The status of working families in Indiana

A summary of key findings in the 2018 report

Indiana must reclaim a place of leadership for both businesses and working families, so that Indiana is a ‘state that works’ for all Hoosiers.

Indiana’s jobs, employment and labor force are headed toward a low-wage future

7 in 10 Hoosier jobs in 2026 are projected to be low-income for a family of three.

Indiana’s wages, income and cost of living are out-of-sync

Median household income $4,544 since 2009. Now 2nd-to-last in the Midwest and tied with the South.

Since 2009, the average Hoosier working 40 hours a week has lost $16,099 in annual wages.

Child care for a toddler is more expensive in Indiana than in any other Midwest state.

Indiana’s jobs, employment and labor force are headed toward a low-wage future

Projections show an increasing rate of low-wage jobs, but employers demand higher-skilled workers

Last place

Indiana is 12th out of 12 Midwest states for the percentage of adults with a post-secondary degree.

Only 37.7% of Hoosier adults hold a post-secondary degree (2016).

Poverty and rates of low-income Hoosiers have grown. Safety net policies must rise to the challenge

Worst of all Midwest states for poverty wages and low-income working families

Third-worst of all Midwest states for poverty, child poverty and low-income residents

Inequality between the top 1% and the bottom 99% continues to grow

Effects of state tax changes since 2012

The top 1% saw a tax cut of $2,446.

The bottom 60% of middle class and working families saw an average tax hike of $36.

The state has awarded more than $8 billion to corporations in more than 9,935 economic development deals since 2000, but wages for the bottom half of Hoosiers have declined in that time.

Indiana must reclaim a place of leadership for both businesses and working families, so that Indiana is a ‘state that works’ for all Hoosiers.