



# Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

## July 2020

### Executive Director's Letter

I saw a photo in Senator Todd Young's recent newsletter, where he was meeting with constituents in a district, and everyone was sitting at least three seats away from each other around a large conference room table. And I immediately thought: "Weird. Why are they sitting so far apart? That looks so awkward." And then, it hit me. Ha. As my five-year-old would say, it's "because of corona".

In fact, the five-year-old has been assigning blame/responsibility, whatever you want to call it, to the virus more and more since his return to preK a few weeks ago. And although I laughed the first time he said it, when it initially seemed like a ludicrous reason, my husband looked at me and said, "Well, it kind of is ..." Meaning, in a roundabout way, my son was not wrong. Because the truth is, everything, in some way these days, is "because of corona".



Because of corona, people have thirsted for more knowledge on how to respond to the pandemic, whether at home, work, church, etc., or how to activate to protect others from loss of housing or food or utilities, etc. And at Prosperity, we've answered that call. We've also all generally figured out how to stay connected virtually as best as possible. Because we've all realized we must stay connected, in many ways now – more than ever. We just need the tools and opportunities to accomplish that.

So, as we're shifting our norms, returning to our own office in a staggered fashion this week, we're also devising plans to increase engagement with members over the next six months. Largely, this will be done virtually.

We're currently making plans for a regional member meeting/policy & pizza combo deal for later this month/August (be on the lookout for dates coming soon). We're using our COVID-19 survey as a jumping off point for inviting discussion around policy and philanthropic responses to the relief and recovery efforts related to the pandemic.

Also, since we've shifted our webinar series back to a more routine set of capacity building events, we're looking at how we might still offer free member-only content and conversations, possibly through our Facebook group. As we do member calls in the coming weeks, we look forward to hearing your recommendations in this regard.

Plus, the biggest piece: we're planning our 2021 conference. And as much as we tried to envision an in-person event, with the size that our conference has gotten to in recent years, we just can't risk it "because of corona". So, we've been taking notes from virtual conferences already held this year, and will be following best practices from those that are coming up from our national partners in October, and commit to deliver a successful event, where we'll seek to authentically engage ... from a distance.

In doing so, we are also grateful for the racial equity conversation that continues to hold a significant place in our nation's storyline these days. With that in mind, we are looking for people of color and others with a unique perspective and desire to **help us plan the 2021 summit**, centered with racial equity, to join our planning committee. In recent years, we've planned all of the content internally as a team. But we're excited to engage diverse perspectives around developing the content for next year. Please [complete this form](#) to recommend yourself or someone else for our equity-focused summit planning committee, and

recommend yourself or someone else for our equity-focused summit planning committee, and we'll be in touch.

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



Jessica Love  
Executive Director

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



**We've all realized we must stay connected, in many ways now - more than ever. We just need the tools and opportunities to accomplish that, including increasing engagement with members.**

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

## **R**ESOURCES

### **Technical Assistance & Virtual Real Estate Development Academy**

#### **Did You Know?**

For more than 30 years, Prosperity Indiana has been a leader in providing capacity development to its member organizations to strengthen community economic development (CED) and empower practitioners across the state. 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 leaders for organizational and community

communicating impact, and mobilizing community prayers for organizational and community change. Our team at Prosperity Indiana offers services at discounted rates to member organizations.

Additionally, Prosperity Indiana, in partnership with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB), offers technical assistance to rural nonprofits engaged in creating community and economic development opportunities and affordable housing for low-income communities in rural areas. Assistance includes program design and implementation, organizational strategic planning, resources development and financing planning, and affordable housing development. Service might be free for organizations depending on the size and scope of the proposed project.

For more information, please contact [Carey W Craig](#), Capacity Development Manager.

### **Mark Your Calendar - Virtual Real Estate Development Academy**

Prosperity Indiana will host a virtual "Real Estate Development Academy" in October. We plan to release more information, including registration details, later this month.

The Academy's purpose is to teach the fundamentals of developing affordable housing in Indiana using HOME as a tool for community and neighborhood revitalization. The goal is to equip individuals to learn the current trends and standards, as well as the fundamentals of this complex industry, with a focus on: (1) the development process; (2) market identification; and, (3) site selection and control.

The Academy is great for community, economic, and housing developers, especially those who are new to the industry or those who wish to refresh their knowledge and skills.

### **July Webinars**

Monday, July 20, 2020 (10.00 AM - 11.00 AM ET)  
Introduction to Economic Development ([Register here](#))

Monday, July 27, 2020 (10.00 AM - 11.00 AM ET)  
Race Equity in Community Economic Development ([Register here](#))

### **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 re-opening and recovery policies with peers, [please share it here](#).

[Access the COVID-19 Hub](#)



## **Summit Planning Committee & Member Meetings**

### **Summit Planning Committee**

We are planning our 2021 Summit around racial and equity and need your help. If you are a person of color or have a unique interest in informing our agenda, will you consider serving on our summit planning committee? This committee will meet (for up to 3 hours across two meetings) between July 22 to Aug 14 to brainstorm our summit theme, session tracks, and request for proposals. If interested, or would like to recommend a colleague, please [complete this online form](#) by July 22, and a Prosperity Indiana team member will be in touch.

### **Regional Meetings**

We look forward to seeing you at this year's virtual Regional Meetings! Traditionally held in the spring, this year we surveyed members on COVID-19 and will share and discuss results as a group in the fall. Policy priorities will also be reviewed with input from local government representatives. These meetings are free to all members. Invitations will be sent soon.

## 1:1 Meetings

If you haven't already scheduled a 1:1 meeting with our Engagement Director, Rita O'Donohue, [please email her](#). Over the next few weeks, she is personally meeting with each member organization to discuss needs and how Prosperity Indiana can help the most.

In case you missed it, member packets are now available electronically. Access [the member packet](#) here.

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## State & City Rental Assistance

On Monday, July 13, emergency rental assistance programs for the State of Indiana and the City of Indianapolis went live. The Indiana COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program, which covers residents in every county (except Marion County), and the IndyRent Rental Assistance Program, which covers residents in Marion County including the City of Indianapolis.

While the two programs have some differences in eligibility, application processes, and program design, both are intended to provide rental assistance to residents who have seen income loss due to the pandemic. Even if renters are unsure if they qualify, the most important thing is to encourage anyone affected by the COVID-19 crisis to complete the application process as soon as possible.

IndyRent Rental Assistance Program:

- [Program application and information](#)
- [Eligibility information](#)
- [Program information PDF flyer](#)

Indiana COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program:

- [Program application and information](#)

View our recent blog posts to see how Prosperity Indiana has been advocating for our members:

- [Affordable Housing is Out of Reach in Indiana for Low-Wage Workers](#)
  - [Indiana must be prepared for multiple waves of COVID-19 evictions starting August 1 through 2021 and beyond](#)
  - [Housing Coalition Applauds Creation of Indiana COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program and Extension of Eviction Pause Through July](#)
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## Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network

Prosperity Indiana is working with our Indiana A&O Network partners to think ahead for policies that will allow Hoosiers to 'rebuild better' assets and opportunities following the pandemic.

The Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network creates learning opportunities for community leaders, advocates on policies that affect low-to-moderate income families, and builds capacity for organizations aimed to increase financial stability. It is co-led by Prosperity Indiana and the [Indiana Institute for Working Families \(IIWF\)](#), which is a program of the Indiana Community Action Association skilled in research, policy analysis, and advocacy.

Indiana Community Action Association skilled in research, policy analysis, and advocacy. Part of the A&O Network's advocacy goals include protecting consumers from predatory lending. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) recently gutted a proposed protection against predatory lending, leaving Hoosier families exposed to the harms of payday lending. [Read more from IIWF here.](#)

[Click here to join the A&O Network.](#)



INDIANA ASSETS & OPPORTUNITY NETWORK

## *Upcoming Events*

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

[July 22: Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Recovery to Resilience: Community Level \(Virtual\)](#)

[August 12: Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Recovery to Resilience: Organizational Level \(Virtual\)](#)

[August 13-14: Indiana Housing Conference \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 2: Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Recovery to Resilience: Funding Trust through Philanthropy \(Virtual\)](#)

[September 10: Love Thy Neighborhood Awards Gala \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[September 23: Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Recovery to Resilience: Self-Leadership \(Virtual\)](#)

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

[October 27-29: NACEDA Summit 2020 \(Virtual\)](#)

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## *Job Opportunities*

[Coalition Builder - Prosperity Indiana](#)

The Coalition Builder is the lead staff person for several of Prosperity Indiana's issue-based coalitions, which have the common purpose of advancing policies that help meet basic needs, preserve and expand affordable housing, and connect individuals and families to education, employment, and economic opportunity for all, especially including Indiana's most vulnerable and historically marginalized people and communities.

[Senior Program Officer – Family Income and Wealth Building - Local Initiatives Support Corp \(LISC Indianapolis\)](#)

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

[Operations Manager - National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

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## *ICYMI: Media Spots*

[Eviction moratorium ending soon in Indiana](#)

[Holcomb to extend moratorium on rental evictions through July](#)

[State rent assistance announced for tenants affected by COVID-19](#)

[Gov. Holcomb, state officials provide COVID-19 update](#)

[Advocates Say Indiana Rental Assistance Program Is Good Start, Falls Short Of Need](#)

[Hoosier Action group pushes for change in housing, healthcare, law enforcement](#)

['It is imperative': Indiana housing advocates urge help before evictions](#)

[resume](#)

[Housing instability could upend state's economy](#)

[Coronavirus: Indiana Launches Rent Program, Meatpacking Union Calls For Increased Pay](#)

[State rent assistance announced for tenants affected by COVID-19](#)

[Can We Prevent A Housing Crisis?](#)

[Renters will still have to cover back pay despite eviction moratorium extension](#)



Connect with and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn!

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## Tools & Resources

## Indiana Rental Assistance Portal

The [Rental Assistance Portal](#) is designed to help Indiana renters living outside of Marion County whose income has been affected by COVID-19 avoid eviction by connecting them with programs that can help them cover monthly rent payments or past due rent. Applications are currently open and space is limited.

Individuals that are unable to complete the application online should call 317-800-6000. This phone number is available Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Eastern.

Individuals living in Marion County, including Indianapolis, must apply to [Marion County's program here](#).

Please call 2-1-1 and ask to connect with a navigator if you need immediate assistance.

## Tenant Help Desk Hotline

[Indiana Legal Services, Inc.](#) is providing free legal information for Marion County tenants every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the month of July. If you have questions about your tenant rights and responsibilities and landlord-tenant issues, call ILS at 317-973-1673.

**FREE LEGAL INFORMATION**  
FOR  
**MARION COUNTY TENANTS**

INDIANA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.  
**TENANT HELP DESK HOTLINE**

**317-973-1673**

EVERY THURSDAY IN JULY FROM  
11:00AM - 1:00PM

**TROUBLE WITH YOUR LANDLORD?**

CALL THE ILS TENANT HELP DESK HOTLINE DURING HOURS OF OPERATION  
TO SPEAK WITH AN ATTORNEY ABOUT YOUR LANDLORD-TENANT ISSUE AND  
GET **FREE LEGAL INFORMATION**

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS.

Indiana Legal Services, Inc.  
1000 N. ALBANY ST., SUITE 100  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202  
WWW.INDIANALEGALSERVICES.ORG

## Young Cosponsors Bill to Address Housing Affordability, Create Jobs, and Encourage Economic Development

U.S. Senator Todd Young has cosponsored [legislation \(S. 4073\) to revitalize housing](#) in distressed neighborhoods in Indiana and nationwide.

The Neighborhood Homes Investment Act (NHIA) will create a federal tax credit to cover the “appraisal gap” that prevents single-family housing development in many low-income neighborhoods.

The NHIA could lead to the revitalization of 500,000 homes and create \$100 billion in development revenue over the next 10 years. NHIA will require that homes constructed or revitalized under the program must be sold to homeowners making less than 140 percent of the area median income.



## Eviction Lab Releases Data Tool to Track Evictions

The Eviction Lab at Princeton University recently launched the [Eviction Tracking System \(ETS\)](#), which tracks the number of eviction filings in 11 U.S. cities. The ETS provides weekly updates of eviction filing counts and percent changes from the last week and last four weeks. Detailed reports are available for each city. These reports provide information on local eviction moratoriums, comparisons of eviction filings relative to pre-COVID averages, eviction filings by geography, and eviction filings by demographic.

Preliminary data show that eviction moratoriums have been effective. Cities with eviction moratoriums experienced far fewer eviction filings during months when the moratorium was in place compared to pre-COVID averages.

To request your city or state to be added or to coordinate access to data, [contact Eviction Lab](#).

## SBA Releases Updates to Clarify PPP Loan Forgiveness

With questions still lingering about the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Flexibility Act, the Small Business Administration (SBA) [recently released revisions that clarify guidelines](#) for loan forgiveness, payroll requirements, exemptions and other basic aspects of the program.

Nonprofit organizations also should be aware that \$129 billion of funds still remain available, although the deadline for the program was June 30. Legislators are expected to determine whether to extend the PPP application deadline as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, but some lenders have closed their portals.

The updates for the PPP Flexibility Act include:

- Extended period for loan forgiveness
- A more flexible payroll requirement
- Safe Harbor provisions for loan forgiveness
- Process for loan forgiveness

## Indiana Nonprofits and COVID-19: Impact on Services, Finances and Staffing

The effects of COVID-19 have been felt far and wide across the globe, but a new report finds that more than half of Indiana's nonprofit organizations have cut or reduced programs since the pandemic hit the state in March, with revenues also drastically affected.

The report by Kirsten Grønbjerg, Elizabeth McAvoy, and Kathryn Habecker, examines the effects of the crisis on the state's nonprofit sector. The report documents profound impacts. 60 percent of respondents have curtailed or suspended programs and 70 percent operate other ongoing programs with limited or reduced capacity. Almost as many (69 percent) have moved programs to online or phone platforms, although they also report widespread technology needs by their clients or for their own operations.

[Read the report here.](#)

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## How to Stay Healthy



## Resources

[Be Well Indiana](#)

[Indiana State Department of Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[HUD COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Prevention Steps for Close Contacts](#)

[Interim Shelter Guidance](#)

[Homeless without Shelter Guidance](#)

## 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).

## Back on Track Indiana

Most of the state is currently in stage 4.5 of the five stage plan. Find more information on openings, restrictions, and guidelines at [Back on Track Indiana](#).

View [Executive Order 20-26](#) here.

View the [Press Release](#) here.

## Prosperity Indiana's Response

Prosperity Indiana staff will be returning to the office on July 15. Staff will be rotating days that they are present in the office. 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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### Connect with us

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(317) 222-1221

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