



The Torch

The official newsletter for State of Indiana employees

July 2026

Greetings from the Governor

- Watch Governor Braun’s latest [video message](#) to State employees.
- Sign up for the Governor’s weekly newsletter, [here](#).



Help reach former employees with unclaimed INPRS benefits

Article by Indiana Public Retirement System

The Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) launched a new initiative to ensure former public servants receive the retirement benefits they earned. Last fall, INPRS identified **nearly 4,000 former employees** who are fully eligible for benefits but haven’t yet applied. Some have even received benefit checks they never deposited.

In total, these unclaimed benefits amount to **millions of dollars** owed to former state and local government workers—many of whom may have simply forgotten what they earned or did not realize they became eligible earlier than federal retirement programs allow.

To reconnect individuals with their funds, INPRS launched the **Reclaim**

Your Retirement tool, which more than 20,000 Hoosiers have already used. Former employees can look up their status online and then call **844-464-6777** to verify their identity and activate their benefits. INPRS can also reach out to those who appear eligible.

A key reminder from INPRS: **There is no advantage in delaying** a defined benefit (pension) once someone is age and service eligible. Waiting does not increase the monthly amount. INPRS can also provide up to **six months of retroactive payments** once benefits are activated.

How you can help
If you know former colleagues



who left State service years ago, please encourage them to check for unclaimed INPRS benefits. A simple reminder could help someone reclaim a meaningful financial resource they earned through years of public service.

Direct former coworkers to [in.gov/INPRS/ReclaimYourRetirement](https://www.in.gov/INPRS/ReclaimYourRetirement) or the Member Service Center at **844-464-6777** for more information.

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.

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

Update on Governor's Summer Interns



Interns pose with Chief Justice Loretta Rush.

Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

The Governor's Summer Intern program is in full swing! Interns across numerous State agencies have been diving into the world of State government, learning about their agencies, their roles, and the impact they can make.

Throughout June, interns had the opportunity to meet with Chief Justice Loretta Rush and Inspector General Jared Prentice, asking thoughtful questions about their responsibilities and how their work shapes the State of Indiana. They also spent the afternoon at Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, helping provide 21,175 meals to

Hoosiers in need.

Looking ahead to July, interns will return to Gleaners for another public service opportunity, as well as participate in a variety of professional development opportunities. These include a visit with Governor Braun, an agency leadership panel, and a skill-building workshop.

The program will conclude with an intern poster presentation and an awards ceremony celebrating the hard work they've completed over the summer.

Be sure to say hello to our interns around the State before they wrap up their internships in August.



A group of interns at Gleaners.

Pre-Retirement Seminar Recording

Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

If you are considering retiring from State government but could not attend the Pre-Retirement Seminar on Thursday, June 4, please find the recording and presentation:

- [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.

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 for various aspects of your retirement.

The next Pre-Retirement Seminar will be held on September 10 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.

The 2026 Indiana State Fair is Aug. 7-23



AUGUST 7-23
CLOSED MONDAYS

Article by Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center

Make plans now to experience the 2026 Indiana State Fair, August 7 through August 23, closed Mondays. This year's Fair, themed around baseball in partnership with the Indianapolis Indians, offers something for everyone.

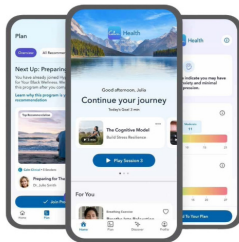
Guests can enjoy the all-new train ride presented in partnership with North American Midway Entertainment, the fan-favorite Big Top Circus presented by Bee Window, nightly entertainment on the new Hoosier Lottery Free Stage, the nostalgic Rewind: A VHS Revival exhibit, and the popular Taste of the Fair, featuring some of Indiana's most iconic Fair foods.

From exciting midway rides and agricultural exhibits to interactive experiences and live entertainment, there is no shortage of fun to discover. The Fair is open Tuesday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Come celebrate Indiana traditions and make lasting memories at the Greatest 15 Days of Summer!

Learn more: www.indianastatefair.com.

Upgrade to Calm Health



Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

Exciting news: Your Calm app benefit is getting an upgrade to Calm Health — a new way to support your mental and physical wellbeing. The Calm Health app, available through the Optum Employee Assistance Program

(EAP), provides much of the same content as the Calm app, plus evidence-based programs and personalized recommendations to help you feel your best. You'll find resources that help you build skills for managing stress, support sleep, adopt new habits, and find greater wellbeing — all at no cost to you. Access to the Calm app will end on October 1, 2026.

For more information and details about how to get started with Calm Health, [click here](#).

Step into summer with the July Team Challenge



Team up with coworkers and kick off Health & Wellness Week with a friendly step challenge!

The [July Team Challenge](#) takes place July 13-26, and registration opens July 6. Each participant must

track at least 7,000 steps each day of the challenge through a device connected to the Mobile Health Consumer portal to earn a [\\$10 wellness reward](#). The team with the most steps at the end of the two-week challenge wins bragging rights! The Team Challenge competition is open to employees and spouses who are enrolled in a State employee health plan.

Boost your health goals with personalized coaching from Anthem

Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

Looking to feel better, improve your energy, or finally tackle that health goal you've been putting off? [Anthem's individual health coaching](#) can help you get there. Anthem's team of health coaches includes qualified professionals such as nutritionists, certified health coaches, weight management specialists, tobacco cessation specialists, and exercise

physiologists. Your coach will work with you to create a plan that fits your lifestyle and keeps you moving forward.

To get started, call your Anthem Family Advocate at 877-814-9709 and request to work with a health coach. Health coaches are available by phone, virtually, and onsite at some locations. Check with your HR team to see if an onsite coach is available at your location.



Bonus perk: Eligible employees and spouses can earn up to [\\$100 in wellness rewards](#) for completing individual health coaching sessions with the Anthem Health Coaches.

Mark your calendars: Health & Wellness Week is July 13-17

Take time to focus on YOUR health and wellness during



Health & Wellness Week from July 13-17. Your health, whether physical, mental, or emotional, affects you, the people who care about you, and the many areas where your lives are intertwined. So, let's talk about it!

Maintaining or improving your health and wellbeing takes intention, time, and energy. Health & Wellness Week is a time to focus on your personal health, as well as to get connected with resources available to you through the Invest in Your Health program that can help you achieve your goals. Start thinking about your health goals and keep an eye out for more information from INSPD!

You can also find a wealth of resources available to you through the [Invest in Your Health website](#).

Nominations open for the Golden Hoosier Award

Article by the office of Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith



Do you know an outstanding senior who has made a lasting impact on their community? The Indiana Lieutenant Governor's Golden Hoosier Award recognizes Hoosiers age 65 and older who have dedicated years of service, leadership, and volunteerism to improving the lives of others. Help celebrate those whose commitment and generosity make Indiana a better place to live, work and thrive. [Nominate a deserving senior today!](#)

- [Golden Hoosier 2026](#)
- [More information and nomination form](#)

IDOC Employee Appreciation Committee

Article by Indiana Dept. of Correction

The Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) Employee Appreciation Committee (EAC) is an active and dedicated volunteer group in State government. Each month, this committed crew of volunteers organizes engaging activities that strengthen workplace connection and remind staff how valued they are. It can be hard to connect 5,400 employees across Indiana, but with creative themed events, hands on crafts, seasonal celebrations and more, the EAC brings energy and

camaraderie to every part of the agency!

Most recently, the EAC played a major role in supporting Correctional Professionals Week, celebrated each May, by coordinating meaningful ways to honor the people who keep facilities running smoothly every day. They work hard to ensure staff feel appreciated not only in their corner of IDOC but connected to the larger corrections community.

Their commitment is rooted in one



mission: making sure every staff member feels recognized for the essential work they do. Thanks to the EAC's creativity, passion, and teamwork, IDOC continues to cultivate a workplace where people feel proud to serve.

DNR Fish & Wildlife seeking State Fair Volunteers

Article by Dept. of Natural Resources

[The Fishin' Pond](#), started in 2006, gives children ages 5-17 the chance to fish for free during the State Fair. Each year, thousands of kids fish at the pond. For many of them, it's their first fishing experience. The program would not be such a success without the help of wonderful volunteers.

Opportunities include:

- **Guides:** Show families where to

register, direct them to fishing spots, and help when needed.

- **Registration:** Help parents register their kid for fishing.
- **Fishing:** Work directly with kids and families. Help bait hooks, cast, catch, and return fish to the water.
- **Equipment:** Tie knots to hooks and supply crew with poles.

Volunteers receive orientation, free admission to the fair on the



day of their four-hour shift, a commemorative T-shirt, and the chance to help families connect with fishing resources.

[Learn more and sign up to volunteer.](#)