INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP

BACKGROUNDER

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The Inclusive Prosperity Partnership and its Executive Director, Danielle Sydnor

WHY IPP

In 2024, 49.8 percent of people in the St. Louis metro area were financially secure, with enough income to cover basic living expenses and save for the future, up from 49.1 percent in 2019. IPP exists to help more families get there.

Only 61.2% of families with at least one full-time, year-round worker were financially secure in 2024. Employment alone is not sufficient for stability.

St. Louis has committed leaders, strong plans, and a growing economy to build on. IPP helps turn that work into coordinated action, so more families can make ends meet and build toward the future.

WHAT IPP DOES

The Inclusive Prosperity Partnership brings together leaders from business, philanthropy, nonprofits, government, and the community to address and remove barriers to economic mobility in the region. IPP helps existing organizations do more together, aligning people, resources, and data so the region can achieve what no single institution could do alone.

IPP's first priority is quality jobs for people with low incomes, meaning living wage jobs, comprehensive employee benefits, and opportunities for growth and advancement. Early childhood education and affordable housing are also IPP priorities.

IPP is housed at the St. Louis Community Foundation. Jason Purnell, President & CEO of the James S. McDonnell Foundation, chairs IPP's Steering Committee.

DANIELLE SYDNOR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Danielle Sydnor is Executive Director of the Inclusive Prosperity Partnership (IPP), a ten-year, $161 million initiative housed at the St. Louis Community Foundation.

Sydnor brings more than two decades of experience across finance, community development, and coalition building. She started as a bank teller and then worked in a credit card call center. While working full time as a manager, she finished her degree in finance and moved into wealth management at Merrill Lynch and PNC. That nontraditional path included periods of financial insecurity, and it shapes how she sees this work. She went on to lead the northern Ohio division of the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI), a statewide community development lender for small businesses.

She rose from committee chair to president of the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP, elected in 2019 as the youngest person and first woman to lead the branch since 1982. Her coalition work with the branch helped cap payday loan interest at 28 percent in Ohio, which had some of the highest payday loan prices in the nation.

As the inaugural CEO of the RISE Together Innovation Institute in Columbus, she launched economic mobility pilots including a guaranteed income program for single-mother-led households. With Jordan Davis of Smart Columbus, she co-led the fundraising and development that secured $18 million in public funding and helped stand up Franklin County's Community Information Exchange, a shared system to connect people with health and human services.

Before joining IPP, she served as President and Executive Director of The Presidents' Council, Northeast Ohio's Black business growth organization. She serves on the NAACP National Board of Directors and is the mother of two adult sons.

Learn more at ippstl.org.