



The Mapleton Tap

Tap into the latest community development news in Mapleton Fall Creek, Watson Park, Meridian Park, Crown Hill, Highland Vicinity, and Meridian Highland.

C.E.O.'S Corner

Dear Neighbors,

Late last year Congress approved \$25 billion in funding for rental assistance. This represents the largest amount of money ever allocated towards this objective; but despite this massive investment, rental assistance has been slow to get into the hands of tenants (and landlords) who have had their income disrupted. A recent [NPR podcast](#) discusses inefficiencies within the rental assistance program highlighting key issues, such as obtaining proof of renter status, proof of job loss or income disruption, and proof of threat of eviction, as well as landlords (who receive the rental assistance directly from the government) choosing to reject the money. Nationally, about 1.5 million people have received rental assistance, but about 8 million more are still waiting. Ten months after the legislation was first passed many households are still struggling with the economic effects of the pandemic. High demand for rental assistance and other issues are overwhelming the supports that have been put in place to respond to the crisis. For many struggling renters, however, it is one

Elan Daniel

Community Needs Assessment



MF CDC is hosting a Public Ally in 2021-2022 to conduct a community needs assessment focusing on identifying the unmet poverty-related needs within the community. If you are a resident, small business owner, faith leader, or other stakeholder living and/or working within MF CDC's catchment area, and are interested in discussing community issues or co-hosting a community listening session, please contact DaJada Cowherd at dajada@mfcfdc.org or fill out the form [here](#).

About Public Allies

Public Allies is a social justice organization committed to changing the face and practice of leadership by recruiting and training talented young leaders, with a passion for social impact, to create meaningful change in our community. Our Allies are diverse, equity-centered, innovative problem solvers, dedicated to mobilizing community assets to develop solutions to local challenges. In partnership with nonprofit partners, we deliver our nationally recognized, values-driven, results-led apprenticeship to advance our mission to create a just and equitable society and the diverse leadership to sustain it.

Public Allies Indianapolis is a program of [Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center \(INRC\)](#). Our work is made possible through funding from [Serve Indiana](#) and [AmeriCorps](#).

African American Coalition of Indianapolis and Indianapolis Urban League Conducting Online Study of Small Businesses in Predominantly



Sotiris Hji-Avgoustis, a professor in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University, is conducting an online study to explore the nature of engagement and participation by business entrepreneurs of small- to medium-size enterprises (SMEs) in Indianapolis' predominantly Black neighborhoods. This study is a project of the Indianapolis African American Quality of Life Initiative (IAAQLI) led by the African American Coalition of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Urban League. Read more about the IAAQLI [here](#).

If you are the principal business owner of an SME in one of Indianapolis' predominantly Black neighborhoods, you can complete the survey [here](#).

Please contact Sotiris at shjiavgousti@bsu.edu with any questions.

Owner-Occupied Repair Program

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The OOR Program provides assistance to low- and moderate-income homeowners to finance deferred maintenance repairs. Examples of eligible repairs include energy efficient retrofitting, roof repair, foundation repair, septic system repair, and more. Assistance is available to low- and moderate-income homeowners in MFCDC's catchment area with preference given to seniors age 62+ and persons with disabilities.

MFCDC's Owner-Occupied Repair (OOR) Program is no longer accepting applications for this year. If you are interested in being added to a waitlist for next year's program, please contact Roslyn Turner at roslyn@mfcdc.org or 317-923-5514.

Community News & Events



Fresh Stop is a program that makes fresh, local food available to families of all incomes in our community. Twice a month, from June through November, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, pools funds to purchase sustainably grown produce at a discount price from local farmers. Shares can be ordered online

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farmers to purchase seasonally fresh foods. Pick-ups are always on Saturdays, between 10 and 11 AM. To order your share, please visit freshstop.org/tab.

Upcoming Payment Deadlines & Pick-Up Dates

Pay By:

October 17

November 7

November 14

Pick Up On:

October 23

November 13

November 23

If you have questions or would like to pay with a SNAP card, please contact Sally John at sallybjohn@gmail.com or 317-296-4150.

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