

# Menu of Project Options

## Research

The Institute has collaborated with stakeholders engaged in different facets of financial well-being, including researching electricity affordability with Citizens Action Coalition and experiences of homelessness and affordable housing with Region 9 Planning Council. These research reports vary in methodology depending on the needs of our partner, availability of data, and chosen scope of project; however, all reports center Hoosier voices to highlight the human impact of policymaking.

## Community Needs Assessments

The Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute regularly works with community partners to understand their communities' needs and what policy or programmatic support is needed to ensure that members of their communities can thrive. Community Action Agencies have been our most frequent partners with this work, but we work with partners of aligned values regardless of affiliation.

## Civic Engagement Training

The Institute works in a non-partisan manner to ensure that Hoosiers across the state and the non-profits that serve them are equipped to engage with legislators and understand the policymaking process. To that end, we offer civic engagement programming for organizations and their constituents, including courses on "Thinking Like a Legislator" (including a hands-on simulation), "Education Versus Lobbying," "Storytelling for Change," "Legislative Basics 101," and more.

## Strategic Planning

As needs and barriers come into sharper focus, our team can bring stakeholders together in a fun and energizing strategic planning retreat to: celebrate accomplishments, reflect on data, set goals, and develop high-impact, high-feasibility strategies to meet those goals.

## Grant Searching and Writing

With grant-writers on our team that annually write successful proposals totaling over \$500,000 per year, the Institute is eager to support organizations with aligned values who lack the grant-writing infrastructure or capacity in this tumultuous time. The Institute can support finding grant options, writing narratives for grants, or developing a grant portfolio to draw from for future proposals.

## Communications and Messaging Strategy

The Institute has experience cultivating strong community voice within messaging, communications, and Know Your Rights program development strategies. The Institute is able to work with partners to develop media kits, social media graphics, Know Your Rights materials, and messaging guidelines, all grounded in our robust successes.

# Our Team

The following team members would take the lead in working with you to make your vision a reality.

**Erin Macey, PhD.** *Director*, Erin engages on all projects and is an experienced researcher and coalition builder. She has led or collaborated on a wide variety of research and technical assistance projects. Erin is creative and flexible in her approach to gathering solutions, and skilled at bringing others to the table to advance change.

**Ashley Phillips, MPH, CHES.** *Community Needs Analyst*. Ashley handles Community Needs Assessments and Strategic Planning. She is a public health practitioner with an interest in community health and development as well as the causes and consequences of adverse health outcomes and health disparities. She is skilled in program design, management, implementation, assessment, and evaluation.

**Lauren Murfree, MA, MPH, PhD.** *Policy Analyst*, Lauren works on research and strategic planning projects. With extensive experience in community organizing and a background in science communications, she is well-equipped for a range of challenges.

**Olivia Smith, MPA.** *Tax and Budget Analyst*, Olivia contributes to research projects and communications strategies, bringing her expertise from the Indiana state legislature to her research. She analyzes budgets and conducts fiscal analysis, offering insight into the financial workings of policies and related considerations.

**Zia Saylor, MSC.** *Researcher and Communications Coordinator*. Zia develops research, communications strategies, and grant proposals, utilizing her strong background in messaging and writing to capture the visions of those she works with on paper.

**Deborah Fisher, MSW.** *Research Associate*. Deborah supports the Institute's research efforts across multiple project areas, primarily by coordinating and conducting one-on-one interviews. She is a compassionate and eager listener who previously served as Family Interview Coordinator for Indiana's Maternal Mortality Review Committee and has served her community as a case manager.

## Key Personnel



**Erin Macey**  
DIRECTOR



**Ashley Phillips**  
COMMUNITY  
NEEDS ANALYST



**Olivia Smith**  
TAX AND BUDGET  
ANALYST



**Lauren Murfree**  
POLICY ANALYST



**Zia Saylor**  
RESEARCHER AND  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR



**Deborah Fisher**  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATE