Helping people help themselves.
POVERTY IN INDIANA
1,011,017 Hoosiers Live in Poverty

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), in 2011, over 1,011,017 Hoosiers lived in poverty. We believe all are vulnerable to poverty. The economic and social costs are enormous and the consequences have significant effects on everyone, and we believe there are cost-effective solutions to poverty.

Through efforts that create jobs that pay living wages with benefits, affordable housing, access to health care, and education we can reduce poverty. Fighting poverty is not just altruistic; it is a key economic development strategy.

According to 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. Only 17 states saw statistically significant increases in poverty rates, including Indiana.

In Indiana, the number of Hoosiers living in poverty has reached 16.0 percent—a record high since the ACS began. There are now 1,011,017 Hoosiers living in poverty—last year’s poverty rate was 15.3 percent—an increase of nearly 50,000 Hoosiers. Single mothers continue to see significant increases in poverty—up from 44.1 percent in 2010 to 44.9 percent in 2011.

How Does Community Action Help?

The Indiana Community Action (the Network) is comprised of 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which serve all 92 counties in Indiana. Each Community Action Agency periodically analyzes community needs to identify strategies that will work best in attacking poverty. Additionally, the Network conducts a full-scale community needs assessment every three years, to identify the needs of local residents and their communities. Each agency is unique because its programs reflect the needs of their local communities which are prioritized by their local Board of Directors. These agencies are unique in their ability to deploy diverse program activities and services.
99% lived in households with incomes less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines ($34,575 for a family of four in 2012)

27% were minorities

36% had NO health insurance

59% were female

In 2012

758,158 low-income Hoosiers turned to Community Action for help.

Of those residents served...

20% were 55 years old and over

68% had household income at below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines ($23,050 for a family of four in 2012)

39% were children (0-17 years)

2012 data is the most current Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) data available.
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) channels Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) federal funds through the Network to support energy conservation work activities for low-income Hoosier households at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines ($34,575 for a family of four in 2012). The program provides energy efficiency services that are tailored to each house and are designed for maximum cost savings, which can include air sealing, insulation, domestic hot water and heating system work. As a result the program identifies and corrects many health and life threatening situations with heating and hot water systems. The Weatherization Assistance Program provides weatherization services free of charge to over 100,000 low-income households nationally every year.

Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

IHCDA is the state agency that passes Energy Assistance Program (EAP) federal funds through to the Indiana Community Action Network (Network). These funds provide financial assistance to low-income households for their energy bills during the winter heating and summer cooling seasons. In 2012, families with annual incomes at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines ($34,575 for a family of four in 2012) were eligible for benefits to help offset heating or cooling bills. In 2012, the EAP and the Network provided energy assistance to 171,891 households. Utility companies also provide funding to the Network to provide financial assistance with energy bills to low-income consumers, however, guidelines for these assistance programs vary by utility company.
Andrea came to our agency in the winter of 2010; she was interested in the Family Development program at REAL Services because she wanted to go back to college. She was single and was the primary caregiver for her grandmother. During that time, her grades began to slip and she went on academic probation. She needed to increase her hours at work so her grades went down even more causing her to become ineligible for financial aid.

Andrea began working with a Family Development Consultant, she said she had been working as a teacher’s assistant in a special education classroom within our local public schools but that her goal was to become a teacher. Andrea developed a goal plan that included getting her student loans in good standing and appealing the financial aid decision at the local college. Within 6 months of meeting regularly with her Family Development Consultant, Andrea became a college student again.

Since that time, Andrea has maintained renting her own home and participated in the Energy Assistance Program at REAL Services. She complained of the large amount of money she paid in rent annually and would like to become a homeowner. In early spring 2012, Andrea was made aware of the Individual Development Account (IDA) Program at REAL Services. She was interested and immediately followed through on opening an IDA savings account. She immediately saved the required $400. At this time, she has $2400 saved towards purchasing her own home.

A STRONG YOUNG WOMAN

Andrea continues to attend college pursuing a degree in teaching; she plans to do student teaching this spring and will graduate in December. Andrea is now financially self-sufficient in the Family Development Program but continues to attend meetings with the IDA All Stars group. This group meets regularly to learn financial management and be supportive to each other while they work towards reaching their savings goals. Andrea stays connected through her IDA All Stars meetings and ongoing support from her IDA case manager.

Family Development Programs

Many Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and non-profit agencies have adopted a Family Development model in working with low-income families and individuals. When people face economic insecurity, Family Development Programs fosters the development of strategies to help them reclaim their self-sufficiency. Family Development Specialists open doors to independence by offering participants practical and proven solutions.

Through home and office visits, assessments and goal setting, participants are able to earn their GEDs, get job training, are better able to provide for their families and contribute to their local economy.

Family Development Certification Programs collaborates with these agencies and provides training to teach Family Development Specialists how to coach families to set and reach their goals of healthy self-reliance.
Congratulations to the Head Start Division and a huge thank you to Sarah Berger and Amber White for their participation in a recent study through Indiana University. They were observed in their classroom as part of a research project, “Assessing Indiana’s Early Education Classrooms”, by Dr. Michael Conn-Powers which looked at CLASS scores, as well as time spent in what types of activities and curriculum areas, in 81 early childhood classrooms across the State. CLASS stands for Classroom Assessment Scoring System and is an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality through interactions of teachers and students in the class-room. The results of their classroom placed them with CLASS scores at or above the state average for emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support.

For curriculum focus, their classroom gave the researchers observations in the area of aesthetics, language/literacy, science, and social studies at percent-ages high above the state averages. Participating in these types of studies has been a true benefit to the program and it is one of the reasons for our outstanding reputation. Special thanks to Sarah, Amber, and the Fountain/Warren Head Start Center staff for making time to accommodate these researchers. It is great to know that the practices and methods that we strive for truly work. Head Start clearly leads the way!

Head Start Programs

Eighteen CAAs in Indiana administer Head Start Programs for families at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines ($23,030 for a family of four in 2012).

The program is designed to foster healthy development in low-income children and their families. Programs deliver a range of services that are responsive and appropriate to each child’s and each family’s heritage and experience. Program services encompass all aspects of a child’s development and learning. Head Start health screenings evaluate the child’s overall health status and regular check-ups and good practices in oral health, hygiene, nutrition, personal care and safety are supported by the program. There is also a strong emphasis on good mental health for the family and the child. Wellness is recognized as a significant contributor to each child’s ability to thrive and develop. In 2012, the Head Start Program served over 15,614 children in Indiana.
HOPEFUL COLLEGE STUDENTS

I wanted to write you and thank you from the bottom of my heart! My husband and I graduated hopeful college students ready to take on the world. I had a degree in communications and Dustin had a degree in athletic training. While most of our friends started buying houses, and cars, and going further into debt, my husband and I decided to try and live life a little differently. Our goal was to work hard and pay off our debt from school and cars, and in the meantime, pursue more education. In order to help lower costs we moved into my parent's basement in La Porte. I worked three jobs and my husband worked construction to pay for classes. What we thought would take only a year, turned into a four year adventure when we found out we were expecting! We were overjoyed, but also very overwhelmed. With the love and support of our family we humbly turned to the Women, Infants, & Children Program (WIC) program for help. This was not an easy thing to do when you work so hard to try and live differently from others, but I was relieved and comforted when I was met with smiling faces and open arms. I met people who cared about not only my son, but me as well. They asked me questions to get to know me and my family and provided a place where I could feel encouraged and loved. They made the WIC office a place I looked forward to visiting. Their views on raising children seemed very similar to my own. They helped provide support for the breastfeeding mom and even had a shower where I could meet other moms with similar views. One of my favorite surprises was being able to go to the farmers market with my son and pick out vegetables and fruit I knew were fresh.

We did not take for granted this wonderful gift that was so graciously given to us and hope that someday we will be able to pay it forward. It is not just the program itself, but the people who cheered us on along the way that kept us going. Just recently we found out that my husband was accepted into the Physician’s Assistant Program at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut! (He may even be taking a class at Yale I) Our success was not only by our own efforts, but by the grace of God, and the help of a village!

Women, Infants, & Children Program (WIC)

WIC is a special supplemental food program that provides nutrition support, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other agencies. To apply for WIC one must be pregnant, breastfeeding, or have a child under the age of 5. The applicant must also have a nutritional risk and meet income guidelines. Current guidelines are set at 185% of poverty. WIC applicants can visit the clinic in their community to enroll in the program. At the appointment an applicant will receive nutrition support and learn about other services they can use to help their family. Currently there are nine Community Action Agencies that offer the WIC program.

Photo of Head Start Programs
Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana
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1. Area Five Agency on Aging & Community Services, Inc. (AREA FIVE)
   1801 Smith St.
   Logansport, IN 46947
   Phone: 574-722-4451 or 1-800-654-9421
   Web Site: www.areafive.com

2. Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Action Programs (AREA IV)
   660 N. 36th St.
   Lafayette, IN 47903
   Phone: 765-447-7683 or 1-800-382-7556
   Web Site: www.areaivagency.org

3. Central Indiana Community Action Program (CICAP) JobSource
   222 E. 10th St., Suite C
   Anderson, IN 46016
   Phone: 765-641-6501
   Web Site: www.js-cicap.org

4. Community Action of East Central Indiana (CAECI)
   1845 W. Main St.
   Richmond, IN 47375
   Phone: 765-966-7733
   Web Site: www.caeci.org

5. Community Action of Greater Indianapolis (CAGI)
   3266 N. Meridian St.
   Indianapolis, IN 46208
   Phone: 317-396-1800
   Web Site: www.cagi-in.org

6. Community Action of Northeast Indiana (CANI)
   227 E. Washington Blvd.
   Fort Wayne, IN 46802
   Phone: 260-423-3546 or 1-800-589-2264
   Web Site: www.canihelp.org

7. Community Action of Southern Indiana, Inc. (CASI)
   1613 E. 8th St.
   Jeffersonville, IN 47130
   Phone: 812-288-6451
   Web Site: www.casi1.org

8. Community Action Program of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, Inc. (CAPE)
   401 S.E. 6th St. Suite 001
   Evansville, IN 47713
   Phone: 812-425-4241
   Web Site: www.capeevansville.org

9. Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (CAPWI)
   418 Washington St.
   Covington, IN 47932
   Phone: 765-795-4881
   Web Site: www.capwi.org

10. Community and Family Services, Inc. (CFSI)
    521 S. Wayne St.
    Portland, IN 47371
    Phone: 260-726-9318

11. Dubois-Pike-Warrick Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc. (TRI-CAP)
    607 Third Ave.
    Jasper, IN 47547
    Phone: 812-482-2233
    Web Site: www.tri-cap.net

12. Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation (HOOSIER)
    500 W. Main St.
    Mitchell, IN 47446
    Phone: 812-849-4447 or 1-800-333-2451
    Web Site: www.hoosieruplands.org

13. Human Services, Inc. (HSI)
    4353 East 600 North
    Columbus, IN 47201
    Phone: 812-372-8407
    Web Site: www.hsi-indiana.com

    615 S.R. 38 West
    New Castle, IN 47362
    Phone: 765-529-4403 or 317-462-1477
    Web Site: www.icapcaa.org

15. Lincoln Hills Development Corporation (LHDC)
    302 Main Street
    Tell City, IN 47586
    Phone: 812-547-3435
    Web Site: www.LHDC.org

    301 E. 8th Street, Suite 109
    Michigan City, IN 46360
    Phone: 219-872-0351 or 219-872-1201
    Web Site: www.nccomact.org

17. Northwest Indiana Community Action Corporation (NWICA)
    5240 Fountain Dr.
    Crown Point, IN 46307
    Phone: 219-794-1829 or 1-800-826-7871
    Web Site: www.nwi-ca.org

18. Ohio Valley Opportunities (OVO)
    421 Walnut St.
    Madison, IN 47250
    Phone: 812-265-5858
    Web Site: www.ovoinc.org

    524 N. 4th St.
    Vincennes, IN 47591
    Phone: 812-882-7927
    Web Site: www.pacecaa.org

20. Real Services (REAL)
    1151 S. Michigan St.
    South Bend, IN 46601
    Phone: 574-233-8201
    Web Site: www.realservices.org

21. South Central Community Action Program, Inc. (SCCAP)
    1500 W. 15th St.
    Bloomington, IN 47404
    Phone: 812-339-3447 or 1-800-850-7262
    Web Site: www.insccap.org

22. Southeastern Indiana Economic Opportunity Corporation (SIEOC)
    110 Importing St.
    Aurora, IN 47001
    Phone: 812-926-1585 or 1-888-292-5475
    Web Site: www.sieoc.org

23. Western Indiana Community Action Agency, Inc. (WICAA)
    705 S. 5th Street
    Terre Haute, IN 47807
    Phone: 812-232-1264
    Web Site: www.wicaa.org
Indiana Community Action Association
Program Areas

Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)
During the period January 1 to December 31, 2012, RCAP Technical Assistance Providers assisted 42 towns, Conservancy Districts, Regional Sewer Districts, Waters Authorities, and unincorporated areas facing water and wastewater challenges. RCAP assisted these entities with leveraging $6,100,971 in grants and low-interest loans to fund planning and construction of upgrades, renovations, and new treatment systems. Assistance was also provided in the form of training utility boards and managers in managerial, financial, and technical areas; completion of rate analyses and of required financial reports. From October 1 to December 31, under the USDA Solid Waste Management Grant, RCAP assisted seven Solid Waste Management Districts and began planning three training series for District operators and managers covering various solid waste related issues.

Indiana Training Institute (ITI)
Since 1997, IN-CAA has been providing compliance and capacity building training to the Community Action Network through the ITI. The ITI receives CSBG and EAP funding through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority for this purpose. During 2012, 22 days of training and professional development were provided to Network staff with CSBG funding. Over the 22 days 530 individuals participated in the workshops. INCAA/ITI also partnered with IHCDA, Department of Savings and Financial Capacity to expand a two day training into four days in which 75 trainees attended the two additional days. The EAP funding that IN-CAA received supported 25 days of training that directly impacted 288 trainees and resulted in the certification of 72 new Family Development Outreach Workers and/or Specialists.

Indiana Institute for Working Families (IIWF)
The IIWF, a program of IN-CAA, conducts research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. The IIWF was founded in 2004 and is the only statewide program in Indiana that combines research and policy analysis regarding federal and state policies and programs with education and outreach. The IIWF has become a reliable source for information on low-income workers in Indiana, furthering the debate that sometimes work alone is not enough to support a family.

INCAA Weatherization Training Center (WTC)
2012 brought changes to the INCAA Weatherization Training Center (WTC). The Department of Energy (DOE) along with an industry led collaboration developed four Job Task Analyses (JTAs) which define the knowledge, skills and abilities of workers in the home energy industry. Recognizing the importance of DOE’s efforts, the INCAA WTC transitioned their training to the National platform in 2012. We now train in the following areas: Energy Auditor, Retrofit Installer (Shell and Mechanical), Crew Leader and Quality Control Inspector (also known as Final Inspector).

2012 brought about a year long process of seeking accreditation by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) based on the IREC ISPQ Standard 01022:2011. Being accredited by IREC would mean the INCAA WTC met a rigorous standard and would set our energy training programs apart from others. The IREC accreditation for Energy Auditor, Quality Control Inspector, Crew Leader and Retrofit Installer is expected in mid-July 2013. In addition, the INCAA WTC trainers are working on their applications for Affiliated Master Trainer based upon the IREC ISPQ Standard 01022:2011.

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