

# YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULUM



## SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

**2017-2018**

A partnership between SPH-F180: Survey of  
Practice for Youth and Families & Boys and  
Girls Club of Lawrence County





# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

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# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## Acknowledgements

This project was completed as a collaboration between the students in SPH-F180: Survey of Practice for Youth & Families and the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County as part of the 2017-2018 Indiana University Sustaining Hoosier Communities (IUSHC) initiative. IUSHC is a program within the IU Center for Rural Engagement (CRE).

This report represents original student work and recommendations proposed by the students in SPH-F180: Survey of Practice for Youth & Families for the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County. The contents of this report represent the views of the students in SPH-F180: Survey of Practice for Youth & Families and do not reflect those of IUSHC, CRE, Indiana University, or the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County.

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# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## About Sustaining Hoosier Communities

Indiana University Sustaining Hoosier Communities is an initiative that partners with a local community within south central Indiana to explore, understand, and resolve challenges and projects identified by the community. Based on a tested model for university/community engagement that has been successfully implemented by over 25 universities and their community partners, Sustaining Hoosier Communities is a yearlong collaboration between Indiana University and a single community partner.

Indiana University's faculty who opt in to Sustaining Hoosier Communities match their courses to the projects based on their areas of research, expertise, and teaching. Each course uses a cross-disciplinary approach to explore and solve sustainability issues identified by the community partner through project-based research. Faculty and community stakeholders agree before classes begin on a scope of work and deliverables for each class, and project liaisons are identified by the community and the university to coordinate this unified effort.

Sustaining Hoosier Communities is just one example of many types of community engagement Indiana University plans to pursue as part of the Center for Rural Engagement. By harnessing the research, expertise, energy, and service of Indiana University's faculty, staff, and students, Indiana University and our local partners work collaboratively to improve the health, prosperity, and vitality of southcentral Indiana.

To learn more about IU Sustaining Hoosier Communities, visit [www.shc.indiana.edu](http://www.shc.indiana.edu).

To learn more about the IU Center for Rural Engagement, visit [www.rural.indiana.edu](http://www.rural.indiana.edu).

## Sustaining Hoosier Communities Project Process





# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## About the Course

The SPH-F180: Survey of Practice for Youth and Families course prepares students for professional practice with youth and families in public health, education, social work, criminal justice, recreation, social service settings, and beyond. The course utilizes an interdisciplinary approach in a public health context to support student understanding and application of the child and youth care profession. All content aligns with key competencies in child and youth care as outlined by the Child and Youth Care Certification Board, Inc.

In this service-learning course, students were required to apply knowledge gained about the field of youth work and lifespan development to develop, deliver, and evaluate a youth financial literacy curriculum for the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County.



# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## About the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County

The Boys and Girls Club of America's mission is to enable all young people, especially those from underserved communities, to reach their full potential as productive, caring & responsible citizens. The Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence County accomplishes this mission via afterschool and summer programs that encompass youth sports, character and leadership education, career, health, financial education, personal and professional development skills, and the arts. Its facilities include four buildings and a youth park located within the City of Bedford. The Thornton Teen Center in Bedford serves teens ages 12 – 18 and was the location for the partnership for the students in SPH-F180: Survey of Practice for Youth and Families.

At the Thornton Teen Center, the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence County is currently delivering the Money Matters program, an educational program that promotes personal financial responsibility and independence among students ages 13 – 18. Within its Money Matters program, it identified the need for a financial literacy component for middle school youth. The partnership between the students in SPH-F180: Survey of Practice for Youth and Families and the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County yielded three, 45-minute educational sessions on financial literacy each delivered by IU students to complement the existing Money Matters program.



# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## The Project: Connecting Course & Community

The partnership between students in SPH-F180: Survey of Practice for Youth and Families and the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County's Teen Center provided the opportunity for IU students to apply their coursework to create lesson plans catered to the specific needs of middle school students in Lawrence County. Likewise, the Teen Center youth were able to learn about personal financial health while developing a mentorship with the IU students in a positive, small group atmosphere.

Larry Will, the Boys & Girls Club's community liaison, expressed the importance for Bedford youth to gain a stronger sense of personal financial health and develop a working knowledge of financial issues. This aligned with Indiana's recent focus on personal financial education supported by the Indiana Attorney General throughout the 9 – 12th grade curriculum via the Indiana MoneyWise Financial Education Program. This focus has also been identified as a priority for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's "Money Matters: Make it Count" curriculum. To complement the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County's existing Money Matters program, students in SPH-F180: Survey of Practice for Youth and Families developed, implemented, and evaluated three, 45-minute lessons on financial literacy for 20-22 middle school students at the Teen Center. The small group setting allowed for positive mentorships between IU and middle school students to form through guided reflections at the end of each session.



# SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES

## Student Outcomes

- Developed, delivered, and evaluated three 45-minute lessons on financial literacy at the Teen Center in Bedford for 20-22 middle school students as part of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence County's Money Matters program
- Connected theoretical and practical knowledge in the classroom to community-engaged learning
- Led guided reflections with the Teen Center middle school students to foster better understanding of personal financial literacy
- Developed materials that can serve as the basis for further development of a financial literacy curriculum for youth

## Community Partner Outcomes

- Establishment of a new partnership between the IU School of Public Health-Bloomington and the staff at the Thornton Teen Center in Bedford
- Twenty middle school students at the Teen Center learned about key financial health concepts
- Formation of positive mentoring relationships with diverse IU students
- Identification of additional topics for future potential partnership, including college and career development, general health topics, and nutrition/cooking





**SUSTAINING HOOSIER COMMUNITIES**



# **RURAL ENGAGEMENT**

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**A BRIGHTER FUTURE *for* ALL**

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