



FAMILY IMPACT SEMINARS

Family Impact Seminars are non-partisan educational sessions summarizing current research on a particular family issue, targeted toward legislators, legislative staff and other key decision-makers. Family Impact Seminars have the following goals:

1. To provide objective, non-partisan information on family issues.
2. To analyze the consequences an issue, policy or program has for family well-being.
3. To promote family well-being as a criterion for policy making.
4. To illustrate the central role of families in addressing social problems.

Rationale

In Indiana, the role of the legislator is a part-time position. In order to write legislation that is effective and appropriate, legislators need current research and evidence. Information about family issues currently provided by lobbyists, interest groups and other special constituencies to legislators can be fragmented and sometimes biased. Policy decisions are more effective when they are based on strong evidence. Policy decisions can be more efficient if they leverage the contributions families make to society by viewing issues through the lens of family impacts. Policy making can be less polarized if opportunities are provided for neutral, off-the-record dialogue that can build the relationships needed to overcome partisan gridlock.

Who Attends Family Impact Seminars?

House of Representative and Senate members, Chairs of Committees, Governor's Office representative, State Department or Agency officials or their representatives, Human Service Providers, and COFO members.

Who is Involved?

Family Impact Seminars in Indiana are sponsored by the Indiana Consortium of Family Organizations. This group is advised by a distinguished group of legislative leaders and other key decision-makers who have agreed to serve on the advisory committee.

The Seminars are a project of the Indiana Consortium of Family Organizations which includes: Center for Families, Purdue University; Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Ball State University; Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children; Indiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; Indiana Extension Homemakers Association; Indiana Family Services; Indiana University School of Public Health – Bloomington; Indiana Youth Institute; National Association of Social Workers – Indiana Chapter; Marion County Commission on Youth, MCCOY, Purdue University Extension, Health and Human Sciences.

For further information, contact the Center for Families at Purdue University at cff@purdue.edu or (765) 494-9878. Information about the Family Impact Seminars is available on the web by visiting www.purdue.edu/fis.