



Mission: To advocate for low-income Missourians and strengthen the Community Action Network
Vision: A state where all people and communities thrive

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ADVOCACY – Speaking up for Low-Income Missourians

Advocacy Efforts

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

The 98th General Assembly came to a close on May 15, 2015. This session was very eventful! During the session, we tracked nearly 100 bills within the elements of poverty: Food, Health, Education, Housing & Energy, and Family & Economic Security. Our legislative priorities were Medicaid Expansion and funding for energy programs (Utilecare and Weatherization). To move our priorities forward, and stop harmful legislation, MACA staff, network members, and our lobbyists, Madsen & Wright met with legislators and state office holders to share information about poverty and the Community Action Network.

During the session, we hosted a statewide advocacy event that brought nearly 100 of our network members to the Capitol to rally for low-income families and we testified on numerous bills and provided letters of support, opposition, and information. Although the legislature was unwilling to have the debate on Medicaid Expansion, we were able to move other priorities forward and improve harmful legislation. A big win for our network was advocating against the "pooled" appropriations approach. We also spent a significant amount of time advocating for positive reforms to the Temporary Assistance to Needs Family (TANF) reform. A few of the highlights are listed below:

Food

- Advocated to protect access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program

Health

- Supported the successful two-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance (CHIP) Program providing vital insurance coverage to millions of children
- Advocated for expanding Medicaid to close the coverage gap for working Missourians

Education

- Secured \$3.5 million for Early Childhood programs (Early Head Start)
- Advocated to establish the Early Childhood Health and Education Act

Housing & Energy

- Secured \$4 million for Utilicare to help families meet their basic energy needs
- Secured additional funding for Weatherization to address the long-term home energy burdens
- Advocated to restore Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) to pre-sequestration levels, providing access to quality affordable housing for low-income families, seniors, veterans, and other vulnerable populations

Economic & Family Security

- Advocated for positive reforms to the TANF program to ensure that families had access to vital benefits and supports to move toward self sufficiency
- Advocated for the establishment of a state Earned Income Tax Credit to move people out of poverty (this bill moved farther this legislative session than in the previous sessions).

Federal Community Action Funding

- Community Service Block Grant Reauthorization
- Weatherization
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Head Start
- Housing Choice Vouchers

We will continue to focus on our federal advocacy and Community Action funding priorities.

Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds the nationwide network of nearly 1,100 Community Action Agencies (CAAs). These organizations create, coordinate and deliver comprehensive programs and services to help individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency, reaching about 16 million individuals living in poverty in the United States. On March 26, 2015, Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), along with Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN) introduced a bill to reauthorize CSBG (HR 1655). To review the bill click [here](#). MACA and network members are working with their Congressional Representatives to encourage them to sign on in support of HR 1655!

2015 Community Action Legislative Award

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

The MACA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Senator Jill Schupp was selected as the 2015 Community Action Legislative Award winner. Senator Schupp, was elected to the Missouri Senate in 2014, representing the 24th Senatorial District, which is located in St. Louis County and includes some or all of the following municipalities: Ballwin, Breckenridge Hills, Bridgeton, Champ, Charlack, Chesterfield, Country Life Acres, Creve Coeur, Crystal Lake Park, Frontenac, Huntleigh, Ladue, Manchester, Maryland Heights, Olivette, Overland, St. Ann, Sycamore Hills, Town and Country, Warson Woods, Westwood and Winchester. She had previously served in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2008 to 2014.



Throughout the session, Senator Schupp has been a champion of vulnerable Missourians, including low-income families. She has advocated for programs and services that would benefit low-income families and against potential cuts that would threaten vital support services including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Senator Schupp served on numerous committees, including the Seniors, Families, and Children Committee and Veterans' Affairs and Health Committee.

Community Action Network Advocacy Day

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

We held our 2015 Missouri Community Action Advocacy Day on April 22nd at the Capitol. The theme was "We are Missouri-Together We Thrive!" We hosted a rally that outlined our networks legislative priorities and solutions to address poverty in Missouri. Network members were able to meet with over 40 legislators and statewide office holders, encouraging each one to think of "Every Individual, Every Family, Every Community, Every Time." One hundred percent of those participating said that the event was valuable to their agency and that they were able to meet with their legislators and share our networks legislative messages.



Senator Blunt Thanks Community Action!

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

Although Senator Roy Blunt was unable to attend the 2015 MACA Annual Conference, he wanted to share his appreciation for the Missouri Community Action Network staff and the important work that you do. He also highlight the vital programs and services that we provide, such as Community Services Block Grant, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and Housing Choice Vouchers. To watch the complete video, please click [here](#).

Missouri Community Action Proclamation

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

May 2015 was Community Action Month! To honor the important work being performed by dedicated members of the Missouri Community Action Network, Governor Nixon issued a proclamation declaring May 2015 to be Community Action Month. Thank you for the vital work that you do every day!

Missouri Housing Development Advisory Trust Fund

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

I continue to serve on the Missouri Housing Development Advisory Trust Fund Committee to represent the Missouri Community Action Network. At the May quarterly meeting, we received an update from Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) staff on 2014 recaptured funds and 2015 spending to date. MHDC has also recently disseminated a survey seeking feedback regarding the HMIS system.

NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

2015 Annual MACA Conference

By Heidi Lucas, hucas@communityaction.org

The MACA Annual Conference held May 5-7, 2015 at The Elms Hotel & Spa in Excelsior Springs, Missouri was a huge success!! We were educated, motivated, and inspired to do the work of community action. Relive it all on our various social media and web outlets.

Photos are available on Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/missouricommunityaction/sets/72157653100687781>

Videos on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8EakM3SIhI2Ek2TOXH4Hog>

And conference presentations in Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kecx13o2qfxdeb0/AADRJQRDQPtkG2-ElyUuDLRa?dl=0>

MACA Individual Member Benefits

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

Summer weather has finally arrived and we wanted to remind you about some of your benefits of being a MACA Individual Member. As a member, you have discounts to Six Flags, Silver Dollar City, and Worlds of Fun! I hope you are able to take advantage of these opportunities and your other MACA benefits. If you would like to learn more about these benefits or how to become a MACA member, please contact the MACA office.



ROMA In-Service Continuing Education Program

(ICEP)

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

Two MACA staff members and 4 MO CAA staff members attended the 2015 ROMA In-Service this year in Atlanta, GA April 8-9. Many important updates and innovative ideas were shared throughout the two days.

- **NCRT recertification:** Starting in 2015, the ROMA Peer-to-Peer Training and Certification Program has begun a new recertification process. NCRTs will need to deliver 2 ROMA trainings per year to remain certified. The training information is to be tracked in a new [online portal](#).
- **ROMA Next Generation:** The focus of ROMA NG is largely about how we collect data and how we use it. Agencies will be reporting on new NPIs in FFY17, but these will be released in time to change systems and train staff. Overall, NPI changes will result in fewer national measures, but it was stressed that agencies and states should not get rid of the local and state measures – as this shows the unique story of the various communities. The community indicators will be changing more than the family indicators. The added emphasis on community was evident throughout ICEP – from assessment to indicators to logic models – this was a hot topic both days of the in-service.

2015 ROMA Certification Update

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

In April, 4 Missouri CAA staff from 3 agencies attended the Region 7 ROMA Certification Training in Des Moines, IA. In addition, 2 candidates are planning to attend a certification training in July in Kentucky. These individuals will be working

hard to learn the ROMA curriculum, deliver practice sessions to Missouri CAA staff, and be evaluated for certification later this year. When these individuals become certified, Missouri will have over 40 Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers!

Family Development Credential (FDC) Program Update

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

Two exciting announcements for those currently involved or wanting to become involved in FDC:

First, the curriculum update is complete and the 2015 publication of *Empowerment Skills for Family Workers* is now ready to order! The Portfolio Advisor's Manual and Instructor's Manual are also updated. To order the new publications, visit the National FDC Website: <http://www.familydevelopmentcredential.org/Plugs/Publications.aspx>

Second, the Missouri FDC Instructor's Institute has been rescheduled for September 29 – October 1 at the MACA Office in Jefferson City. Deadline for new applicants is July 31st. Please let me know if you are interested in starting or expanding FDC in your agency!

Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Tool

By Jayna Gray, jgray@communityaction.org

The migration to the new Community Commons Web-Based Tool is complete! MACA, along with the University of Missouri, is presenting a two-day interactive training on a comprehensive approach to community assessment that includes quantitative, qualitative, and agency data. One main feature of this training is the unveiling of the new MACA web tool in the Community Commons framework that allows users to store, share, and provide more visually appealing information for the secondary data piece of the community assessment. Along with the Community Commons web tool, the training will present tools and information to assist with survey methodology, measuring impact/sustainability of programs, and the integration of the community assessment into the agency.

Community Assessment: Conducting, Analyzing, Utilizing will take place at Tan Tar a Resort and Conference Center.

- July 15 & 16-Lake Ozark, MO --Registration was due to the MACA office by June 15th.

MIS User Training

By Jayna Gray, jgray@communityaction.org

MACA will be offering four regional locations for MIS User training this Summer/Fall. MIS user training will give users of all different skill levels the opportunity to explore new pages in the system, discuss flow and process with other agencies and have a hands on learning experience.

Locations:

- August 4th (10-5) -August 5th (8:30-12), Park Hills
- August 11th (10-5) -August 12th (8:30-12) Jefferson City
- September 1st (10-5) -September 1st (8:30-12) Joplin
- September 22nd (10-5)- September 23rd (8:30-12) St. Joseph

Registration information has been sent out.

MIS Agency Admin Training

By Jayna Gray, jgray@communityaction.org

MACA will be offering four regional locations for MIS Agency Admin's annual training. MIS Agency Admin Training will be an opportunity for members Agency Admin Teams to renew contract for the next fiscal year, set up NPI's for tracking, and learn about new features in the system and much more.

Locations:

- August 5th (1-5) -August 6th (8:30-3), Park Hills
- August 12th (1-5) -August 13th (8:30-3) Jefferson City
- September 2nd (1-5) -September 3rd (8:30-12) Joplin
- September 23rd (1-5)- September 24th (8:30-12) St. Joseph

Registration information has been sent out.

Leading & Coaching Employees – Training Coming Soon!

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

In response to last year's Training & Technical Assistance Survey, as well as other network member requests, MACA has started working with the Missouri Training Institute to deliver a workshop on *Leading & Coaching Employees*. Two regional sessions have been scheduled for September 2015:

- September 3rd – Chillicothe, MO
- September 10th – Rolla, MO

The training will cover the leadership role of a coach and how great coaches are able to achieve extraordinary results from their employees by creating the appropriate climate, environment, and context to empower individuals and teams. Registration information is to be released by the end of June.

MACA CAPACITY – Helping us help you

Awareness and Outreach

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

We are excited to announce that we will be launching our website at the end of this month! Over the past several months we have been very focused on developing a website that will position MACA as a leading and reputable source of poverty information. Stay tuned as we go live later this month!

MACA Survey

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

We want to hear from you! The Missouri Association for Community Action (MACA) is conducting a survey of Missouri Community Action staff to enhance the ability of community action agencies to provide services for low-income people by:

1. Achieving a greater understanding of the overall mission of Community Action Agencies among employees and Board Members,
2. Strengthening working partnerships within the community action agencies and the statewide network; and
3. Assessing the strengths and gaps of MACA.

Click here to access the [survey](#). This survey should only take about 10 minutes of your time to complete. It is important that we hear from as many CAA staff as possible, both MACA members and non-members, so that we can utilize the information to strengthen our network and association! Your feedback is important to us to guide us in our efforts to improve our services. For all of you that complete the survey, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card.

Agency Visits

Heather Lockard visited Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation to meet with their new Executive Director, Jill Lombardo to welcome her to the Missouri Community Action Network and share information about MACA.

Heather also visited Green Hills Community Action Corporation to celebrate their 50th Anniversary and share information about the state and national Community Action Network.

Courtney Kohler visited Community Services, Inc. to provide training to the CSI Board on the history of community action and board member roles and responsibilities.

Jayna Gray visited United Services Community Action Agency (USCAA) to conduct a one day MIS training on how to track National Performance Indicators (NPIs) for Family Support/Case Management and Pave the Way clients. USCAA is continually working on their MIS 12 month goal plan.

Jayna also visited Community Action Partnership of St. Joseph (CAPSTJOE) to conduct Phase I of user training and agency admin training. CAPSTJOE is working on a 12 month work plan to integrate all programs into the MIS.

Jayna also visited Ozark Action Inc. (OAI) to meet with the Agency Admin team to work on goals for the MIS at GHCAA for the next 12 months.

Activity Calendar on following page

-On the Calendar

Leadership Academy

June 18-19...MACA Office

MIS Committee

June 18...Jefferson City

Region VII Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Webinar

June 23

Finance Professional Alliance

June 25-26...MACA Office

Resource and Development Professional Alliance

June 30...MACA Office

MACA Office Closed

July 3...Independence Day

MCADA

July 8...MACA Office

Energy and Housing Professional Alliance

July 15...MACA Office

Community Assessment

July 15-16...Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach

Committee to Keep Missourians Warm

July 16...MACA Office

MIS Committee

July 21...MACA Office

Missourians to End Poverty

July 22...MACA Office

ToPs Facilitators Bureau

July 23...MACA Office

Outreach Managers Professional Alliance

July 23-24...MACA Office

Employment & Training Professional Alliance

July 29...MACA Office

MIS – HeadStart Module Training

July 29-30...Columbia College

Information Technology Professional Alliance

July 30-31...MACA Office

2015 Regional MIS User and Agency Admin Training

User Training – 1st day 10-5, 2nd day 8:30 – 12

Agency Admin Training– 1st day 1-5, 2nd day 9-3

See page 5 of this report for details.

MIS User Training

August 4-5...Park Hills

August 11-12...Jefferson City

September 1-2...Joplin

September 22-23...St Joseph

Agency Admin Training

August 5-6...Park Hills

August 12-13...Jefferson City

September 2-3...Joplin

September 23-24...St. Joseph

MACA Grant Writing

August 4-5...MACA Office

Internal Roma Consultants Professional Alliance

August 11...MACA Office

MCADA

August 12...MACA Office

MACA Board

August 13...MACA Office

MIS Committee

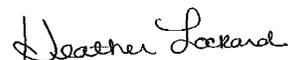
August 18...MACA Office

Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance

August 20...MACA Office

CAPS Annual Conference

August 24-28...San Francisco, CA



Heather Lockard, MACA Executive Director

June 17, 2015

For the most current list of events and for more information, check the calendar on our website at www.communityaction.org.