



Network Connection

Our mission is to advocate for low-income Missourians and strengthen the Community Action Network.
We envision a state where all people and communities thrive.

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ADVOCACY – A voice for low-income Missourians

Advocacy Update

by Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

As we ramp up for the upcoming Missouri legislative session, it is important to remember that advocacy happens every day in many ways. We can engage in advocacy work through our daily conversations with friends, neighbors, and others in our community. Our elected officials are available year round, and many of them advertise the times when they can meet you for a conversation over a cup of coffee, public town hall meeting, or similar event.

Not sure how to contact your legislator? Try these easy-to-navigate web sites:

- <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> contains links to U.S. and state legislators
- <http://www.moga.mo.gov/> contains links to state legislators, bills, and voting records
- <http://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx> lets you find legislators by entering your address

Civic engagement doesn't end with voting—that's just the beginning. Educating our elected officials and making sure they are aware of the impact of policies and legislation at all levels is an ongoing process. Do you think your legislators know what's happening in your neighborhood? Be sure they do by connecting with them and talking about what's important in your community.

Kurt Brewer, Missouri CAN Executive Director
November 6, 2017

Let's be social! Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

[facebook.com/MoCommunityAction](https://www.facebook.com/MoCommunityAction) [@Missouri_CAN](https://twitter.com/Missouri_CAN)

A Professional Alliance Just for Results Oriented Management and Accountability Next Generation (ROMA NG)

by Brian Valentine, Program Director, bvalentine@communityaction.org

Let's talk professional development! When most people hear this phrase they begin to feel a slight stomachache. However, if done right, professional development can be something enlightening and transformative.

With all the nuances associated with ROMA NG, creating a space to ask questions, solve challenges and get support is the purpose of Internal ROMA Consultant Professional Alliance (IRCPA). The IRCPA meets quarterly at Missouri CAN's office. The meeting generally includes discussions of ROMA needs across the network, professional development, and best practices. If you are not part of a Professional Alliance yet, now is the time to be involved. Visit Missouri CAN's website for future dates. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Valentine at 573-634-2969 ext. 27.

Family Development Credential (FDC)

by Dr. Chris Small, Training Manager, csmall@communityaction.org

As the new FDC state coordinator here in Missouri, I am excited to further grow the program across Missouri. I will be attending the FDC National Trainer's Institute December 4-7 in Austin, Texas to gain valuable insight for expanding our efforts. We are planning several professional development and training opportunities here in Missouri for 2018. Dates will be available on Missouri CAN's website and in the winter 2018 edition of the *Missouri Family Development Credential News*. Visit the [national FDC website](#) for information about the FDC credential and how it can help your staff in daily work with children, families and the community it serves. Contact Dr. Chris Small at (573) 634-2969 ext. 35 with your questions.

Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Class of 2018!

by Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Certified Community Action Professional program. After the first 24 years, there are nearly 900 CCAPs across the country and just over 100 in Missouri. Certified Community Action Professionals study the history of the Community Action movement, build relationships with other Community Action professionals, and develop professionally for continued work in this field.

The National Community Action Partnership has set a goal for the program to reach 1,000 CCAPs this anniversary year. To that end, Missouri is joining a handful of other states for a "25 in 25" campaign—to have 25 new CCAPs receive their certification this year. To achieve this goal, we are looking for 3-4 candidates from each agency. Please share information about CCAP with those you believe are interested or whom might be good candidates. And if you have your CCAP, we encourage you to reach out to at least one individual to ask them to consider pursuing this goal.

It's important to note that the CCAP program is offering significant discounts for this year's enrollment class – and all candidates have up to three years to obtain the certification. The next CCAP study class is scheduled for November 29. Participation in these classes is not required, however they will be a fun and informative part of your CCAP process. The first few classes are primarily orientation classes, so it's not too late to start working toward your CCAP. Please contact our office for details.

MIS Onboarding Team Update

by James Rogers, Information Systems Manager, jrogers@communityaction.org

MIS version 6 went live on October 24. The many advancements from version 5 include: optimization for use on smart phones, tablets, and computers; a streamlined intake process, logically flowing from section to section; and a new case plan process allowing for more detailed description of client management. The new case note process has

SAVE THE DATE

The 2018 Missouri Community Action Conference is scheduled for May 15-17 at Lake of the Ozarks. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend! We are giving such care in planning this conference so you have the best experience, make new Community Action connections, and bring back great tools and resources to the work you do everyday.

voice dictation capabilities, which will give case workers greater freedom in making case notes. New group features for classes and service make recording these services more efficient for users. Payment and billing processes have also been retooled, making payments easier to record and manage.

This system has been in development for more than 18 months, and I want to thank the many network members who have devoted large amounts of time and effort to bring this project together.

Missouri CAN CAPACITY – Helping us help you

Missouri CAN Staff Update

by Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

Over the past several months, the Missouri CAN team has been working on an intentional team-building plan. The Missouri CAN Board of Directors has made this investment to help our team grow and become more resilient so we can better support Missouri's Community Action Agencies. The process includes Clifton StrengthsFinder tools, facilitated discussions with New Chapter Coaching, and a lot of teamwork. I am excited about our team and look forward to our continued growth while learning more about your agency goals and programs in the coming year!

Agency Visits

Agency visits help Missouri CAN staff learn more about the great work you're doing and discover how to better serve you. Please let us know about upcoming events! Here's where we went in October:

- Brian Valentine and Chris Small attended the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 6 in Joplin. This event was jointly hosted by Economic Security Corporation of the Southwest Area (ESC) and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. Brian and Chris toured classrooms and facilities, and observed exciting early learning opportunities now available to children and families in southwest Missouri.
- Jennifer Perkins and Amy Thrash attended the Ozark Action, Inc. (OAI) staff day on October 9 in West Plains. Jennifer spoke about Missouri Community Action membership, and Amy Thrash presented Amy Foster \$100 to go towards the Food Basket for Thanksgiving. Jennifer and Amy enjoyed talking to people about membership and its benefits while signing up a few new members. Thank you for the invitation to the all-staff day!
- Sarah Hackman traveled to St. Charles on October 27 to attend North East Community Action Corporation's Weatherization event where a homeowner receiving weatherization assistance shared how the weatherization services were benefiting his family.

Membership Matters

by Jennifer Perkins, Administrative Assistant and Membership Coordinator, jperkins@communityaction.org

We are working hard to make sure our membership records are accurate and up-to-date. If someone at your agency is not receiving Missouri Community Action Network communications and updates, or if you have questions about your membership, please contact Jennifer Perkins at jperkins@communityaction.org.

Internal ROMA Consultants Professional Alliance (IRCPA)

November 2...*Missouri CAN Office*

MCADA Meeting

November 8...*Missouri CAN Office*

Missouri CAN Board Meeting

November 9...*Missouri CAN Office*

Veteran's Day

November 10... *Missouri CAN Office Closed*

Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

November 13-14...*St Louis*

Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance (OPPA)

November 16...*PCAC, St Louis*

Thanksgiving

November 23-24...*Missouri CAN Office Closed*

Missourians to End Poverty (MEP) Quarterly Meeting

November 29...*Missouri CAN Office*

Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP)

Class #2 November 29...*Jefferson City*

Human Resource Professional Alliance (HRPA)

December 7...*Missouri CAN Office*

MCADA Meeting

December 13...*Missouri CAN Office*

Christmas

December 25-26...*Missouri CAN Office Closed*

The following meeting, event and holiday dates are for the beginning of 2018. Add these to your calendar today.

New Year's Day

January 1...*Missouri CAN Office Closed*

Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP)

Class #3 January 3...*Missouri CAN Office*

MCADA Meeting

January 10...*Missouri CAN Office*

Missouri CAN Board Meeting

January 11...*Missouri CAN Office*

Martin Luther King, Jr Day

January 15...*Missouri CAN Office Closed*

Resource Development Professional Alliance (RDPA)

January 16...*Missouri CAN Office*

Energy and Housing Professional Alliance (EHPA)

January 17...*Missouri CAN Office*

Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP)

Class #4 February 7...*Missouri CAN Office*

MCADA Meeting

February 14...*Missouri CAN Office*

President's Day

February 19...*Missouri CAN Office Closed*

View additional details and register for events at MissouriCAN.org/calendar.