

PRESS RELEASE

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The Indiana Institute for Working Families Receives Funding from The Indianapolis Foundation

Indianapolis, IN— The Indiana Institute for Working Families announced today that it has been awarded a grant from The Indianapolis Foundation, an affiliate of CICF, to support the Institute's ongoing research and analysis on public policies that support economic self-sufficiency for Indiana's working families.

As family-sustaining jobs have largely been lost to lower-wage positions over the past 15 years, poverty in Indiana has skyrocketed by 59 percent, and continues to rise even as unemployment declines. Additionally, the average Hoosier household's income declined by more than \$8,000. Central Indiana is particularly impacted, accounting for about 24 percent of the state's low-income Hoosiers.

This new reality means that hard work alone is no longer a guaranteed ticket to economic self-sufficiency. Yet, even under these circumstances, Indiana's long tradition of designing public programs that discourage participation, rather than promote access to the middle class, continues. These policy choices have, in part, contributed to the continued increase in Indiana's impoverished and low-income population.

To combat these challenges, and as part of their mission to address pressing community needs and contribute to the long-term health and vibrancy of Indianapolis, The Indianapolis Foundation has invested \$54,500 in the Institute to support its work on behalf of low-income working Hoosiers. "The Indiana Institute for Working Families has been a great partner in providing critical research and advocacy needed to strengthen policies that help all Hoosiers reach self-sufficiency," said Brian Payne, President and CEO, Central Indiana Community Foundation and The Indianapolis Foundation.

"With the generous support of The Indianapolis Foundation, the Institute will be able to report on more programs crucial to a family's well-being and, for the first time, model the economic benefits - for individual households and the state's economy - of public policy choices and investments," said Senior Policy Analyst, Derek Thomas.

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ABOUT THE INDIANAPOLIS FOUNDATION

Established in 1916, The Indianapolis Foundation was one of the first community trusts in America. The Foundation is a public charity and an affiliate of Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF), a collaborative effort between the community foundations serving Marion and Hamilton Counties. As Indiana's oldest and largest community foundation, The Indianapolis Foundation was created to ensure that the quality of life in Marion County continuously improves; to help where the needs are greatest and the benefits to the community are most extensive; and to provide donors a vehicle for using their gifts in the best possible way now, and in the future as conditions in the community change. The Indianapolis Foundation has awarded more than \$200 million in grants to Marion County-based not-for-profits serving a broad range of people and addressing a wide variety of community needs since its inception. To learn more about the Foundation, please visit: <https://www.cicf.org/about-cicf/funds-and-foundations/the-indianapolis-foundation/>

ABOUT THE INDIANA INSTITUTE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

The Indiana Institute for Working Families – a program of the Indiana Community Action Association (INCAA) – 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. The Institute achieves its work through advocacy and education, and through national, statewide, and community partnerships. The Institute was founded in 2004. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: www.incap.org/iiwf.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 22 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 on 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