

Menu of Services

Research

The Institute collaborates 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. Partnered research reports vary in methodology depending on the project scope and availability of data; 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 the needs of their communities and what policy or programmatic support is necessary 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 a range of partners of aligned values.

Civic Engagement Training

The Institute works in a non-partisan capacity 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, develop high-impact and high-feasibility strategies to meet those goals, and facilitate connection on a team.

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Community Organizing Trainings

The staff at the Institute works in a non-partisan capacity to ensure all Hoosiers have the tools and knowledge they need to make change in their communities. Part of these efforts is through the empowerment of communities to build collaborations to address locally based needs at various levels of influence through community organizing trainings. Our staff has over a decade of experience in community organizing in Indiana, and our team is skilled in helping guide groups through the process of creating and planning a community-grounded campaign, defining their campaign aim (“cutting the issue”) and building change towards their group’s North Star goal.

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

Our team would be delighted to work with you to make your vision a reality. Contact institute@incap.org to discuss your needs and receive a custom proposal.

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.

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. *Policy 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.

Check out our partnered projects: institute.incap.org/have-a-project-

Key Personnel



Erin Macey
DIRECTOR



Olivia Smith
POLICY ANALYST



Lauren Murfree
POLICY ANALYST



Zia Saylor
RESEARCHER AND
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR



Deborah Fisher
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATE

