



The MACA Network Connection

Advancing the mission of
Community Action

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

Strategic Commitment #1 Organize communities and develop advocates to end poverty

Advocacy

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

The 98th General Assembly started on January 7, 2015 and the session is off to a fast start. We have met with leaders of the House and Senate to share information about the impact on our network. We are currently tracking over 50 bills that could impact our network and low-income Missourians. We have been meeting with legislators to move our legislative priorities forward in the areas of Food, Health, Education, Housing & Energy, and Family & Economic Security. Specifically, we have been focused on the following priorities:

Medicaid Expansion

MACA has signed onto a letter in support of expanding Medicaid. Our lobbyists, Madsen and Wright, and I attended a strategy meeting regarding Medicaid Expansion. The meeting was hosted by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and brought together approximately 75 organizations focused on expanding Medicaid in Missouri. MACA will work with these organizations, and others, during the legislative session to reform Medicaid. We also continue to work closely with the Missouri Medicaid Coalition to connect their Community Organizers with local Community Action Agencies.

Utilicare and Weatherization

We continue to meet with legislators to discuss the need for Utilicare funding to be included in the 2016 budget. Last year, our network was able to help an additional 8,300 individuals meet their basic needs with additional Utilicare dollars. LuAnn Madsen and I also met with Linda Luebbering, State Budget Director, to advocate for the release of Utilicare funds that are currently being withheld by the Governor. I have testified in support of Utilicare and members of the network and I have also met with several Representatives to advocate for including Utilicare as part of the FY16 budget.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF reform is a caucus priority this session and will be a big area of focus for our network. There are several bills proposed that could negatively impact low-income families in Missouri. In January, MACA testified in opposition of SB 24. In the past month, we have met with numerous legislators and organization to advocate for positive reform. We are working directly with the Community Action Agencies that operate this program.

Housing Choice Vouchers

On February 3rd and 4th I attended a meeting in Washington DC to advocate for Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8). These vouchers are a critical service to help families obtain safe and affordable housing. The housing choice voucher program is the Federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

I have also participated in several calls with David Bradley, Executive Director of the National Community Action Network, regarding NCAF's legislative priorities and strategies to achieve them. NCAF will be focused on the core funding of

Community Action Agencies and CSBG Reauthorization. NCAF is a private, non-profit organization that serves as the national advocate for Community Action Agencies (CAAs), community-based programs located throughout the country that assist low-income families and individuals.

USDA

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

I met with the Pamela Anglin, Housing Program Director for Rural Development with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Pamela shared information regarding the rural housing services that are available in Missouri and we discussed how they may benefit the Community Action Network. The information will be disseminated at Professional Alliances.

Missouri House Trust Fund Advisory Committee

By Jeff Barlow, jbarlow@communityaction.org

On January 21, I attended the Missouri Housing Development Commission's meeting on behalf of Heather due to legislative issues she had to address. This meeting was conducted in St. Louis at the Salvation Army Veteran's Residence. During this meeting, a discussion on the Rural Homelessness Sub-Committee highlighted the effort for a census of the homeless taking place across Missouri. The group also discussed several administrative issues for the Missouri Housing Trust fund and monitoring of grantees as well as the annual ad hoc and annual planned grantee monitoring visits. Information on the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) was also shared. The purpose of the HTF is to provide grants to states "to increase and preserve the supply of rental housing for extremely low and very low-income families, including homeless families" and "to increase homeownership for extremely low and very low-income families." In December 2014, the Federal Housing Finance Agency informed Fannie Mae and Freddie MAC that the suspension on allocations of funds from the trust fund was being lifted. This should result in the 2016 funding of some \$11 million to Missouri. The rules and regulations for these funds had not yet determined regarding how the funds would be prioritized for use (e.g. renovation vs. construction, etc.). To learn more about this effort, visit: <http://www.fhfa.gov/Media/PublicAffairs/Pages/FHFA-Statement-on-the-Housing-Trust-Fund-and-Capital-Magnet-Fund.aspx>

Community Services Block Grant Organizational Standards

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

The Office of Community Services has published the final Information Memorandum 138 on the CSBG Organizational Standards. It's finally here!

IM 138 finalizes the 58 Organizational Standards for Private/Nonprofit CAAs and the 50 for Public CAAs and outlines the process for implementation, assessment, and T/TA efforts. We look forward to working with the Missouri Network on tools and resources to ensure that all CAAs meet the Organizational Standards. We appreciate all of the work that the network has done up to this point and look forward to finalizing the resource bank for your use!

State Energy

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

Throughout December and January, I have participated in several steering committee workgroup calls focused on developing a comprehensive State Energy Plan for Missouri; the calls and planning meetings will continue over the next several months to determine the details of the State Energy Plan. The steering committee will then work with the Division of Energy to develop an energy plan to address Missouri's short and long term energy needs.

Energy Efficiency

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

Members of the Community Action Network, Division of Energy, and I met with representatives from the University of Missouri and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Research Consortium from the University of Missouri to discuss potential collaborative opportunities between them and the Community Action Network.

Strategic Commitment #2

Develop leaders committed to ending poverty throughout Missouri

ROMA Certification Update

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

All 2014 ROMA candidates have now completed their certification or are waiting for evaluation results. This growth in ROMA trainers increases the Missouri Community Action Network's management and accountability expertise by over 100%. The four-part training process that these individuals have engaged in requires time, dedication, and the ability to effectively present the principles of ROMA.

For 2015, the Region VII State Associations (Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska) have collaborated to provide a region-wide ROMA Certification Training April 21-23 in Des Moines, IA. Missouri has 4 registered to progress through the certification process this year, with 11 registered region-wide.

Certified Community Action Professionals (CCAP)

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

The 2014-2015 CCAP Preparatory Class Cycle has begun! Charles McCann, CCAP Emeritus, is leading a class of 18 potential CCAP candidates this year. The following meetings dates are coming up in 2015. All preparatory classes will be 9:30am – 2:30pm at the MACA office, Training Room.

- March 12, 2015
- April 28, 2015
- May 26, 2015
- June 17, 2015: CCAP Exam – Time & Location TBD

Please let us know if you have any questions about the classes or process.

Applying Case Management 201 to the MIS

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

Applying Case Management 201 to the MIS was offered via webinar on February 5, 2015 and has been recorded for future viewing. During this web-based training opportunity, Courtney Kohler and Jayna Gray bridged the gap between the delivery of services and the case management tracking methods available to the entire community action network in the Management Information System (MIS). Jayna and I also had the opportunity to do similar on-site trainings for staff at Community Services, Inc. (CSI) and United Services Community Action Agency (USCAA) in January. Please let us know if you are interested in viewing the recording or would like further technical assistance on utilizing the case management tools in the MIS.

Family Development Credential (FDC) Program Update

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

The FDC program in Missouri is growing strong! I have two announcements related to 2015 trainings and meetings:

1. The March 5th FDC Update Meeting has been cancelled. We will reschedule this meeting at a later date after curriculum updates are received from the national level.
2. The 2015 Missouri FDC Instructor's Institute is scheduled for May 27-29 at the MACA office. Applications will go out in early March.

For those who currently have an FDC program in your agency, I have been making some class visits and would love the opportunity to visit your agency! For those who do not have an FDC program, let me know if you are interested in getting involved or have questions on the program.

Mental Health First Aid

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

MACA is offering a third Mental Health First Aid training in Rolla for Community Action Agency staff. Mental Health First Aid is a public education program that introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental illnesses, builds understanding of their impact, and provides an overview of common supports. We held our first training in Chillicothe, MO in October and a second in Jefferson City in November. Kris Thompson, Family Support Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services and a certified instructor for this program, will be facilitating the Rolla training on February 25, 2015, 8:30am – 4:30pm. At this time, there is still space available for this training. If interested, please contact me for more information.

2015 Annual MACA Conference

By Heidi Lucas, hlucas@communityaction.org

This year the MACA Annual Conference will be held May 5-7, 2015 at The Elms Hotel & Spa in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. The theme for the Annual Conference is: "Community Action: Education, Motivation, Inspiration."

We have several exciting announcements:

- The hotel is offering a special room rate and 10% off all spa services from May 2nd to May 10th, three days before and three days after the conference this year. Take some time for YOU!
- Our Day Two Keynote is Michael Gaffley who has in the past worked with Community Action and Head Start programs across the country. He will be kicking off Day Two of the conference as well as providing two workshops. We are excited to have him!
- The auction theme for this year is ROCKSTARS! Executive Directors are in the process of picking their rock star of choice so look for the full list soon!

Look for further announcements concerning registration later this month!

Strategic Commitment #3

Build a respected, strategic statewide organization that is an effective leader and catalyst to end poverty

MACA Transformational Plan

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

The MACA Board of Directors has approved MACA's three year Transformational Plan that outlines the goals and strategies that will guide our association! Over the next three years, we will focus on the following three commitments:

- 1 To be an effective advocate in policy and program development to positively impact low-income Missourians and the Community Action Network.
- 2 To increase the capacity of the individuals and agencies of the Missouri Community Action Network.
- 3 To further develop MACA as an effective statewide organization.

Agency Visits

Jefferson Franklin Community Action Agency

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

On February 3rd I had the opportunity to meet with staff and a Board member from Jefferson Franklin Community Action Agency.

Community Services, Inc. of Northwest Missouri and United Services Community Action Agency

By Jayna Gray, jgray@communityaction.org

As Courtney reported on page 3, she and I had the opportunity on January 28th to train Community Services, Inc., of Northwest Missouri (CSI) staff from several different areas of the agency on how to apply Case Management 201 to the MIS and then continued that training at United Services Community Action Agency on January 29th for their case managers and Pave the Way staff.

North East Community Action Corporation

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

On December 12th, I was invited to attend the holiday all-staff day at North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC) and present on MACA membership benefits. A delicious meal was served and the agency enjoyed a review of the past year's events and accomplishments. Many staff were recognized for their dedication and service to the agency and to community action. Tenures ranged from 5 years to over 40 years. The day concluded with a rendition of the popular game show, Family Feud. Unfortunately for me, my name was called just after leaving! Nonetheless, it was entertaining to watch staff have some well-deserved fun and it was an honor to be a part of this annual celebration.

MACA Membership Campaign

By Heidi Lucas, hucas@communityaction.org

The month of January brought in 17 new MACA members as part of the membership campaign! And we know that other agencies are working on various ways to promote the campaign before it ends March 5th. We already have one recruiter who is responsible for 7 of those new members. That means she gets her name in the drawing for the \$100 prize seven times!

MACA's 2015 Membership Campaign, "I am MACA. We are MACA!" will run through March 5, 2015. At the May conference, all current MACA members will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 gift card. Every current MACA member who recruits a new MACA member will be entered into the second drawing for \$100 once for each new member they recruit. Questions? Contact us in the MACA office for more information.



MACA Annual Report and Agency Directories

By Jessica Long, jlong@communityaction.org

Copies of MACA's 2014 Annual Report are here. The requested copies will be shipped directly to CAA central offices by next week. If additional copies are needed, please contact me directly and I will arrange for extras to be shipped or delivered.

In addition to the annual report, MACA will be printing a comprehensive agency directory for 2015. Copies should be available for distribution by March 3rd – just in time for Advocacy Day at the Capitol! If your agency has not provided directory changes to me, please do so as soon as possible.

Focus on Sustainability: MACA and Resource Development Planning

By Jeff Barlow, jbarlow@communityaction.org

Recently, a significant part of my time has been spent compiling, researching and drafting a MACA Resource Development Plan that helps MACA reach the overall goals and objectives of our new MACA Transformational Plan. As a part of this effort, I have been participating in grantor webinars, researching grantors, and gathering information on community development. For example, I recently participated in a webinar from the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank entitled: St. Louis Fed Survey Results: Economic Conditions in Low and Moderate Income (LMI) Communities. It is part of several free webinars you can participate in live or watch later. This particular series is focused on Exploring Innovation in Community Development. To [watch any of these webinars](#), go to the tab entitled "All Sessions." Another great resource I have been reviewing were the toolkits available from the Community Action Partnership. There were several [toolkits](#) focused on organizational sustainability. These are great resources and worth checking out!

What's on your resource development wish list?

By Jeff Barlow, jbarlow@communityaction.org

At the January Resource Development Professional Alliance (RDPA) meeting and as I visit agencies, one thing I always try to remind managers and directors is that I am here as a resource for local agencies. Whether it is helping review grant applications, helping to identify a funding opportunity or conduct a resource development planning meeting at your agency, I am here and ready to help. We are also happy to help with a variety of board training topics, including board training on resource development. In the meantime, please send me your wish lists so as I am researching and reviewing grant opportunities for MACA and the network, I can keep my eyes open for local agency needs. Thanks!

Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Tool

By Jayna Gray, jgray@communityaction.org

On January 26th staff members from the Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems (CARES), the Institute for People, Place and Possibility (IP3), and an the advisory group established of Community Action Agency (CAA) staff met to discuss the migration of the Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Tool to the Community Commons platform. We established a time line for the migration and plan to unveil the new format at MACA conference in May at The Elms in Kansas City.

Advisory Group members present were: Tony Wright, ESC; Chris Macy, CMCA; Betty Whittaker, NECAC; Heather Rohn, NMCAA; Kris Thompson, FSD; Pat Bulejski, CAASTLC. Members unable to attend the meeting were: Steve Wegner, CAPSTJOE and Bryan Adcock, OAI.

Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

By Heidi Lucas, hluccas@communityaction.org

MACA is pleased to offer a Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training on March 23-24 in Kansas City at the Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel. The facilitator training will allow participants to become familiar with the components of the CAPS kit, the facilitation process and tips for conducting an efficient and effective simulation. Participants will also experience the poverty simulation on the first day of training. Registration includes training and all materials, and lunch on the second day. Registration information has been emailed out and is also available on the MACA website.

MACA Social Media Efforts

By Jeff Barlow, jbarlow@communityaction.org

We need more short videos (no more than 2 minutes) to share with the network. Please consider highlighting a co-worker, program or project at your agency. Please send us a short video clip from your smart phone or tablet to share on social media. You can send them to Jeff at MACA at: jbarlow@communityaction.org



[Activity Calendar on following page](#)

On the Calendar

MACA Office closed for President's Day
February 16

MIS Committee
February 17...MACA Office

ToPs Facilitators Bureau
February 18...MACA Office

Head Start Workshop
February 18-19...Kansas City

Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance
February 19...NECAC – Montgomery City

NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference
February 23 -27...Arlington, VA

Internal ROMA Consultants Professional Alliance
February 24...MACA Office

Missourians to End Poverty Conference Call
February 25

Mental Health First Aid
February 25...Rolla

Leadership Academy
February 26-27...MACA Office

Advocacy Day
March 3...State Capitol

Human Resource Professional Alliance
March 5...MACA Office

MCADA
March 11...MACA Office

CCAP Preparatory Class #5
March 12...MACA Office

MIS Committee
March 17...MACA Office

Finance Professional Alliance
March 19-20...MACA Office

Community Action Poverty Simulation Facilitators Training
March 23-24...Kansas City, MO

NCAF Legislative Conference
March 24-27...Washington DC

Missourians to End Poverty
March 25...MACA Office

42nd Annual Head Start Conference
March 29-April 2...Washington DC

Resource and Development Professional Alliance
March 31...MACA Office

MCADA
April 8...MACA Office

MACA Board
April 9 ...MACA Office

Information Technology Professional Alliance
April 9-10...CMCA, Columbia

Energy and Housing Professional Alliance
April 15...MACA Office

Leadership Academy
April 16-17...MACA Office

MIS Committee
April 21...MACA Office

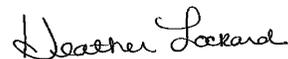
Missourians to End Poverty
April 22...MACA Office

ToPs Facilitators Bureau
April 23...MACA Office

Outreach Managers Professional Alliance
April 23-24...MACA Office

CCAP Preparatory Class #6
April 30.....MACA Office

MACA Annual Conference
May 5-7, 2015...The Elms, Excelsior Springs



Heather Lockard, MACA Executive Director
February 11, 2015

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