

INDIANA CONSORTIUM OF FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS

In 1993, four Indiana organizations joined together to promote a family perspective in the development, implementation, and evaluation of public policies and programs to enhance the well-being of Hoosier families. Today, the joint effort is known as the Indiana Consortium of Family Organizations (COFO).

For more than a decade, COFO has hosted the Indiana Family Impact Seminars (INFIS), which are annual presentations of high-quality research on family issues to help educate our legislators on the family impact of policy.

The structure of COFO involves representatives from each organization working together, and with state policy-makers, in matters concerning Indiana families. A membership fee is collected to provide support to INFIS. (Membership organizations can also choose to provide an additional funds or in-kind support to help COFO efforts throughout the year.)

Benefits of COFO membership

- Your organization will be a part of bringing change to legislation on a topic your organization is focused on – families.
- This group will be advised by a distinguished group of legislative leaders and other key decision-makers that have agreed to serve on the advisory board – you will have one-on-one time with members of this committee.
- Two representatives from each member organization are able to attend the Seminar. (This is less than the cost to send two people to a similar in-state conference with less interaction with state officials!)
- We are one of 28 states working with the Family Impact Institute which is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the William T. Grant Foundation.
- Your organization will have access to the latest research on families from across the nation.

For more information on joining the Consortium of Family Organizations, contact the center.

Current Members of the Indiana Consortium of Family Organizations

- Center for Families, Purdue University
- Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Ball State University
- Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR)
- Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC)
- Indiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- Indiana Extension Homemakers Association®
- Indiana Family Services
- Human Development and Family Studies and Youth Development, Indiana University – Bloomington
- Indiana Youth Institute
- MCCOY
- National Association of Social Workers – Indiana Chapter
- Purdue University Extension, Human and Health Sciences

- **Brief descriptions of member organizations are listed below*
- The **Center for Families at Purdue University** focuses on improving the quality of life for families and strengthening the capacity of families to provide nurturing environments for their members. To accomplish this, the center works with four important groups whose efforts directly impact quality of life for families: educators, human service providers, employers, and policymakers. With informed sensitivity to family issues, these groups have the power to improve the quality of life for families in Indiana and beyond.
- The **Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at Ball State University** includes a variety of majors from interior design and residential property management to nutrition and marriage and family relations. We offer courses in family relations, infant/toddler, child development, marriage, life-work management, family stress and family policy. Students are also required to take interdisciplinary coursework. In addition, students are required to complete a 400-hour internship at a family or child related facility which also includes government internships. Our curriculum has been designed to fulfill the academic requirements to become a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE). CFLEs have received academic training in ten substantive areas related to the family, one of which is family policy, and are certified by the National Council of Family Relations, a professional organization.
- **Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral** serves as a resource to the Indiana General Assembly, the Indiana State Administration, public officials, media representatives, social service providers, and others. IACCRR provides important information on the state of child care systems and resources available across Indiana. IACCRR continues to develop strategic partnerships, build innovative programs, set national standards, negotiate, advocate and effectively position the child care needs of families at the local, statewide, and national policy level.
- The mission of the **Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC)** is to promote and support quality care and education for all young children birth through age eight in Indiana. Indiana AEYC is the state's largest and most influential organization of early childhood care and education professionals and parents promoting and supporting quality care and education for all young children. Over 2,200 members represented through sixteen local chapters, and a budget of over \$6 million dollars. Indiana AEYC supports early care and education professional development through the T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) scholarship project, the Indiana Non-Formal Child Development Associate (CDA) project and by conducting the largest statewide conference. Indiana AEYC also supports highest level of early care and education facilities by partnering with the Indiana FSSA/DFR/Bureau of Child Care to implement Paths to QUALITY™ and the Indiana Accreditation Project for over 820 early childhood facilities statewide.
- **The Indiana Association of Marriage and Family Therapy** is part of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. Since the founding of AAMFT in 1942, they have been involved with the problems, needs and changing patterns of couples and family relationships. The association leads the way to increasing understanding, research and education in the field of marriage and family therapy, and ensuring that the public's needs are met by trained practitioners. The AAMFT provides individuals with the tools and resources they need to succeed as marriage and family therapists.

- It is the mission of the **Indiana Extension Homemakers Association®** to strengthen families through continuing education, leadership development, and volunteer community support. We share information on new knowledge and research with our members and communities, promote programs on developing skills and family issues, and we support projects which help children and families in today's world.
- **Indiana Family Services** represents families and respond to their needs by strengthening member agencies and creating alliances to promote excellence in advocacy and service for families throughout Indiana. Member agencies offer a wide variety of programs, including counseling, sexual abuse assessment, homemaker services, children's programs, services for victims of domestic violence, as well as many other diverse programs for over 90,000 individuals, approximately 80 percent of whom are low income. These services are offered regardless of race, creed, or color on a sliding fee scale supported by local United Ways and governmental grants.
- The programs of Human Development and Family Studies and Youth Development at the **Indiana University School of Public Health – Bloomington** are dedicated to improving public health across Indiana through workforce development, community engagement, research, with teaching at the forefront of innovative public health education in Indiana. By reimagining public health through a comprehensive approach that enhances and expands disease prevention, the school is reshaping how parks, tourism, sports, leisure activities, physical activity, and nutrition impact and enhance wellness. With nearly 3,000 students in an array of undergraduate and advanced degree programs and more than 130 faculty in five academic departments our faculty and students conduct research, learn, teach, and engage with communities across a broad spectrum of health, wellness, and disease-prevention topics.
- The **Indiana Youth Institute** promotes the healthy development of Indiana children and youth by serving the people, institutions and communities that impact their well-being. It is a leading source of useful information and practical tools for nonprofit youth workers, educators, policymakers, think tanks, government officials, and others who impact the lives of Hoosier children. In addition, it is an advocate for healthy youth development on the local, state, and national level.
- **MCCOY** champions the positive development of youth through leadership on key issues, strengthening organizational capacity, and increasing the support of the youth worker community. As advocate, resource, capacity builder, and independent convener, MCCOY works to build a community where all youth can thrive, learn, engage, and contribute and where all adults support the positive development of youth.
- The mission of the **National Association of Social Workers – Indiana Chapter** is to promote the quality and integrity of the Social Work profession while supporting social workers in their mission to serve diverse populations and to ensure justice and equality for all citizens of the state.
- **Purdue Extension, Health and Human Sciences** provides informal educational programs that increase knowledge, influence attitudes, teach skills, and inspire aspirations. Through the adoption and application of these practices, the quality of individual, family, and community life is improved. Health and Human Sciences Extension is a part of the mission of the College of Health and Human Sciences at Purdue University and the Purdue Extension Service.