



INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION POVERTY INSTITUTE

Research and Public Policy

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Contact: Erin Macey, 317-270-0874 | emacey@incap.org

Institute Renews Policy Fellow Program with Support from Herbert Simon Family Foundation

Indianapolis, IN - Today, the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute is proud to announce the continuation of the Community Action Policy Fellows program, which is generously funded by the [Herbert Simon Family Foundation](#). The Institute will support two individuals interested in addressing basic needs and/or environmental justice concerns through policy change, with an additional fellowship made possible through support of the [Pritzker Children's Initiative](#). For the duration of the ten-month paid fellowship, these individuals will be mentored by Institute staff and network partners, gaining hands-on experience in research and policy advocacy.

"We are so excited about the renewed investment in this program that empowers community leaders with backgrounds in financial hardship to move forward policies that matter to them and their community," said Erin Macey, Director at the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute. "We deeply appreciated having our first cohort of Policy Fellows last year and were floored by their passion and the ways in which they drew from their own experiences to empower others. This makes us so excited for the year ahead and having new fellows to engage and mobilize their communities amidst a painful time of financial hardship for many. We see this fellowship as creating sustainable change through the empowerment of community leaders who take these skills in turn uplift others and are grateful that the Herbert Simon Family Foundation shares our vision."

In 2024-25, the Herbert Simon Family Foundation supported the inaugural cohort of Policy Fellows, with the two fellows going on to advocate for housing-first solutions to the housing crisis and collaborating with legislators to officially designate May as the state's Lupus Awareness Month. The Herbert Simon Family Foundation has also previously funded the development of the Institute's report: [Overlooked and Undercounted: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Indiana](#). Their continued partnership through this new investment in a cohort of Policy Fellows furthers their commitment to systemic change that supports financial stability.

“The findings of the Overlooked and Undercounted report reveal that financial challenges are far more prevalent than poverty statistics indicate and that there are significant inequities in terms of who struggles. This fellowship program will provide deeper insight and begin the work of changing systems and power structures so that every Hoosier can meet their basic needs and live in safe environments. We are thrilled to support this unique approach to developing community leadership toward lasting change,” said Rachel M. Simon, the President of the Herbert Simon Family Foundation.

Interested applicants can review the fellowship details [here](#), or read more about the program through a [blog post](#) by 2024 Policy Fellow Sarah. Applications are due September 22nd, 2025, and the fellowships will run from early October through August 2026.

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About the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute

The Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute engages in research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain financial well-being. We believe that when Hoosiers are financially stable, they can achieve their full potential and better contribute to their communities. The Institute is a program of the Indiana Community Action Association.