

Indiana Institute for Working Families Creating Policy Recommendations and Setting a Policy Agenda

In keeping with the vision of the Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA) to have 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, the goal of the Indiana Institute for Working Families (Institute), a program of IN-CAA, is to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. All policy and legislative recommendations will be based on the culmination of the Institute's analysis of research, data, and national best practice models.

As such, the Institute's Policy Agenda will be set through the following process:

1. Public Policy will be supported by national, state, and local research, data, information, and national best practice models.
2. Policy recommendations will be prioritized according to need, strength of data, and political viability, as determined by IN-CAA's Executive Director and lobbyist. Political viability will be determined through the tracking of legislative activity, recommendations from study committees, and community partnerships.
3. The Institute will identify policy issues of high importance of which it will serve as lead organization. As the lead, the Institute will offer testimony at the Indiana State House when necessary; readily share research and analysis with partner organizations, and send action alerts to partner organizations as necessary.
4. The Institute will identify policy issues of high importance of which it will jointly support in partnership with another community organization. As a partner, the Institute will provide data, research, and analysis, will testify at the Indianan State House if needed, and will send and/or respond to action alerts.
5. The Institute may choose to support or to oppose policy initiated by another party on an ad-hoc basis. The decision to support or oppose policy will be based on the policy's alignment with the mission and vision of both IN-CAA and the Institute and supporting evidence from national, state, and local research, data, information, and national best practice models. The Institute may choose to provide data, research, and analysis, and/or testify at the Indianan State House if needed, and send and/or respond to action alerts.
6. The Institute will solicit insight and expertise from the IN-CAA lobbyist and the Institute's Advisory Committee to formulate final policy recommendations.
7. The Institute's final policy agenda will be given to the Executive Director of IN-CAA for final approval.

Following the finalization of the Institute's Policy Agenda a strategy will be developed in order to advance the agency's vision and Institute's goal to make measurable progress on its legislative agenda. This will include one or more of the following:

- Partnerships with community groups
- Grassroots engagements (through action alerts and trainings)
- Meetings with caucus staff
- Testimony
- Briefs
- Meetings with legislators