



Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

August 2019

Executive Director's Letter

Just as learning isn't confined to the four walls of a school, advocacy is not limited to what happens at the statehouse or in the halls of Congress. Like the tests that happen during the school year, the results of our legislative efforts are often measured publicly by the bills that pass and fail during session. But some of our best work happens between sessions, or when legislators are on recess. This summer has been a prime example.



We may have undergone long, hard fights (some won, some lost) during the long budget session of the Indiana General Assembly, in addition to four visits to DC, from January through early May, but that hasn't stopped us from amplifying the voices of our members ever since.

First, we hosted seven regional member meetings over the course of six weeks in May and June, during which we provided policy updates from our advocacy efforts up to that point and hints on what to expect at the federal level this year. We also conducted our policy survey during this time.

In June, we also convened an event with the Coalition for Homeless Intervention & Prevention (CHIP), Indiana University Public Policy Institute and the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) for the 2019 Housing Week of Action focused on the affordable housing crisis in Indiana, including new data related to Marion County concerns. We also released the [Out of Reach report](#), along with NLIHC, that showed a worsening gap between income and housing affordability for Hoosiers. Plus, our board determined next year's [policy agenda](#), earlier in the year than ever, to inform our events this summer.

In July, we launched the [Opportunity Starts at Home \(OSAH\) – Indiana Coalition](#), after receiving OSAH endorsement from NLIHC as the official state campaign lead. OSAH will focus on convening multi-sector partners all focused on expanding affordable housing, to ultimately impact systems change and inform advocacy efforts. We're currently fundraising around this effort and planning next steps to maximize our ability to scale the initiative, particularly with a health and equity focus at first.

Then this month, we pulled our members together to attend and serve as panelists for events in South Bend and Ft Wayne focused on the high eviction rates in Indiana. Sen. Todd Young facilitated these events, alongside *Evicted* author Matthew Desmond and Prosperity Indiana members, to discuss potential

Upcoming Events

[August 28: Health Equity Summit \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[August 28: MFCDC Lunch & Learn \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[August 28: Indiana Land Use Summit \(Danville\)](#)

[September 13: Putting for Partners Golf Tournament \(Greenwood\)](#)

[September 17-19: Certified Aging in Place Specialist Program \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[September 17-18: 2019 Indiana Wellness Summit \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[September 20: HAND 2019 Housing Conference \(Noblesville\)](#)

[September 26-27: 2019 Indiana Housing Conference \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[October 8-10: Navigating Difference - Cultural Competency Training \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[October 9: Rewriting the Rural Narrative Workshop \(North Manchester\)](#)

[October 10: Rewriting the Rural Narrative Workshop \(Madison\)](#)

[October 13-16: IEDC 2019 Annual Conference \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[October 16-18: 2019 Alliance for Strong Families and Communities National Conference \(Indianapolis\)](#)

solutions to the housing affordability crisis in two places where evictions are highest nationwide.

Starting next week, we'll be hosting [Policy & Pizza events](#) in six communities across the state. Last year, we launched these events to engage members around the development of our policy agenda. The twist this year is that we already have our survey results in and agenda in place and have legislators scheduled to attend these events to hear from you directly, in their districts. This will provide one of the best opportunities to hear from them and let them hear from you. So, please take this chance – now that school's back in – to meet with your state legislators and federal district reps about what you'd like to achieve in your community.

And trust me, no one will be grading you! Everyone who attends gets an automatic A for effort from our team! We just really hope to see you at your local event. See details below.

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



Jessica Love

Executive Director

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



We amplify your voice at the statehouse.

Our Policy & Pizza meetings provide an informal platform for you to talk to local lawmakers about your work and the challenges you face.



Upcoming Webinars

[October 24: Indiana Arts Homecoming \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[November 6-8: Navigating Difference - Cultural Competency Training \(Syracuse\)](#)

[November 13-14: Midwest Asset Building Conference \(Detroit, MI\)](#)

[November 18-20: 2019 I'M HOME Conference \(Portland, OR\)](#)

[December 10-12: Navigating Difference - Cultural Competency Training \(Mitchell\)](#)

Social Media Recap

[Joining @SenToddYoung in Ft. Wayne today, Evicted author @just_shelter speaks about the health impacts of unstable housing, how evictions affect our kids and bringing together unusual suspects to address wide-reaching concerns related to the lack of affordable housing.](#)

[We are dealing with an affordable housing crisis we haven't seen in several generations. It's not just a concern in cities like San Francisco and New York, but also cities across Indiana like South Bend - Dr. Matthew Desmond, author of Evicted @just_shelter @SenToddYoung @NLIHC](#)

[Not Just a Rubber Stamp - Designing Effective Board Meetings](#)

August 23, 2019

Great board meetings leave us focused and energized: the goal of the meeting is clear; our team is motivated; and the process is smooth, and there are well-defined outcomes. Not-so-great meetings, on the other hand, drain energy, and lower morale because of the perceived waste of time.

Participants will be challenged to reimagine traditional board meeting agendas. Incorporating meeting facilitation techniques such as personal reflection activities, small group round table discussions, dot voting, and more will foster an environment of dialogue and critical thinking.

This webinar is ideal for CEOs/Executive Directors, leadership staff, and executive board members.

[Avoiding the Sinkhole of Founder's Syndrome When Hiring a New Executive Director](#)

September 13, 2019

Coping with founder's syndrome requires discussion of the problem, a plan of action, and interventions by the founder, the board and/or by others involved in the organization. The objective of the plan should be to allow the organization to make a successful transition to a mature organizational model without damage to either the organization itself or the individuals concerned.

This webinar will offer a discussion on maintaining healthy relationships between the founder, the board, and the new executive director.

[How to Manage a Faith-Based Nonprofit in a World Without Faith](#)

September 20, 2019

Many nonprofits are rooted in a faith-based approach to alleviating societal challenges. In a secular world, some faith-based nonprofits find it difficult to maintain the integrity of their religious identity when engaging with donors, funding organizations, beneficiaries, and the community.

This webinar offers a discussion on how to navigate a faith-based organization in an environment that can appear reluctant, if not sometimes hostile, towards overtly religious solutions to some of our nation's most pressing social issues.

[Packed house at the Charles Martin Youth Center in South Bend this morning for event with @SenToddYoung and @just-shelter discussing on Indiana's housing affordability crisis along with many @INCommDev members and partners. @SBHeritage](#)

[We're at the OIC's Opportunity Zone Summit learning about OZs and the potential impact of these investments on our communities!](#)

[Proud to receive the Opportunity Starts at Home state campaign endorsement from NLIHC and excited about the expanded work we'll do to mobilize multi-sector partners around affordable housing!](#)

[Excited to be joining members and partners at the @IndianaCAA's conference in French Lick! Hearing from Rep. Ed Clere and @dianestand about advocacy and policies to promote financial success in Hoosier households.](#)

[Another great day at the @IndianaCAA conference, presenting on the partnership between @INCommDev and @IndianaCAA/@INInstitute and community loan alternatives to high cost loans. Grateful to hear excellent content & be part of this event!](#)



2019 Member Survey Now Open!

Each year, we ask our members what you like, what you want to see more, and how we can serve you better. The survey takes only fifteen minutes, and everyone who responds will be entered into a drawing for \$25 toward any Prosperity Indiana training or event!

[Take the Survey](#)

Board Member Application

Looking for a way to be more involved with Prosperity Indiana's work? Nominate yourself or someone you know for the Board of Directors! Here's the link: [Board of Directors Application](#)



Register for a Policy & Pizza Meeting

[Often surprised by how much PI does? This week: Endorsed as #OpportunityStartsatHome state lead, moderated OIC OZ Summit panel, spoke at @IndianaCAA's conference on our payday loan alternative & more! Doing it on a shoestring isn't easy. Want to help?](#)

[Happy Birthday to PI team members Kathleen, Kaytlin and Rita w/ June/July bdays! Our week was not too busy to celebrate you! Thanks for all you do!](#)

[Excited to join the Unity Foundation of La Porte County on 95.1 FM/AM 1420 WIMS this morning discussing our new Opportunity Starts at Home campaign, in partnership with the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and how we hope to expand our network of partners throughout Indiana to help more Hoosiers achieve housing stability!](#)

[Submit News or Events](#)

*Piece of the PI
Sponsored by:*



This year, we are inviting state and federal legislators to join each Policy & Pizza event. These meetings will give members an opportunity to tell lawmakers about the work you do, the accomplishments you've achieved, and the challenges you face. We will also share our 2020 policy priorities.

[Click here to register in your region!](#)



Our 2020 Policy Priorities are Here!

Be sure to check out Prosperity Indiana's 2020 Federal, State, and Administrative Policy Priorities focused on affordable housing, resources, and consumer protections. [Click here.](#)

Prosperity Indiana, Members Join Author Matthew Desmond, Senator Young in Roundtable Discussion on Affordable Housing Crisis

To dive into the issues surrounding our affordable housing crisis, Prosperity Indiana's Executive Director, Jessica Love, joined U.S. Senator Todd Young and Matthew Desmond, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City," and numerous members for a community conversation on current challenges and policy solutions to pursue. These events took place at member-hosted sites in South Bend and Fort Wayne.

[Click here to view media coverage of the event.](#)



Congress Passes Bill to Lift Budget Caps

[As we referenced in our federal budget update in late June](#), increases in U.S. House-passed FY20 funding bills for housing and community development programs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) would not have a chance of enactment unless Congress agreed to lift spending caps put in place under the Budget Control Act of 2011. Fortunately, both chambers passed a budget deal before heading out for August recess that would lift the budget caps by about \$50 billion this year and another \$54 billion the following year and the debt for two years. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Prosperity Indiana Endorsed as Opportunity Starts at Home State Partner

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign has named Prosperity Indiana as a new state partner. The Opportunity Starts at Home - Indiana Coalition (OSAH-IN) will unite housing and non-housing sector partners throughout the state to advance solutions that address the lack of quality, affordable housing in Indiana.

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)



Host an IAOC AmeriCorps Member-Fellow!

Looking to build capacity inside your organization? Consider hosting an AmeriCorps Member-Fellow! The IAOC - AmeriCorps Fellowship Program matches talented emerging leaders with nonprofit organizations and governmental entities working at the forefront of Indiana's community and economic revitalization efforts.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Maintaining Your Assets as You Age: How to Avoid Exploitation as an Older Adult

Join the Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network on September 16 for a webinar featuring A&O Steering Committee Member Naomi Bechtold, Family Resource Management Educator at Purdue Extension - Marion County, and her colleagues as they explore methods for maintaining and protecting your assets as you age and how to avoid senior exploitation.

[Click here to register](#)



Learn more about the Network [here](#) or contact Logan Charlesworth at lcharlesworth@prosperityindiana.org.

Prosperity Indiana's SUN Program Featured in Illumination

"On sunny days, the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center in Columbus, Ind., glistens in a way it hasn't before. Rows of solar panels line the rooftops of several of its buildings, generating renewable energy - and saving money.

"The center is just one nonprofit benefiting from the Solar Uniting Neighbors program (SUN), which provides some of Indiana's most vulnerable communities with access to solar energy."

[Read the full article here.](#)



Indiana Housing Perspectives Survey

Sagamore Institute is conducting a study on Indiana housing trends pre- and post-recession. The purpose of the survey is to identify current critical issues housing professionals are experiencing or seeing in their regions/professions related to housing supply/demand, housing affordability, demographic shifts of their households, and workforce housing needs.

[The Survey](#)

IEDC 2019 Conference

You don't want to miss International Economic Development Council's Annual Conference in Indianapolis this coming October. The IEDC Conference is the largest yearly gathering of economic development professionals from across the country and around the world. The conference features distinguished keynote speakers, dozens of interactive sessions led by industry experts, networking events, and educational tours. [Click here to register.](#)



Early Bird Registration Now Open: Midwest Asset Building Conference

The biennial Midwest Asset Building Conference brings practitioners, policy advocates, and researchers together to strengthen our collective work to address the racial wealth divide and help families build prosperity in the Midwest. The conference will take place in Detroit, MI on November 13-14. Early bird registration ends October 4!

[Click here to register](#)

The Credit Builders Alliance (CBA) will host a one-day Credit as an Asset Training in conjunction with the Midwest Asset Building Conference. This training helps financial coaches, social service providers, asset building professionals, and many other understand credit building and credit education as a foundation component of any successful financial capability or asset building program.

[Click here for more information](#)

Sites Selected for the Rural Opportunity Zone Initiative

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, in partnership with the Purdue Center for Regional Development/Extension Community Development, announced six sites will receive technical assistance and capacity-building support as part of the Rural Opportunity Zone Initiative. The selected county sites are Crawford, Daviess, DeKalb, Knox, Newton, and Switzerland. [Click here to read the full press release.](#)

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

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