



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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*Did you know.....Child homelessness has risen over 71% since 2009?*

## ADVOCACY – Speaking up for Low-Income Missourians

### **Advocacy**

By Heather Lockard, [hlockard@communityaction.org](mailto:hlockard@communityaction.org)

This is an exciting time in the legislative process with many of our network priorities moving forward. The session is moving quickly, and we are monitoring nearly 61 bills within the five elements of poverty (Food, Health, Education, Energy & Housing, and Family & Economic Security). We have testified in support and opposition of numerous bills that impact low-income families and the Community Action Network and continue to meet with legislators and their staff. In an effort to increase their awareness about the realities of poverty in Missouri, we disseminated a copy of the 2016 State of the State of Poverty report to each office last month. It is our hope that this information will be used to inform policy and program development.

In the past several weeks, a lot of our focus has been on the appropriations process. The House Budget Committee made their final recommendations last week on the budget. Below, are a few of the highlights of the budget and other legislative activity in the past month:

### **Appropriations**

The House Budget includes several line items that would assist our network in helping thousands of additional families to meet their basic needs through the following funds:

- \$4 million for Utilicare – In the past, through Utilicare funding, our network was able to help an additional 8,400 families to meet their basic necessities through heating and cooling assistance. Furthermore, in the past five years, nearly 80% of individuals utilizing LIHEAP have only needed assistance one or two years in the five year program (this is not a band aid program with people using it each year, but rather a onetime assistance to help stabilize families)
- A transfer from the Low-Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP) to the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (LIWAP) – Through the transfer from LIHEAP to Weatherization our network was able to weatherize an additional 1337 homes, permanently reducing their energy costs. On average, homes that have had weatherization services save \$283 per year on their utility bills
- \$3.5 million in Early Childhood funds – Early Childhood programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in many areas such as language, literacy, and social and emotional development. They emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. These programs help build relationships with families that support family well-being and many other important areas.

We have testified in support of these allocations and shared the information highlighted above to show the impact and need for these funds.

### ***Earned Income Tax Credit***

There are currently two bills, one House Bill and one Senate Bill, moving forward that would establish a state Earned Income Tax Credit. The Earned Income Tax Credit is a successful federal tax credit for low- and moderate-income working people that encourages work, helps offset the cost of raising children, and lifts millions of people out of poverty. Since 2000, the number of states having EITCs in addition to the Federal one has risen from 14 to 26, in addition to the District of Columbia. We believe that Missouri should follow this trend and establish the Missouri EITC. We have testified in support of both bills and will be pushing to move these forward.

### ***Temporary Assistance for Needy Families***

We are currently monitoring a bill that would establish the joint committee on public assistance. We are working with several other advocates to see how this committee could be used to evaluate outcomes, programs, and services to improve the program to best prepare individuals to work.

### ***Medicaid Expansion***

The General Assembly still refuses to discuss the coverage gap and debate Medicaid Expansion.

There are numerous other bills, both positive and negative, that we continue to monitor to assess their impact and priority for our network.

We also continue to work closely with the National Community Action Foundation, NCAF, to provide them information and support as they move through the appropriations process and several reauthorizations (Weatherization and Community Services Block Grant).

### **2016 Community Action Advocacy Day- Save the Date**

By Heather Lockard, [hlockard@communityaction.org](mailto:hlockard@communityaction.org)

The MACA Board Advocacy Committee is working to finalize the 2016 Community Action Advocacy Day that will be held on March 16, 2016 at the State Capitol. Our Advocacy Day will focus on our legislative priorities within the five elements of poverty (Food, Health, Education, Energy & Housing, and Family & Economic Security). We hope that

many of our network members will be able to attend and meet with your legislators! Activities at the Community Action Advocacy Day include:

- Community Action Agency Exhibits around the Five Elements of Poverty
- Rally
- Legislative Visits
- Agency Exhibits

To prepare participants for Advocacy Day we will host a webinar on March 11<sup>th</sup> where we will go over our network, needs in our state, legislative messages, helpful tips for meeting with legislators, and the current legislative environment. To join the webinar please sign up using this [link](#).

## 2016 Poverty Summit

By Heidi Lucas, [hlucas@communityaction.org](mailto:hlucas@communityaction.org)

On behalf of the Missourians to End Poverty coalition (MEP), we are inviting all agencies to attend the fourth Missouri Poverty Summit!

This one-day event on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Jefferson City brings together businesses, non-profits, governmental agencies, and interested community members from across the state to share strategies and build new networks to help fight poverty in Missouri.



In order to make this nonprofit summit possible, we need your help. Please consider participating in the event as a sponsor, donor, exhibitor and/or attendee. Please check out the MACA calendar under the Member tab at [www.communityaction.org](http://www.communityaction.org) (click on the calendar entry on April 27<sup>th</sup>) or the MEP website at [www.moendpoverty.org](http://www.moendpoverty.org) for more information.

## 2016 State of the State of Poverty Report Update

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As of March 8<sup>th</sup>, the 2016 State of the State of Poverty Report has been downloaded from the MACA website 335 times by 130 unique users. In addition to this, 15 separate media outlets have distributed information from the poverty report since its release on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The media feedback has been quite positive overall.

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

[hlockard@communityaction.org](mailto:hlockard@communityaction.org)

NASCSP released several important elements of ROMA Next Generation for an Informal Comment Period. The Informal Comment Period is being held from March 3, 2016 - April 1, 2016, and this will be followed by the OMB Clearance process. Here is what to expect as our network moves forward with ROMA Next Generation:

1. Review of ROMA Next Generation Documents: Each piece of the ROMA Next Generation packet will be posted on the NASCSP website, along with a ROMA Next Generation Component Guide to support your review. The guide will provide information about the purpose of each component and links to the actual documents, surveys, and webinar recordings as they are held.
2. Informal Comment Period Surveys: A survey will be available for each component and will serve as the primary method for submitting feedback. The set of surveys includes both high level overview questions and more detailed questions about data elements.
3. Webinar Series: NASCSP will host a webinar series to provide an overview of each component, highlight improvements and modifications that have resulted from feedback, and gain additional feedback through web-based polls and Q&A periods. Please be on the look-out for additional communication on the webinar series dates and topics.

### Webinar Recording: ROMA Next Generation Overview Kick-Off to the ROMA Next Generation Initial Comment Period

#### **State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Associations, and RPICs**

*Tuesday, March 8, 2016*      *11AM-12:30PM PDT / 2PM -3:30PM ET*      [Register here.](#)

#### **NCRTs & CCAPs**

*Wednesday, March 9, 2016*      *12:30PM-2PM PDT / 3:30PM-5PM ET*      [Register here.](#)

#### **National Community Action Network Theory of Change and Goals**

*Monday, March 14, 2016*      *11AM-12:30PM PDT / 2PM -3:30PM EDT*

This webinar will focus on the National Community Action Network Theory of Change, National Goals, and how the components of the new CSBG Annual report connect. This information will provide a framework for reviewing the documents during the initial comment period. [Register here.](#)

#### **Community Level Work**

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*      *11AM-1PM PDT / 2PM-4PM EDT*

This webinar will focus on Community Level work and cover Community Level Strategies, National Performance Indicators, and Efforts in Progress. [Register here.](#)

#### **Individual and Family Level Work**

*Thursday, March 17, 2016*      *11AM-12:30PM PDT / 2PM -3:30PM ET*

This webinar will focus on the Characteristics of Individuals and Households, Individual and Family Services, and Individual and Family National Performance Indicators. [Register here.](#)

#### **Tying It All Together**

*Tuesday, March 22, 2016*      *11AM-12:30PM PDT / 2PM -3:30PM EDT*

This webinar will focus on CSBG Expenditures and Resources Administered by the CSBG Network and will discuss how each component of the new Annual Report connects. [Register here.](#)

*Your review of these components of ROMA Next Generation is essential as our network forward. These are significant and important changes that will guide our network for many years to come. Your opinion matters! NASCSP will*

make changes to ROMA Next Generation documents, tools and reports based on the Network's feedback and to prepare for the OMB Clearance Process. Detailed and specific comments are especially critical at the early stages of the comment process to ensure that the cleared documents reflect the consensus of the Network and the strongest tools and indicators possible. We look forward to hearing your feedback throughout this process. To sign up for the webinar series, please visit [www.nascsp.org](http://www.nascsp.org).

### **Nonprofit Missouri Board Member**

By Heather Lockard, [hlockard@communityaction.org](mailto:hlockard@communityaction.org)

MACA was asked to serve as a Board Member for Nonprofit Missouri (NPMO) to better connect our network with other nonprofits and strengthen the sector. NPMO is the collective voice to unite, strengthen and advance the nonprofit sector in Missouri. Created by and for nonprofits, it is Missouri's first organization to promote the common interests of the state's more than 15,000 nonprofits. Formed in 2010, Nonprofit Missouri has grown to support nonprofit organizations and nonprofit professionals by providing training, education, guidance for:

- Managing and leading more effectively;
- Fostering and sustaining fruitful collaborations;
- Achieving greater impact in communities;
- Monitoring nonprofit legislative issues;
- Advocating on critical policy issues affecting the sector;
- Promoting the value of nonprofits.

### **2016 Missouri Parks & Recreation Association Conference**

By Heidi Lucas, [hluucas@communityaction.org](mailto:hluucas@communityaction.org)

MACA was asked by MPRA to present conference sessions at their 2016 Annual Conference in Columbia, MO on February 23. Heidi presented two sessions; "Poverty 101: Poverty in Missouri in 2016" and "Parks and Recreation, Social Equity, and Poverty: How to engage your community." Both sessions were well attended and well received.

## **NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others**

### **MIS update**

By Jayna Gray, [jgray@communityaction.org](mailto:jgray@communityaction.org)

MIS Train the Trainer – This workshop was held March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at the MACA office. This workshop was designed for Agency Admin team members who are responsible for MIS user training. We had 21 attendees from 18 CAAs plus Urban League of Metro St. Louis. The MIS trainers shared best practices, shared important information and came up with some common techniques to use statewide. Thanks to all the attendees.

MIS New User Training – This training is designed for new MIS users who have been with the agency for at least 90 days and will be held at Columbia College in Jefferson City on March 17<sup>th</sup>. This is hands on training, using the system in a computer lab, so attendees must have a valid MIS user ID issued by their agency, and attendees should be familiar with the basics of the MIS. This training should enhance users' knowledge and skills, but is not a replacement for local agency MIS training. (Registration is closed)

MIS Report Training – This training will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Columbia College in Jefferson. Additional information coming soon.

## **New Missouri CAA Management Information System (MIS) On Boarding Team**

By Jayna Gray, [jgray@communityaction.org](mailto:jgray@communityaction.org)

The On Boarding Team kick off meeting was held March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the MACA office. This team consists of one person nominated by each of Missouri's 19 CAAs, representatives from the Missouri Community Action Directors Association (MCADA), the MO DSS/FSD office, Jayna Gray and Kurt Brewer from the MACA office. Each team member will be participating in reviewing RFP responses, conducting field evaluations, selecting the final vendor, testing and piloting the new software. The On boarding team will also help with state wide training and implementation of the new software, as well as other duties determined necessary to help the project be successful.

Team members include: MCADA Pam LaFrenz & David Miller, CMCA- Angela Hirsch, CAASTLC- Patricia Bulejski, CAPNCM- Hilary Marshall, CAPNEMO-Terry Hiatt, CAPSTJOE-Estrella Maldonado, CSI-Cathy Rybolt, EMAA- Shanna Yount, ESC- Marlena Shofler, JFCAC- Paulette Hensley, MOCA-Mary Mullins, MVCAA-Mary Endicott, NECAC-Kathy Block, OAI-Angie Berry, OACAC- Carl Thomas, SCMCAA- Denise Faulkner, USCAA- Tawana Woods, WCMCAA- Kenney Hutchison, CSBG Office-Linda Haus and MACA-Jayna Gray & Kurt Brewer.

## **Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment in Community Commons**

By Jayna Gray, [jgray@communityaction.org](mailto:jgray@communityaction.org)

Have you registered with Community Commons and joined the MACA Hub? If you haven't done so already, visit [www.communitycommons.org](http://www.communitycommons.org) to register for an account, then click the Hub tab to find the Missouri Association for Community Action. If you have any questions, please contact me.

## **Missouri Academy for Leadership & Community Action**

By Courtney Kohler, [ckohler@communityaction.org](mailto:ckohler@communityaction.org)

The 2016 Leadership Academy through MACA is still recruiting developing leaders and accepting applications through April! The Leadership Academy is designed to provide the critical leadership and management skills needed now and for the future. This collaborative learning process that incorporates development, mentoring, networking opportunities, and the creation of a portfolio will allow participants to explore their leadership style, develop leadership aptitude, and empower themselves and others.



The application deadline is *April 8, 2016* to give ample time for Missouri Community Action staff members and community partners to consider this opportunity for development. Academy will now start in July and end in December of 2016. An application is located at the following location on the MACA website: <http://www.communityaction.co/professional-development/#leadership>. Academy Advisors are also being recruited at this time. If you are interested in either opportunity or have any questions, please let the MACA office know.

## **MACA University**

By Courtney Kohler, [ckohler@communityaction.org](mailto:ckohler@communityaction.org)

Have you registered for a moodle account yet? Individuals can sign up and access MACA University here: <http://www.communityaction.co/moodle>. Currently, seven courses are available and they include a variety of video

modules, PowerPoint slides, handouts, activities, and quizzes based on subject matter. We hope you enjoy and share this new resource. It is free to all Missouri Community Action Agencies.

We also appreciate feedback as this pilot phase continues. Once we orient the network to the site and evaluate usage this spring, we will begin to add more tracks of online course content such as human resources, MIS, or other categories based on input from the network.

### **Executive Transition Toolkit**

By Heather Lockard, [hlockard@communityaction.org](mailto:hlockard@communityaction.org)

In an effort to support the Missouri Community Action Network through their transitions, MACA, in partnership with the Missouri Community Action Directors Association and New Chapter Coaching, has created an executive transition toolkit. *Capitalizing on Your Next Change in Leadership: A Guide to a Successful Executive Director and Leadership Search* was created to guide Community Action Agency Board of Directors and Executive Directors through the search process. A successful transition can create a sense of purpose and unity, resulting in strong leadership for the organization. The toolkit is divided into five areas:

1. Identify your search and selection leaders,
2. Make a road map,
3. Define your future by assessing your present.
4. Preparing to launch your search; and
5. Finding the new executive director

MACA is also working with the MACA Board of Directors to develop a Community Action Onboarding toolkit for new leaders in the Community Action Network.

## **MACA CAPACITY – Helping us help you**

### **Agency Visits**

Jessica Long and Heather Lockard had a great opportunity to visit People’s Community Action Agency (PCAC). PCAC staff shared information on their innovative programs and services and took the MACA staff on site visits to their outreach offices.

Jayna Gray had a busy February visiting agencies for MIS training & technical assistance. She visited United Services Community Action Agency (USCAA), Community Action Partnership of St. Joseph (CAPSTJOE), East Missouri Action Agency (EMAA), Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation (JFCAC) and West Central Missouri Community Action Agency (WCMCAA).

Jayna also traveled to Economic Security Corporation of the Southwest Area (ESC) for the quarterly Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance (OPPA) meeting. Twenty eight individuals representing 10 agencies attended. This meeting included a tour of Joplin, guided by John Joines CEO of ECS, to show how Joplin has rebuilt since the 2011 E-5 tornado.

**[Activity Calendar on following page](#)**

## On the Calendar

### **Advocacy Day**

March 16...Jefferson City

### **MIS User Training**

March 17...Jefferson City

### **Finance Professional Alliance**

March 17-18...MACA Office

### **CAPS Facilitator Training**

March 21-22...Kansas City

### **On Boarding Team Final Scoring Meeting**

April 8....MACA Office

### **MCADA**

April 13...MACA Office

### **CCAP Preparatory Class #6**

April 14...MACA Office

### **MIS Committee**

April 20...MACA Office

### **Energy and Housing Professional Alliance**

April 20...MACA Office

### **MWPAC and CKMW Committees**

April 21...MACA Office

### **Information Technology Professional Alliance**

April 21-22...MACA Office

### **On Boarding Team-Vendor 1 demo**

April 26.....MACA Office

### **Poverty Summit**

April 27...Jefferson City

### **Outreach Managers Professional Alliance**

April 28-29...MACA Office

### **MIS Report Training**

May 2...Jefferson City

### **Internal Roma Consultants Professional Alliance**

May 5...MACA Office

### **MACA Office Closed – Truman’s Birthday**

May 9

### **MCADA**

May 11...MACA Office

### **MACA Board**

May 12...MACA Office

### **On Boarding Team-Vender 2 demo**

May 17...Jefferson City

### **CCAP Preparatory Class #7**

May 18...MACA Office

### **Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance**

May 19...MACA Office

### **Finance Professional Alliance**

May 19-20...Jefferson City

### **MACA Office Closed – Memorial Day**

May 30

### **Human Resource Professional Development**

June 1-2...MACA Office

### **On Boarding Team-Vendor 3 demo**

June 7...MACA Office

### **MCADA**

June 8...MACA Office



**CCAP Preparatory Exam**

June 15...Jefferson City

**MACA Conference**

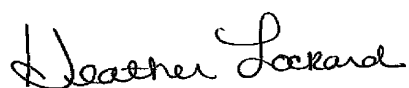
June 21-23...St Louis

**Onboarding Team-Vendor 3 demo**

June 30...MACA Office

**MACA Office Closed - Independence Day**

July 4



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**Heather Lockard, MACA Executive**

**Director**

**March 9, 2016**

*For the most current list of events and for more information, check the calendar on our website at [www.communityaction.org](http://www.communityaction.org).*