



# Rebuilding Indiana Monthly

A publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

**May 2018**

## Executive Director's Letter

In honor of "Get Caught Reading" month (did you know there was such a thing?), I'm going to expose myself a little bit. I am someone who often is reading too many things at once. Right now, I'm reading *You're in Charge - Now What?: The 8 Point Plan, The Nonprofit Strategy Revolution: Real-Time Strategic Planning in a Rapid-Response World, Drop the Ball: Achieving More by Doing Less* and finishing up a book I borrowed a really long time ago from a colleague, called *Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale: A Memoir*, before she moves. And my varied list prompts a number of questions:



1. Should Prosperity Indiana start a book club? If so, what should the focus be? Email us at [I'm IN!](mailto:imin@prosperityindiana.org) ([imin@prosperityindiana.org](mailto:imin@prosperityindiana.org))
2. Do we need an executive director closed Facebook group to help resource EDs, especially as we're seeing/anticipating leadership changes? Are there other groups you'd find valuable in having us establish for our network? Let us know - [I'm IN!](#)
3. Should we devise a transition plan training or tool of sorts? Tell us here: [I'm IN!](#)
4. Is being a female executive director different than being an executive director? If you think so, what are your thoughts on how women can come alongside each other to strengthen our cadre? [I'm IN!](#)

## Partners' Events

[May 17: Community Foundation Finance Course \(Fort Wayne\)](#)

[May 18: A Conversation about Housing Cooperatives" \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[May 24: Tool Up - A Money Smart Series for Small Business Owners \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[June 5: MFCDC Annual Luncheon \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[June 5-7: CSH Summit 2018 \(Los Angeles\)](#)

[June 7: Tool Up - A Money Smart Series for Small Business Owners \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[June 7: New Hope Services Free Summer Safety Block Party \(Jeffersonville\)](#)

[June 7-8: IPA 2018 Conference \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[June 10: Spirit & Place Presents - Conversations](#)

5. Are you realizing that the questions I'm asking aren't just about books and leadership and planning, but they're also about connecting - and figuring out how we can do that better? Do you want to be IN? [I'm IN!](#)

If any of these ideas for connecting/learning together resonate with you, or if it sparks something different that you'd like to see us doing, [please let us know!](#) I'm in a very intentional listening/absorbing/visioning phase as the new ED. As part of that, we've conducted three member meetings around the state with more to come this summer. I've really appreciated the feedback we've received thus far. And I want to hear what matters most to you! So, please, feel free to reach out any time!

6. And lastly - Just curious: Do you have the same problem as me - having too many books you want to read and not enough time to finish one before you start another? (This is just a point of bonding, really. PLEASE [let me know!](#) I'm not alone! Maybe we could create a support group too.)

As always, THANK YOU for being a member of Prosperity Indiana and for the role you play in Strengthening Our Communities.

Happy reading!



Jessica Love  
Executive Director

## #OurHomesOurVoices - National Housing Week of Action Recap

[on Race \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[June 13: NWIRA First Time Homebuyer Education Workshop \(Hammond\)](#)

[June 29: Community Canvas - A Public Art Workshop \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[July 21: Meet the 10th Man to Walk on the Moon \(Mitchell\)](#)

### *Job Opportunity*

[Network and Resources Manager](#) - Prosperity Indiana

### *Social Media Recap*

[As HUD Secretary Carson proposed rent hikes for low-income voucher recipients - @KatLaraIN says this is the wrong solution to helping families working to climb economic ladder. "We don't need to be cutting the feet out from under them." bit.ly/2Jw5dut @fox59](#)

[The Administration wants to increase rent for HUD-assisted low-income households, affecting > 79,000 low-income Hoosiers. We urge you to take ACTION and urge Congress to PROTECT AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND OPPOSE THIS PLAN. Details: bit.ly/2jjw0PN #OurHomesOurVoices](#)

[Despite scarce resources,](#)



May 1-8 was National Housing Week of Action, and Prosperity Indiana has been hard at work lifting the voices of our members who work to protect homes and communities. [In this video](#), Executive Director Jessica Love said, “This is a campaign that we are very proud to be a part of that is in partnership with the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#), of which we are the state partner. We’re having conversations that are highlighting local housing needs and the need for robust investments in affordable housing.”

Here is a recap of Prosperity Indiana’s work during this Housing Week of Action:

- Prosperity Indiana members across the state work hard to ensure the Hoosiers they serve have access to safe, affordable housing and asset development opportunities, but face significant challenges in that work. [We met with members in Northwest Indiana to discuss challenges that will inform solutions related to homelessness, affordable housing and community development.](#)
- Board President Steve Hoffman, Policy Director Kathleen Lara, and Prosperity Indiana member Erin Macey from Indiana Institute for Working Families commented in [WANE’s report](#) on new Eviction Lab data which puts three Indiana cities - Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and South Bend - in the top 20 national cities for home evictions, citing low incomes and lack of affordable housing as the problems leading to high eviction rates.
- [Policy Director Kathleen Lara rounded out the week in Washington D.C.](#), sharing data regarding urgent affordable housing needs, stories from Prosperity Indiana members working to address these challenges, and urging the delegation to support robust affordable housing investments to strengthen our communities.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year’s National

[@InCommDev](#) members like [@Coburn](#) innovate & share best practices with partners to meet the urgent needs of homeless Hoosiers, especially DV survivors [#OurHomesOurVoices](#)

Statewide, our members/partners are dedicated to providing stable housing for homeless Hoosiers. Today [@CHIPIndy](#) and [@IndyMayorJoe](#) share this year’s Indianapolis homeless count and progress to meet urgent housing needs [#OurHomesOurVoices](#)

New concepts shared and new connections made in Detroit this week, where ED Jessica Love attended the [@AEOworks](#) [#MainStreetForward](#) conference, focus on the future of microbusiness.

Prosperity Indiana team members participated in Cultivate! Collaborative hosted by [@HarrisonCtrArts](#) this week. Strategies shared focus on changing how cities are build - through incremental development for long-term financial solvency.



[Submit News or Events](#)

Housing Week of Action! The week may be over, but Prosperity Indiana and our members work year-round to address challenges to affordable housing. Together, we will take action to achieve effective, comprehensive solutions! Search [#OurHomesOurVoices](#) on social media to see how organizations across the country have been lifting their voices to protect our homes and communities.

## Prosperity Indiana in the Field: Anderson Sweet 16 QoL Plan

Prosperity Indiana recently completed a Quality of Life plan in the Sweet 16 neighborhoods of Anderson, with investment from the [Vectren Foundation](#) and backbone support from the [Anderson Impact Center](#).

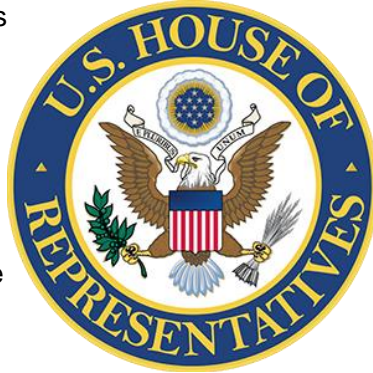


A local steering committee of residents and stakeholders was formed to guide the process with support from Prosperity Indiana. The plan was rolled out to the Sweet 16 neighborhoods and community in a grand event at the Anderson Impact Center on April 7th. Key areas of the Sweet 16 plan include: Transportation and Infrastructure, Housing, Health and Safety, Business Development, and Education and Job Training. The Anderson Impact Center is ready to move the plan forward to implementation with assistance from public, private, and philanthropic partners across the community.

[Click here to read the full blog post.](#)

## U.S. House Funding Proposal for Housing Released, Maintains Most Increases from Omnibus

The U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD), released their [fiscal year 2019 budget proposal](#) that is mostly in line with budget requests Prosperity Indiana urged legislators to support, but there are some areas of concern for members to be aware of that we plan to focus advocacy on before the bill comes before the full Committee in the coming weeks.



[Click here to read Policy Director Kathleen Lara's full report.](#)

## Interested in Offering a 401(k) Plan to Your Organization? Let us know!

Do you offer a 401(k) plan to your organization? If not, are you interested in providing this benefit, if offered through Prosperity Indiana? We are working to improve and expand member benefits, and we need your feedback to gauge interest in this service. Let us know if this benefit is of interest to your organization by responding to [this quick poll](#).

## 2017 Home Loan Data Shows Fewer Loans for Low- and Moderate-Income Buyers

On May 7, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) [released the 2017 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act \(HMDA\) data](#), detailing mortgage lending information from nearly all lenders across the country and the trends are troubling for low- and moderate-income (LMI) borrowers. Banks have significantly reduced loans originated for low- and moderate-income borrowers and these income brackets have continued to decline as a share of home buyers overall - a decrease of more than 10% since 2009.

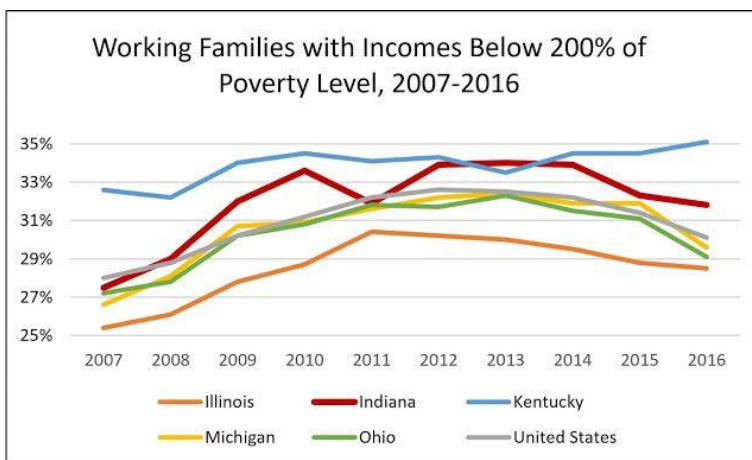
[Click here to learn more.](#)



Consumer Financial  
Protection Bureau

## IWF analysis: Indiana's Working Families More Likely to Be Poor, Have Lower Incomes than Midwestern Neighbors

The Indiana Institute for Working Families reports on new data that finds Indiana has the 19th highest rate of working families who are low-income.



Source: Working Poor Families Project analysis of U.S. Census American Community Survey data

Work should not only be honorable and bring dignity, but should also pay for a family's basic needs and provide opportunities to continue on a pathway to long-term economic security. But new data shows that a higher proportion of Indiana's families remain low-income compared to our Midwestern neighbors, particularly Hoosiers of color.

Unless legislators take a new policy direction, working Hoosier families aren't likely to catch up soon.

[Read the full report on the Institute's blog.](#)

## Crouch Announces 2018 Stellar Communities Program Finalists

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch announced six regions as finalists for the 2018 Stellar Communities Program.

The program works with communities to develop their strategic community investment plans, promote local and regional partnerships and implement comprehensive solutions to challenges facing Indiana's rural communities.

After a thorough review, the following regions have been chosen as finalists:

- **A Region Plus** - comprised of the cities of Vincennes and Bicknell and Knox County;
- **Health and Heritage Region** - comprised of the city of Greenfield and the town of Fortville;
- **Eastern Indiana** - comprised of the cities of Richmond, Rushville and Union City, and Randolph County;
- **Marshall County Crossroads** - comprised of Elkhart and St. Joseph counties, Marshall County leaders and leadership from the towns of Argos, Bremen, Bourbon, Culver, LaPaz and Plymouth;
- **Mt. Comfort Road Corridor** - comprised of the towns of Cumberland, McCordsville and New Palestine; and
- **New Allen Alliance** - comprised of Allen County, the town of Grabill, Leo-Cedarville, and Monroeville and the cities of New Haven and Woodburn.

As finalists, regions will receive a planning grant to build upon their regional plans. Each region will begin working with [Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute](#) to discuss project alignment and continued planning efforts. Final designees are selected at the end of the year.

Visit <https://www.in.gov/ocra/stellar.htm> for more information.

## Lacasa, Inc. Announces Selection of Next President/CEO

After conducting a nationwide search for Lacasa's next



President/CEO, Lacasa, Inc.'s Board of Directors has announced its selection of Chris Kingsley to fill that role. Mr. Kingsley is currently the Vice President of Resource Development at the agency and will assume leadership on August 6 of this year, immediately following Larry Gautsche's retirement on August 3.

Current President Larry Gautsche states, "I'm very pleased with the board's selection of Chris Kingsley as Lacasa's next president. Chris has years of experience working directly with Lacasa clients, has been instrumental in the design of new, innovative programs and has made a significant contribution as a member of Lacasa's management team as VP of Development. Chris grew up in Elkhart and brings a valuable mix of professional education, multicultural experience, personal integrity, and proved leadership that will serve Lacasa well."

[Read the full announcement here.](#)

## Business Diversity Contributes to a Neighborhood's Economic Health

Last month, The Wall Street Journal published an article about the miraculous economic recovery in Elkhart, Indiana. In March 2009, the unemployment rate in Elkhart was 20 percent, the highest in the nation; in January 2018, the unemployment rate was two percent, half the national average. The recovery is largely attributed to the region's concentration of RV manufacturing jobs, which offer great pay and benefits. In 2016, the average annual salary for a worker was \$68,000 and pay continues to rise.

The RV industry sets wages and standards to a level few competitors can match; yet, the picture of Elkhart's economic recovery is not as rosy as it first appears. WSJ describes Elkhart's economy as "a Kuwait in cornfields" - that is, operating like an oil economy, sensitive to booms and busts. And although some residents remain frugal during booms to weather the busts, systemic issues arise from lack of business diversity.

Elkhart illustrates the importance of business diversity in terms of economic robustness, especially during economic downturns, and attending to the daily needs of neighborhood residents. [Click here to learn more.](#)



## Governor Holcomb Announces Opportunity Zone Nominations

On Thursday, April 19, Gov. Eric J. Holcomb [announced the 156 census tract Opportunity Zone nominations](#) Indiana submitted to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. Contained within the 2017 tax reform legislation passed last December, Opportunity Zones offer tax incentives to spark investment in low-income communities. Essentially, each state nominates census tracts that meet certain criteria, such as having a poverty rate of at least 20 percent and a median family income of no greater than 80 percent of the area median.

"This new program provides one more tool to attract investment and help more of our Hoosier communities succeed," Gov. Holcomb said.

The full list of nominated census tracts can be found [here](#).

## ICBI 2018 Application Now Open

The Fourth Annual Indianapolis Community Building Institute (ICBI) application is now open! ICBI is a training program that incorporates the traditional classes of neighborhood organization with a neighborhood-based project. INRC has included project management skills in the training program and will help solicit additional resources for the project.

The program is open to all Indianapolis neighborhoods. Courses will be held one Saturday per month, September through February. Applications are due June 22.

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)



## A Conversation about Housing Cooperatives - May 18

The shortage of affordable housing in the U.S. market has an

enormous impact on the quality of life in cities, towns, and rural areas. As community leaders seek solutions to the affordable housing crisis, people continue to make difficult choices about where to live. Join the Indiana Cooperative Development Center, Cinnaire, and Neighborhood Development Associates, LLC to learn about housing cooperatives as an option/solution to address this crisis.

**Friday, May 18 | 9:00am-3:30pm**

Cost: \$25

[Register Here](#)

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

### **OCRA Announces Opening of Community Development Block Grant Round**

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has announced the first round of community Development Block Grants (CDBG) of 2018 is now open.

The following programs are accepting applications in this round:

- Main Street Revitalization Program;
- Public Facilities Program;
- Stormwater Improvements Program; and
- Wastewater/Drinking Water Program

The complete application, which includes the instructions, proposal/application template and sample documents can be found at [in.gov/ocra/cdbg](http://in.gov/ocra/cdbg). CDBG round one proposals are being accepted until Friday, May 25.

### **OCRA Accepting Quick Impact Placebased Grant Applications**

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) has announced that the **Quick Impact Placebased Grant Program (QulP)**, a matching grant program designed to fund placemaking and transformational projects that spark community-wide conversations and creativity, is open for applications.

The project funding range is \$2,500 to \$5,000 and for every

dollar in grant funds utilized, 50 cents must be matched, via cash or in-kind, by the applicant. Eligible applicants can include community or civic organizations, local units of government, or schools.

Applications should be received by June 1. For more information, visit <https://www.in.gov/ocra/quipgrant.htm>

### **Third Round 2018 CDBG CIP Program Applications Now Available**

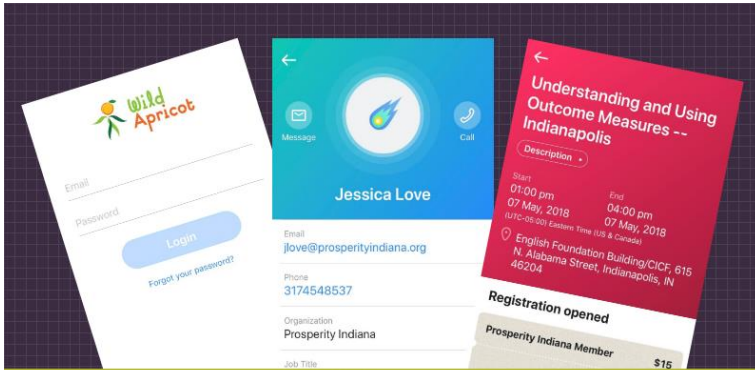
The City of Indianapolis' Department of Metropolitan Development is accepting applications for the Community Development Block Grant's (CDBG) Commercial/Industrial Improvement Program (CIP) application for a second round. CIP is designed to jumpstart economic development by supporting quality improvements to critical building systems in commercial/industrial facilities throughout Indianapolis.

Eligible applicants include Community Development Corporations, commercial/industrial building owners, or non-profit organizations in ownership of buildings within the City of Indianapolis NRSA (Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area). Applicants must partner with a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO). Eligible CBDOs are listed in the CIP Application at the link below. Projects must provide improvements to real property for commercial or industrial business.

To be considered for awards, applicants should electronically submit a completed application no later than May 25.

[Find the 2018 CDBG CIP Application here](#)

## **Download the New Mobile App!**



**Never miss an opportunity to connect!**  
Download the WildApricot app

### Mobile App Available Now

Download the WildApricot app and log in with your Prosperity Indiana account to view upcoming events, register for trainings, and search our directory of member contacts.

You can now access Prosperity Indiana member contacts and events on your smartphone through the new WildApricot App! Simply download [WildApricot for Members](#) from the App Store and log in with your Prosperity Indiana account information.

Log into the [member portal](#) on our website and make sure your profile information is up-to-date so that you can connect and engage with other Prosperity Indiana members!

## Thanks for taking our survey!

Congratulations to **Kay Hill from Stepping Stone Shelter for Women** - the winner of our drawing for \$25 toward the next Prosperity Indiana event!

Thank you to all of our members who responded to the 2018 Prosperity Indiana Member Survey! Your feedback is critical in informing our strategic planning process and evaluating member benefits.

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## Let us help you share your success stories!

If you have a success story, an upcoming event, or a job opening 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](mailto:info@prosperityindiana.org).

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

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### Prosperity Indiana

202 E. Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 454-8533

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