

# Better Together, Now and For the Future

*Indiana's nonprofits and state agencies are forging new collaborations to address COVID-19*

We are a coalition of Indiana organizations and state government agencies that has been working together to forge new collaborations to help Hoosier communities respond to and recover from COVID-19. We are committed through our statewide organizations and the hundreds of organizations we represent in our local communities to foster new levels of collaboration that will bring Indiana back from this crisis stronger and better.

Across the country and in Indiana, this pandemic has changed how many institutions and individuals operate. Our networks of member organizations are responding by innovating within their communities to address novel challenges and sharing expertise and resources to create unique responses to unexpected situations.

- Foundations, nonprofits, restaurants, and hotels have collaborated to care for frontline workers (often the most vulnerable) to help keep them supported and employed;
- Communities and regions have mobilized to create new transportation and food-delivery mechanisms in both rural and urban areas to keep people fed and connected;
- Businesses, libraries, and schools found unique ways to extend internet connectivity to facilitate education, healthcare, and decrease isolation;
- Foundations, tourism destinations, and employers teamed up to address housing shortages for workers and health-care professionals;
- Economic developers, chambers of commerce, and local United Ways worked together to create virtual community 'town halls' to track and respond to financial, physical, and mental health challenges;
- Landlords, tenants groups, units of government, and advocates alike have mobilized around ensuring housing stability;
- Multiple organizations in many communities are rewiring their connections to one another to aggressively address workforce development, mental health, child care, racial justice, education, and family challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.

The leadership from our collective organizations has been meeting since early in the coronavirus crisis to identify, create, and direct resources to our member organizations. In signing this letter as the leaders of statewide organizations, we do so on behalf of our members, many of whom have worked tirelessly over the last six months. Our members have served businesses and individuals in their home communities and found new ways to collaborate to ensure, now and for the future, they are better together. In doing this, we wholeheartedly believe this selfless service will lead our members' communities—and ultimately the state of Indiana—to a better recovery.



Indiana United Ways



## JOINT LETTER ORIGINATORS

Rhonda Cook, Deputy Director  
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David A. Bottorff, Executive Director  
**Association of Indiana Counties**

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**Indiana Association of Regional Councils (IARC)**

Shelli Williams, President  
**Indiana Chamber Executives Association**

Lee Lewellen, President and CEO  
**Indiana Economic Development Association (IEDA)**

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**PURDUE EXTENSION**