

Required Zoom meeting dates at 7:00 pm 1/8, 1/22, 2/19, 3/18, 4/15, 4/29

Capstone Background

About Prosperity Indiana

The Indiana Association for Community Economic Development d/b/a [Prosperity Indiana](#) is a statewide membership organization for the individuals and organizations strengthening Hoosier communities. Since its founding in 1986, Prosperity Indiana has grown to approximately 200 members, currently representing 900 community economic development practitioners from public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Prosperity Indiana builds a better future for our communities by providing advocacy, leveraging resources, and engaging an empowered network of members to create inclusive opportunities that build assets and improve lives.

About the Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition

Prosperity Indiana also advocates for policy solutions to issues & need in the community economic development sector on behalf of its members. One way that Prosperity Indiana does that is by convening statewide advocacy coalitions, including the [Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition \(HHNC\)](#). HHNC is only three years old, but it has over 2,000 members on its listserv, and is led by a diverse Steering Committee of approximately 20 leader organizations in the housing advocacy and education space.

About the Project

Groups/Deliverables

Advocacy Strategies for Engaging a Captured Legislature

Like many states, Indiana's housing progress is often held back by industry interests with a strong hold on legislators, which leads to the neglect of the real needs of Hoosiers. Housing advocates in Indiana lack the means to buy favor and do not want to harm relationships with legislators, seeing as many work on a number of other important issues as well.

Your task: Provide an analysis of the political environment and practical recommendations that can be taken up by housing advocates to make progress on these issues. Strategies should include detailed angles from which to approach the issue, such as the economic impact of housing needs. Identify specific, potential partners (legislative and non-legislative) to support advocacy efforts.

Funding Strategies for a Small Nonprofit Team

Many nonprofits that engage in advocacy have to resort to using precious, unrestricted funds to bankroll any advocacy activity the organization wants to engage in. This is due to difficulty finding funders who want to fund public education and advocacy, as opposed to direct services or the physical development of affordable housing. Prosperity Indiana is fortunate to have 2 grants through the National Low Income Housing Coalition for the time being, but more is always needed.

Your task: Research grant opportunities for Prosperity Indiana to fund its statewide housing advocacy efforts and draft ready-made applications the organization can submit. Propose alternative ideas for how to fund advocacy work.

Housing Policy Landscape for Midwestern and Otherwise Similar States

Every state is experiencing an affordable housing crisis, and every state is experimenting with different solutions. Not every legislature, however, struggles under the weight of industry interests that are against the advancement of tenant protections and prioritizing the housing needs of low income residents. States also have a tendency to borrow the policy solutions of other, similar states and use them as examples for why to try out a new policy solution.

Your task: Report on the housing policy landscape in Indiana and identify states experiencing similar issues. Propose successful policies passed in similar states that may be viable in Indiana. Analyze the measurable impact of the successful policies of other states.

Indiana Housing Data Dashboard & Graphics

Data documenting the affordable housing crisis in Indiana can be found in a number of places, such as the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority Housing Dashboard, Eviction Lab, and annual reports from the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Having this information and more all in one place to be used in perpetuity would be a powerful tool when it comes to advocating for Hoosier housing needs.

Your task: Review available housing data resources and sources to determine the feasibility of constructing a comprehensive housing dashboard. Create the dashboard, or the framework for an annual report, as well as video tutorials for Prosperity Indiana staff to learn to maintain and continue to use the final tool.