



# Piece of the PI: Newsletter

A monthly publication for the members of Prosperity Indiana

## March 2021

### Executive Director's Letter

Resources can mean a lot of things. Often people think Resources = MONEY! And it absolutely DOES mean that. Thus the “resource development” lingo we’re all so accustomed to hearing in doing this work. But when we refer to resources as part of PI’s mission, we’re speaking more broadly.

Yes, we’re always on the lookout for funding to notify our members about or pass-thru to our members. But mostly, we’re here to help augment your and your organization’s capacity to serve the people and places in your footprint. Over the years, we’ve done this through various trainings, group and direct technical assistance opportunities, and consulting projects that support or guide your organization’s ability to get things done.



People also think of (Human) Resources as being critical to organizational capacity building. And we 100% believe that expanding our own team, as we’ve done this month, will take us great strides towards building PI’s capacity to, in turn, build our members’ capacity further. To start, Marie Beason, our new Capacity Building Director who began at PI at the beginning of March, will host our first non-advocacy webinar of 2021 this coming Monday, March 22.

The theme is “[How to Have "The Talk" about COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)”, which will be led by the most energetic and entertaining explainer of pandemics and vaccines that I’ve ever heard, Chad Priest, CEO of American Red Cross Indiana Region. Chad really knows how to have this high-stakes conversation in a low-key way, and we appreciate that he’s willing to share his vast knowledge with our network.

And thankfully, we also recently received notice that we secured the MONEY kind of resources to underwrite our capacity building work as well. We’ll be announcing that grant award and more about our capacity building initiative soon. But know, we’ll keep building out trainings for this year in the meantime.

We’re also now taking on new clients through consulting contracts that we had temporarily put on pause. So, if you’re looking for a professional to develop an organizational strategic plan or neighborhood plan or policies and procedures or perform research or support tourism development efforts or conduct an organizational capacity map and plan for building capacity or an advocacy plan or act as a subcontractor on a contract you’re leading OR [fill in the blank], between Marie and the rest of our team, we can do it, or we’ll refer you to someone else who can. So, please check with us first. We’re happy to scope a competitive proposal, as well as help with grant applications to support your proposals as appropriate – and maybe even come with funding to pay for our work, depending on the community.

So, please, consider us a go-to resource to provide training and consulting services going forward; and check out [Marie's bio](#) for more info about her varied experience in the field. We really look forward to serving our members in this way. So, thanks for your consideration.

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



Jessica Love  
Executive Director

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



**We're here to help augment your and your organization's capacity to serve the people and places in your footprint.**

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

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## ESOURCES

### Free COVID-19 Vaccinations Webinar

The upcoming months will be critical for Indiana communities as they move past the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In moving forward, community-based organizations have a unique role to play to ensure Hoosiers have factual information and the space to make their own decisions regarding vaccination.

Join Prosperity Indiana and Chad Priest, CEO of the American Red Cross Indiana Region, for an enlightening conversation so that you can foster productive vaccination discussions within your community. [Register here](#). For additional questions, [contact Capacity Building Director Marie Beason](#).

#### 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](#)

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## Member Packets & Welcome

**ATTENTION ALL LEADER MEMBERS!** Look for an email from Rita in the next few days about your Adopt-A-Member organization and extra benefits! It is time to connect and grow!

**WELCOME** new members and **WELCOME BACK** returning members! We will be sending member packets and member directories electronically again this year at the conclusion of our Spring Member Campaign.

**THANK YOU** to our Engagement Committee members for helping us stay connected and continuing to grow!

- Keith Broadnax, Cinnaire (Chair)
- Steven Meyer, Renew Indy
- Alyssa Prince, Hoosier Uplands
- Reverend Adrian Brooks, Memorial CDC
- Steve Camilleri, Center for the Homeless
- Amandula Anderson, IFF
- Fred Hash, Consultant
- Brian Carman, Indiana Bond Bank



## SEA 148, Rental Assistance, & Tenant Resources

### New Data and Stories Reveal Dangers of SEA 148

Just as Indiana is set to roll out the red carpet for the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, newly-available data and stories reveal that increased evictions following the General Assembly's enactment of SEA 148 could lead to a spike in COVID-19 spread that would endanger both Hoosiers and the tens of thousands of visitors to the state. The week after the new law became effective on February 17, Indiana saw a spike of 1,288 new eviction filings, the largest one-week number since the CDC moratorium took effect in September 2020. New data from EvictionLab shows that evictions are concentrated around the very sites where the NCAA Tournament will be played. [View the entire press release here.](#)

### Share A Housing Impact Experience

The Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition [needs stories](#) from Hoosier renters, housing providers, and community organizations who are negatively impacted by the issues in SEA 148, including:

- Expedited evictions
- Landlord retaliation, including when tenants have requested repairs
- Squalid living conditions (i.e. mold, lack of heat or water, poor maintenance)
- Unreachable, unaccountable, or out-of-state absent landlords
- How SEA 148 makes the jobs of good-actor landlords and community services harder
- Photos and video whenever possible

### Eviction Moratorium

The [CDC Eviction Moratorium is in effect](#) until March 31, 2021. Residents who previously submitted a declaration to their landlord should not be asked to resubmit and should have continued protection until March 31. [View the FAQ from the CDC here.](#) [View the NLIHC's moratorium updates here.](#)

## COVID-19 Housing Resources

- The Indiana Legal Services Tenant Help Desk hotline is available every Thursday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for the remainder of 2021. [For more information, view the flyer.](#)
- The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) has opened applications for the [Emergency Rental Assistance](#) (ERA) program. Anyone that needs rental assistance, who is not currently receiving it from another source, should consider applying to this new program if they meet the eligibility requirements, [found here.](#)
- Several Indiana municipalities will have local COVID-19 emergency rental assistance programs. Renter households in the following areas will apply through the local program instead of IHCDA: [Elkhart](#), [Hamilton](#), [Lake](#), [Marion County/Indianapolis](#), [City of Fort Wayne](#), and [St. Joseph County.](#)
- To ensure equal access and transparency, IHCDA is now providing bi-weekly updates regarding 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 IHCDA'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. They do not currently have a waitlist.
- 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.
- The [Indy Affordable Modification Program \(IndyAMP\)](#) allows homeowners negatively affected by COVID-19 to refinance mortgage debt at a below-market interest rate for up to 30 years. IndyAMP allows owners to remain in their homes, become current with their mortgages, and lower their monthly payments.
- Applications are being accepted for [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. The last day to apply is May 14, 2021.



## Opportunity Investment Consortium

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) will soon select up to six communities to receive technical assistance from Purdue University related to Opportunity Zones (OZ). Rural Opportunity Zone Initiative (ROZI) Phase Two applications are due tomorrow, Thursday, March 18. Once communities complete this technical assistance process, the leadership will walk away with resources and a complete prospectus to attract OZ investment. [Learn more here.](#)

The purpose of the Opportunity Investment Consortium is to encourage the transformation of Opportunity Zone (OZ) neighborhoods into vibrant places profoundly attractive and sustainable for both residents and businesses. This is accomplished through a web-based portal that connects investment opportunities with investor member sponsors. [View more information and share your OZ prospectus here.](#)



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## *Upcoming Events*

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

[Weekly on Friday: Inside the Statehouse 2021 - Indiana Institute for Working Families](#)

[January 16 - March 26 - Third House Meetings - American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana](#)

[January 28 - April 29: Nonprofit Capacity Building Series - Indiana Philanthropy Alliance](#)

[March 24 - April 1: 2021 Community Investment Workshops - Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis](#)

[March 30 - 31: Housing Policy Forum 2021 - National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

[April 8: Fair Housing Conference 2021 - Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana](#)

## *Job Opportunities*

[Assistant Director of Finance - Ball State University](#)

[Professional Standards and Compliance Specialist - MIBOR REALTOR® Association](#)

[CDBG Coordinator - Noblesville Housing Authority](#)

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## *ICYMI: Media Spots*

[Indiana Supreme Court again asked to protect stimulus checks](#)

[The Convo featuring Andrew Bradley](#)

[Join the Indiana General Assembly Mid-Session Update on Monday](#)

[Advocates, landlords have differing views of housing bill veto override](#)

[Nearly \\$15 million in rental assistance coming for St. Joseph, Elkhart County residents](#)

[Indiana to offer new COVID-19 rental assistance program soon](#)

['We have a housing crisis': Panels dissect housing in Indianapolis](#)

[House votes to override governor's veto of landlord-tenant bill, allowing it to become law](#)

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## Prosperity Indiana Grows Team to Expand Capacity Building Resources, Programs

Prosperity Indiana is excited to announce that Marie Beason has joined the PI team as Capacity Building Director. In this role, she will utilize her skills in training and community development to strengthen pathways to prosperity for Indiana families, communities, and the organizations that serve them. Another exciting update is that Teresa Reimschisel is moving to a full-time role as Operations & Special Projects Manager.

Prosperity Indiana is excited to welcome Marie and Teresa as full-time “Pieces of the PI.”

[Read the entire press release here.](#)



*Marie Beason*



*Teresa Reimschisel*

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## Tools & Resources

## **Economic Impact Payment Tracker**

Round three of stimulus payments began being distributed through direct-deposit to some individuals as soon as March 12.

Additional batches of payments will be sent in the coming weeks by direct deposit and through the mail as a check or debit card.

[To check the status of a 2021 Economic Impact Payment \(EIP\), click here.](#) Please note that IRS phone assistants do not have additional information beyond what is provided in the EIP portal.

## **Resident and Stakeholder Survey**

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and Office of Community and Rural Affairs are requesting responses for the [2021 Stakeholder Survey](#).

Every year the State of Indiana receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for community development activities, to develop affordable housing, and to help residents with housing costs. These funds are distributed in Indiana's small cities and rural areas.

[OCRA](#) and [IHCDA](#) are conducting this survey to collect updated information on the primary housing and community development needs of underserved residents and Indiana's small cities and rural areas. This survey will help the state determine how to spend federal funding during 2021.

Responses are due on March 31, 2021. [Access the survey here.](#)

## **OCRA's 2021 Action Plan**

The Office of Community and Rural Affairs has [released its 2021 Action Plan](#). Members of the public are invited to review the 2021 Action Plan and provide comment from March 15 to May 1, 2021. [Click here for additional information](#) on the plan or email [Eric Ogle](#).

Two public hearings will be held on March 30 to discuss the draft 2021 Action Plan. [Click here for more information and details on how to attend the hearings.](#)



## Nonprofit Employment Stabilizes Regional Economies

Nonprofits Project released a [series of reports analyzing the nonprofit sector in Indiana](#). Nonprofits Project is a collaboration between the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at IUPUI and the Indiana University O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

According to an [article from Inside Indiana Business](#), the series revealed that organizations often offer competitive wages and stable employment against their for-profit counterparts, which further supports regional economies.

[View the entire report series here.](#)

## Evaluating Performance During a Pandemic

An article from Harvard Business Review outlines the effects of the pandemic on performance reviews. According to the authors, "Managers face particularly tough decisions right now. They must figure out how to reward those employees who are 'stepping up' during these crises without inadvertently penalizing those who have needed to 'lean out.'"

Learn more on how COVID-19 and the crisis are increasing bias and how to mitigate it in performance reviews.

[View the entire article here.](#)

## Inclusionary Housing

[Shelterforce released an article](#) outlining inclusionary housing and how "programs tie the creation of affordable, below-market-rate units to the construction of new market-rate development."

The authors discuss how inclusionary housing can also be a tool to combat exclusionary zoning and promote racial equity in housing and that "Exclusionary zoning, racially restrictive covenants, and redlining all deprived households of color of equal access to neighborhoods of their choice and of wealth-building through traditional homeownership."

[View the article here.](#)

Note: Inclusionary zoning by local government in Indiana is currently preempted by [Indiana Code 32-31-1-20](#).

## Indianapolis Economic Outlook and Market Overview

On March 17, 2021, Huntington National Bank hosted a presentation titled "Indianapolis Economic Outlook and Market Overview" to forecast COVID-19 recovery. Topics covered included recovery, policy, economy, and more. [Access the presentation recording here.](#) [View the presentation slides here.](#)

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## 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, 2020, 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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## 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!

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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.

A blue rectangular box with a white dotted line and a small white leaf icon at the top right. The text "WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters.

WE WANT  
TO HEAR  
FROM YOU!

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