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PRESS RELEASE

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Over 1,000,000 Hoosiers Now Live in Poverty

Indianapolis, IN—According to the United States Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), 48 million Americans now live in poverty—representing 15.9 percent of the population—an additional 2.2 million Americans than in the previous year. Poverty rates for children under 18 also increased from 21.6 percent in 2010 to 22.5 percent in 2011. Only 17 states saw statistically significant increases in overall poverty rates, including Indiana.

In Indiana, the number of Hoosiers living in poverty has reached 16.0 percent compared to 15.3 percent in 2010—a record high since the ACS began. There are now 1,011,017 Hoosiers living in poverty—an increase of nearly 50,000. Consistent with the Institute’s research on the lack of a strong social safety net in Indiana (including a forthcoming report on failures of policy design), single mothers continue to see significant increases in poverty—up from 44.1 percent in 2010 to 44.9 percent in 2011. The same is true for child poverty in Indiana, increasing from 21.7 percent in 2010 to 23.0 percent in 2011.

Demographically speaking, poverty continues to contrast sharply by ethnicity—13.2 percent of whites are in poverty, compared to 34.2 percent for both blacks and Hispanics in Indiana. In addition, poverty in urban areas stands at 18.1 percent (845,410 of 4,403,182 urban Hoosiers), while rural poverty stands at 9.4 percent (198,692 of 2,113,740 Hoosiers). Because inequality has been highlighted as being pervasive in the U.S., it’s important to highlight that while Indiana is measured as being low on the inequality rating, this should not necessarily be seen as a positive. Because Indiana lacks a sizable population of high-income earners, the variance required to establish inequality does not exist.

In the U.S., Median Household Income decreased from \$51,144 in 2010 to \$50,502 in 2011. In Indiana, there was a slight uptick (less than \$500 and not statistically significant). Similar trends of low-wage work appear at both the national and statewide level.

Finally, largely as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)—especially the provision allowing 18-26 year olds to stay on their parents insurance—the number of Americans without health insurance declined. In 2010, 15.5 percent of the population was uninsured, that number now stands at 15.1 percent—representing an increase of more than 830,000 insured Americans. In Indiana, the percent of uninsured Hoosiers fell from 14.8 percent in 2010 to 14.1 percent in 2011—in increase of more than 17,000 newly insured. Nearly 14,000 of these newly insured in Indiana were under the age of eighteen, with the majority of the remainder representing 18-64 year olds.

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ABOUT THE INDIANA INSTITUTE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

The Indiana Institute for Working Families (Institute) is a program of the Indiana Community Action Association, Inc. (IN-CAA). The Institute was founded in 2004 and conducts research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. The Institute is the only statewide program in Indiana that combines research and policy analysis on federal and state legislation, public policies, and programs impacting low-income working families with education and outreach. The Institute achieves its work by focusing its activities in the following areas: Public Policy: Research and Analysis; Education and Outreach; and National, Statewide, and Community Partnerships. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: www.incap.org/iwff.html

ABOUT THE INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION (IN-CAA)

The Indiana Community Action Association, Inc. (IN-CAA) is a statewide not-for-profit membership corporation, incorporated in the State of Indiana in 1970. IN-CAA's members are comprised of Indiana's 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which serve all of Indiana's 92 counties. IN-CAA envisions a state with limited or no poverty, where its residents have decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions, and where resources are available to help low-income individuals attain self-sufficiency. IN-CAA serves as an advocate and facilitator of policy, planning and programs to create solutions and share responsibility as leaders in the War Against Poverty. IN-CAA's mission is to help the state's CAAs address the conditions of poverty through: training and technical assistance; developing models for service delivery; and providing resources to help increase network capacity. For more information about IN-CAA, please visit: www.incap.org