

B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: BLOOMINGTON FINANCES

“B-Clear” is short for *Bloomington Clear*, a web-based, one-stop site for data about the City of Bloomington, its services, and its neighborhoods. The site is open to the public and includes over 200 data sets about everything from parking to potholes to bike paths.

This month I’m spotlighting our *Financial Summary* – a look at revenues, budget lines, actual expenditures, and more for the City of Bloomington. Which Departments have the largest payroll? How many different vendors have provided goods and services for the City in 2021? (Hint: It’s >1000) How much did it cost to replace a fire engine in October 2020? It’s all here!

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.finance.socrata.com/#!/dashboard



NEED ASSISTANCE PAYING UTILITY BILLS? HERE ARE TWO PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP!

Indiana’s **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)** provides funds to assist with your water and wastewater bills during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding is available for use through September 2023 or until funds are exhausted.

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is a one-time annual benefit that can assist with the high cost of home energy including electric and heating expenses. Both homeowners and renters are eligible to apply, and you don’t need to have fallen behind on your bills to qualify. Payments are made directly to the utility vendor.

FIND OUT MORE:

in.gov/ihcda/homeowners-and-renters/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap/



EVER STUMBLE ACROSS FORGOTTEN MONEY IN A PANTS POCKET OR AN OLD HANDBAG?

Well ... This is kinda the same thing!

Housed in the **Office of the Attorney General** for the State of Indiana is the **Unclaimed Property Division** – a governmental unit that collects and safeguards unclaimed property on behalf of Indiana residents and that provides a way for the rightful owner to claim these assets.

I got a call from a cousin this fall saying she’d seen my name in their database. To my HUGE surprise, I was able to claim \$147 from a long-forgotten bank account!



Some quick definitions ... Any financial asset with no activity by its owner for an extended period of time is considered “unclaimed property”. This could include **unclaimed wages or commissions; savings and checking accounts; stock dividends; insurance proceeds; underlying shares; customer deposits or overpayments; certificates of deposit; credit balances; refunds; money orders; and safe deposit box contents.**

Generally, an organization holding potential unclaimed property will try to establish connection with you through written correspondence, an online login, a withdrawal or deposit, or an update to personal info. If these attempts don’t work, the asset is reported to the state of the owner’s last known address, and that’s where indianaunclaimed.org takes over.

FIND OUT MORE AND SEARCH FOR PROPERTY IN YOUR NAME:

[Indianaunclaimed.org](https://indianaunclaimed.org)



YOUR VOICE MATTERS! COMMUNITY SURVEY ON THE MONROE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



Erika Oliphant, Monroe County Prosecutor, and her office have contracted with Dr. Eric Grommon of the IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs for a study on racial and ethnic disparities in the Monroe County criminal justice system.

As part of this study, Dr. Grommon's research team has designed a survey to gather anonymous data on public perceptions of these potential disparities. The survey is completely voluntary, and data will only be reported in aggregate form. **The Prosecutor's office will not see your individual responses.**

The survey will be available through December 31, 2021. It takes about 15 minutes to complete, and all responses will be held in strictest confidence by the research team. Any questions may be directed to Dr. Grommon at egrommon@iu.edu or (317) 278-9481.

FIND OUT MORE + COMPLETE THE SURVEY:

https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b74u087BHz9H5fU

SOME GREAT RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

What should I have in my "Go Bag" if I need to leave my home during an emergency? What should I keep in my "Stay Bag" in case I get snowed in this winter? What are the most important elements of an emergency plan for me and my family? Where can I find resources to help me teach my kids more about preparedness?



This summer's storms and flooding were a good reminder that we can all take steps to be more prepared for emergencies.

FIND OUT MORE:

www.ready.gov

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2022 RESIDENTIAL STORMWATER GRANTS

The City of Bloomington Utilities Department (CBU) invites homeowners to apply for funding through the fourth annual Residential Stormwater Grants Program. A total of \$100,000 has been dedicated in CBU's 2022 budget to this program to provide small grants to homeowners for sustainable stormwater infrastructure projects (like rain gardens or bioswales, for example) on private residential property. Successful projects improve the management of stormwater before it enters local waterways or the city's stormwater conveyance infrastructure



CBU will host a public information meeting about the grant application process and project requirements on Tuesday, December 14 at 6:00 pm, at Banneker Community Center, 930 W. 7th Street. **Applications are due by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.**

In 2021, \$70,000 was allocated to the Residential Stormwater Grants Program. Twelve projects were awarded grants ranging from around \$2,000 to \$14,000 and included rain gardens, dry creek beds, and other drainage stabilization projects.

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/utilities/stormwater/grants

KEEP IN TOUCH! →

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