



“Spring is a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be.” 🌱

Spring is just around the corner and boy can we feel it! As the season is once again changing, we are reminded of the beauty that change can bring. The tulips are beginning to pop out of the soil, the birds are chirping once again, and the sun is staying in the sky a bit longer each day. While this past year has been trying in many ways, we have returned back to where we began a year ago. Make sure you take some time, even if it’s just for a few minutes, to get outside and take a deep breath of fresh air and find gratitude for this fresh new season of change.

Please read through this month’s newsletter to find information regarding rental assistance programs, information about the newest COVID-19 bill & direct payments for Americans, tutoring, scholarships, and college resources for students, updated information regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine distribution in Indiana, and extra-curricular opportunities for youth.



[COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution & FAQ Information](#)

If you are an Indiana resident and answer yes to any of these questions, you are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Are you age 50 or older?
- Do you work or volunteer in healthcare and have (physical or close) contact or face to face interactions with patients? Examples include:
 - Inpatient, outpatient, provider office setting, nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, in-home services
 - This includes all clinical and non-clinical positions: clinicians, dietary, environmental services, administrators who have direct contact with patients, clergy who see patients in the healthcare setting, non-clinicians who assist in procedures, transportation staff, etc.
 - This also includes local health department staff who interact with patients at test sites, health clinics or provide direct patient care
- Do you have exposure to COVID-19 infectious material? (Examples include cleaning of rooms or material from COVID-19 patients, performing COVID-19 testing, other exposure to infected tissue, performing autopsies or other post-mortem examinations of COVID-19 patients)

- Are you a first responder (firefighter, police officer and sheriff’s deputy, emergency medical services, reservist and correctional officer) who is regularly called to the scene of an emergency to give medical aid?
- If you answered YES to any of the questions above, follow this link below to schedule your vaccination appointment:
 - [Vaccine Scheduling Link](#)

List of COVID-19 Vaccinating Clinics by County in Indiana – Not sure where to go to get your COVID-19 vaccine? This resources lists all the vaccinating clinics by county throughout the state of Indiana. Check out where the vaccination clinics are in your county here:

<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Indiana%20clinics%20by%20county.pdf>



[Rental Assistance Programs in Hamilton, Johnson, & Marion County](#)

Hamilton County Trustee Association – Emergency Rental Assistance Program Partnership

In order to qualify for assistance from this program, you must:

- Be a current renter residing in Hamilton County
- Provide documentation of lost income due to COVID-19
- Income must be at or below 80% of the county median income

The application for this program opens on Monday, March 15. For more information regarding the requirements, documents necessary to apply, and link to the application, go here: [Emergency Rental Assistance — Hamilton County Trustees Association \(hctaindiana.com\)](#).

Johnson County – Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance

The Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance (IERA) program is available to individuals or households that meet all of the following requirements (**please note this program does not apply to families living in Hamilton or Marion County**):

- At least one household member has qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship *due to COVID-19*.
- At least one household member must demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing instability. This may be proved by providing a past due rent notice, notice to vacate, eviction notice, past due utility notice, utility disconnect notice, or proof that a household is rent burdened.
- Household income must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) to qualify for this program.
- The property you are seeking assistance for must be your primary residence.

- This program is for renters only. Homeowners should seek assistance by clicking [HERE](#).

*Landlord participation is NOT required for this program, but IHEDA will attempt to work with landlords to verify amounts due and to issue payments.

IERA can provide up to 12 months of rental assistance covering both arrears and forward-facing rent. Assistance can also be provided, if requested, for utility, home energy, and internet arrears as long as the utility is in the name of one of the tenants listed on the lease and the utility is not paid as part of the monthly rental payment. Additional requirements apply for internet assistance eligibility, as outlined in the application.

*The person filling out this application will be considered the Head of Household for rental assistance purposes.

If you have any general questions, please contact iera@ihcda.in.gov or call 317-800-6000.

If you need help submitting your application, please call 2-1-1.

Begin your application here: [Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority Application Manager](#).

Marion County - IndyRent Assistance Portal

Many people in Indianapolis have lost work due to COVID-19. This program was created to assist people in Marion County who are struggling to pay their rent. ***Unfortunately, this program is currently closed, but if you are interested in receiving notification in the event future federal funding is made available for rental assistance, please enter your contact information on the Tenants form here:***

<https://forms.indyrent.org/subscribe-for-updates/>.



[American Rescue Plan - \\$1.9 Trillion COVID-19 Relief Bill Signed](#)

On Thursday, President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package, into law.

Who is eligible for the \$1,400 stimulus checks?

- Adults who earned \$75,000 or less in their most recent tax year will receive the full \$1,400, as will married couples who earned \$150,000 or less, and heads of household who earned \$112,500 or less.
- Adults who earned more than \$75,000, but less than \$80,000; married couples who earned more than \$150,000, but less than \$160,000; and heads of household who earned more than \$112,500, but less than \$120,000, will be eligible for a reduced payment.
- [Online calculators](#) can give you an idea of how much to expect, based on variables like your filing status and number of dependents. The White House on Thursday also [rolled out a website dedicated to helping you understand what's in the bill —](#) including information about the direct payments.
- Adults who earned more than \$80,000, married couples who earned more than \$160,000, and heads of household who earned more than \$120,000 will not be eligible for checks.

- Parents will also receive an additional \$1,400 check for each dependent claimed on their tax returns. Unlike with previous direct payments, all dependents — including college students and some people with disabilities, not just children under 17 — will be eligible.
- Undocumented immigrants are not eligible to receive direct payments. Households in which one adult has legal residency and the other does not would be eligible for at least one check, however.
- If you didn't file a tax return in 2019 and haven't yet done so in 2020, [you may be able to use the IRS's free file fillable form to do so in order to receive a stimulus check.](#)

When will I Receive my Stimulus Check?

- As was the case with the last two stimulus checks, direct-deposit recipients are likely to get their checks the fastest. As [CNET](#) notes, direct deposit payments began registering in accounts about two weeks after the last stimulus package was passed.
- Physical checks are expected to take about a week longer than direct deposits and should begin to go out starting March 29 or so.
- Economic impact payment, or EIP, cards could take the longest. The prepaid debit cards may begin to go out the week of April 5, depending on when the stimulus package is signed into law.

Do you Have More Questions About the American Rescue Plan?

The White House created a website dedicated to helping you understand what all is in this bill and all the information you need about receiving your direct payments.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/American-Rescue-Plan/>



[Tutoring, Scholarships, and College Resources for Students](#)

Huntington Learning Center Tutoring

- **Online and In-Person Tutoring Services for K-12** - The Huntington Learning Center is offering both online and in-person tutoring services for students K-12. Their personalized tutoring services can bring a child up a grade level in a subject matter in about 50 hours. These tutoring services do have tuition costs; however they offer generous discounts to many groups. Free services that they offer include informational webinars as well as presentations for parents and caregivers. Additionally, they offer great fundraising opportunities for ACT or SAT practice tests. If you are interested in learning more about their tutoring services and fees, visit this page:
 - <https://huntingtonhelps.com/center/indianapolis>

Free Tutoring for 6 – 12 Indiana Students

- IUPUI's Office of Community Engagement's IU Student Success Corps Program offers free virtual Zoom tutoring and mentoring to any Indiana student in grades 6-12 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 5:00 – 9:00 PM.
- All the tutors are IUPUI students and skilled in a variety of areas and subjects.
- Enroll your kid today here:
 - <https://portal.iuinkids.org/enrollment/new/step1>

NATURAAL Scholarship 2021

- NATURAAL is a non-profit organization founded to Nurture, Aspire, Teach and Uplift the Radiance of African American Ladies. Our mission is to provide a community of support to African American ladies pursuing STEM-related careers. Our aim is to identify African American young ladies with goals of pursuing higher education and connect them to women in their respective fields. Through active mentorship and guidance, NATURAAL hopes to create a network that will assist and inspire women to become leaders in STEM careers paths.
- This scholarship will be awarded to one female African American graduating senior from Big Brother Big Sister to aid in transitioning to post-secondary education. The reward will be for the first year only and can be up to \$1000.00, paid in two parts. The first award can be up to, but not exceeding, \$500 to be paid prior to the beginning of the first term of the first year. The second reward can also be up to, but not exceed, \$500 paid at the beginning of the second term.

Criteria for Applicant:

- Applicants must be a high school senior who self-reports as Black/African American female.
- Applicants must pursue a STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and Math) related career.

Application and Required Documents Submission:

1. Application Deadline: April 16, 2021.
2. Submit current high school transcript. NO minimum SAT/ACT score required. Send your high school transcript to this email: naturaal.program@gmail.com
3. Use the following link to complete the application electronically: [NATURAAL Scholarship Application \(google.com\)](#)
4. Do you have questions about the application requirements? Please send any questions to naturaal.program@gmail.com

First Friends Indianapolis 2021 Scholarships Information

- **What:** These scholarships are only available to African American students who are currently undergraduates or beginning undergraduate study and are annually renewable for four years. The number of scholarships and amount vary from year to year but have historically been in the \$750 - \$1,000 range and given to around 30 students. In the past, almost everyone who has fully completed the application in a timely manner and shows some need has been awarded a scholarship!
- **When:** Firm deadline for completing and submitting the application is Noon on Friday, April 30th. Students are strongly encouraged to apply much before the deadline to avoid any last-minute hiccups.
- **Where:** More information about the scholarship and the application can be found HERE:
 - <https://www.indyfriends.org/friends-education-fund>

If you have any specific questions regarding this scholarship, please reach out to Deb Goodchild at dgoodch713@aol.com or Jim Donahue at jdonahue@indy.rr.com.

Indiana University Spring Shadow Program Dates

On behalf of Indiana University, Community and School Partnerships is excited to welcome applications for this year's series of virtual *Spring Shadow Days*! The Spring Shadow Program has been a staple of the IU Calendar of events for years and this year they have scheduled two online events that offer high-school students an invaluable opportunity to connect in real time with current IU students and key administrators from the Bloomington campus. As part of each webinar, we'll also feature a live module with campus advisors on preparing academically for the transition from high school to college.

Program dates for 2021:

- Tuesday, April 13 (10am – 12pm)
- Wednesday, April 21 (3pm – 5pm)

Apply by Wednesday, April 7, at: <https://go.iu.edu/springshadow>



Extracurricular Opportunities for Youth

Ready, Set, Dribble with NCAA!

Bounce into action with the NCAA Final Four Dribble presented by Buick. Youth ages 18 and under are invited to participate in this unique and FREE Final Four event, joining thousands of fans dribbling in their neighborhoods.

This year the Dribble is going statewide March 29 - April 4. The first 3,200 pre-registered participants will receive a FREE Dribble basketball and t-shirt along with instructions on how to do the Dribble presented by Buick outside in your own neighborhood.

During the pre-registration process you will be asked to choose a Buick location most convenient to you to pick up your basketball, shirt and instructions. Pick up will be:

- Friday, March 26 from 4 – 8 p.m.
- Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

If you are interested in participating, register here: <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/35711/ncaa-final-four-dribble-presented-by-buick>

American Ninja Warrior Junior – Now Casting!

American Ninja Warrior Junior is now casting across the country in search of youth ages 9-14 to compete on American Ninja Warrior Junior! If your kid thinks they have the ninja skills it takes to compete on this intense and physically challenging obstacle course, then they want to hear from you!

- Kids must be between the ages of 9-14 by June 18th, 2021 to be eligible

- Submission deadline is April 30th, 2021
- Read more about the casting process and the casting application here:
 - <https://www.anwjr-casting.com/>

Central Indiana Society of Women Engineers – WOW! That’s Engineering Virtual Event

Through hands on activities (kits to be delivered), engaging speakers, and interactive Q&A sessions students will have the opportunity to learn about the impact that engineers can make globally. Registration for this event will include the delivery of a \$15 food gift card as well as an activity kit and swag bag! (This event is being put on by one of our very own Big Sisters!)

Where: Zoom

When: Saturday, May 1st from 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Who: 4th – 8th grade female identifying students in the Indy area

Register: [WOW! That's Engineering - Engineering Around the World Tickets, Sat, May 1, 2021 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)



[Open Youth Enrollment Now!](#)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana exists to defend, ignite, and empower the inherent potential in every child by clearing the path for their biggest and brightest futures. We currently have open enrollment for girls and boys ages 8-14 in the following areas:

Girls: 46201, 46202, 46203, 46204, 46205, 46208, 46214, 46220, 46222, 46224, 46240, 46250, 46032, 46033, 46037, and 46038

Boys: 46202, 46204, 46208, 46220, 46240, and 46250

TO ENROLL: Sign up online at BeBigForKids.org OR call 317-472-3744 to speak with a Youth Enrollment Specialist.



You can find more information about community resources, coping skills, and family activities during the pandemic on the BBBSCI website: <http://www.bebigforkids.org/resources/resources-for-parents/>.

If you are currently on our waitlist and your family has had a change in contact information, location, or interest in the program, please contact us! These changes can impact wait times and communication with the organization. Below is our contact information:

Ally Cooper
Enrollment Specialist
 (317) 472.3739
acooper@bbbsci.org

Casey Campbell

Senior Director, Enrollment and Matching & Customer Relations

(317) 472.3737

CCampbell@bbbsci.org

For Upcoming Events in Your Community, Check Out These Websites:

Marion County Commission on Youth: <https://mcco youth.org/events/>

Indy With Kids: <https://indywithkids.com/events/>

Indy's Child: <https://indyschild.com/indianapolis-family-calendar/>

