



Community Health  
Partnerships

Indiana Clinical and Translational  
Sciences Institute

New Member  
**WELCOME**  
*packet*

Hoosier Health &  
Wellness Alliance

A Connections IN Health Initiative





## Community Health Partnerships

Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute



# Welcome to the Hoosier Health & Wellness Alliance, a Connections IN Health Initiative

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance (HHWA). This coalition seeks to increase positive health outcomes within Indiana by providing supportive and effective strategies needed to maximize local impact. We know that as a coalition, our strength and ability to make an impact across the state are dependent upon our members. This packet is intended to help you become familiar with how being a member can benefit your work and have a positive impact in your community and across the state. We appreciate your time, dedication, and interest as we work together to improve health outcomes in Indiana. I look forward to the change we can create together.



*Sincerely,*

*Antonia Sawyer, MS*

*Coalition Lead, Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance*

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HOOSIER  
HEALTH &  
WELLNESS  
ALLIANCE

# MEMBER BENEFITS

## Why join HHWA...

The Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance offers its members unique opportunities to...



Network with professionals and experts across the state



Stay up to date on information relating to the health and quality of life of Hoosiers



Engage in professional development opportunities



Access research-based resources to improve the health of Hoosiers



Highlight and share your work



Learn best practices in a collaborative setting



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# RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Some of the Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance's most recent accomplishments include assisting communities in developing & building the capacity of local parks boards, hosting professional development opportunities around ADA compliance, and working towards identifying the role health coalitions play in the food system.**

In 2021, the HHWA began working with local communities in the development of parks board ordinances, the building of 5-year master park plans, and parks boards. They did so with a goal to increase access to physical activity opportunities through developing recreational acreage across Indiana.

The professional development around ADA compliance seeks to support newly established parks boards as they work toward making local programs, services, facilities, and parks more inclusive of people with disabilities.

The Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance is working with food system expert, Karen Shore, to explore their current and potential future role(s) in food-related initiatives across the state.

# WHAT'S NEXT

The future of the HHWA includes plans to increase food access for Hoosiers, expand capacity-building efforts around the built environment, continue exploring equity and its impact on nutrition and physical health, and increase community engagement.

We strive to continue creating collaborative and long-lasting relationships with all Hoosiers. We meet and provide a level of expertise that decreases risk factors and promotes health, by...



Developing **new working groups**



Hosting a **2023 summit**, tailored by food system discoveries



**Increasing cultural competency** through BaFa' BaFa' cultural simulation experience



**Collaborating with state and national experts** on best practices for ADA compliance



Participating in the **Ask the Question campaign**



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## **OUR VISION**

**To enhance the well-being and quality of life  
for all Indiana residents.**

## **OUR MISSION**

**The Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance  
strives to increase positive health outcomes  
within Indiana communities by providing the  
support and effective strategies needed to  
optimize local impact.**

## **OUR VALUES**



**COLLABORATION**

**EDUCATION**

**HEALTH EQUITY**



# ABOUT HOOSIER HEALTH & WELLNESS ALLIANCE

The Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance (HHWA) was established in 2008 with the name of Indiana Healthy Weight Initiative. Formed by the Indiana Department of Health to decrease the number of overweight Hoosiers, they assisted in the development of Indiana's Comprehensive Nutrition and Physical Activity Plan 2010-2020. This plan provided a dynamic framework to address poor nutrition, sedentary behaviors, and obesity.

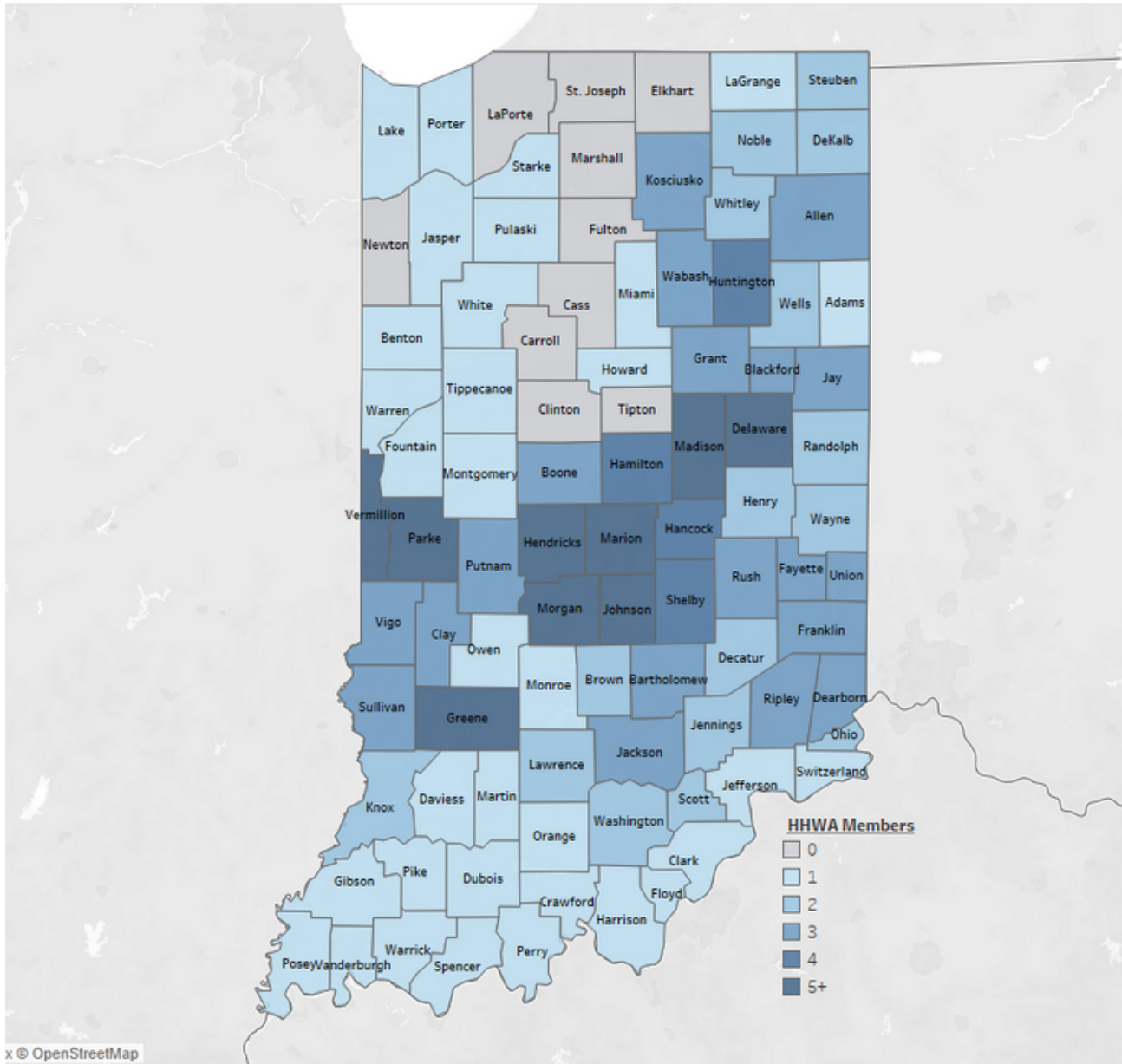
HHWA has since expanded its scope to include food insecurity, accessibility, & environmental issues, all risk factors that help community leaders, stakeholders, and champions address adverse health outcomes within their communities.

Momentum continues to grow and includes capacity-building efforts around parks board development, innovative ways to share the expertise of members, and a furthered level of community engagement. We seek to create and foster collaborative and long-lasting relationships with all Hoosiers we meet, and provide a level of engaged expertise that decreases risk factors and promotes health.





# MEMBERSHIP NETWORK



**Are you included in our membership map? Is your county represented in the HHWA network? Ask us how you can get connected with members in your area!**

**\*Map represents November 2022 data\***



# MEETINGS & MEMBERSHIP

Coalition meetings occur from 11am-12pm EST on the second Tuesday of odd months.



*Members who have joined the CHeP Network should receive a calendar invitation with a zoom link from Connections IN Health, [CINH@iu.edu](mailto:CINH@iu.edu). Reach out to Antonia Sawyer at [afsawyer@iu.edu](mailto:afsawyer@iu.edu), if you have any questions.*



# WORKGROUPS

## ***Parks Board Working Group***

### **GOALS:**

Increase walk/bike-ability, wayfinding signs, trails access, etc. utilizing newly created or established parks board infrastructure.

Increase communication between state entities and county-level parks boards on efforts and outcomes achieved.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Increase the number of state-recognized park boards with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- Increase number of new, IDNR-accepted parks and recreation master plans
- Increase funding for park boards
- Increase parks developed or improved by park boards

## ***HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACTION TEAM***

### **MISSION:**

The Healthy Schools Action Team is a group of organizations that work in partnership with Indiana schools to create healthier environments where all can thrive.

### **VALUES:**

The Healthy Schools Action Team creates healthier school environments through:

- **Collaboration:** Encouraging and assisting in building lasting partnerships among organizations and local education agencies as they strive to improve the health of their students.
- **Whole Child Awareness:** Utilizing the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model as a tool to further integrate a student-centered learning environment.
- **Health Equity and Access:** Addressing barriers to accessing resources related to physical, emotional, and behavioral health wellness.
- **Advocacy:** Changing the culture and climate of the school environment through education and empowerment.



# CONNECT WITH US



**Are you following us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Linkedin?**

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**Are you included in our membership map?**

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**Are you receiving our quarterly newsletter, The Connection?**

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**Do you know anyone else who might be interested in joining the coalition? Invite them to join the CHeP Network.**

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**Have you listened to our podcasts?**

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**Are you interested in learning more about coalition resources?**

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**Have you visited the Connections IN Health website to learn more about HHWA and our other initiatives?**

# THANK YOU

Thank you for your interest and the work that you are currently doing to enhance the quality of life in Indiana. We are excited to have you join us!

If you have further questions,  
please contact  
Antonia Sawyer at  
[afsawyer@iu.edu](mailto:afsawyer@iu.edu).



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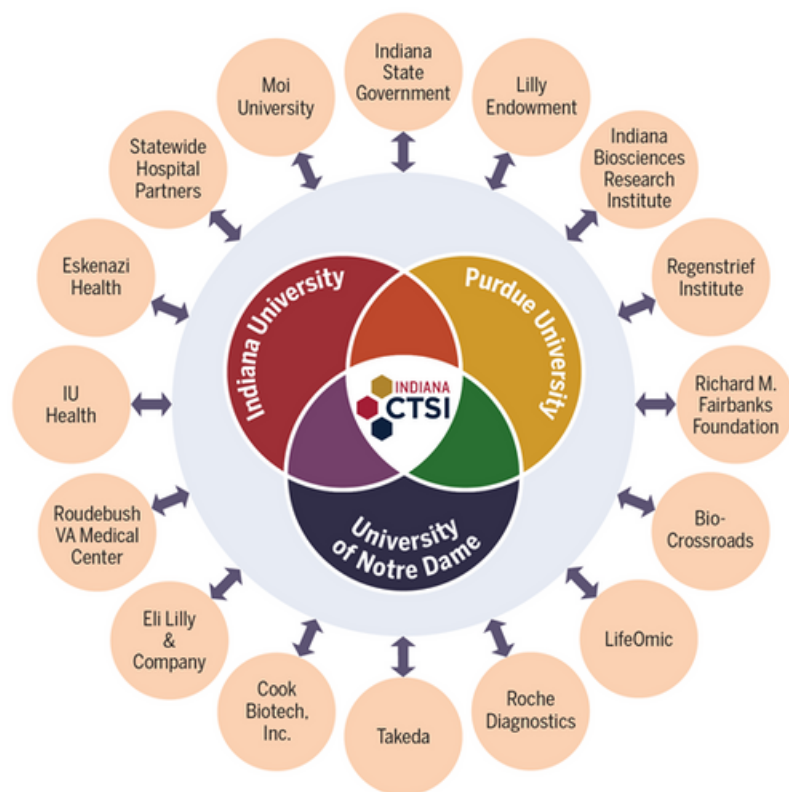
# Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

## Our Vision

We envision an Indiana that is one of the nation's healthier states.

## Our Mission

We bring together Indiana's brightest minds to solve the state's most pressing health challenges.



## About the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) brings together the state's brightest minds to solve Indiana's most pressing health challenges through research. It is a statewide partnership among Indiana University, Purdue University, the University of Notre Dame, and numerous life sciences businesses, government entities, and community organizations. The Indiana CTSI engages with the public at every level of research—from basic science to patient care. It has been continuously funded by multimillion-dollar grants from the National Institutes of Health since the Indiana CTSI's founding in 2008 and is housed at the Indiana University School of Medicine. For more information, visit [indianactsi.org](http://indianactsi.org).

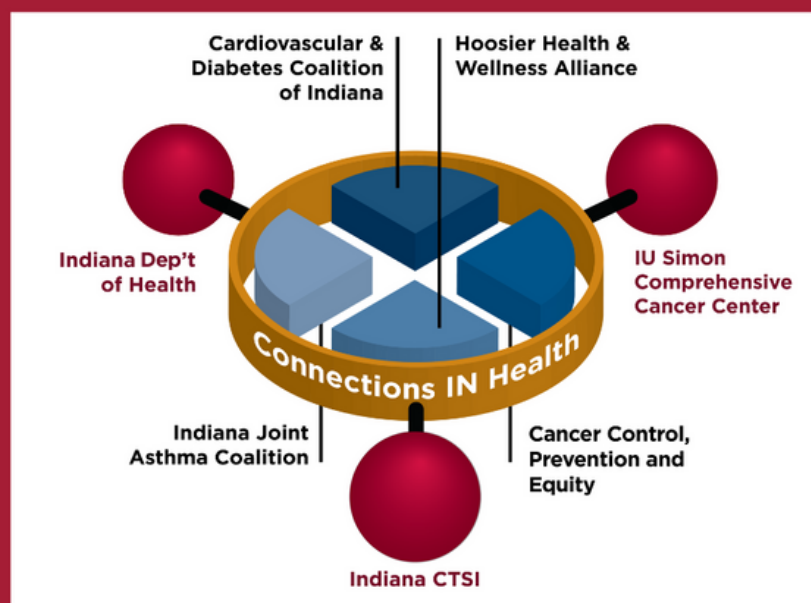
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# Connections IN Health

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In 2018, the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI), the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), and the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center (IUSCCC) have come together to strengthen their partnership to improve health in Indiana by forming Connections IN Health. This alliance unites the state's health coalition development work, and the IUSCCC's community and engagement initiatives with that of Indiana CTSI. In 2021, Connections IN Health began partnering with Purdue University's Indiana Healthy Opportunities for People Everywhere (I-HOPE) project to share community engagement processes and connections to address health inequities across Indiana. Additional collaborations began in 2022 with IU Health and the Diabetes Impact Project of Indianapolis (DIP-IN) with the Indianapolis Health Equity, Access, outReach and Treatment (iHEART) project working to address high rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in specific neighborhoods experiencing lower life expectancies than their neighbors. Connections IN Health is led by the Indiana CTSI's Community Health Partnerships program, which works to improve health in Indiana through community-university partnerships and community-based health research.

Connections IN Health includes four chronic disease initiatives that support stakeholders, organizations, advocates, and residents as they come together to improve health and address chronic diseases. Connections IN Health facilitates collaboration within communities by connecting stakeholders with evidence-based practices, identifying funding sources, and addressing health equity for all. Connections IN Health partners with statewide organizations, including Purdue Extension, which is involved in more than 172 health coalitions across the state and has educators in all 92 Indiana counties.



# Connections IN Health Initiatives

1



The Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition (InJAC) develops and promotes Indiana's statewide strategic plan, in collaboration with health departments, stakeholders, and partner agencies in rural and urban communities. Their aim is to: improve quality of care, reduce environmental triggers, provide asthma-related trainings and presentations to healthcare professionals, schools, non-profit organizations, hospitals, local health departments, and partner agencies, increase public awareness of asthma as a serious chronic disease, improve the knowledge and skills of patients regarding detection, treatment, and control of asthma, particularly among high-risk populations.

2



The Cancer Control, Prevention and Equity initiative collaborates with the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center's Community Outreach and Engagement Office, as they strive to: increase awareness of cancer as a cause of suffering and death, disseminate evidence and community-based cancer control strategies that focus on eliminating cancer disparities and promoting health policy to decrease the cancer burden in Indiana.

3



The Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance (HHWA) seeks to increase positive health outcomes within Indiana by providing the support and effective strategies needed to optimize local impact. Embracing values of collaboration, education and food equity the coalition continues to work on capacity building efforts around the built environment, innovative ways to share the expertise of members, and an increased level of community engagement.

4



The Cardiovascular and Diabetes Coalition of Indiana (CADI) is working to help Hoosiers address the burden of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and stroke through education, collaboration, awareness, advocacy, and access to care. CADI uses its long-standing history of engaging various partners throughout the state in service of this work. The coalition has successfully been able to develop and launch the Better Together Plan, Indiana's first statewide strategic plan to address cardiovascular disease, diabetes and stroke together.



# County Engagement

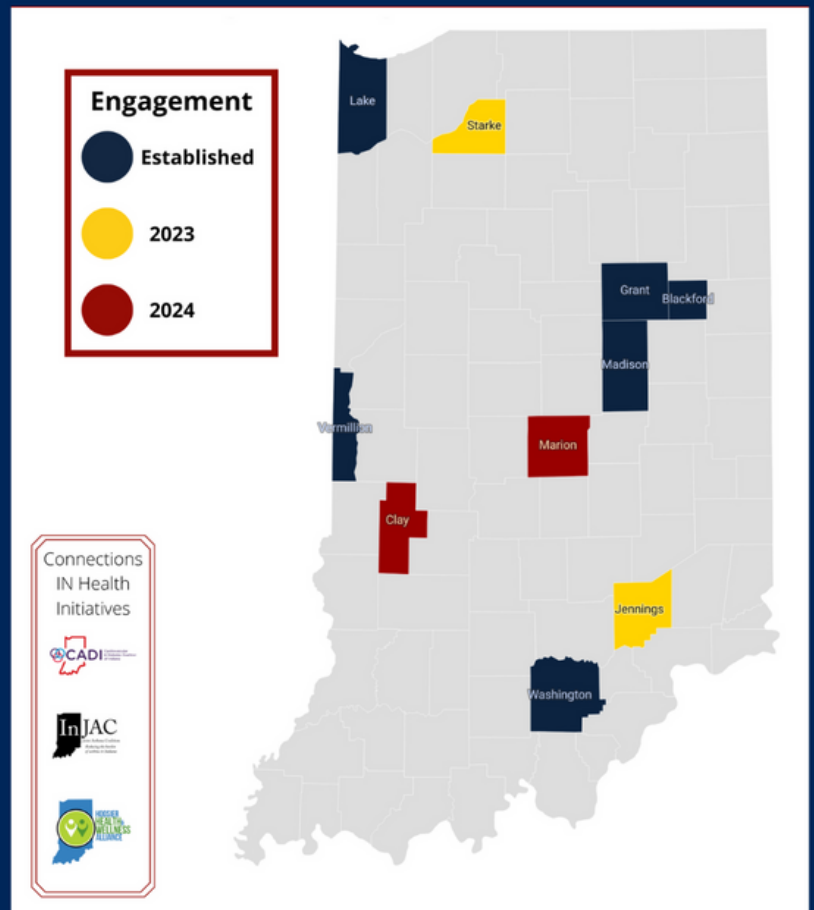
Using county health and social determinants of health data, Connections IN Health has identified 10 counties with the most opportunity for growth, existing coalitions and partnerships already working to address health challenges and willing community partners to work with in the first 5 years of the project (2020-2024).

Selected counties include:

Blackford, Clay, Grant, Jennings, Lake, Madison, Marion, Starke, Vermillion, & Washington.

Connections IN Health began engaging with Grant and Vermillion counties in 2020.

Engagement in Blackford and Washington Counties began in 2021. Lake and Madison County engagement began in 2022. The team will engage with Starke and Jennings Counties in 2023 and Marion and Clay Counties in 2024.



When county engagement begins, an interest survey is launched and community members are invited to participate in listening sessions to share their perspective on successes and challenges in the county related to chronic disease. Once these conclude, listening session and interest survey data is compiled, analyzed and shared back with the community to assist them in selecting one health challenge they would like to address. At this time, CINH is able to share resources and evidence-based interventions, conduct community readiness assessments and expand the county network with coalition experts.