



Network Connection

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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Help a child find healthy food this summer @ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>

ADVOCACY – A voice for low-income Missourians

Advocacy Update

By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

A message from David Bradley, President of the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), our advocacy voice for Community Action in Washington DC (excerpts from a recent NCAF Special Letter):

“We are about to enter one of the more important legislative periods in the entire fifty-three year history of the Community Action Program! Truly, September through December of this year is arguably as important as any other period since the Community Action Program was launched in 1964.”

“In the case of CSBG reauthorization, success depends not only on the arguments and presentation, but also on our ability to meet with nearly 450 members of Congress over a four month legislative window!”

“To maximize our chances of success, we are going to need more ammunition than we currently possess. By ammunition, I mean specific data – from facts about particular programs or partnerships, to a better understanding of agency relationships with members of Congress.”

“I know how busy you are. I also know of, and am deeply appreciate for, your ongoing support of NCAF. Let us together make sure that the entire network gives NCAF the tools we need to successfully win the congressional fight - not only for our programs, but, more importantly, for the individuals we serve and for the families and communities relying on Community Action every single day!”

I strongly encourage you to consider joining NCAF, and becoming part of the collective voice in DC. There is a one-time membership fee of \$5, and you will receive regular updates and information from the Capitol.

Here in Missouri, we are continuing our MCADA Breakfast Series, in which the CAA Directors have a round table discussion with legislators and state department leaders over breakfast. The first gathering in May included our national legislators and their staff, and the July event included leadership from the Division of Energy and the Division of Workforce Development within the Department of Economic Development. Upcoming events will include the Department of Social Services, the Governor's office, and state legislators.

Thanks for all you do every day, but don't keep it a secret. Please keep sharing your stories. Don't forget to join us on social media... and invite your friends to join the conversation as well!

Facebook: facebook.com/MoCommunityAction **Twitter:** twitter.com/Missouri_CAN **Blog:** MissouriCAN.org/blog

NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Next Generation (NG)

By: Brian Valentine, Program Director, bvalentine@communityaction.org

The National Association of State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) has the final CSBG Annual Report ready in PDF format. Their website is full of helpful tools/crosswalks to assist in better understanding the new report format. Also, the Theory of Change (TOC) diagram is housed on their website. Familiarizing yourself would be of great benefit, as the diagram does an excellent job illustrating Community Action's core principles.

Family Development Credential (FDC)

By: Brian Valentine, Program Director, bvalentine@communityaction.org

Our Family Development Credential (FDC) class has been *cancelled* for the month of September 2017. Please be sure to check out the national website (www.familydevelopmentcredential.org) for additional opportunities available for trainings. If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Brian Valentine, Program Director, at (573) 634-2969 ext. 27.

Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

By: Mary Bifulco, Poverty Simulation Manager, mbifulco@communityaction.org

Registration for our annual Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training in St. Louis is now open! The training will be November 13-14, 2017 at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel. This is a unique opportunity for facilitators, both new and seasoned, to collaborate with other CAPS kit users across the nation. Over the course of two days, participants will learn best practices related to Poverty Simulation planning, marketing, and facilitation.

The attendance fee for the general public is \$410.00 per participant. **We are pleased to present this opportunity to all Community Action Agency staff who register by October 13, 2017 for free!** To secure your spot, visit povertysimulation.org then click on "Training." Please note that CAA employees will need to login to their Neon account to receive the discount. For more information, please email povertysimulation@communityaction.org.

MIS Onboarding Team Update

By: James Rogers, Information Systems Manager, jrogers@communityaction.org

The new MIS system go-live date is tentatively postponed to September 1 due to data conversion issues. MCAN will set a firm date once the platform is stable and the pilot team has reviewed all the processes. Our goal is to ensure that

the MIS system seamlessly transitions data from version 5 to version 6. With the new system enhancements in version 6, MCAN is looking forward to implementing a system that will increase data reliability and ease of use for all CAA staff in Missouri.

The second group of administrators (CAPNCM, DAEOC, EMAA, ESC, MVCAA, PCAC, and SCMAA) completed training on July 14, while these seven agencies participated in user training the week of July 17 to 21. The pilot agencies (CAASTLC, CSI, and MOCA) are currently working diligently on the MIS pilot to resolve data issues and test system processes. We thank the staff at these pilot agencies for their ongoing and tireless efforts to ensure our upgrade process goes smoothly.

Missouri CAN CAPACITY – Helping us help you

Missouri CAN Staff Update

By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Perkins, Administrative and Membership Assistant, has joined the Missouri CAN team!

We are also looking to fill two vacant positions: the Training & Events Manager and a newly-created Fiscal Assistant position. Please see the Our Team page of our website for details.

Agency Visits

During the month of July, Missouri CAN staff continued our visits with multiple CAAs throughout the state.

- Mary Bifulco observed four stellar poverty simulations this month. In Springfield, OACAC hosted a simulation for a cohort of soon-to-be college freshmen interested in public affairs. In Chillicothe, a group of medical students interested in serving rural communities were introduced to the realities of poverty by CAPNCM. In Columbia, the Columbia Public Library partnered with CMCA to offer the general public an opportunity to experience a Community Action Poverty Simulation. Later in July, Jessica Hoey joined Mary to learn from CMCA's simulation with staff from Veteran's United Lighthouse, which offers financial services to veterans whose credit scores disqualify them from traditional mortgages.
- Kurt Brewer traveled to Kirksville to join Jeanie Smallwood, Executive Director of CAPNEMO, at a Legislative Tour of the Northeast Region. Missouri House Speaker Todd Richardson, Senator Brian Munzlinger, and several state representatives shared their thoughts on the current legislative arena.
- Kurt also traveled to Appleton City to participate in the WCMCAA Community Fair. Kurt shared a seat of honor, taking a turn in the dunk tank along with Chris Thompson, CEO of WCMCAA, and Jamie Oberly, Community Services Director.

There is nothing better than an agency visit to help new staff learn (and to remind all of us) about the great work you're doing every day, and to discover what we can do to better serve you!

Activity Calendar on Next Page

ON THE CALENDAR

View additional details and register for events on the Activity Calendar at MissouriCAN.org/calendar.

MCADA

August 9...Missouri CAN Office

IRCPA – Internal ROMA Consultants Professional Alliance

August 10...Missouri CAN Office

MEP – Missourians to End Poverty

August 16...Missourian CAN Office

OPPA – Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance

August 17...Missouri CAN Office

National Community Action Partnership Annual Convention

August 28-September 1...Philadelphia, PA

Labor Day

September 4...Missouri CAN Office Closed

MCADA

September 13...Missouri CAN Office

Missouri CAN Board

September 14...Missouri CAN Office

ITPA – Information Technology Professional Alliance

October 4-5...Missouri CAN Office

MCADA Retreat

October 11-12...Old Kinderhook

RDPA – Resource Development Professional Alliance

October 17...Missouri CAN Office

EHPA – Energy and Housing Professional Alliance

October 18...Missouri CAN Office

ITPA – Information Technology Professional Alliance

October 18-19...OACAC | Springfield



Kurt Brewer, Missouri CAN Executive Director

August 3, 2017