhood demographics, housing instability risk factors before the pandemic, and the economic impacts of the pandemic.

It also emphasizes an equitable approach to determining where funding should be targeted, accounting for risk factors that are higher for certain groups that have been historically and systematically excluded from housing and economic opportunities.

[Access the Index here.](#)

Indiana's Growing Health Care Industry

A new report has been released on the health care industry, "[Nonprofit Paid Employment in Health Care for Indiana.](#)" The report uses data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) prepared by the Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) and analyzed by the Indiana Nonprofits Project.

The health care industry is the second largest employer in Indiana (second only to manufacturing) and provides key health-related services such as hospital care, various ambulatory services, and care in nursing and other residential facilities.

Data for the report does not extend beyond 2018, but the report notes that COVID-19 will likely have a profound impact on Indiana's health care industry.

[View the press release.](#)

Applying a Racial Equity Lens to Housing Policy Analysis

In a recent article published in [Housing Matters](#), an Urban Institute initiative, the importance and value of applying a racial equity lens to housing policy analysis is outlined. The article also asks what is missed when researchers and organizations don't apply a racial equity lens to housing policy analysis?

The authors noted, "When we, as translators, don't apply a racial equity lens to analyze housing policy and fail to include racially disaggregated data, we have the potential to break a key link that policymakers rely on to understand, acknowledge, and address racial inequities in housing policy and practice and risk obscuring and perpetuating structural racism."

[Read the full article.](#)

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

As of July 15, Prosperity Indiana team members are 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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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



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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