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PRESS RELEASE

CONTACTS: Jessica Fraser, Senior Policy Analyst, 317-638-4232 or 260-438-3659
jfraser@incap.org

Lisa Travis, Program Manager, 317-638-4232 or 502-608-5347 ltravis@incap.org

Indiana Institute for Working Families releases the Second Generation of its Self-Sufficiency Calculator

Indianapolis, IN— The Indiana Institute for Working Families (Institute), a program of Indiana Community Action Association, announced today it has released its 2nd Generation Self-Sufficiency Calculator. This project would not have been possible without the generous support received from the Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate, and Lumina Foundation.

The online Self-Sufficiency Calculator is an innovative tool that allows an online user to calculate the amount of income their family needs to earn in order to meet their basic needs without public or private subsidies. The last Self-Sufficiency Calculator for Indiana was developed after the release of the *2009 Self-Sufficiency Standard for Indiana*. Phase two of this project allowed the Institute to expand the capabilities of the calculator. The new calculator has a pop-up Excel sheet where families can enter their budget information next to the Self-Sufficiency Standard budget information in order to set budget goals for their family. The calculator also now includes jobs in specific regions that pay self-sufficient wages, lists the education and training required to obtain those jobs, lists the institutions that offer education and training in the local community, and links to the Federal Student Financial Aid Application (FASFA). Ninety percent of the education and training opportunities listed are eligible to be paid for using Workforce Investment Act dollars or FASFA dollars, to help make education and training more affordable for Hoosier workers to increase their skills and educational attainment.

Many data sources were used to link self-sufficient wages to jobs and then to education and training programs, including the Hoosier Hot 50 jobs list created by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Data for each family type's self-sufficient wage comes from The Self-Sufficiency Standard report, published in 2009. The report contains an hourly, monthly, and annual self-sufficient wages for 70 family types in all of Indiana's 92 counties. Indiana is one of 37 states and the District of Columbia that has developed a Self-Sufficiency Standard.

“The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a valuable tool that is used in a variety of ways across the country, from counseling job seekers and students, to assessing public policies, and targeting resources,” said Lisa Travis, Program Manager of the Institute. “Making this expanded calculator and information available online will only enhance the opportunities for job seekers, working Hoosiers, and policymakers to learn about what wages are required for Hoosier families to reach self-sufficiency and what jobs pay those wages in Indiana.”

The Institute will host a webinar to explain the functions of the new calculator and how best to use it to make a self-sufficiency plan. The webinar will take place on August 29, 2011 at 10 AM (EST). To register for the webinar, please visit:
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/776523514>.

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Established in 1916, The Indianapolis Foundation was one of the first community trusts in America. The Foundation is a public charity and an affiliate of Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF), a collaborative effort between the community foundations serving Marion and Hamilton Counties. As Indiana's oldest and largest community foundation, The Indianapolis Foundation was created to ensure that the quality of life in Marion County continuously improves; to help where the needs are greatest and the benefits to the community are most extensive; and to provide donors a vehicle for using their gifts in the best possible way now, and in the future as conditions in the community change. Six publicly appointed trustees govern The Indianapolis Foundation and make final grant decisions. To learn more about the foundation, please visit: <http://www.cicf.org/the-indianapolis-foundation>.



Lumina Foundation, an Indianapolis-based private foundation, is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college—especially 21st century students: low-income students, students of color, first-generation students and adult learners. Lumina's goal is to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina pursues this goal in three ways: by identifying and supporting effective practice, through public policy advocacy, and by using our communications and convening power to build public will for change. For more information, please visit: www.luminafoundation.org.

Indiana Institute for Working Families

The Indiana Institute for Working Families (Institute) is a program of the Indiana Community Action Association, Inc. (IN-CAA). The Institute was founded in 2004 and 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 organized education and outreach. The goal of the Institute is to promote data-driven research and public policy that result in opportunities for Hoosier families to achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. The Institute fulfills its mission by focusing its work activities in the following areas: Public Policy; Research and Analysis; Education and Outreach; and National, Statewide, and Community Partnerships. To learn more, please visit: www.incap.org/iwvf.html.

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 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. IN-CAA serves as an advocate and facilitator of policy,

planning and programs to create solutions and share responsibility as leaders in the war against poverty. Therefore, it is IN-CAA's mission to help the state's Community Action Agencies address the conditions of poverty through: training and technical assistance; developing models for service delivery; and providing resources to help increase network capacity. For more information about IN-CAA, please visit IN-CAA's web site at: www.incap.org.