

AIRS Indiana

Membership Benefit Information



AIRS Indiana is a state affiliate of the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRS). AIRS mission is to provide leadership and support to the membership to advance the capacity of a Standards-driven Information and Referral industry that brings people and services together. When you or your agency becomes a member of AIRS, you automatically became a member of AIRS Indiana. AIRS IN's mission is to provide education, training and professional development opportunities to advance the field of I&R/A in the state of Indiana.

Membership

Membership in AIRS and your local Affiliate (AIRS IN) provides the best vehicle to ensure your service keeps pace with the latest I&R/A trends and developments. AIRS offers many resources which provide opportunities for you and your agency to develop or expand your skills, learn new information and interact with other I&R/A professionals. A few of those services include: newsletter, journal, ABCs of I&R, online training and annual conference.

Listserv

Two listservs exist to help information and referral providers find resources, ask questions related to their daily operations, and exchange information about finding and using other sources of information to enhance their operations. Please sign up by sending an email to airs-in-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and to airsnetworkersubscribe@yahoogroups.com. Be sure to include your organizational affiliation in your e-mail. All I&R/A staff members and volunteers can join the listservs and search the archives for info.

Certification Program

Information and referral is a profession with a comprehensive understanding of the human services delivery system and a holistic view of people's wants and needs. The AIRS certification Program awards professional credentials internationally to individuals who successfully complete the appropriate AIRS Certification Program for information and referral practitioners. It is an acknowledgement of demonstrated competences in the field of information and referral that include knowledge, skills, attitudes and work-related behaviors needed by I&R/A practitioners to successfully execute their duties. The following Certifications are available:

- Certified Information and Referral Specialist (CIRS)
- Certified Resource Specialist (CRS)
- Certified Information and Referral Specialist- Aging (CIRS-A)

The I&R/A Certification process reinforces the individual's capacity for self-reliance and self-determination through education, affirmation, advocacy, collaborative planning and problem solving.

Training

AIRS sponsors an annual I&R/A training and education conference. The 2008 conference will be in Houston, Texas on May 18-21, 2008. Highlights of the conference include:

- National Aging I&R/A Symposium
- Military Family Center Specialists Training
- 2-1-1 Assembly and Pre-conference Intensive
- I&R skill building opportunities including I&R Service Delivery; Technology; Management; Disaster; 2-1-1; Resource Management and Personal & Professional Development
- Peer networking and idea exchange
- Aging Retreat for State Units on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging
- Expanded exhibit hall with vendors offering the latest in I&R products & services
- Sponsorship and vendor opportunities

Training, continued

In addition, AIRS also offers on-line training on a variety of I&R/A topics, with a discounted fee for members. In partnership with Indiana 211 Partnership, many online trainings and/or training resources are posted on the Professionals section of the IN211 website (www.in211.org).

AIRS-IN also conducts trainings throughout the year which focus on professional development and standards. Trainings are usually held on 2nd Tuesdays in Indianapolis in April, June, August and October. AIRS-IN members who are database partners in 2-1-1 attend 3rd Friday database conference calls/online meetings.

Standards

First published in 1973 and now in its 5th edition, the AIRS Standards underpin and bind together every aspect of I&R/A and define the direction of all the products and services provided by AIRS. The Standards are the foundation of 2-1-1 service delivery and the prime benchmark of quality I&R.

There are 27 Standards, covering every facet of an I&R operation, including new Standards on crisis intervention and disaster preparedness.

Accreditation

Accreditation determines whether an organization meets the AIRS Standards for Professional Information and Referral through a three phase process:

- Phase 1) Application, Documentation and Consultation — The agency works with the AIRS staff liaison to review accreditation criteria, documentation requirements and answer questions regarding the process.
- Phase 2) Onsite Review — Once the applicable documents have been supplied, reviewed and approved, an onsite review is conducted to ensure the agency is operating in accordance with the accreditation criteria.
- Phase 3) Award — Following the site visit, a report with a recommendation from the review team is completed and submitted to the chair of the AIRS Accreditation Program for approval and a letter is sent to notify the agency of the results.

AIRS and AIRS-IN are here to assist you. Below you will find the contact information for AIRS and AIRS-IN.

AIRS National Headquarters

11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(703) 218-AIRS (2477)
Fax: (703) 359-7562
info@airs.org
www.airs.org

AIRS-Indiana

c/o Indiana 211 Partnership, Inc.
3901 N. Meridian St., Ste. 9
Indianapolis, IN 46208-4026
317-921-7527 / 317-921-1397 fax
www.in211.org/professionals/airsin.htm

The Board of AIRS Indiana consists of:

- * **Stephanie Norrick, Chair**- United Way of Southwestern Indiana (Evansville)- snorrick@unitedwayswi.org
- * **Sylvia Cardosi, Vice Chair**- Northwest Indiana Community Action (Lake County)- scardosi@nwi-ca.org
- * **Phil Oleksy, Treasurer**- LifeStream 211 (Yorktown)- poleksy@lifestreaminc.org
- * **Mary Grogan, Secretary**- Lake County Public Library- mgrogan@lakeco.lib.in.us
- * Dave Sisk- United Way of St. Joseph County 211- dsisk@uwsjc.com
- * Cindy Wagoner- Area 5 Agency on Aging (Logansport)- cindy@areafive.com
- * Lorealee Moore- Aging and Community Services (Columbus)- lmoore@areaxi.org
- * Madge Whickcar- United Way of Porter County- madge@unitedwaypc.org
- * Michelle Swiger- Vigo County Lifeline (Terre Haute)- mswiper@verizon.net
- * Terry Statzer- Area 9 Agency of Aging (Richmond)- tstatzer@indiana.edu