



■ Reunion

Greetings,

My family is (mostly) spread across the Midwest. But after my paternal grandma, the matriarch, passed, I rarely see my extended family. Even though I come from a split household, my parents worked out the holidays so that my sister and I saw both sides every holiday. We never saw it as stressful or complicated, but instead as a prolonged celebration. Be it euchre tournaments at Thanksgiving, potlucks at Christmas, or cocktail parties on New Year's Eve, there was always a reason to get together. Though now, as my generation of Claytons grow, we see one another less often. But when we do spend time together, even if only for a short time, I feel reaffirmed and am reminded there are people that care outside of my close circle of immediate family and friends.

In a broader sense, this is what happens when working at the statewide level and beyond. We hunker down in our comfort zones and make less time for building relationships and connections across county lines. And in doing this, we lose a sense of who we are. So consider attending an inaugural reunion with Midwest allies on Oct. 5-6 during the [Midwest Asset Building Conference](#). Join MI, OH, MN, and IL asset-building coalition partners as we convene in Indianapolis to recharge, transform ideas, embrace challenges, and celebrate all that is Midwest. ([Early Bird ends Friday \(9/1\)!](#))

And fair warning, I'm a hugger.

Thank you for being an ally to the Network.

Kelsey Clayton

Network Manager

Quick Click Poll

Q: [How much money would the average Hoosier family—in the bottom 60% of earners—receive in tax cuts annually under Trump's proposed tax plan?](#)

July's Poll

Q: How many Hoosier families have emergency savings?

A: 59.6%

Policy Update



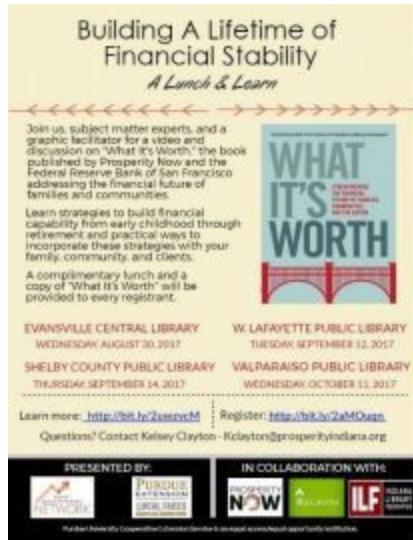
Twelve times. That's [how much higher](#) the wealth of white families is compared to black families. Another startling stat – at the current rate of progress, it will take [until 2097](#) for [Latinx](#) families to reach wealth parity with white families.

Wealth is savings in the bank – money *owned* – home equity, a retirement account, a small business minus money *owed* – debts like student loans or a mortgage. But looking beyond the balance sheet, wealth represents stability and security. It allows families to [weather an unexpected medical bill or lost job](#). For [the majority of adults that can no longer depend](#) on a pension, wealth makes it possible to retire comfortably.

Policies and practices have kept people of color from achieving economic well-being. Homeownership is the [largest item in families' wealth portfolios](#), yet de jure (by law) and de facto (by practice) segregation made [building home equity](#) next to impossible for people of color. A college education can connect individuals to high-wage jobs with benefits like health care, pensions, and paid leave, but segregated K-12 schools serving students of color are [less likely to offer AP and honors classes and more likely to suspend and expel students](#). And the tax code has contributed as well, conferring more tax benefits to higher earners (e.g. [mortgage interest deduction](#), [tax-deferred retirement accounts](#)) and allowing them to [pass that wealth on](#) to their children.

A conversation about the racial wealth gap will be a centerpiece of the 2017 [Midwest Asset Building Conference](#). We are aware of the problems; it is time to work toward solutions. Housing, education, credit access, employment, and tax policies all require our attention. With a unified voice, we can advocate for changes that will address racial injustice and move toward shared prosperity.

Building a Lifetime of Financial Stability



The Indiana A&O Network is partnering with Purdue Extension and the Indiana Library Federation to host lunch and learns across the state based on a book called "What It's Worth," which focuses on strengthening financial futures of families, communities, and the nation. With the support of Regions Bank and Prosperity Now, we have commissioned a videographer and animator to produce a 20-minute video to show at the beginning of the events to encourage open and honest discussions about financial instability and local solutions to economic mobility barriers for families in Indiana. The events will bring together practitioners across sectors – community organizations, anchor institutions, financial institutions, funders, and library staff – to have a meaningful discussion. Each audience member will receive a free copy of "What It's Worth" to take home. We expect audience members to use the book and video to host their own events to facilitate a deeper, local discussion about economic mobility. To learn more, click here or scroll down to register for an event near you!

Prosperity Indiana Summit

SAVE THE DATE

Prosperity Indiana Summit & Statehouse Day

January 23-24, 2018

SHERATON INDIANAPOLIS CITY CENTRE HOTEL
DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS

Creating Prosperity at the Intersection of Community Health and Community Development



Prosperity Indiana and the Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network enthusiastically agree that a community's social determinants — a zip code that has quality public schools, clean air, parks and playgrounds, grocery stores and farmers markets, strong social connections, and affordable, safe, and secure housing — enables or constrains its ability to prosper. Each determinant is a crucial ingredient to a healthy person and a healthy community. That's why Prosperity Indiana has chosen to highlight the Social Determinants of Health at its Summit on January 24, 2018. To learn more about the social determinants of health, read [the Network's most recent blog](#).

Upcoming Events and Conferences

Sept. 6: Coalition Call—join us to discuss advocacy for upcoming payday lending legislation and the Network's forthcoming policy survey.

Sept. 12: [Building a Lifetime of Financial Stability, Lunch & Learn](#), West Lafayette, IN

Sept. 14: [Building a Lifetime of Financial Stability, Lunch & Learn](#), Shelbyville, IN

Sept. 25: [Intro to Asset Based Community Development](#) with INRC, Indianapolis, IN

Oct. 5-6: [Midwest Asset Building Conference](#), Indianapolis, IN

Oct. 11: [Building a Lifetime of Financial Stability, Lunch & Learn](#), Valparaiso, IN

Follow us on Twitter: [@IN_AO_NETWORK](#)

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Thank you for your generous support.

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