

**The League of Women Voters of Indiana (LWVIN)  
and the  
Indiana Coalition for Human Services (ICHS)**

The Indiana Coalition for Human Services is an organization of like-minded organizations whose mission is to promote public policy that better the lives of those at risk and in need.

A little history...

The LWVIN and the ICHS have a long history. In the 1980's the LWVIN representatives to the ICHS played an active role in the organization. Several of those representatives served as officers and members of the board of directors. At least two gained employment as lobbyists in human services organizations due to their work with the coalition. Sometime later the LWVIN was no longer a member of ICHS.

Today....

The LWVIN joined the ICHS in 2007. I (Paulette Vandegriff) served as the LWVIN representative to the organization and continue to do so today. Through the LWVUS Position, Meeting Basic Human Needs, and LWVIN policy positions, the LWVIN has been able to advocate for policies that benefit Hoosiers. Like the LWVIN each organization has their own mission and may not be able to support the policies and legislative agenda of other organizations. ICHS holds Brown Bag lunches during the legislative session and the representative of each member organization shares information about their priority bills with the other members. Often member organizations form alliances to work on bills of mutual interest. The ICHS Education Committee holds Lunch & Learn sessions for anyone whose organization is a member of ICHS. Recently a Lunch & Learn session informed members about Broadband and how federal funds from the infrastructure bill will benefit unserved and underserved areas in Indiana.

Examples of alliances in ICHS:

- LWVIN and AARP were active in the Redistricting process in 2011,
- LWVIN and many ICHS members worked to promote adoption of extended Medicaid Benefits under the Affordable Care Act bringing health insurance to more Hoosiers as well as establishing a health insurance exchange,
- LWVIN has worked with member organizations to support SNAP, WIC, and other federal nutrition programs.

The LWVIN has gained valuable information through membership in the Indiana Coalition for Human Services.