



## **Naima Gardner, M.P.H.**

Director, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity  
Indiana Department of Health  
Indianapolis, Indiana

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Naima Gardner serves as the director of the division of nutrition and physical activity (DNPA) at the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), a role she has held since September 2024. She previously led the division's SNAP-Education and Nutrition Programs beginning in 2018. In her current role, Naima guides statewide strategies aimed at preventing and reducing obesity and chronic disease among all Hoosiers. Under her leadership, the DNPA team collaborates with community partners and stakeholders across Indiana to strengthen nutrition and physical activity environments in schools, workplaces, communities, retail settings, and more. Naima's approach to nutrition centers on a holistic, food-systems framework—one that considers every stage from seed to fork and beyond—to advance sustainable improvements in community nutrition security. Before joining IDOH, Naima served as the campaign coordinator for healthy food financing at the American Heart Association, where she worked on policies to expand access to healthy food across the state. Naima holds a master of public health degree from Indiana University and a culinary arts degree from Johnson & Wales University. Prior to her work in public health, she spent several years as a professional chef. She remains deeply passionate about nutrition and food systems, particularly how they shape public health and community well-being. Born and raised in Bloomington, Indiana (go Hoosiers!), Naima now lives in Indianapolis with her family.