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| Seal of the State of Indiana | Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana |

Application: Bullying & Suicide Prevention and Online Safety Task Force

The [Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana](https://www.in.gov/children/) is a three-branch state government policy- coordinating body that was established by law under [IC 2-5-36](https://iga.in.gov/laws/2023/ic/titles/2#2-5-36) in 2013. Its purpose is to study issues concerning vulnerable youth, make legislative recommendations, and promote information-sharing and best practices for the benefit of vulnerable youth throughout the state. The Commission’s [Task Forces & Committees](https://www.in.gov/children/committees-and-task-forces/), each of which are dedicated to the study and improvement of specific issues concerning vulnerable youth, are made up of relevant state agency leaders, community organization leaders, and community members with valuable insight into the experiences of Indiana youth and families, particularly those impacted by state systems.

*The Commission is seeking five community members (young adults and/or parents at least 18 years of age) for the newly established Bullying & Suicide Prevention and Online Safety Task Force.*

Together with other task force members, community members of the Bullying & Suicide Prevention and Online Safety Task Force will:

* Study the experiences of Indiana youth who have first-hand knowledge bullying, suicidality, and/or online vulnerability/unsafety
* Identify best practices for bullying/suicide prevention strategies and assess existing intervention employed by Indiana communities to prevent bullying and suicidality
* Elevate the voices of Indiana youth and families who have experienced bullying, suicidality, and online vulnerability/unsafety
* Develop experience-informed statewide intervention/prevention strategies for Indiana youth and families

To be a successful member of the Bullying & Suicide Prevention and Online Safety Task Force, applicants should:

* Express curiosity, a willingness to learn, and an interest in government/policy
* Have reflected upon their own experiences with bullying, suicidality, and/or online unsafety and be able to engage in experience-informed advocacy on behalf of Indiana youth and families
* Be available to attend task force meetings on a monthly or bimonthly basis, in addition to preparation meetings for Commission events (typically virtual but may occur in downtown Indianapolis)
* Be able and willing to prepare for meetings by reading materials in advance and communicating questions to Commission staff as needed
* Be able to collaborate with a variety of interdisciplinary professionals and community members with diverse perspectives and experiences to assess issues concerning vulnerable youth

Community Task Force Members are compensated in the amount of $75 per meeting, receive reimbursement for mileage and parking costs, receive onboarding and support from Commission staff, and will have the opportunity to participate in optional events/activities outside of their typical duties as desired. Further information about the Commission, task force, and Community Member position will be provided following application.

*If you are interested in joining the Bullying & Suicide Prevention Task Force as a community member, please fill out the attached application and send your completed application via email to* [*blane.cook@courts.in.gov*](mailto:blane.cook@courts.in.gov) *by* ***September 30th****.*

First/Last Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Address:

Date of Birth:

To apply for a community member position, please **answer the following questions** and provide a **letter of recommendation** to the Commission. Answers may be provided in either written or video format—whichever feels more comfortable for you—and letters of recommendation should be provided by an individual that you trust to describe your strengths, capabilities, and reasons why you would make a good member of the Commission.

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana? Why is bullying prevention, suicide prevention, and online safety important to you?
2. In your perspective, how will your lived experiences with bullying, suicidality, and/or unsafe internet interactions inform the development of state strategies aimed at improving youth experiences in these areas? Lived experience includes both personal experiences and those of loved ones. For this question, please limit identifiable information, such as real names, in efforts to keep others’ personal information private.
3. What strategies do you recommend for promoting self-care and well-being among task force members, particularly those who may be navigating complex trauma or emotional triggers?
4. Occupation and future goals (you only need to answer one):
   1. If you are a student, what are you studying and what are your academic and career goals?
   2. If you are working, what is your job and what are your future career goals?
   3. If you are neither working nor studying, how do you typically spend your time and what are your future goals?