

Housing Equity for Infant Health Initiative- Health Justice Intervention

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About the Indiana Justice Project

- Statewide Law and Policy Program
- Focused on Health and Economic Justice
- Equal Justice and Opportunity for All Hoosiers

Overview

- A consistent relationship between housing instability and adverse pregnancy outcomes. (DiTosto et al, 2021).
- Solution: Improve infant health by addressing housing as a social determinant.

Composition:

- Lead Partner: Grassroots Maternal and Child Health Initiative (hosted by Indiana University).
- Funded by the Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA).
- Several Collaborating Partners, including Caresource, Inc.

Two Interventions

1. Healthy Beginnings at Home
2. Health Justice Intervention (led by Indiana Justice Project)

Health Justice Intervention

Use all available legal tools to improve housing health and security for pregnant mothers and babies on a system wide level.

Health Justice Intervention Methods:

Education

- Know your rights materials and presentations.

Strategic Court Advocacy

- Filing appeals of evictions; enforcing lease and habitability rules.
- Filing amicus legal briefs.
- Working within the judicial and legal system.

Legal analysis

- Research and evaluation of Indiana eviction laws and processes.
- Comparative analysis with other states.
- Court rule analysis and amendments.

Health Justice Intervention Workgroup:

- Housing law experts.
- Grassroots community leaders.
- Meet regularly to guide, refine, and collaborate on Health Justice Interventions.

Progress So Far

- IRB approval for Know Your Rights—first session this month.
- Eviction Court Representation
- Two written products
- Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition Steering Committee
- Indiana's Coalition for Court Access
- Housing Justice Conference, June 22nd