Changes Close to Home

Federal action and economic opportunity in 1960s Indiana

IS.4.12 "Identify and explain the significance of federal programs, policies, and legal rulings designed to improve the lives of Americans during the 1960s and the impact on Indiana residents."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each federal program, law, or court ruling. Circle the barrier it addresses, then draw an arrow to an effect it could have on Indiana residents.

What Changed for Indiana Residents?

1 In 1966, an older Indiana resident could visit a doctor with a new source of help: Medicare. Congress created Medicare in 1965, and coverage began the next year. It provided health insurance for people 65 and older, reducing the financial risk of medical care. The same law created Medicaid, a joint federal and state program that helps eligible people with low incomes pay for care. In Indiana, these programs could make treatment more affordable for an older patient or a qualifying family. Money once needed for a hospital bill could instead go toward groceries or rent, although coverage did not erase every cost.

2 A paycheck also depends on access to work. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 barred employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also banned racial discrimination in many public accommodations, including hotels and restaurants. When an Atlanta motel challenged the law, the Supreme Court upheld its application to that motel in Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States (1964). The Court reasoned that Congress could regulate interstate commerce, including lodging for travelers crossing state lines. For an Indiana worker or traveler, the law and ruling strengthened a federal tool for challenging exclusion from jobs and businesses.

3 In 1965, the federal government also launched Head Start to offer preschool learning and other services to children from families with low incomes. An Indiana family with an eligible child could gain access to early learning while a parent had more time to work or seek work. That effect was possible, not automatic: programs needed local funding and places, and a law against discrimination still needed enforcement. Together, health coverage, early education, and civil rights protections attacked different economic barriers. They could lower costs, widen opportunities, and protect access to earnings, but none promised that every Indiana resident would immediately benefit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Medicare and Medicaid address different residents' needs, and how could either program affect an Indiana household's budget?

2. What barrier did Head Start address for eligible Indiana families? Explain one possible economic effect and one reason that effect was not guaranteed.

3. How did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Heart of Atlanta Motel ruling work together to affect an Indiana worker or traveler?

4. Compare how a health coverage program and a civil rights protection in the passage could improve an Indiana resident's economic life.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence note to a 1967 Indiana town council proposing a local way to help residents use two different federal actions in the passage. Name both actions, explain how each could affect residents' economic lives, and give one practical reason your proposal matters.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · IS.4.12

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each federal program, law, or court ruling. Circle the barrier it addresses, then draw an arrow to an effect it could have on Indiana residents. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Medicare and Medicaid address different residents' needs, and how could either program affect an Indiana household's budget?	**Medicare insured people 65 and older, while Medicaid helped eligible people with low incomes pay for care. Either could make treatment more affordable, leaving a household more money for needs such as rent or groceries.**
2	What barrier did Head Start address for eligible Indiana families? Explain one possible economic effect and one reason that effect was not guaranteed.	**Head Start expanded access to early learning for children from families with low incomes. It could give a parent time to work or seek work, but local funding and available places limited access.**
3	How did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Heart of Atlanta Motel ruling work together to affect an Indiana worker or traveler?	**The act barred specified forms of job discrimination and racial discrimination in many public accommodations. The ruling upheld the law's application to a motel serving interstate travelers, strengthening a tool Indiana residents could use to challenge exclusion.**
4	Compare how a health coverage program and a civil rights protection in the passage could improve an Indiana resident's economic life.	**Medicare or Medicaid could reduce the cost of medical care for an eligible resident. The Civil Rights Act could protect access to work or businesses, helping residents earn income or use services.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town should open a library help desk for residents learning about new federal programs. Staff could help eligible older residents understand Medicare, which could reduce the risk that medical bills consume money needed for rent. They could also connect families with eligible young children to Head Start, which could offer early learning and give some parents time to seek work. Local help matters because residents cannot use a program if they do not know how to find an available place.

Accept other accurate pairs of federal actions and plausible local proposals. Responses should explain distinct economic effects without claiming that access or benefits were guaranteed.