

Michigan Community
ACTION
Helping People. Changing Lives.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Volume 4, Issue 13

May 11, 2020

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MCA's Mission

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

Upcoming Events

Announcements

Michigan Community Action mini-toolkit for Community Action Month

Click the links below to download Michigan Community Action branded social media images for your agency to use this May during Community Action Month and a short version of the social media guide and suggested posts for each day of May. This toolkit is also available for download on the MCA website. [Toolkit PDF](#) [MCA Branded Social Media DOC](#)

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

On Tuesday, May 5, a bipartisan House letter was circulated requesting at least \$4.3 billion in supplemental funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The letter is signed by Representatives Peter Welch, Peter King, and James McGovern. Additionally, a bipartisan Senate letter has been circulated, which also requests at least \$4.3 billion for LIHEAP, as well as robust supplemental funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The letter is signed by Senators Jack Reed, Susan Collins, John Hoeven, and Jeanne Shaheen. MCA will continue to update you when we know more about the allocation and release schedule for the additional \$900 million appropriated through the CARES Act in March.

HHS informs Congress CSBG supplemental dollars to be released by Friday, May 9th

Message from NCAF: Thanks to all of you who contacted your congressional delegation and state leaders to put pressure on HHS to release the CSBG CARES Act funding. Your efforts were coupled with an all out blitz by NCAF in-coordination with Congress, and late yesterday HHS began informing members of both the House and Senate that the CSBG supplemental dollars (the \$1 billion) will be released to the states by the end of the week May 9th.. We currently have no information about guidance to the states, but one would have to assume that the guidance will also be going out very quickly.

Governor Whitmer and Michigan's Financial Institutions Agree to Partnership for Providing Borrowers 90-day Mortgage Payment Forbearance

Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) to announce the creation of the Mi Mortgage Relief Partnership with over 200 of Michigan's financial institutions to recognize and expand upon the measures that these institutions have been taking to assist customers to ensure that no one experiencing financial

May 18 - Finance Committee meeting is now virtual. Details forthcoming.

May 18 - Board of Directors meeting CANCELED.

May 18 - Directors Council meeting is now an informal virtual meeting 12-1 PM EDT. Details forthcoming.

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

The Michigan Community Action Update is a new, weekly round-up of important information for members of Michigan Community Action. We may send more frequent updates when important information breaks that impacts the Community Action network. We welcome your input and feedback.

Please send your comments and ideas [here](#).

MCA Officers/Board Members 2019-2021

Jill Sutton
President
Mid Michigan CAA

Michelle Williamson
Vice President
Community Action

Kerri Duff
Secretary Treasurer
Gogebic Ontonagon CAA

Toby Berry
Urban Officer
Community Action Agency

Michelle LaJoie
Upper Peninsula Officer
Community Action Alger-Marquette

Lisa Evans
Lower Peninsula Rural Officer
Community Action of Allegan County

Melinda Johnson
At-Large Officer

hardship due to COVID-19 will lose their home during this public health crisis.

Michigan borrowers experiencing a financial hardship due to COVID-19 are encouraged to reach out directly to their financial institution to learn the details of the relief options available to them, and to work out with the institution an agreement applicable to their loan. Borrowers are encouraged to reach out before their loan becomes delinquent. DIFS never advises borrowers to stop paying their loan payments.

Webinars/Trainings

Now that #GivingTuesdayNow is officially over, how can organizations take the energy from that moment and turn it into year-long momentum? May 12, 2020 2:00 ET. Hosted by Charity Dynamics [Register](#)

Why remote workforces are better supported with a cloud infrastructure. May 12, 2020 11:30 ET. Hosted by Digital BDO [Register](#)

Monitoring cyber threats for a remote workplace. May 14, 2020 11:30 ET. Hosted by Digital BDO [Register](#)

What every IT organization needs to know to deliver business continuity. May 14, 2020 2:00 PM ET Hosted by Riverbed [Register](#)

Mutual of America Financial Group - Market Update May 14, 2020 2:00 PM ET Hosted by Mutual of America [Register](#)

Managing a Paycheck Protection Program Loan Effectively. May 14, 2020 3:00 PM ET Hosted by Nonprofit Quarterly [Register](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Building resiliency and preparing for our moment: Part 1 Hosted by Wipfli [Website](#)

Building resiliency and preparing for our moment: Part 2 Hosted by Wipfli [Website](#)

COVID-19

Michiganders can now text "RESTORE" to Crisis Text Line to get mental health support

Getting crisis mental health support is now as simple as sending a text to a new service being launched today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) as part of its Stay Home, Stay Well initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By texting the keyword RESTORE to 741741, Michigan residents can have a confidential text conversation with a crisis counselor.

Trained counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to texts from Michigan residents who are facing a mental health crisis — everything from anxiety and financial issues to suicide and domestic violence. While the text line is starting during the pandemic, MDHHS intends to continue offering the service in the future. [Read more](#)

Blue Water Community Action

Doug McFadden

CAA Governing Board Officer
EightCAP

Matt Purcell

Directors Council Chair
GCCARD

Mary Ann Neopolitan

CAA Governing Board Officer
Monroe County Opportunity
Program

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

Was this e-newsletter forwarded to you? Sign up for email updates from Michigan Community Action, your statewide network of anti-poverty agencies [here](#).

Coronavirus: Overcoming the Loneliness of Social Distancing

Many employers are requiring their workers who can to work from home and stop the spread of the coronavirus, which causes the respiratory illness COVID-19. Cities have been quarantined and President Trump has asked people not to gather in groups larger than 10 people.

But without being able to socialize with colleagues, or visit restaurants, schools, parks, churches or temples with family and friends, many of us will be feeling lonely.

SHRM Online has collected the following articles on how to counteract loneliness while social distancing. [Read more](#)

Back to Business: Considerations in the Wake of COVID

How do you get back to business as usual while adapting to the new realities imposed by COVID-19? In this ongoing video series, staff at Venable.com address some of the key business and legal issues that companies should keep top of mind when considering a return to full operation. [Read more](#)

[Remote Work Resources](#)

Use these features in Microsoft PowerPoint to make your presentations more inclusive and interactive

Live Presentations feature to present your PowerPoint presentation to anyone who has internet and also allow them to zoom in on important details, screenshot slides and interact real time. [Read more](#)

Use Sub Titles and Spoken Language features. PowerPoint for Microsoft 365 can transcribe your words as you present and display them on-screen as captions in the same language you are speaking, or as subtitles translated to another language. This can help accommodate individuals in the audience who may be deaf or hard of hearing, or more familiar with another language, respectively. [Read more](#)

We're here for you: We've made a number of changes at MCA so that we can continue to serve you and the network, including closing the physical MCA office and making arrangements for MCA staff to work remotely since March 16, 2020. All direct phone lines, as well as the general line have been forwarded to mobile phones and staff are all accessible by email as well.

Thank you. Be well and stay safe, everyone.

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