



144 Clinton Street  
New Britain, CT 06053

---

**For Immediate Release**

**Community Action Agencies Fight to  
Preserve Critical Antipoverty Program Funding**

**HARTFORD—Thursday, March 23, 2017**—Connecticut’s Community Action Agency Network will gather at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) today to oppose Governor Malloy’s 20% reduction in Human Services Infrastructure (HSI)-Community Action Program (CAP) funding and President Trump’s budget proposal, which eliminates critical funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and the Meals on Wheels Program.

The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) represents the state’s Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the state and federal designated antipoverty agencies that cover all 169 cities and towns in Connecticut. CAAs serve as the front line in providing vital services statewide to limited income individuals and families including early childhood care and education, food, home weatherization/conservation energy solutions and heating assistance, job training, housing, and senior services.

CAAs are federally funded through CSBG, and receive state funding through the HSI-CAP line item in the budget. Both funding streams enable CAAs to provide people facing financial hardship across Connecticut with the programs, services, tools, and resources they need to reach economic self-sufficiency. More than 357,500 people benefited from CAA-run programs and services last year. This includes the working poor, single parents, children, families, people with disabilities, and seniors.

“For over fifty years, Community Action Agencies have partnered with community, local, state, and federal organizations to create opportunities that help our most vulnerable residents build better lives and become contributing members of the economy,” Deborah Monahan, Executive Director of the Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA), the CAA covering the southeastern part of the state and Chair of CAFCA’s Board of Directors, said. “If the governor and the president’s proposals pass, the impact will be huge. In Connecticut—and across the country—millions of people in need will be left without nutritious foods, heat to stay warm, adequate housing, and other services that they need to maintain their lives.”

For nearly a decade, HSI-CAP funding has continued to be reduced—making it increasingly difficult for CAAs to provide essential, basic human needs services to the people they serve. With the proposed 20% cut and the added threat of CSBG funding elimination, agencies will be forced to make serious decisions regarding ongoing agency operations, including closing agency doors.

The potential loss of LIHEAP and WAP funds will also have a devastating effect on those in need. These programs are essential in helping seniors, disabled, and disadvantaged families better afford their energy bills and avoid unnecessary energy crises—meaning they don't have to choose between heating their home or taking their medicine, or what's become known as the 'heat or eat' predicament! Last year, Connecticut CAAs saw 110,000 households across the state and provided over 90,000 of them with energy assistance using these funds.

The collective impact of these funding cuts is severe, not just on CAAs but on Connecticut's economy as well. Connecticut's CAA Network leverages \$140 of additional funds for every \$1 of HSI-CAP funds. That's \$380M in additional local, federal and private funds for vital programs and services. CSBG brought in \$7.2M, LIHEAP \$80M, and WX \$2.3M this past fiscal year.

CAFCA, its member agencies, and CAA customers, staff, and board members throughout the state will hold an event today called Community Action Day at the Legislative Office Building. There will be a coffee and strategy network session from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the second floor atrium, and a press conference from 11:00-11:30 a.m. in Room 2B.

Senator Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader; Senator Len Fasano, Senate Minority Leader; Representative Matthew Ritter, House Majority Leader; and, Representative Themis Klarides, House Minority Leader, are co-sponsoring the event. They will discuss how critical the work Community Action Agencies do each and every day is for people in need, and will further address the impact of the President's budget proposal. Customers from several agencies will also share their story and talk about how Community Action has impacted their lives.

### Contact

Kelley Hall  
Development, Communications and Grants Manager, CAFCA  
[Kelley@cafca.org](mailto:Kelley@cafca.org)  
Office: (860) 832-9438  
Cell: (860) 324-8402