



IAAQLI

6 PILLARS IN ACTION COMMUNITY CONNECT

IAAQLI continues to impact the quality of life within Indianapolis communities through the execution of the following pillars. 1. Business and Entrepreneurship, 2. Education, 3. Employment, 4. Health and Wellness, 5. Housing and Home Ownership, 6. Leadership and Civic Engagement

In this edition, we highlight the success stories of the following pillars:

Pillar 4: Health & Wellness

Anthem, Gleaners: \$1.8M Investment to Fight Hunger in Indiana

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is investing \$1.8 million over three years into Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana to address hunger and poor health outcomes across the state. Anthem's Neil Steffens says the partnership reflects a "food as medicine" approach, arguing that nutrition is foundational to long-term health. Gleaners CEO Fred Glass says the funding will help expand the organization's reach through mobile pantries, school-based programs and connections to public assistance services. Stories like this are made possible through IAAQLI funding. Click the link to read the full story and learn more.

GO TO ARTICLE



Pillar 2: Education

IAAQLI Six Pillars In Action: The Learning Bee Academy

Deandra Thompson founded Learning Bee Academy in 2017 to offer affordable, quality childcare for African American children in under-resourced communities. The academy has grown from 5 kids to over 300 kids/families served and is known for its hands-on STEM-based pre-K program. Thompson says the real value lies in the community relationships built and in making sure every child feels loved and supported. Watch the video to see the impact in action.

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GO TO VIDEO



IAAQLI 6 Pillars In Action Podcast

Phalen Leadership Academy & C.A.F.E

Tune in to the latest episode of the IAAQLI 6 Pillars in Action Podcast, featuring Kristi Williamson from Phalen Leadership Academy/Skilled US and Kendra Nowell from Community Alliance for the Far Eastside (C.A.F.E.). In this conversation, both guests share how IAAQLI funding is directly supporting local employment pathways and workforce development efforts. They highlight real-world examples of how these investments are helping residents gain access to training, jobs, and long-term career opportunities. Listen to the full episode to hear how community-driven partnerships are turning funding into meaningful employment outcomes.

GO TO PODCAST



Season 2

Episode 3:

**A LOOK AT THE PILLARS IN ACTION:
PILLAR 1: EMPLOYMENT**

AVAILABLE NOW

We Want to Hear from You!

What Should We Highlight Next?

Hit Reply & Tell us More!

IAAQLI, UP NEXT

Subscribe to our newsletter and stay up to date on the exciting developments impacting the **African American Quality of Life in Indianapolis**

The Indianapolis African American Quality of Life Initiative (IAAQLI) is a place-based community change project established through a partnership between the National Urban League, the Indianapolis Urban League, and the African American Coalition of Indianapolis. Funded through a \$100 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. the goal of the IAAQLI is to acknowledge the concerns and increase the quality of life of African American residents in Indianapolis

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IAAQLI INITIATIVE

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