



# IMPACT REPORT

# 2025



## MISSION

The Indiana Public Health Association builds capacity among public health professionals and partners to achieve health equity and well-being for all people, in all communities across Indiana.

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# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



**ROBIN VIDA, MPH, CHES**

Board President

I am deeply grateful to our Board of Directors, staff, and the public health professionals who serve Indiana's communities every day with skill, integrity, and compassion. As we look ahead, IPHA remains committed to defending science-driven public health, investing in the workforce, and fostering collaboration across sectors to build a stronger, healthier Indiana. The work continues — and together, we are ready to meet it. Thank you for your continued support of public health.

Sincerely,

*Robin Vida*

This past year underscored just how essential public health is to the well-being of every Hoosier — and how critical the Indiana Public Health Association remains as a voice, convener, and advocate for the field. For more than 75 years, IPHA has supported public health professionals through education, advocacy, and connection. This year, we continued that mission by elevating evidence-based policy, strengthening our workforce through trainings and convenings, and amplifying Indiana's public health voice at the Statehouse and on the national stage. From the Indiana Health Equity Summit to professional development opportunities across the state, IPHA showed up where leadership and coordination mattered most. Our progress is made possible by the dedication of our members, partners, sponsors, and supporters.

**Public health is  
essential to every  
Hoosier's well-being —  
and IPHA exists to  
ensure the people who  
protect it are  
supported, connected,  
and heard.**



# MEET THE TEAM



Ashlyn Devine, MA  
Director of Advocacy & Grants



Iliana Enriquez  
Director of Social Innovation & Community Engagement



Taylor Firestine, MUD  
Director of Healthy Communities



Marjorie Hennessy, AICP  
Chief Impact Officer



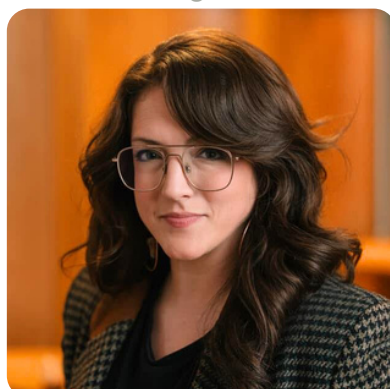
Abby Highsmith  
Director of Administration & Logistics



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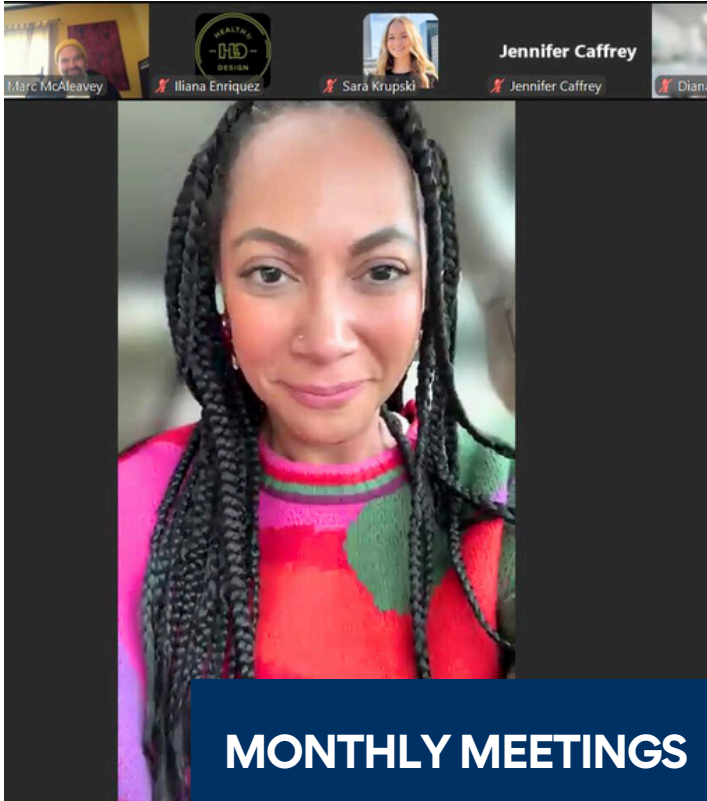


Andrea Watts  
Director of Communications



Fatma Yousif  
Director of Workforce Development

# VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETINGS & ADVOCACY



IPHA hosts a variety of monthly meetings that create opportunities for connection, learning, and collective action across Indiana's public health community. Virtual Lunch Meet-Ups, held on the third Tuesday of each month, offer an informal space for networking and staying informed about public health efforts in Indiana and beyond. Monthly Policy & Advocacy Committee meetings bring together public health professionals from across the state to learn about and advocate for public health policy at the local, state, and national levels, with the committee playing a key role in shaping IPHA's 2025 policy priorities for the Indiana General Assembly. IPHA also convenes monthly Health Equity Action Team (HEAT) meetings, which connect advocates from around Indiana to advance health equity through shared learning, guest speakers, and timely discussions, including a legislative update from Senator Andrea Hunley on state-level policy developments impacting health equity.

**ACTION ALERT!**

**CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS**

Now is not the time to restrict how Health First Indiana dollars can be used. We encourage you to contact your state legislators using the talking points linked above to advocate for local public health funding that is **flexible, stable, and practical!**

**ADVOCACY ALERTS**

IPHA also mobilized members and partners through timely action alerts in response to proposed Health First Indiana funding cuts, urging public health professionals and advocates to engage policymakers and protect critical investments in Indiana's public health infrastructure. In addition, IPHA issued a media statement addressing ongoing turmoil at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, underscoring the importance of stable, science-based leadership and sustained federal support to safeguard public health systems and the communities they serve.



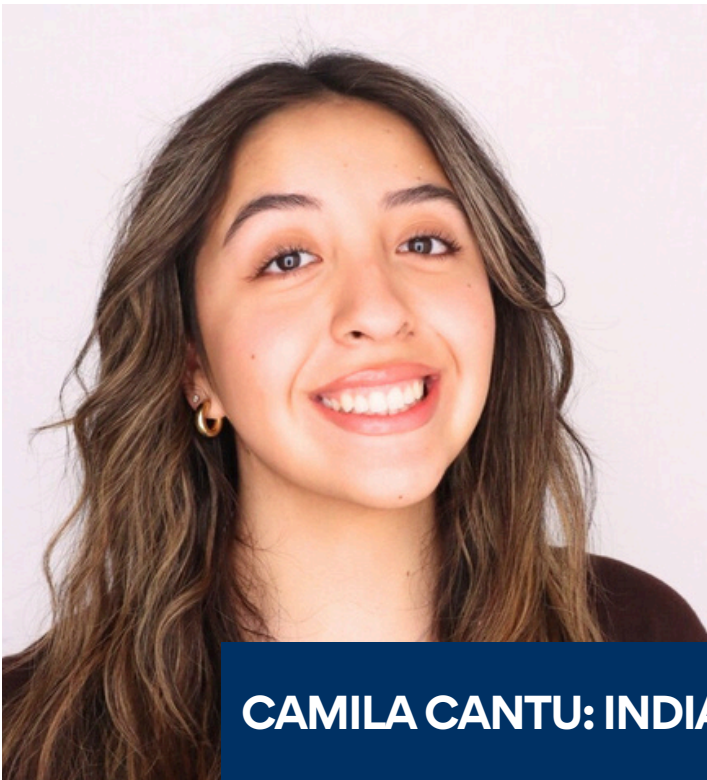
# INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS

Through hands-on learning and meaningful contributions, our summer internship program continues to support workforce development while preparing emerging professionals to lead the future of public health in Indiana.



Sheila Mwanda supported Health by Design and IPHA through projects focused on Safe System and Vision Zero efforts, including the development of an ArcGIS story map and a workforce survey designed to better understand Indiana's public health landscape. Her work reflected a strong interest in community health, social determinants of health, and the role of the built environment in shaping health outcomes, while building valuable skills in public health informatics and mapping technologies.

**SHEILA MWANDA: INDIANA UNIVERSITY, INDIANAPOLIS**



Camila Cantu contributed to IPHA's advocacy and organizational capacity-building efforts, helping develop a year-long internship program, supporting event logistics for People Powering the Purpose, and creating user-friendly tools to navigate the Indiana General Assembly website. Her work strengthened IPHA's advocacy infrastructure and deepened her interest in the policy side of public health, particularly in addressing health disparities.

**CAMILA CANTU: INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON**

# IPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND CELEBRATION

In October, the Indiana Public Health Association convened 150+ public health professionals from across the state for the 2025 IPHA Annual Conference and Award Luncheon — a day of learning, collaboration, and shared purpose. Featuring keynote and plenary remarks from Amanda Kwong of the de Beaumont Foundation, Ella Greene-Moton, Immediate Past President of the American Public Health Association, and Pam Pontones of the Indiana Department of Health, the conference highlighted both national perspectives and Indiana-based leadership shaping the future of public health.

Breakout sessions explored some of Indiana's most pressing public health priorities, including brain health, workforce development, grants management, partnership building, and community engagement. Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, exchanged practical tools, and strengthened cross-sector relationships essential to advancing public health across Indiana.

IPHA is grateful to our conference sponsors — Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington, Luther Consulting, Eskenazi Health, and the Region V Public Health Training Center — whose support made the event possible. We also proudly recognized our Public Health Award recipients, whose dedication and leadership continue to strengthen communities and inspire Indiana's public health workforce.





# HEALTH EQUITY SYMPOSIUM

In September, the Indiana Health Equity Symposium convened 160+ community leaders, public health professionals, advocates, students, and practitioners at Martin University for a full day of learning, connection, and collective action. Guided by the theme “Unwavering Spirit: Collective Action for Community Health,” the symposium explored how resilience, collaboration, and shared purpose can advance health equity across Indiana.

Months of planning and partnership culminated in a powerful gathering that centered history, place, and community leadership. The event opened with remarks honoring the land and the resilient communities shaping the work toward justice and equity. The ginkgo leaf—symbolizing survival, adaptability, and long-term strength—served as a unifying visual throughout the day.

Keynote presentations by Dr. Michael Twyman, Chief Equity & Innovation Officer at The Indianapolis Foundation, and Tamara Winfrey-Harris, President of the Women’s Fund of Central Indiana, set the tone with reflections on truth-telling, innovation, and community-rooted solutions. Participants engaged in a robust lineup of breakout sessions and workshops addressing systems change, community storytelling, trauma-informed practices, housing and transit equity, and strategies to strengthen public health partnerships. Interactive experiences, including an IndyGo Transit Ambassador activation, wellness offerings, and therapeutic support, provided hands-on learning and space for reflection.

The day concluded with the “Collective Action for Community Care” networking event at Historic Saint Joseph’s Hall, sustaining momentum and deepening connections. The 2025 Indiana Health Equity Symposium demonstrated the power of collaboration and community leadership and will continue to inform efforts to build healthier, more equitable systems across Indiana.



# INDIANA LEADERSHIP AT THE APHA ANNUAL MEETING



At the 2025 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., the Indiana Public Health Association strengthened national connections while elevating Indiana's public health leadership. IPHA co-hosted the Indiana Reception alongside partners at the Indiana University School of Public Health–Bloomington, the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, and the Purdue University Department of Public Health, bringing together public health professionals from across the state to foster connection and collaboration.

IPHA also contributed to the national dialogue through multiple presentations. Iliana Enriquez represented IPHA with the session “Answering the Call: How IPHA Is Mobilizing Advocates for Public Health,” sharing the organization’s 2025 legislative strategy, including weekly statewide partner convenings, the development of new advocacy tools, and expanded digital engagement to advance and protect public health in Indiana. Additionally, IPHA CEO Marc McLeavey joined national public health leaders in the session “Mobilizing a Public Health Campaign,” presenting “Built to Heal: Listening, Healing, and Reclaiming Narratives,” which explored how authentic storytelling, trust, and people power can drive meaningful community change. Through this national engagement, IPHA continues to elevate Indiana’s voice & strengthen our advocacy efforts.





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**Address**

615 N. Alabama Street  
Suite 119  
Indianapolis, IN 46204