

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**STATUS OF WORKING FAMILIES IN INDIANA, 2012 REPORT:**

**MEASURING INDIANA'S ECONOMY BY THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF WORKING FAMILIES**

**Indianapolis, IN**— The *Status of Working Families in Indiana, 2012 Report* is an update to the *Status of Working Families in Indiana, 2011 Report*. The report analyzes the general state of Indiana's economy as it relates to working families by examining data on poverty, workforce, wages and post-secondary educational attainment. The analysis guides our research and subsequent policy recommendations that follow each chapter, and is a central function of the Institute's mission: *to research and promote public policy that provides Hoosier families the ability to achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency*. While the national economy has shown some signs of recovery, the fact remains that for working families, the impact of the Great Recession is still a lingering reality. Since the 2011 Report:

- Indiana was 1 of 17 states to see statistically significant increases in poverty rates from 2010 to 2011, now affecting more than one million Hoosiers, and only 5 states in the U.S. have seen larger percentage increases in low-income individuals since the recession began.
- Since the 2011 Report, poverty rates have increased for Hoosier children under 18 years of age and for children under 5 years of age, and 45.9 percent of Hoosier children are low-income – also an increase and a larger percentage share than neighbor states.
- Unemployment in Indiana has remained above the national average for 11 straight months; for African American and 16-19 year olds, the rate increased substantially from 2011 to 2012.
- Indiana's jobs deficit, or the difference between the numbers of jobs Indiana currently has, and the number of jobs it needs to regain for pre-recession employment (2,987,200 jobs) is 173,600 jobs.
- At \$15.24, the median hourly wage in Indiana is less than all neighboring states (excluding Kentucky).
- Since the recession began, median hourly wages in Indiana have not recovered for both the 50<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> percentiles – still down 7 and 8 percent, respectively, while those in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile have seen a 1 percent increase.
- A majority (54 percent) of all jobs in Indiana are still middle-skill jobs, while only 47 percent of Hoosier workers have the appropriate skills and credentials.

December of 2012 marked a half-decade since the Great Recession began, and nearly three-and-a-half years since the recovery began. Economic expansions have generally lasted 58 months on average – which is April of 2014, or June 2015, when defined by economic expansion of 95 months on average since the 1990's. In order to better prepare Indiana's working families for a more secure economic future, state policies and investments that reflect the economic reality of low- and middle-income Hoosiers are more critical than ever. Policy makers should begin to provide a toolbox for families to restore the promise of economic mobility. This toolbox should: reward hard working Hoosiers by ensuring they share in economic growth; strengthen work support programs for our most vulnerable citizens and ultimately; equip all Hoosiers with the opportunity to obtain the skills necessary in order to attract high-paying quality jobs that are necessary for a family's economic self-sufficiency.

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## **ABOUT THE 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 conducts research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. 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; Education and Outreach; and National, Statewide, and Community Partnerships. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: [www.incap.org/iwvf.html](http://www.incap.org/iwvf.html)

## **ABOUT THE 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. IN-CAA's mission is to help the state's CAAs 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: [www.incap.org](http://www.incap.org)