

Michigan Community

ACTION CATALYST

A monthly update on MCA and member agencies' efforts to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty

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MCA's Mission

To strengthen and inspire Community Action Agencies to champion solutions to poverty and to promote economic opportunity.

Announcements

Customer Service Classes for Frontline Staff Scheduled for May

MCA will host two customer-service oriented, one-day trainings for front line staff May 7 and 8, 2019. Conducted by one of our popular summer conference trainers, Jordana Shakoor, these sessions will include "Our Customers Deserve the Best," "Motivational Interviewing," and "Poverty Matters NOW." The May 7 sessions will be at Treetops Resort in Grayling and the May 8 session will be at a SE Michigan location TBD. Registration information will be available soon.

For a full list of announcements, visit [MCA's website](#).

Upcoming Events

Community Action Partnership 2019 Management and Leadership Training Conference, January 15-18, Westin New Orleans Canal Palace. Click [here](#) for registration.

Webinar: Data Visualization Tools, January 16 at 1:00 pm ET Registration details [here](#).

War on Poverty Seminar with David Bradley, January 30-31, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET, Dearborn/Detroit DoubleTree Hotel

Webinar-How to Design and Deliver Tech Training, February 6, 1-2:30 p.m. ET, Registrations details [here](#).

For a full list of events, visit [MCA's calendar](#).

Did you know?

MCA has almost 500 Twitter followers? Help us hit the mark by following us at [@MICommAction](#)

Catalyst welcomes input, story ideas

Is there a story or issue you'd like to see covered in Catalyst?

Let us know what's happening in your agency or region. Success stories? Recent events? People news?

We welcome your input and feedback. Please send your comments and ideas [here](#).

MCA Officers/Board Members 2017-2019

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Mid Michigan CAA

Louis Piszker
Vice President
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Michelle Williamson
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Toby Berry
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CAA Governing Board Officer
Capital Area Comm. Services

MCA to Host Two Day War on Poverty Seminar with David Bradley, January 30-31, 2019



President Lyndon B. Johnson signing Civil Rights Act.

Don't miss this opportunity to attend David Bradley's (NCAF's Executive Director) renowned presentation, History of the War on Poverty, covering the 50+ year history of Community Action. A combination of lecture and multi-media presentations, the History of the War on Poverty is a great way to share our inspirational heritage with agency staff, board members, and supporters.



We are holding the two-day session on January 30-31 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Dearborn/Detroit DoubleTree Hotel. Registration is \$60 including lunch on both days. Dinners and breakfasts will be on your own.

To register for this important seminar, please complete the form [here](#) by Friday January 25, 2019.

David Bradley, NCAF

Hotel Information

The DoubleTree Hotel is located at 5801 Southfield Expressway, Detroit MI 48228. They are offering our attendees a discounted rate of \$75/night for single and double accommodations. To reserve your hotel room, please call the hotel directly at 313-336-3340. The cutoff date is January 14; after that the discounted rate will be on a space available basis. Click [here](#) for the online hotel reservation form.

OLHSA Makes Community Mini-Grant Awards



Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), the Community Action Agency serving Oakland and Livingston Counties, MI, has announced their OLHSA Community Mini-Grant Initiative awards for innovative projects. These projects aim to bridge the gap between employers and the low income community, build capacity for families within the community, increase community development and help to streamline services to better serve clients. A total funding request of \$77,774.00 was received. We appreciate the extensive work of the proposal review panel who recommended six projects for a funding total of \$57,772.00.

The following projects were awarded:

- Big Brothers and Sisters of Livingston County—This project will partner young individuals with business mentors that will teach new skills and the importance of education to broaden their vision of the options available for their future.
- Mend on the Move—Through jewelry making and mentoring, this project proposes to build the self-esteem and confidence of low-income women survivors of abuse so they can move towards independence and healing.
- Life Beyond Re-Entry—This initiative bridges the gap between employers and ex-offenders, by empowering the participants with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to obtain employment and remain crime free.
- G.I.R.D.L.E. —G.I.R.D.L.E.'s program seeks to improve the quality of life for at risk adolescent and teenage girls through skillful and intentional mentoring, while improving family dynamics.
- Micah 6—This program invests in and expands offerings of pop-up markets in the Pontiac community, to better engage a larger customer base of people in need of access to healthy produce.
- Camp Fire Southeast Michigan—Camp Fire's program will assist youth in Pontiac, MI with developing skills that will help them to improve their income by becoming more financially literate, improve their leadership skills, and foster youth entrepreneurship both now and in the future.

OLHSA staff reports they are excited to see the impact these forward-thinking approaches will have on local communities and families. OLHSA has the mission to empower families and communities to gain the knowledge, skills and resources needed to improve their quality of life. Its vision is to break the cycle of poverty, reaching the day when all families and communities thrive. The mini-grant awards will support OLHSA's mission and enhance our communities.

OLHSA's FY18 Community Mini-Grant initiative is funded by Community Service Block Grant (CSBG). For more information, contact Barbara Jackson at barbarj@olhsa.org

WCMU's Warm Hearts, Warm Homes Hits Match Target for Heating Assistance



Warm Hearts Warm Homes

WCMU Public Radio of Central Michigan University reports that they raised \$68,000 in donations for low income heating assistance during their Warm Hearts, Warm Homes fundraiser in December 2018. The donations were matched by Consumers Energy Foundation (\$50,000) and Isabella Bank (\$18,000) and will be distributed to the Community Action Agency that serves the county from which the donation originated. The popular campaign reached its goal a day and a half earlier than scheduled has proved to be an effective way for WCMU listeners to support their public radio station and help neighbors in need at the same time. Thanks to our corporate partners and to WCMU for including Community Action in the successful campaign!



MCA Webinar Recordings Available for Staff and Board Trainings



One-way MCA fulfills its mission of service to our member agencies is by sponsoring webinars on a variety of topics of interest to CAA staff and boards. The webinar approach allows us to provide relevant information to member without the travel expense associated with in-person trainings. We make it a practice to record our webinars to enable later viewing, so if you miss a particular session, you can usually access it through our website. Some of our most recent webinars included these topics:

- Advocacy Tips for Public CAAs
- CAA Board Members as Brand Ambassadors
- Safe Zone Training: Communicating Respectfully with LGBT Clients and Coworkers

Click [here](#) for a complete list of our webinar recordings. *You must be signed into your MemberClicks account to view this webpage.



FLEXPATH: CAPELLA OFFERS A REVOLUTIONARY WAY TO EARN A DEGREE

Capella's FlexPath learning format offers career-advancing skills and the knowledge with a class schedule entirely controlled by you. FlexPath is personalized, efficient and economical; adapting to the schedules and needs of busy professionals like yourself.

With a self-paced format, you are in control of your course schedule. Pace will determine price and you can complete as many courses as you want, up to 2 simultaneously, each session for one flat fee. Leverage what you already know to move faster through courses and take time on what you need to learn. Support from start to finish with tutors, faculty, and personalized planning from coaches. 1Books, supplies, and other fees may apply

Available FlexPath Programs
Health Care Administration | Psychology | Business | Information Technology | Education | Nursing

As a staff member of an MCA affiliated agency, you and your immediate family are eligible for significant financial and educational benefits:

- 50% off the first 12-week session toward a degree program for eligible students who start a FlexPath program before January 2019
- \$4,000 grant toward a degree program for eligible students who enroll in a GuidedPath program by January 2019
- Additional 10% tuition discount for all eligible students* *Not combinable with select tuition discounts
- Credit for your professional certificates and prior learning
- Free professional development webinars

Capella University is an accredited online university dedicated to providing an exceptional, professionally- aligned education that puts you in the best position to succeed in your field. You can earn certifications, or bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in areas such as Information technology, business, human resources, health care, and nursing. Our courses and programs are designed to meet standards established by professional associations and accrediting bodies—so you gain skills and knowledge that are immediately applicable to your career goals.

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