

Michigan Community  
**ACTION**  
Helping People. Changing Lives.  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**

Volume 4, Issue 17

June 8, 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.*

## Announcements

### **Statement from Michigan Community Action about the Social Justice Roots of Our Movement and Anti-Racism**



(Okemos, MI, June 3, 2020) The Community Action movement was formed in the crucible of the Civil Rights era of the 1960s to fight poverty at the local level. Our movement is part of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President Lyndon B. Johnson, and countless community activists who envisioned an

empowered, community-centered way to fight poverty and cultivate economic opportunity. [Read full statement.](#)

### **President Trump signs bill easing Paycheck Protection Program requirements**

President Donald Trump has signed into law a bill that gives employers more flexibility when using Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds and applying for loan forgiveness.

Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle [supported making changes](#) to the PPP to address complaints from employers that the existing rules were unfeasible. U.S. House of Representatives passed the bipartisan [Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act](#) (PPPPA) in a 417-1 vote on May 28, and the Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on June 3. [Read more.](#)

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources

MCA staff are curating a large number of resources and trainings for members on issues pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion that will equip you with information and practical strategies to take action to dismantle structures of systemic racism.

## Upcoming Events

**June 17-** Legislative Committee  
10:30 AM EDT.

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  
Blue Water Community Action

### Doug McFadden

CAA Governing Board Officer  
EightCAP

Victoria Alexander, MEd., developed a detailed Anti-Racism Kit, which includes a wide variety of resources, including not just books, but articles, podcasts, TV and film recommendations and resources for teaching children as well as adults. You can find the free kit [here](#). The anti-racism guides below, developed by Victoria Alexander, MEd., includes Beginner and Intermediate Anti-Racist Reading Lists:

### Anti-Racist Beginner Kit

- [Stamped from the Beginning](#) - Ibram X Kendi
- [A People's History of the United States](#) - Howard Zinn (There is a "young people's" version for elementary and middle school readers)
- [White Fragility](#) - Robin Diangelo
- [So you want to talk about race](#) - Ijeoma Oluo
- [I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness](#) - Austin Channing Brown
- [Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor](#) - Layla F Saad
- [Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

### Anti-Racist Intermediate Kit

- [The Burning House: Jim Crow and the Making of Modern America](#) - Anders Walker
- [The New Jim Crow](#) - Michelle Alexander
- [The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America](#) - Khalil Gibran Muhammad
- [Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland](#) - Jonathan Metz
- [A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America](#) - Ronald Takaki
- [How to be an Anti Racist \(Audiobook\)](#) - Ibram X Kendi
- [How the South Won the Civil War: Oligarchy, Democracy, and the Continuing Fight for the Soul of America](#) - Heather Cox Richardson

### Taking Action on Housing and Mortgage Lending Discrimination

Black Americans remain second-class citizens in access to housing finance. Ever wonder why many live in neighborhoods that are hyper-segregated by race and class? One major culprit is racial discrimination in mortgage lending, causing a racial wealth gap. Michigan's junior US Senator, Gary Peters, is on Senate Finance Committee and could be an influential advocate to implement better laws preventing mortgage and credit discrimination. Read more on this issue below:

[Like Abusive Policing, Denial of Access to Mortgage Credit for Black Americans is a Growing Crisis](#)

## Webinars/Trainings

**Rise Up for Justice: Black Lives and Our Collective Future** - Monday June 8 at 5PM ET. Hosted by Community Action Partnership. Hear from organizers and veteran activists Professor John A. Powell (Othering and Belonging Institute), Linda Sarsour (Until Freedom), and Rev. Michael McBride (Live Free USA and Faith in Action). Live stream the event on our [Facebook page](#), [Othering & Belonging Institute](#) or at <https://www.riseup4justice.org>.

**Community Action Network COVID-19 Town Hall** - Thursday June 11 and June 25 at 3 PM ET. Hosted by Community Action Partnership. Join Community Action National Partners CAP, CAPLAW and NASCSP for an

**Matt Purcell**  
Directors Council Chair  
GCCARD

**Mary Ann Neopolitan**  
CAA Governing Board Officer  
Monroe County Opportunity  
Program

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### **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](#).

update on the impact of COVID-19 on the network. NCAF will participate as schedules allow. [Register for June 11](#) [Register for June 25](#)

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## **COVID-19**

### **Social Security fraud boosted by COVID-19 fears**

Know that COVID-19 gives fraudsters a new hook. Social Security fraud was already a problem when the global COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States early this spring.

But now fraudsters have added brand-new ploys involving the public health crisis to exploit unsuspecting victims.

Find out what they are doing and how you can help educate those you serve [here](#).

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## **Remote Work Resources**

### **Trello: How to embrace remote work**

If you're looking for one singular resource that can get your team excited about working remotely, then this [PDF](#) from Trello should be required reading. It offers tried-and-true strategies from Evernote, Buffer, Zapier, Automattic and other fully distributed companies. Found on [OpenViewPartners.com](http://OpenViewPartners.com)

**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.**

Michigan Community Action  
2173 Commons Parkway  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517.321.7500