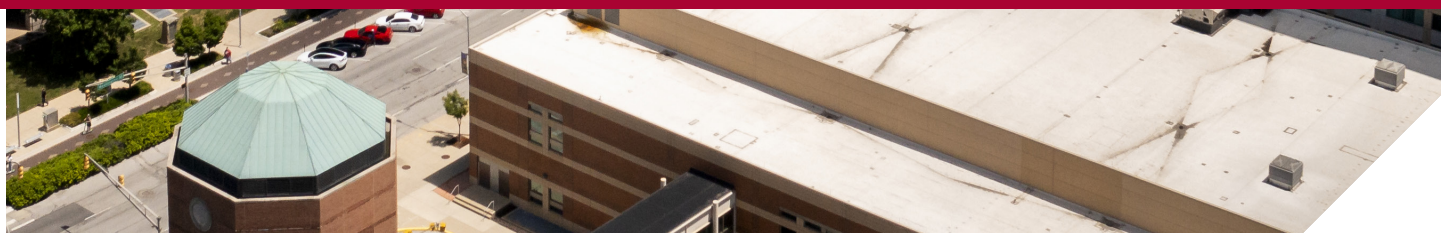




INDIANA UNIVERSITY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022–23

PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE



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## MISSION STATEMENT

To produce unbiased, high-quality research, analyses, and policy guidance to promote positive change and improve the quality of life in communities across Indiana and the nation.

## VALUE PROPOSITION

With no agenda other than helping leaders, citizens, businesses, and organizations solve problems, seize opportunities, and effect positive change, our expert team can address a wide range of issues and deliver data and insights needed to make informed decisions.

## WORK WITH US

PPI offers policy analysis, program evaluation, dialogue facilitation, and long-term planning to clients from the public, private, civic, academic, and nonprofit sectors. We combine academic resources and marketplace experience to identify challenges and opportunities, gather data, and uncover best practices to walk our clients through the decision-making process—all without bias or agenda.

## A message from the director



**Tom Guevara**  
*Director, Public Policy Institute*

Dear PPI stakeholder,

I am pleased to present this annual report of the Indiana University Public Policy Institute (PPI), covering our notable activities, accomplishments, and organizational improvements for the 2022–23 fiscal year (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023).

Of note, PPI continues to recover well from the pandemic. Our contract and grant revenue increased by more than 79% from FY 2022 with PPI team members expanding their work for community and governmental organizations with more than two dozen projects under agreements for services. While expenditures increased as well, the gap between operating revenues and expenditures was significantly smaller than in prior years, reducing our draw from our Lilly Endowment support fund to lowest level in several years. PPI staff continue to look for ways to create value for our institute while improving productivity and lowering the cost of delivering our services.

FY 2023 saw PPI work on or complete more than two dozen projects, many of which have significant impact at the state, city, or community level. Included in our work were many long-time PPI partners, such as the John Boner Community Center, the Indiana Soybean Alliance, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, and the Indiana Gaming Commission. PPI also partnered with national organizations such as the National Academy of Sciences and the Center for Strategic and International Studies to produce workshops in national priorities such as implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act, and federal innovation and workforce initiatives.

We are exceptionally proud of the experiential learning opportunities we provide to undergraduate and graduate students who come to PPI from the O'Neill School as well as other schools. Many of these students work with our Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy, and we are very grateful for the efforts of CRISP Director Roxy Lawrence for organizing and enabling student experiences that build their skills in program evaluation, research, and policy analysis.

Finally, as part of the O'Neill School strategy, PPI was identified as a key partner charged with helping O'Neill School faculty and researchers become more engaged with public and nonprofit organizations to help these organizations achieve actionable policy solutions. PPI staff are focused on creating opportunities that will not only advance the ongoing mission of PPI but also on helping the O'Neill School and Indiana University serve our state and beyond. We are proud of the work we do for communities, the opportunities we give students to build their professional skills, and the impact we make. This report provides but a few examples of how PPI is making a difference. I hope you enjoy reading it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [tguevara@iu.edu](mailto:tguevara@iu.edu) or by phone at 812-855-2627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Guevara".

**Tom Guevara**, Director  
Indiana University Public Policy Institute



### History of the institute

The Indiana University Public Policy Institute was established in August 1992 as the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment with the goal of leading applied research through the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. In 2008, Indiana University shifted CUPE's mission to serve as an umbrella organization for research centers affiliated with the school, and renamed the center the IU Public Policy Institute. PPI is now celebrating its 30th year of providing data-driven applied research, analysis, and guidance that is objective, insightful, and nonpartisan.

The Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR), also created in 2008, was established to reflect PPI's growing expertise in public safety issues. A decade later, CCJR was renamed the **Center for Health and Justice Research**. CHJR continues to work with public safety agencies and social service organizations to conduct impartial applied research on criminal justice and public health and safety issues.

In 2018, the **Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy** (CRISP) was created to examine systemic issues at the intersection of social policy and equity, with the goal of helping leaders and residents make informed decisions about those issues. CRISP's mission is to analyze and disseminate community-relevant research about social disparities and complex policy issues.

And in the fall of 2021, PPI added the **Manufacturing Policy Initiative** to its family of specialized research centers. MPI studies the challenges facing the U.S. manufacturing sector and identifies policy options for enhancing this vital component of the U.S. economy.

PPI also houses the **Center for Civic Literacy**, which examines the causes and effects of Americans' low levels of civic knowledge. It also promotes tools to help educators and others improve civic understanding.

### PPI team

#### Center directors

- Sameeksha Desai, Ph.D., Director, Manufacturing Policy Initiative; Associate Professor, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs
- Roxy Lawrence, Director, Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy

#### Staff

- Nidhi Arun, CRISP Program Analyst
- Brendan Bow, CRISP Policy Analyst
- Drew Klacik, Senior Policy Analyst
- Krystal McNeely, Director of Evaluation, CRISP
- Claire Menard, Graphic Designer
- Rebecca Nannery, Senior Policy Analyst
- Jamie Palmer, Senior Policy Analyst
- Kristi Schultz, CRISP Policy Analyst
- Vatsla Sharma, CRISP Program Analyst
- Justin Siler, Program Analyst
- Susan Sprague, Project Management Coordinator
- Elizabeth Thuranira, CRISP Program Analyst

### Board of advisors

The IU Public Policy Institute Board of Advisors provides guidance to the director on strategic direction, including initiatives and focus areas. Board members serve as advocates and ambassadors for PPI, utilizing their community connections to enhance and promote PPI's public image. Board members also identify opportunities to secure financial resources and partnerships necessary for PPI to advance its mission.

- Claudia Cummings, President and CEO, Indiana Philanthropy Alliance
- John R. Fernandez, Global Chief Innovation Officer, Dentons
- Joanna Taft, Executive Director, Harrison Center for the Arts

#### Ex-officio members

- Siân Mooney, Dean, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University
- Jeremy Carter, Executive Associate Dean, O'Neill School, IUPUI
- Brad Heim, Executive Associate Dean, O'Neill School, IU Bloomington



## Public Policy Institute

### 38th and Sheridan project

In FY 2023 PPI researchers concluded a nearly two-year series of analyses that included economic impact estimates and community conversations for Cook Medical as the company built a new medical device manufacturing plant in a disinvested community in Northeast Indianapolis. This project emphasized community partnership, engagement, and economic and social opportunity for citizens living in the area. Development partners included organizations representing public, private, nonprofit, and academic institutions, including several neighborhood and community development organizations that provided important feedback to Cook and its core partners of Goodwill Commercial Services, United Northeast Community Corporation, and the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

PPI researchers produced several policy briefs exploring new economic development policy approaches for revitalizing disinvested, marginalized communities and bringing greater economic opportunity to individuals experiencing disparities. PPI will continue to evaluate this project and is actively engaging in finding support for a long-term study of the outcomes of this multifaceted, unique development project.

### Indiana traffic safety analysis and reporting

For the 17th year, PPI analyzed state vehicle crash data from the Indiana State Police's Automated Reporting Information Exchange System. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute sponsors the project. Research findings are compiled in two reports—Indiana Crash Facts and Indiana County Profiles. These books contain data and analyses on every crash reported in Indiana's counties and address a variety of subtopics, including problem identification, collisions, motorcycles, impaired driving, speed-related collisions, and seat belt and other safety equipment use.

### Study of township government

In response to persistent legislative proposals to change or eliminate township government, the Indiana Township Association (ITA) undertook a study of the efficiency and effectiveness of Indiana's township government with assistance from PPI. The study was

guided by an ITA steering committee and a task force with township officials, state agency representatives, and other stakeholders. The task force considered various data and made 27 recommendations on township structure and mergers, township services, education and communication, and finance. This effort resulted in proposed legislation during the 2023 session—HEA 1355 Township Merger Pilot Program.

### Analysis of rural transportation conditions

The Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) commissioned PPI to analyze the progress Indiana counties are making in addressing local needs. The research team analyzed rural road and bridge conditions, plus infrastructure revenue and spending. The most current effort marked the second year that data for all counties was available, allowing the analysis of short-term trends. This project marks the sixth collaboration between ISA and PPI.

### Testimony on HB 1132 Land Use Task Force

During the 2023 session of the Indiana General Assembly, PPI Senior Analyst Jamie Palmer was invited to testify before House and Senate committees on HB 1132, which called for the creation of the Indiana Land Use Task Force. Palmer testified the task force would bring some much-needed focus to land use and would be a good way to bring together a variety of other efforts, including efforts to increase housing supply and the siting of alternative energy facilities. The bill became law, and the task force met three times during the fall of 2023.

### 2023 John L. Krauss Award winner

The Indiana University Public Policy Institute selected Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney Erika Oliphant for its 2023 John L. Krauss Award for Public Policy Innovation for her work to promote equitable justice in Monroe County. The Krauss Award is given to an individual or entity for applied research or activity that helps Indiana and/or Indiana communities with real-world solutions.

During the past two years, Oliphant's office has engaged in two different studies with PPI and O'Neill School researchers. The first was the Monroe County Racial Justice study which examined prosecutorial decision making and potential impacts on racial and ethnic disparities in Monroe County. The second study is focused on promoting racial justice and transparency

in Indiana. That study is ongoing and brings together integral stakeholders, including the NAACP of Monroe County, justice-involved individuals, and Monroe County community members in general. Further, the study adds a new partnership with the Lake County Prosecutor's Office and its local stakeholders.



*Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney Erika Oliphant accepting the 2023 Krauss Award from PPI Director Tom Guevara*

### Center for Health and Justice Research

#### Promoting racial justice and transparency in Indiana

Building upon insights gained during a pilot study of prosecutorial decision making in Monroe County, CHJR partnered with the Department of Criminal Justice at IU Bloomington, George Mason University, and the Monroe County branch of the NAACP to inventory existing sources of justice and case management system data to demonstrate capabilities and gaps of the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office's current data infrastructure. Additionally, researchers are capturing community perceptions about prevalence, causes, and consequences of racial and ethnic disparities in Monroe County's justice system via interviews and focus groups with justice-involved individuals and the Monroe County community at large. Results from this study will help guide future prosecutorial decision making and policies in Monroe County to promote more equitable outcomes.

#### Indiana Prison Writers Workshop recidivism study

In a new study, CHJR researchers partnered with the Indiana Prison Writers Workshop and the Indiana Department of Correction to examine long-term outcomes of released participants of IPWW's program, including but not limited to recidivism, compared to a control group. Results of this study—one of the first of its kind in terms of examining recidivism outcomes after participation in arts-based prison programming—will be able to fill in data gaps identified during a previous program evaluation of IPWW completed by CHJR in 2019 and guide the development of future arts-based prison programming.

### Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy

#### City of Indianapolis American Rescue Plan Act study

The federal government created the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for state and local governments to address the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a recipient, the city of Indianapolis' Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) administered funds to grantees working to address the root causes of crime in neighborhoods across Indianapolis. OPHS partnered with CRISP to conduct a qualitative study, examining implementation strengths and challenges, how grantees measure success, and perceived impact of ARPA funding. Findings are used to provide recommendations to OPHS and grantees to improve processes.

#### Connected to Community grant evaluation

Public Advocates in Community Re-Entry (PACE) received a Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance grant to implement the Connected to Community (CTC) project in Indianapolis. CTC's goal is to help facilitate successful reintegration of Marion County residents returning from incarceration from the Adult Detention Center (ADC). PACE partnered with CRISP to conduct an implementation and outcome evaluation of CTC. Results will be used to document implementation challenges and strengths and measure progress toward outcomes, helping to improve CTC processes.

### **Pathways for Aging health equity evaluation**

CRISP, in partnership with the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Office of Healthy Opportunities (OHO), is conducting a health equity evaluation of the state's Pathways for Aging program, which is a transition to a managed long-term service and supports (mLTSS) program. The evaluation seeks to assess equity in the development of current mLTSS efforts and to develop a framework to address equity and access-related barriers as the program is implemented.

### **IndyEast Promise Neighborhoods evaluation**

The IndyEast Promise Neighborhood is both a place and a strategy led by John Boner Neighborhood Center and Edna Martin Christian Center. The IndyEast Promise Neighborhood promises all students on the Near Eastside and in Martindale-Brightwood access to great schools and whole family support to ensure a successful transition from birth to adulthood. In 2022–23, CRISP worked collaboratively with the Community Advisory Board—a group of community members who provide relevant cultural insights—to develop a questionnaire to assess community needs and inform program design. CRISP also hired and trained a team of surveyors with community ties, and worked to begin the process of surveying 1,250 households with children residing within the IndyEast Promise Neighborhood boundaries.

## **Manufacturing Policy Initiative**

The multifaceted Manufacturing Policy Initiative studies challenges facing the U.S. manufacturing sector, assesses public policies that impact the industry, and identifies policy options for enhancing this vital component of the U.S. economy. MPI serves as a source of objective, state-of-the-art information; offers analysis and recommendations on public policy issues affecting U.S. manufacturing; and is a resource for policy makers, manufacturers, the workforce, and other academics.

### **Workforce for radiation-hardened microelectronic**

In FY 2023 MPI engaged university partners, private industry, and other organizations to develop and execute several projects that analyzed key segments of the U.S. manufacturing economy, resulting in development and publication of reports, policy briefs, and insightful data.

MPI participated in a successful grant proposal with Intelligent Systems Engineering, IU Physics researchers, and industry experts to develop a successful grant proposal for a project examining workforce development needs to ensure a robust supply of skilled workers are available to employers working to develop radiation-hardened microelectronics.

### **Health care supply chain resilience**

MPI also partnered with the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), which provided a research grant to study health care supply chain resilience. This work resulted in a report published in September that was used by NAM to inform policy makers about vulnerabilities and needs to improve U.S. supply chains in health care supplies.

### **CHIPS and Science Act Forum**

MPI also organized and held a public forum on implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act and its accessibility to manufacturers. The CHIPS and Science Act is a signature accomplishment of the 117th Congress, providing billions of dollars in funding to stimulate the design, development, and production of semiconductors and related products in the United States.

Participants heard from industry, entrepreneurship, and academic experts on the various key implements that will affect how this important legislation is implemented. Topics included how regions might take advantage of the CHIPS Act, what the CHIPS Act could do for their economic and competitive landscape, and the public policy implications of the CHIPS Act.





## Student Research Symposium

On April 14, the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy hosted its inaugural Student Research Symposium. This symposium celebrated and showcased the culmination of a semester-long research project led by CRISP student research assistants. CRISP introduced the students to the legislative process, primarily focusing on bills from the 2023 Indiana General Assembly. In preparation for this project, CRISP provided student research assistants with a variety of training, including policy formulation and analysis, quantitative and qualitative research and analysis methods, and writing for general audiences.

Three pairs of student research assistants selected bills of interest to analyze within an equity framework, focusing on the potential impact of the legislation on systemically disadvantaged groups. The students also provided tangible recommendations on how to alter the bill to provide more equitable outcomes for all. At the symposium, students presented their topics to their peers, CRISP leadership, PPI staff, IUPUI faculty, and partners from FSSA.



### Lee Ruess, PPI Research Assistant

"I found the Public Policy Institute through one of my professors, who was working there at the time. Throughout my year and a half as an undergraduate research assistant, I worked on multiple projects on topics

spanning from township efficiency to traffic safety. I was given the opportunity to use the knowledge I learned in my classes and apply it in a professional setting. I was able to follow and participate in every step of the process, from manipulating raw data to presenting to clients to drafting the final report. I got to watch a finished report leave my hands and go out to make real change for the client. Being able to be so involved in multiple projects showed me that data-driven research is something that I enjoy, and something I want to pursue as a career. I will always be thankful to PPI for the experiences I gained, and the role it played in my undergraduate years. "



### Cecilia Gomez, CRISP Research Assistant

"My time at the Public Policy Institute has been fundamental in shaping my understanding of policy, community-engaged research, and program evaluation. As a Master of Social Work student, it's inspiring to not only explore themes of equity

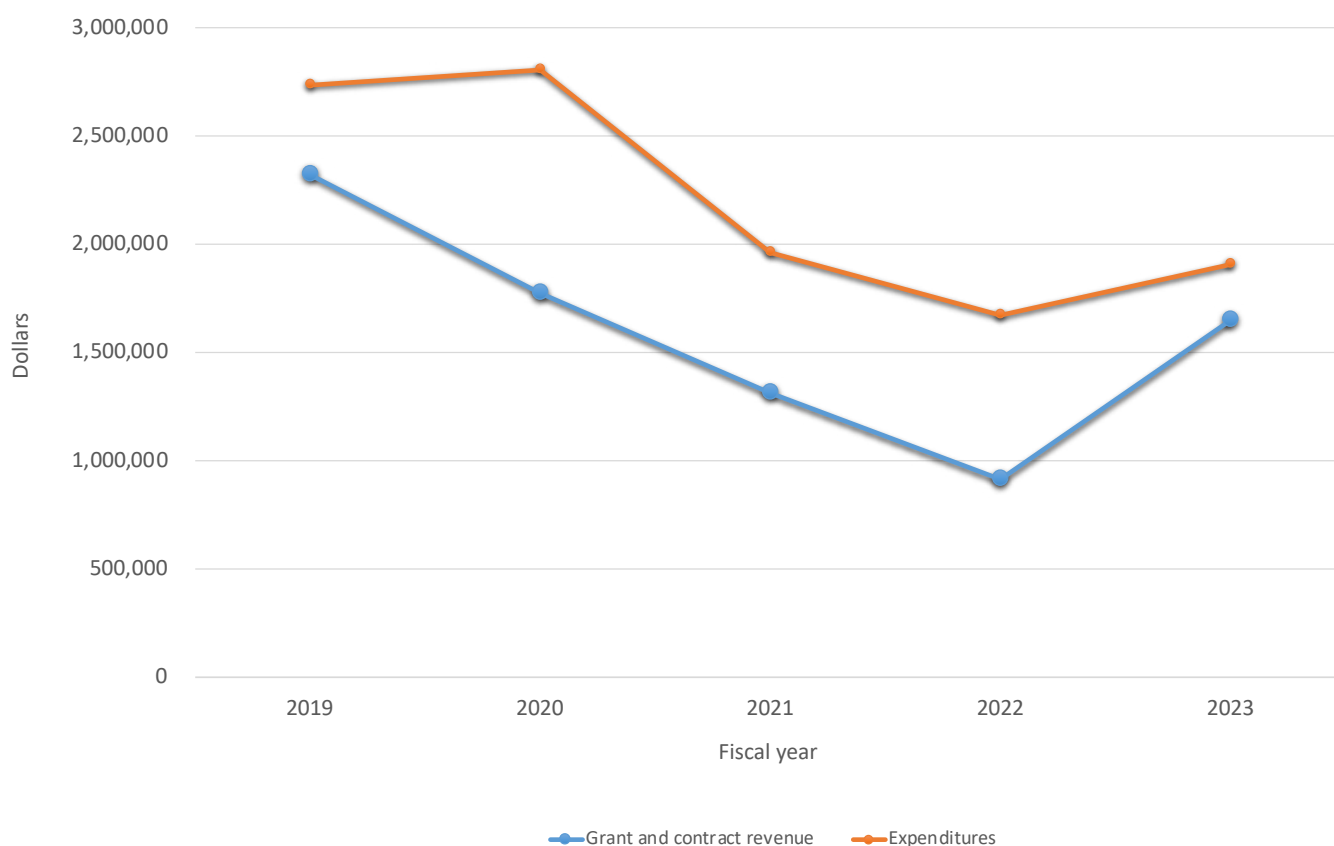
in our work but also see how they are advanced through local community action. It's rewarding to work with the people behind all of the great community work being done in Indianapolis. With their consideration, my team has exposed me to endless opportunities to gain new skills and apply my knowledge to our work. Their endless support and insight have instilled me with the confidence that I can succeed in community-based research and have chosen the correct path in macrosocial work. "

## Financial summary

PPI's grant and contract revenue for FY 2023 totaled \$1,645,477, an increase of \$728,617 from 2022's grant and contract revenue of \$916,860. Last year's revenue was adversely affected by the COVID pandemic, which can be attributed to both lower activity at organizations served by PPI, as well as PPI's own staffing challenges. Expenditures during FY 2023 increased by \$234,155, as more staff were

added to meet our growing project workload. It is notable, however, that the total increase in expenditures was less than the increase in FY 2022, and on a comparative basis, revenues increased nearly 80%, while expenditures increased only about 14%. As a result, PPI's negative operating margin was significantly reduced from last year.

## PPI estimated new funding and expenditures



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



During the past year, the O'Neill School celebrated its first 50 years as the top public affairs school in the United States. Making an impact relies on skilled research, outstanding teaching, and service to communities in Indiana, across the country, and, indeed, the world. It is the last mandate, service to communities, that makes the IU Public Policy Institute such a valuable part of the O'Neill School mission of leading for the greater good.

Since 1992, PPI has served community organizations with skilled quantitative and qualitative analysis, program evaluation, policy ideation, strategy development, and participation with many boards, policy workshops, and community groups. PPI embodies what service to the community for the greater good means. PPI also serves as a bridge from the O'Neill School to the community, helping to elevate the O'Neill School's well-recognized brand to even greater heights.

As we look to the next 50 years of O'Neill School excellence, a key part of our future success will be effective, solutions-oriented community engagement on issues of public importance. PPI will be at the forefront of that service, continuing to help government, private, and nonprofit organizations understand complex challenges and potential solutions using the unbiased, professional research and engagement provided by PPI staff.

PPI has been a close partner with the O'Neill School for more than 30 years, serving as an integral part of Indiana University's and the O'Neill School's presence in communities everywhere. We are proud of the work PPI has done and look forward to continuing our close collaboration in service to our state and beyond.

Sincerely,

*Siân Mooney*

**Siân Mooney**, Dean

Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs



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