

Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

March 2020

Executive Director's Letter

Tired of hearing about COVID-19? Yep. Can't get enough info on it either? We're with you. It's the theme running through every media story of late. Basically, if it doesn't have to do with coronavirus, it doesn't get a headline. Because it's all the media is thinking about, so it's all we're thinking about.

Similarly, in recent months, all you've really heard from us fits under one of two themes: Engagement or Advocacy.

But between our annual summit, the whirlwind that was the 2020 Indiana General Assembly session (which we're still not done fighting), the unsettling (at best) administrative rule changes being proposed at the federal level, and the fact that it's been membership renewal season here, those two items have been (almost) all we've (I've) been able to think about. That does not mean it's all we've been doing. It's just the main storyline we've been telling.



But we have been working on building out Resources, i.e. capacity building tools and opportunities, as well. The thing now is: COVID-19. So, we'll be retooling to figure out what we can do remotely instead of delaying all trainings until the yet unknown end of this social distancing and quarantines. We're also looking to adapt to your needs when it comes to tools and resources. As we're rethinking emergency preparedness, we want to know how you're doing, what you're doing, and what you need. Would you please take a [quick survey](#) to tell us how we can best be a resource to you at this time?

Also, your peers can be a great resource as well. We now have FB groups where you can connect with other members. Choose one or 000000 multiple groups to join by affinity area and then introduce yourself to get the conversation started.

[Affordable Housing & Real Estate Development](#)

[Human Services](#)

[Community Health](#)

[Housing Counseling](#)

[Microenterprise](#)

[Individual Development Accounts](#)

[Management & Leadership](#)

[Landbanking](#)

Since we don't know how soon we'll see each other in person next, we hope to see you virtually VERY soon!

Thank you, as always, for being a Piece of the PI network.



Jessica

This month's Piece of the PI: RESOURCES



We provide the expertise, training, and resources you need to strengthen your community.

We are working on building out and adapting Resources, i.e. capacity building tools and opportunities until the yet unknown end of social distancing and quarantines.

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

R ESOURCES

Summit Resources

Approximately 300 of our members and partners attended the 2020 Prosperity Indiana Summit to network and learn about new opportunities in affordable housing, asset building, and inclusive economic development. Session presentations and handouts are now available to download!

COVID-19 Resources

We are in the early stages of developing a COVID-19 resource house in our member portal. We aim to make uploads/downloads easy for members. For now, if you're willing to share COVID-19 or other emergency response policies with peers [please email us](#).

View the resources [HERE](#).

E NGAGEMENT

Member Packets & Regional Meetings

Membership Campaign & Summit

Many thanks to those that renewed their membership early and used their free ticket to attend the Summit! With nearly 200 member organizations and over 300 registrants for Summit this year, we are excited to see our network growing! For those who have not yet renewed, we will be sending one more round of email reminders in the next few days.

Member Packets

With the goal of moving forward despite COVID-19 restrictions, we will provide members with an electronic member packet this year. Member mailings will resume when we return to the office, once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Regional Member Meetings

COVID-19 restrictions hit during our planning phase for Regional Member and Policy & Pizza meetings, which are typically held in late spring, summer, and early fall. We are now thinking through innovative ways to engage our members. Please [let us know](#) if you have any suggestions for topics of **UNKNOWN WORD** related to our member gatherings.

Adopt a Member

If you know of an organization that would benefit from being in our network, and you would like to cover their first year's dues to get them started, please contact [Rita O'Donohue](#).



2020 Session Recap

What had already been a challenging session of the General Assembly for Prosperity Indiana members has now been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic that is spreading across Indiana. With this new public health crisis, the failure of the Assembly to take up several positive bills and its passing of SEA 148 now threatens millions of Hoosier renters. Prosperity Indiana is currently partnering with a group of statewide organizations to ask Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb to veto SEA 148, citing the bill's "dangerous, unvetted language that would worsen Indiana's affordable housing and eviction crisis." The timing of this bill could not be worse because it could have a disastrous effect on the health and safety of renters at a time when the COVID-19 coronavirus has already caused a public health crisis of its own. See our [press release and letter to the Governor](#) and please [sign on here](#) if you haven't already. We are also monitoring additional state and federal policy fallout from the current crisis and will keep members current as updates unfold. Please [reach out](#) if you have COVID-19 related advocacy concerns so we can assist you.



Opportunity Starts At Home

-Access [OSAH's letter](#) to Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy, urging them to include emergency assistance funding to help prevent housing instability and homelessness as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

-A [new podcast episode](#) discusses the intersections between the growing coronavirus pandemic, housing instability, and homelessness with Dr. Barbara DiPietro, senior director of policy at National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

-OSAH also released a podcast, "Latino Rental Housing Affordability," featuring Agatha So, senior policy analyst at UnidosUS. UnidosUS, formerly the National Council of La Raza, is the nation's largest Latino nonprofit advocacy and services organization and is a Steering Committee member of the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign. [Listen here](#).

-"Why Organizations Should Invest in Home Repairs to Improve Health" an article featured by Shelterforce highlights the "clear and persuasive links between poor housing conditions and negative outcomes for residents' physical and mental well-being." [Read more](#).



Please note, this will be the last monthly newsletter for members who have not renewed for 2020.

Upcoming Events

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

[March 25-27: NLIHC Housing Policy Forum 2020](#) **CANCELLED**

[March 30-April 13: IHCD Resident Focus Group Meetings \(Indiana\)](#) **CANCELLED**

[April 1: Workshop - Succession Planning Isn't Just for Retirement Anymore \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[April 9: FHCCI's 8th Annual Fair Housing Conference \(Indianapolis\)](#) **POSTPONED**

[April 14-17: Preserving Historic Places Conference \(South Bend\)](#) **POSTPONED**

[April 16: Love Thy Neighborhood Awards Gala \(Indianapolis\)](#) **POSTPONED**

[April 27-29: NCRC's Just Economy Conference 2020 \(Washington D.C.\)](#)

[May 27-29: Corporation for Supportive Housing Summit 2020 \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

[June 2-4: Philanthropy Leads - IPA Conference & 30th Anniversary Celebration \(Indianapolis\)](#)

[June 2-6: 57th International Making Cities Livable Conference \(Carmel\)](#)

Job Opportunities



Prosperity Indiana Coalition Builder Position Opening

We are broadening our recruitment process, and we need your help.

As we seek to fill new and vacant positions, we realize that it's important to post job openings in more places to improve visibility amongst all qualified candidates. Will you please share this position description with your contacts? Also, if you have suggestions of publications that maintain job boards or other places to post open positions that would help us connect with a diverse pool of candidates, especially those with community development experience, please [pass them along](#).

[View the position and responsibilities here.](#)



Multiple Opportunities

Central Indiana Community Foundation is currently seeking a [Communications Manager](#), [Donor Engagement Officer](#), and [Not-for-Profit Sustainability Officer](#). Positions will remain open until they are filled.

Public Comment



14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

CRA Modernization

Be an advocate for your community! While the federal government does not appear to be budging on comment periods in light of COVID-19, the comment period for the Community Reinvestment Act was previously extended to April 8, 2020. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



IHCDA's 2020 Action Plan

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority will be accepting comments until April 10, 2020, on Indiana's 2020 Annual Action Plan, including allocation policies, for the Community Development Block Grant, Owner Occupied Rehab, HOME Rental, HOME Homebuyer, and National Housing Trust programs. A draft of each plan will be posted [HERE](#) and comments regarding Real Estate Development policies can be forwarded to Samantha Spergel, Director of Real Estate Strategic Initiatives and Engagement at, sspergel@ihcda.in.gov.



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News from the Field



COVID-19

Resources

[Indiana State Department of Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Prevention Steps for Close Contacts](#)

[Interim Shelter Guidance](#)

[Homeless without Shelter Guidance](#)

General Information

Currently an approved vaccine or drug is not available for COVID-19. Community-based interventions, such as school dismissals, event cancellations, social distancing, and creating employee plans to work remotely, can help slow the spread of COVID-19. Individuals can practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes.

Important precautions to highlight include:

- 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, decreasing social contact in the workplace, and avoiding large work-related gatherings.

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

Until April 6, 2020, our team will primarily be working remotely. During this time, we will be available to support you through our virtual operations plan. In-person meetings will be rescheduled or changed to a call by individual team members. If you have not heard from us about a meeting you have scheduled during this time, please reach out.

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.

In the meantime, let's make the most of our alternate ways of connecting! For additional peer and our team's support, meetup virtually with fellow members in our Facebook Groups. These groups provide a space for you to share best practices and ask questions about each others' approaches to the work, as well as to share accommodations, needs, and pertinent resources specific to your affinity topic area during this adjustment period for COVID-19. Please join/connect to FB Groups for the following:

[Affordable Housing & Real Estate Development](#)

[Human Services](#)

[Community Health](#)

[Housing Counseling](#)

[Microenterprise](#)

[Individual Development Accounts](#)

[Management & Leadership](#)

[Landbanking](#)

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 respond to our COVID-19 response [survey](#) and watch for future details about the portal.

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.

NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition

The NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) launched on March 10 a [new resource](#) to guide the federal response to the coronavirus pandemic related to housing for those most in need. The DHRC is comprised of more than 850 national, state, and local organizations working to ensure complete and equitable housing recovery for people with the lowest incomes, who are often hit hardest by disasters and have the fewest resources to recover. It is crucial that any comprehensive response to the pandemic include resources to help ensure the safety and well-being of low-income households and people experiencing homelessness, who are at particularly high risk during the coronavirus pandemic.

NLIHC launched a [webpage detailing national and local responses](#) to the coronavirus, as well as federal resources available to help communities prepare and respond to outbreaks.

\$16.5 Million Central Indiana COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund Announced

The [Central Indiana COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund](#) will be launched with a \$15 million donation from Lilly Endowment Inc., and \$500,000 contributions from each of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, Eli Lilly and Company Foundation and United Way of Central Indiana. Central Indiana Community Foundation and Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust will also participate. United Way will seek donations from other organizations and individuals in the weeks ahead. Grants will be distributed to human service organizations in Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Marion and Morgan counties best positioned to meet the emerging needs resulting from this crisis.

Indiana Small Business Development Center to Assist Small Businesses

The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) is providing loans up to \$2 million for businesses, including non-profits, hit hard economically by the coronavirus. The SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans support small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing as well as working capital. The loans can be used to pay debts, including payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the outbreak's impact. Contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or via [e-mail](#).

Indiana must receive a disaster declaration to receive disaster funds! Completing [this form](#) will help expedite the declaration and allow businesses in Indiana to receive disaster funds from the SBA.

United States®
Census
2020



Invitations to participate in the [2020 U.S. Census](#) are currently being sent to households. The census provides key information for federal funding for economic development, public health, education, housing, and research.

A note from Robert O. Zdenek to Prosperity Indiana members:

“As a former President of the National Congress for Community Economic Development (NCCED), which helped launch Prosperity Indiana, formerly Indiana Association of Community Economic Development, I fully agree with and support the belief that the 2020 Census may be one of the most consequential in over 100 years... This Census is critical to ensure that underserved Americans have access to resources they need to live dignified and independent lives.”

View the [fact sheet](#) and sign the [Partnership Agreement](#) to help get the word out.

Tools & Resources



Development on Tap Webinar -The Promise of Opportunity Zones and the Challenges of Implementation

Join this virtual panel discussion and learn the latest on developments and tools for Opportunity Zones on March 25. Presented by Rachel Railey and Kenan Fikri with Economic Innovation Group, Vincent Ash with Develop Indy, and Jon Berg with IndyEast Promise Zone. EIG is the D.C.-based public policy group that incubated the idea behind opportunity zones.

Thursday, March 25, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

[Join the webinar here.](#)

Meeting Number: 646 310 443

Password: 2MEswtKUG57



AARP Community Challenge is Now Open

AARP invites your organization to submit applications for quick-action projects that can help your community become more livable for people of all ages.

Eligible applications for the AARP Community Challenge are being accepted for small grants to improve housing, transportation, public space, technology, civic engagement, and more.

Applications are due by April 1, 2020, 11:59 p.m. ET, and all projects must be completed by November 9, 2020.



Main Street Grants Celebrate Women

Preserving Women's Legacy Grants will support historic preservation work, public art and other projects that commemorate Indiana women's history and promote visits to Main Street communities.

Main Street communities may view details and apply for the grants through May 15 at the [Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial website](#).



Supporting SNAP Participants

[Fresh EBT](#), a free app available in all counties in Indiana, enables SNAP participants to check their balance, budget benefits, connect with money saving opportunities, and apply for jobs. This app was created by Propel, a mission-driven software company creating tools for SNAP households to improve financial health.

Recognizing Excellence

Award Nominations

The 19th Annual Mayor's Celebration of Diversity recognizes employers who have gone above and beyond to demonstrate inclusivity as they support and engage their employees and communities.

Nominations are due by noon on March 13, 2020. [View the nomination details here.](#)

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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.](#) to:

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



Connect with us

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