

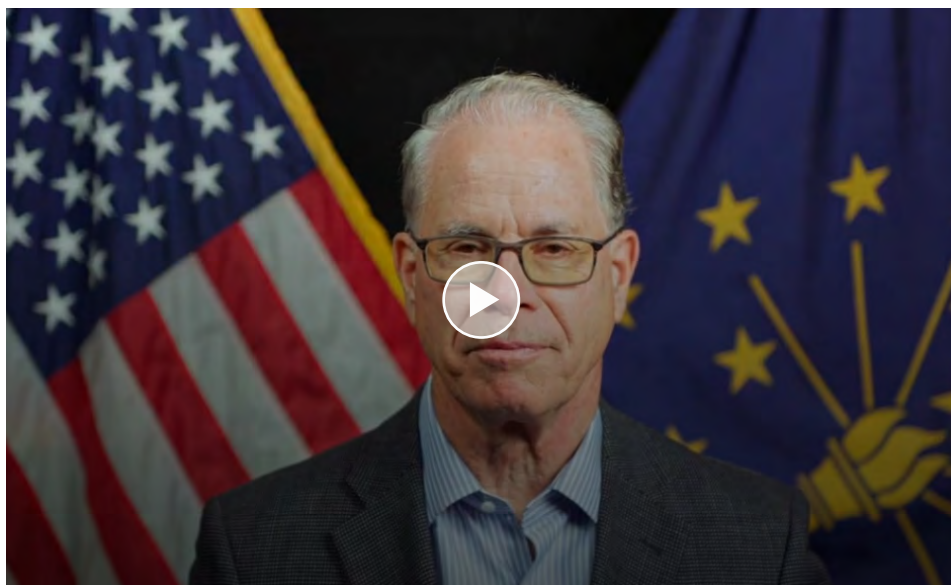


The Torch

The official newsletter for State of Indiana employees

OCT. 2025

Greetings from the Governor



Governor's Summer Intern recruitment season is here!

Hiring interns is a great way to build a talent pipeline, bring in fresh perspectives and get the most out of your agency's budget while providing on-the-job experience! Many interns begin attending their universities' career fairs in the fall each academic year, so it's important to plan for intern recruitment in advance. Managers who are interested in hosting a Governor's Summer Intern this year should contact your human resource director for next steps.

If you'd like to learn more about the benefits of the Governor's Summer Internship program, please take a look at the [internship website](#). If you have questions about how to plan for a Governor's Summer Intern or the process for recruiting, please reach out to your agency's HR staff for assistance.

Act now to receive your W-2 faster

Complete 4 simple steps to receive your W-2 faster and eliminate the risk of getting lost in the mail.

1. Log into PeopleSoft HCM Employee Self-Service
2. Select the Payroll tile
3. Select the W2 and W2c Consent tile
4. Check the Consent box and click Submit

By consenting:

- You will receive an immediate notification when your W-2 is available.
- You can view (or print) your W-2 from PeopleSoft.
- You can eliminate the expense of mailing your W-2

Contact your agency payroll department with any questions.

The deadline to consent to an electronic W-2 is December 31.

The Torch is published monthly by the Indiana State Personnel Department and is available online at on.in.gov/TheTorch

Want more content?

Check out the State of Indiana on LinkedIn and Facebook and @WorkForIndiana on X and Instagram

Got a story?

Submit your story ideas to: spdcommunications@spd.in.gov

Join the Indiana Grants Management Collaborative!

Are you seeking a platform to connect with other grants management professionals at the State? Have you previously navigated Euna Grants and wish to exchange best practices or share helpful tips? Do you oversee funding dispersed through grant processes? If so, you're invited to explore the Indiana Grants Management Collaborative (INGMC)!

INGMC convenes quarterly and is the leading forum for grants management professionals

in Indiana and provides opportunities to network, share ideas, exchange best practices, and enhance the management of state and federal grants throughout the State.

Membership is open to grants management professionals from across Indiana, including program, finance, and grants staff.

Interested in joining? [Fill out the INGMC interest form!](#)

State Employee Veteran Resource Group

For many State employees serving in the National Guard or Reserves, balancing a career with the military and with the State of Indiana can be a challenge. It requires monthly and annual training and often includes active-duty deployments. The demands of home, work, and military service require a fine balancing act of priority setting and flexible scheduling.

[Read more about State employees serving both state and country on Employee Central](#) and [find resources for the veteran community](#).

The State Employee Veteran Resource Group is here to support veterans and their families. The group is open to anyone interested in learning more about veteran support services. Get connected by emailing Paul Brayton at PBrayton@dnr.in.gov.

State utility consumer advocate recommends denial of AES Indiana rate request

Following Governor Braun's appointment of Abby Gray as Commissioner for the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) and pressure to lower rates, the OUCC is recommending denial of AES Indiana's pending rate

request. AES Indiana is requesting a \$192.9 million base rate increase from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC).

[Read the news release on OUCC's website >](#)

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

To celebrate, the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) has created five engaging themes with new resources premiering each week on Cybersecurity Awareness topics releasing on SuccessFactors Learning, JAM, and other key platforms. The themes are:

- **Week 1: Oct. 1-3, 2025** - "Workplace Security and the Return to Office"
- **Week 2: Oct. 6-10, 2025** - "The Transformative Effect of AI/Artificial Intelligence on Cybersecurity Threats"
- **Week 3: Oct. 13-17, 2025** - "Online Safety: Protecting the Vulnerable"
- **Week 4: Oct. 20-24, 2025** - "Making Security Fun (Or At Least Less Terrifying)"
- **Week 5: Oct. 27-31, 2025** - "Secure Your Mobile World"

In IOT's new [2025 Cybersecurity Awareness Month Toolkit](#), you will find fun and informative videos, interactive games, and entertaining resources to share with your loved ones at home!

If you have any questions, please email IOT at Awareness@iot.IN.gov.

Inside Man Watch Party

IOT will be hosting an Inside Man Watch Party on **Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the IGC-S Auditorium**. Join IOT for a special screening of The Inside Man: Season 1, Episodes 1-7, followed by an exclusive early premier of Episode 8, "Taken (Ransomware)". Attend for your chance to take home Inside Man and IOT merchandise!

Go all in and earn the retirement of your dreams

Take advantage of the opportunities, tools, and events from the experts at the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) and Hoosier START and learn about:

- Your benefits and the perks of being a member.
- How to start investing when you're ready.
- How to create a budget to help you reach your goals.
- How you can manage your income in retirement.
- How to apply for your retirement benefits from INPRS.
- How Hoosier START works with your other benefits.

Join INPRS + Hoosier START and Own Your Retirement

This October, join INPRS & Hoosier START to learn what to do today to plan for your dream retirement tomorrow. Whether you're balancing caregiving, growing your career, or just getting started, in just five weeks, you'll be inspired by what the future holds.

- **Oct. 8 (Virtual) | Time is On Your Side** - Kick off your career era with a solid plan.
- **Oct. 15 (Virtual) | Maximize Your Money in the Messy Middle** - Life may be chaotic, but you don't have to hit "pause" on your retirement.
- **Oct. 22 (Virtual) | The Social Security Facts** - Learn how to make this benefit work for you.
- **Oct. 29 (Indiana State Library) | Retire with Confidence** - An in-depth event for employees planning to retire within the next 24 months.

[Register now for the Own Your Retirement events >](#)

All events start at noon EST. Space is limited for the in-person event on Oct. 29, so don't delay. Virtual events will be streamed live and available for replay on [INPRS's YouTube page](#).

Indiana earns top credit rating from all three major agencies

Indiana has earned a AAA credit rating from all three major credit-rating agencies: S&P Global Ratings, Moody's Investors Service, and Fitch Ratings. The AAA credit rating is the highest rating possible, and receiving it from all three major credit agencies demonstrates the State's leadership in disciplined fiscal management, economic resilience, and long-term financial stability.

"Indiana's AAA rating is more than a financial milestone," said Governor Mike Braun. "It's a signal to taxpayers, investors, and businesses that our state is well-managed, fiscally responsible, and focused on delivering growth for Hoosiers throughout the State."

[Read the full news release here >](#)

Pre-Retirement Seminar recordings

If you are considering retiring from State government but could not attend the recent Pre-Retirement Seminar on Tuesday, Sept. 23, please find the recordings below.

This workshop was designed to assist State employees with advance retirement planning by providing information useful in making informed decisions. If you plan to retire in the next year, it's recommended to watch the recording of this seminar to help plan ahead for various aspects of your retirement.

The next Pre-Retirement Seminar will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026 and registration for that event will open later this year. If you are interested in being put on a waitlist, please email SPDTraining@spd.IN.gov.

- [Watch the Pre-Retirement Seminar recording >](#)
- [View the presentation from the Pre-Retirement Seminar >](#)

The recording of this seminar must not be watched on State time.

Health

Mammograms can help catch cancer early

Employees and spouses eligible for the ActiveHealth program can earn \$50 in [Wellness Rewards](#) for completing a mammogram. Getting a mammogram can help catch cancer early, sometimes up to three years before you notice symptoms. Plus, the screening only takes 10 to 15 minutes. Talk with your doctor about how often you should receive your mammogram, but most women should start receiving one at age 40. Make your health a priority and [schedule an appointment today](#).



Have you gotten your flu vaccine for 2025?

To make it easy to get your flu shot, there are several upcoming State of Indiana vaccine clinics. Register to receive one today and employees and spouses eligible for the ActiveHealth program can earn \$25 in [Wellness Rewards](#) per eligible vaccine received. Getting your flu vaccine can help reduce your risk of getting sick or developing severe symptoms while protecting the people around you this flu season. During the 2023-24 flu season in the U.S., there were an estimated 35 million to 65 million influenza illnesses and upwards of 800,000 hospitalizations due to influenza.



[Register for an upcoming vaccine clinic >](#)

PeopleSoft life event functionality paused during Open Enrollment

Please note that the PeopleSoft functionality allowing you to initiate changes to your health and life plan coverage based on qualifying life events, such as birth, adoption, marriage, or divorce through Employee Self Service (ESS) will not be available to employees during the Open Enrollment season between **Oct. 24, 2025 - Nov. 24, 2025**. Employees will need to contact the INSPD Benefits Hotline by phone Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET at 317-232-1167 or 1-877-248-0007 (toll-free) or SPDBenefits@spd.IN.gov to update life events during this time.

Tips for a healthy holiday season

The holidays are full of traditions and spending time with loved ones, but they can also come with stress and breaks in routine. Make your health a priority this holiday season with these things in mind:

- Keep germs at bay
- Make time to be active
- Incorporate healthy food choices
- Eat intentionally
- Be clear on your priorities

[Read more on these healthy holiday season tips >](#)

WHAT'S IN

IT'S ALWAYS FESTIVAL SEASON IN INDIANA

We love to celebrate everything about Indiana: our food, heritage, music, and more. There is so much fun to be had and so many places to enjoy. No matter what you're interested in, there is an event for you.

[FIND YOUR FAVORITE EVENT IN INDIANA](#)



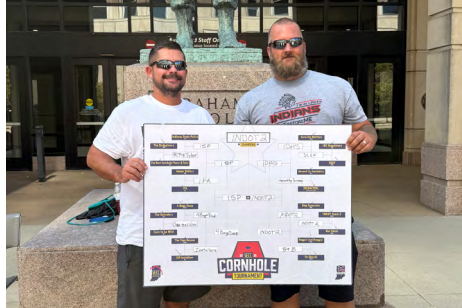
Events

We're halfway through SECC

The 2025-2026 State Employees' Community Campaign is off to a great start! If you haven't already, you can [set up a recurring donation](#) today. In terms of events, the Indiana Office of Technology took home the crown for Paddle Battle and donated funds to Riley Children's Foundation, an Indiana Department of Transportation team won Cornhole with funds supporting Hoosier Burn Camp, and father-son team Aaron Hood and Nathan Hood defeated the Pickleball competition and proceeds supported the Boys & Girls Club of Indiana. The first rounds of 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament are completed and the final round will take place on Oct. 9. The campaign closes on Friday, Nov. 7!

Our upcoming events include:

- **Virtual Trivia:** Tuesday, Oct. 16 at noon | [Register for Trivia](#)
- **Virtual Silent Auction:** Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. to Thursday, Oct. 23 at 3 p.m.
- **Virtual Trick or Treat 5K:** Saturday, Oct. 25 through Sunday, November 2 | [View more details for the 5K](#)
- **Lip Sync Battle:** Nov. 4 at 11 a.m. | [Register for Lip Sync Battle](#)



Top: Paddle Battle winners, IOT team "Two Old Men and Their Replacements"

Middle: Cornhole winners, Bryan Key and Brett Zellers from INDOT

Bottom: Pickleball winners, Aaron Hood (Indiana Supreme Court) and Nathan Hood (INDOT)

OSHA 300 Log Training on Monday, Oct. 27

10 a.m. and 1 p.m. | IGC-S Harrison Hall Room 19 or Virtual

Join the Indiana Department of Labor consultants on the 300th day of the year for training on Occupational Health and Safety Administration 300 Logs. This training will take place on **Monday, Oct. 27 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Harrison Hall (room 19) in IGC-S** or virtual. Preregistration is not required but appreciated.

[Register for the OSHA 300 Log Training >](#)

Upcoming events at the Indiana State Fair Grounds

Upcoming must-see events at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center.

Mecum Auction Indy Fall Special

- This weekend, October 2-4, with vehicles on the block daily starting at 10 a.m. at multiple pavilions across the grounds. Daily admission is \$30, or \$75 for the three-day ticket. Children 12 & younger are free with a paid adult. Parking is \$10 per vehicle.

[More information on the Mecum Auction Indy Fall Special >](#)

World Food Championships -

October 16-19 at the Indiana Farm Bureau Fall Creek Pavilion. More than 300 chefs and culinary teams will compete live. There will be tastings, chef demos, live music, a kids' zone, an international food village, and more. Ticket prices are \$28 for single-day or \$50 for the weekend.

See tickets and full schedule at worldfoodchampionships.com or indianastatefairgrounds.com.

Safe Night Halloween Trunk or Treat -

October 31, 5-7 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. Free event for children 12 & under, adult supervision required. Parking and admission are free.

[View more upcoming events at the Indiana State Fairgrounds >](#)