

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

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Indiana Institute for Working Families Receives Working Poor Families Project Grant Award

Indianapolis, IN –The Indiana Institute for Working Families, a program of Indiana Community Action Association, has received a \$20,000 Working Poor Families Project (WFPF) grant. This grant, funded by Annie E. Casey Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Joyce Foundation, will support the Institute’s research and advocacy efforts on behalf of low-income working families in Indiana.

The Working Poor Families Project is a national initiative focused on state workforce development policies involving: 1) education and skills training for adults; 2) economic development; and 3) income and work supports. The WFPF supports state nonprofit groups to engage in a two-part, phased process that begins with an in-depth assessment of the economic conditions and state policies affecting working families and is followed by actions to strengthen those conditions and policies.

The Institute joins 22 other WFPF partners across the country who focus their work on improving the economic prospects of low-income working families. In each state the WFPF partners with one or more non-profit organizations to strengthen state policies to better prepare America’s working families for a more secure economic future.

This award comes at a critical time, as Indiana’s economy continues a slow recovery from the recession that began in December 2007.

“The Institute is thrilled to be selected as a member organization of the Working Poor Families Project,” says Lisa Travis, Program Manager for the Institute. “This award allows us to further invest in our research, policy and legislative initiatives for low-income families and also learn from peer organizations in other states.”

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Working Poor Families Project

The Working Poor Families Project is a national initiative focused on state workforce development policies. The WFPF supports state non-profit groups to engage in a two-part, phased process that begins with an in-depth assessment of the economic conditions and state policies affecting working families and is followed by actions to strengthen those conditions and policies.

As result WFPF partners develop a *State Policy Assessment Report* that points out where a state’s investments and policies stand in relation to other states and the nation. Most importantly, the report recommends actions for improving state policies and program operations. Following the release of the state report, WFPF groups engage in the *Strengthening State Policy Initiative* that involves educating

key stakeholders on the opportunities to improve state workforce development systems and policies. Each group develops a policy agenda then works to implement that agenda with other stakeholders such as community-based organizations, state and local nonprofit groups, associations of education providers, employers, and state agencies.

Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA)

The Indiana Community Action Association, Inc. (IN-CAA) is a statewide not-for-profit membership corporation, incorporated in the State of Indiana in 1970. IN-CAA's members (Network) are comprised of Indiana's 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which serve all of Indiana's 92 counties. IN-CAA envisions 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.

Indiana Institute for Working Families

The Indiana Institute for Working Families promotes data-driven policy that results in opportunities for Hoosier families to become self-sufficient. The Indiana Institute for Working Families, a program of the Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA), was founded in 2004. The Institute is the only statewide program in Indiana that combines research and policy analysis on federal and state legislation, public policies, and programs impacting low-income working families with education and outreach. The Institute achieves its work by focusing its activities in the following areas: public policy research and analysis; advocacy, education, and information; and national, statewide, and community partnerships.