

# INDIANA HEALTH ADVOCACY COALITION NEWSLETTER



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## A Word from Our President

Welcome to our new newsletter! Throughout 2021, IHAC has been busy revamping its newsletter and website so that we can continue to provide you with information that you can use and to keep you informed of issues impacting MLP patient-clients and the communities in which they live. This month's issue focuses upon the impact evictions and foreclosures have on the health of individuals and families. Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.

Best regards,

Rakuya K. Trice, Board President

## From the Board of Directors

Dear Colleagues,

**More than 106,000 Indiana households could be at risk of eviction after July 31st.** At the time the newsletter was slated to run, the federal eviction moratorium and the foreclosure moratorium on certain federally-backed mortgages were due to expire on July 31, 2021. Since 2020, these moratoriums have been in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Indiana's eviction and foreclosure crisis is expected to worsen as a result of the pandemic. Four years before the pandemic began, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and South Bend (three of Indiana's most populated cities) were listed within the top 20 evicting larger cities in the United States. According to the U.S. Census, as of July 5, 2021, up to 40% of Indiana's adults live in households that are not current on their rent or mortgage and are likely to face eviction or foreclosure before Labor Day. With children under the age of 18 making up 23% of Indiana's population, it is very likely that many of Indiana's children will be evicted from their homes once the moratorium ends.

**It is the Indiana Health Advocacy Coalition's (IHAC) position that evictions and foreclosures are health-harming, legal issues that cause long-term, negative effects to the health and safety of adults and children who are evicted from their homes and to the communities in which they reside.** Adults who are evicted are more likely to experience suicide mortality, high blood pressure, anxiety, depression, and job loss. Adults who are evicted also experience more hospital emergency room visits. Adults who are living with substance use disorder are more likely to relapse following an eviction. Adults who are evicted are more likely to experience homelessness and, once homeless, remain in homeless shelters significantly longer than persons who have not experienced an eviction. For children, the health-harming impact of evictions can begin before their birth. Evictions have been linked to infant mortality, premature births, and low birth weight. Once born, children from evicted households face increased hospitalizations, depression, and overall poor health.

**Because of the long-term, health-harming impact evictions and foreclosures have on adults and children, it is IHAC's position that additional health and legal services programs and resources are needed to reduce and eliminate the health threat posed by the eviction and foreclosure crisis.** The IHAC Board of Directors remains committed to encouraging and supporting the development of medical-legal partnerships (MLPs) throughout the State of Indiana as a response to the health threat posed by evictions and foreclosures. The provision of MLP attorneys to represent patients facing eviction and foreclosure has been shown to reduce the likelihood of eviction or foreclosure. IHAC remains further committed to working with healthcare and legal professionals to develop organizational policies and projects, such as community health workers assigned to work with MLPs and the creation of patient assistance funds to assist with locating new housing, that support the use of MLPs in preventing and reducing the health-harming legal issues faced by patients.

## Signed,

Rakuya K. Trice, Board President

Kerry Hyatt-Bennett, Board Vice-President

Maggie Little, Board Treasurer

Lexi Fuson, Board Secretary

Barbra Bachmeier, Board Member

Jay Chaudhary, Board Member

April Currier, Board Member

Amy Lewis Gilbert, Board Member

Krista E. Howard, Board Member

Deanna Reinoso, Board Member

Melissa Harkins-Rose, Board Member

Ross D. Silverman, Board Member

Robin Uberta, Board Member



Contact Us at [IndianaHAC@gmail.com](mailto:IndianaHAC@gmail.com)

## The National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership at the George Washington University Partners with Leading Health System Kaiser Permanente to Improve Housing Stability, Prevent Homelessness, and Advance Health Equity

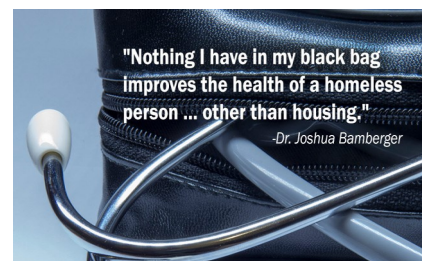
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

**WASHINGTON (July 21, 2021)** – The COVID-19 pandemic underscores what research has long documented — that unjust housing policies and housing instability are at the root of many health inequities across the country. In response to this growing challenge, the [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership](#) (NCMLP) is launching a new project in partnership with [Kaiser Permanente](#) and [HealthBegins](#) to connect health systems with legal resources for greater housing stability and eviction prevention.

A grant, distributed through Kaiser Permanente’s fund at the [East Bay Community Foundation](#), provides a \$4 million investment, most of which will support community-based legal organizations to address legal-related housing needs of the communities Kaiser Permanente serves.

“This project has the potential to redefine the standard of care for the tens of millions of people whose health and well-being is directly influenced by a wide range of legal needs, particularly in the area of housing,” Joel Teitelbaum, co-director of NCMLP and a professor of health policy and law at the [George Washington University](#), said. “NCMLP is inspired by Kaiser Permanente’s vision and delighted to embark on this project with the Housing for Health staff, and with Kaiser Permanente’s clinical and legal aid partners.”

Read the full Press Release here: <https://mediarelations.gwu.edu/national-center-medical-legal-partnership->



### Trainings & Conferences in 2021

#### Upcoming Webinars

- ◆ “Closing the Loop on the Referral”: How a Health Center Medical-Legal Partnership Cracked the Code to Facilitate Electronic Data-Sharing between Partners”

In this national webinar, held on Friday August 13th at 2 PM ET, join Siouxland Community Health Center to discuss how they joined forces with an HCCN and their civil legal services MLP colleagues to overcome the greatest tech challenge for MLPs: “closing the loop on the referral.” The team will share best practices to help other health centers advance their MLP practice beyond screening and referrals to conducting



IHAC has been a primary promoter of the “medical-legal partnership” in Indiana for over a decade. We work to foster relationships between healthcare providers, legal advocates, and academic researchers—with the goal of using legal interventions to improve health outcomes.