
Ready for 2021 | Piece of the PI Newsletter - December 2020

1 message

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Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

December 2020

Executive Director's Letter

I'm not sure if this Polly-Anna has lost her Polly or misplaced her Anna. (Or if I just need a really long nap!) But I'm tired. Very tired. Of 2020. And I'm READY, oh so READY, for 2021. And while I know that the heaviness of 2020 will in no ways honor a calendar change and simply disappear on January 1, I'm going to embrace the optimism I need vs. the level I currently have to round out the year strong.



And in truth, I think we all know we have plenty of good days ahead! Days that don't involve regularly (or rather haphazardly) wearing the "teacher" hat coupled with being a working parent; days that don't involve mourning the loss of family members gone too soon from a cruel pandemic; and days that will no longer hang on "will they or won't they?" with the courts ... or the electoral college ... or Georgia's runoff ... or vaccines or masks ... or, or, or ... All of these tough "short-term" challenges will pass.

But we'll still have important, weighty things to work on. Things like recovering and rebuilding and transforming our communities, from basic needs to vital economic development efforts, to make them stronger and more resilient than ever before – all while centering the work around equity concerns. And with all of that on our "agenda" for the future, oh boy, do we have our work cut out for us!

So, to inspire us and teach us and activate us around all of this weighty and lofty and critical work, we've curated a summit that's designed to give us the adrenaline boost we all need to kick off 2021. We'll address the needs of the day with an emphasis on improving policies, processes, programs and perspectives into the future to ensure resiliency is combined with equitable opportunities to truly transform lives, organizations and communities going forward.

In addition to lining up two amazing keynote speakers (one of which we can officially announce in this newsletter today) and presenters for 15 breakout sessions led by your peers across the community economic development field – focused on individual, organizational and community resiliency, opportunity and transformation, we'll also convene critical conversations around race and equity concerns and offer opportunities to participate in deep dive discussions to explore these topics further. And since we couldn't squeeze this much amazingness into just one day, we'll host the event over two days next year: January 13-14, 2021! (See – just talking about the upcoming summit – has already boosted my energy level, which will clearly result in lots of exclamation points from here on out!)

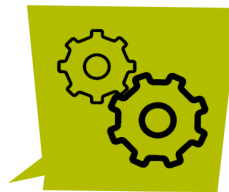
So, check out the lineup of speakers below and register today! NOTE: When you renew your membership for 2021, you'll receive one free ticket to the 2-day event. So, be sure to take advantage of that benefit first!

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



Jessica Love
Executive Director

This month's Piece of the PI: RESOURCES



To inspire us and teach us and activate us around all of this weighty and lofty and critical work, we've curated a summit that's designed to give us the adrenaline boost we all need to kick off 2021.

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

RESOURCES

Technical Assistance

We offer an array of services, and our staff consultants provide expert guidance for organizations and communities to build resilient, quality places. In addition to deploying our technical knowledge, 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 any rural nonprofit member 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 us](#).

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](#)

E NGAGEMENT

Prosperity Indiana's 2021 Summit

Renew your membership TODAY for a free ticket to our annual Summit on January 13-14, 2021! More than 300 community development professionals from across the state will connect, strategize, and participate in critical conversations centered on racial equity and inclusion and learn best practices from your peers.

We are pleased to announce Brian Dabson as one of the keynote speakers for our 2021 Summit! Brian is a Research Fellow at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Government and consultant to the Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group. He researches and writes on rural and regional economic and community development, including regional collaboration and rural-urban connections.



Brian Dabson

Summit Sessions

Prosperity Indiana received a multitude of competitive and thoughtful proposals this year for Summit. The final session lineup includes:

- Check Yourself - What's Your Bias Temperature?

- Community Wealth Building
- Expanding the Community Loan Center Across Indiana
- Fair Housing Update
- How 2020 Changed The Way We Looked at Racial Disparities & Injustice
- How to Build and Sustain Community
- Investing in Middle Neighborhoods: A Way to Build Social/Racial Equity through Housing
- Journey to Become Anti-Racist
- Leveraging ALICE Data to Inform 2Gen Strategy and Innovation
- Local Government Appointments – Are They Really Representative?
- Moving from Education to Action: Supporting Individual and Organizational Transformation with Implicit Bias Training
- Redefining “Risk”: Dismantling Systemic Racism in the Underwriting and Due diligence Process
- Small with Large Impact: How Morning Light Builds With Diversity
- The Structures of Inclusion and Exclusion (Part One)
- The Structures of Marginalization and Inclusion (Part Two)
- Transforming Misconception to Understanding
- Understanding the Landscape of Work Across the Social Determinants of Health in Marion County
- Up Close: Business Retention and Expansion: Fostering Resiliency
- What is Racism?

[For more information on the sessions, click here.](#)



Annual Member Meeting Reminder

Prosperity Indiana's Annual Member Meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. ET, January 15, 2021. [Register here to attend.](#)



Prosperity Indiana's Policy Priorities

The COVID-19 public health and economic crisis has created new urgency for [Prosperity Indiana's 2021 policy agenda](#). Our members want Indiana's state and federal policymakers to focus on ensuring that basic needs are met for Hoosiers and the organizations that serve them. In order to respond, recover, and rebuild from COVID-19, we must first have equitable policies that take care of the most vulnerable Hoosiers and their communities. [View PI's Policy Priorities for 2021 here.](#)

Policy & Pizza Recap

Thank you to our members and state legislators who participated in our Policy & Pizza series. We had great discussions about PI's policy priorities for 2021. Thank you also to our sponsor, Zillow.

Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition (HHNC)

The HHNC released its new [2021 Policy Priorities](#) for housing stability in Indiana. Over the coming weeks, the HHNC will follow up with additional ways YOUR voice is needed to prevent evictions and homelessness in Indiana!

Thank you to all who attended the Evicted in Indiana webinar series. We hope that you found the series informative and appreciate all of our guest speakers who provided their expertise and insight on the webinars. We had over 100 attendees on each webinar and nearly 250 downloads of the reading and discussion guide, which is a testament to how powerful and urgent this issue of eviction is right now. If you were unable to attend the webinar(s) you may [find the recordings here](#). The webinar series was supported by a grant from the Indianapolis Foundation, an affiliate of the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

If you'd like to facilitate discussions about evictions in your community, use HHNC's reading guide based on Matthew Desmond's *Evicted*. [Download Prosperity Indiana's Evicted Reading Guide here](#). For additional questions, please contact Coalition Builder [Natalie James](#).

Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network

2020 has caused all of us to take a good look at every aspect of our lives from where we work, worship, and live to what we eat and who we spend our time with. Because this year has disrupted all of those things, the A&O Network has selected a path for the 2021 Indiana General Assembly session that we believe will be essential to Hoosiers gaining stability not just in response to COVID-19 but long term. Protecting the financial wellbeing of Hoosiers is critical to the continued growth of Indiana and it will take a contribution from each one of us in order to move towards a more equitable future. [View the A&O's Policy Priorities for 2021 here](#).

Statehouse Updates

- View the [committee assignments for the House of Representatives](#).
- See the results of state election races [here](#).
- Who's new at the Statehouse? See a [factsheet](#) produced by our friends at the Citizens Action Coalition.
- What to expect during the 2021 session? Details are still being decided, but [read what happened](#) on Organization Day on November 17.
- We will keep members informed as more details emerge, including new state and federal committee chairs and members.

COVID-19 Housing Resources

- The [State's Rental Assistance Portal](#) is no longer accepting applications, but renters, outside of Marion County, should still sign up for the waiting list on their website.
- To ensure equal access and transparency, IHCD is now providing bi-weekly updates regarding the rental assistance funding. This includes information on the state's COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program as well as the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) rental assistance program. [View IHCD's latest report](#).

- The [IndyRent Assistance Portal](#), for Marion County residents, is not accepting applications, but renters are encouraged to sign up for their waiting list.
 - The [Indy Mortgage Relief Program](#) stopped accepting applications on November 30, 2020.
 - 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.
 - Applications are being accepted for the [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.
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P ROGRAMS

Opportunity Starts at Home

In 2019, Prosperity Indiana was endorsed as the official Indiana state partner for the national [Opportunity Starts at Home](#) campaign. The goal of the Opportunity Starts at Home - Indiana Coalition (OSAH-IN) is to achieve ambitious increases in affordable housing - through existing and new infrastructure - and direct support to organizations supporting those who are unstably housed or homeless.

Convenings are currently being hosted to provide information and receive input from potential partners. To find out more information or become involved, contact [Natalie James, Coalition Builder](#).



OPPORTUNITY
STARTS AT HOME

Upcoming Events

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

December 17: Applying an Equitable Framework for Housing Policy Response During COVID-19 and Beyond - Urban Institute

January 7-8: High Cost Lending Summit - Consumer Federation of America

January 12: Assessing Community Impact Webinar - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance

January 13-14: 2021 Prosperity Indiana Summit

January 15: Annual Member Meeting - Prosperity Indiana

January 19: Assessing the Work - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance

January 19: Indiana Legislative Preview - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance

January 28: Nonprofit Capacity Building Series - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance

Job Opportunities

Director of Development and Gift Planning - Central Indiana Community Foundation

Online Communications Associate - Central Indiana Community Foundation

Strategic Communications Associate - Hamilton County Community Foundation

ICYMI: Media Spots

Hoosiers struggle as Congress debates COVID-19 relief

Groups seek more transparency, public participation at Statehouse

Up to quarter million Hoosiers at risk of eviction



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

Tools & Resources

OCRA COVID-19 Response Grants

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) has announced a third round of the COVID-19 Response Program.

Eligible applicants include non-entitlement and entitlement local units of government who can apply for up to \$250,000. Eligible activities include mental health services, childcare services, public WiFi locations, food pantry or bank services, subsistence payment programs, or grants or loans to businesses to retain low-to-moderate (LMI) jobs.

Proposals are due by 11:59 p.m. ET January 29, 2021. [View more information here.](#)

[View OCRA's calendar and deadlines here.](#)

New Data from BEA

The Bureau of Economic Analysis' (BEA) new data shows economic shocks, even before COVID-19. Of Indiana's 92 counties, 58 had real GDP growth below the US median of 2.2%, with Indiana's 2019 statewide average of 1.6% down from 2.8% in 2018. This data supports research that claimed the economic ground was softening before COVID, especially outside the handful of counties with outsize growth.

[View the data here.](#)

Negative Impacts of Evictions

Data released from the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) shows that evictions increase the cases of COVID-19 and related deaths. The researchers compared COVID-19 mortality rates during and after eviction moratoriums. According to the authors, "Given the mounting evidence linking evictions to COVID-19 transmission and mortality, the authors assert that eviction moratoriums are key to stopping evictions and reducing COVID-19 incidence."

[View the reports here.](#)

ESG-CV Funds from IHCD

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD) is accepting applications from organizations for rapid rehousing, shelter operations, and/or street outreach efforts due to an increased need for services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the pandemic among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance to support program additional homeless assistance. The program also supports additional homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

The next round of applications is due at 5 p.m. ET December 31, 2020. [View the application here.](#)

Rural Opportunity Zone

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), in partnership with the Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD), has announced a second round of the Rural Opportunity Zone Initiative. This program provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to rural areas with Opportunity Zones.

An informational webinar will be hosted on January 12, 2021. Applications are due February 2, 2021.

[View more information here.](#)

PPP Loan Management and Forgiveness

An article from Nonprofit Quarterly (NPQ) highlights an interview with Fiscal Management Associates (FMA), Senior Consultants Gina McDonald and Tony Bowen on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan.

NPQ said that they "know many of [their] readers are in the process of seeking forgiveness for their PPP loans and making decisions about how to represent the funds in their year-end financial statements." Topics covered include the application process, appropriate forms, program updates, and forgiveness.

[View the article 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, 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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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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