



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...over one million Missourians visited a food bank in 2014?***

## ADVOCACY – Speaking up for Low-Income Missourians

### Legislative Update

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

The Senate and the House got back to work following break and the historical filibuster over SJR 39. There are concerns that some bills still on calendars could slow the Senate down again but at this point, their work is moving forward. We continue to stay very engaged in the appropriations process with several of Community Action Agencies' core funding line items moving forward.

### Appropriations

The Senate Appropriations Committee finalized its budget recommendations. A conference committee of Senate and House members will have to determine the final amount for budget items on which the Senate and House disagreed. One item that will go to conference is the subsidies for child care providers for low-income children and their families. Our budget priorities, including the following, have all been included in the budget up to this point:

- Community Services Block Grant
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (including the transfer to the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program)
- Early Childhood Education- State Early Head Start
- Utilicare

## Earned Income Tax Credit

Efforts to establish a state Earned Income Tax Credit continue to move forward, although the pace has slowed significantly. HB 1605, Representative Kelly's bill to establish a State Earned Income Tax Credit was reported to pass and will move on to the Senate. There is still opposition on the tax credit. However, it has received more bipartisan support than in recent years which makes us hopeful we can keep it moving.

## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families & Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

We continue to monitor several bills that would have an impact on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Some of the bills we are monitoring deal with establishing a farmers market program for seniors, eligibility determination, and a joint committee on public assistance.

## Medicaid Expansion

A new study was released by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services showing Medicaid expansion could greatly improve access to behavioral health services. Even in light of these reports, the General Assembly refuses to have the debate to close the coverage gap through expanding Medicaid.

## Marketplace Fairness

Also of interest to our Network, the Marketplace Fairness Act has moved forward with the passage of SB 795. The bill would make changes necessary for Missouri to join the Streamline Sales and Use Tax governing board. Membership would trigger about 2,500 out-of-state retailers to voluntarily collect and remit use tax on their sales from Missouri purchasers, like brick-and-mortar retailers currently do, thus reducing the competitive disadvantage for in-state retailers.

Approximately \$15-20 million would be collected every year, with the additional funds to be used to provide increases for childcare provider rates.

## 2016 Community Action Advocacy Day

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



On March 16, members of the Missouri Community Action Network gathered at our State Capitol to show that "Community Action Cares" at our 2016 Advocacy Day. During the event, members participated in a rally, met with legislators and showcased their innovative agency programs through exhibits.

During the rally, we discussed the Community Action Network's legislative priorities- strategies to address poverty in Missouri- within the five elements of poverty: Education, Housing & Energy, Food, Family &

Economic Security, and Health. We also had an incredible opportunity to hear from three constituents who shared their personal stories, and discussed the impact that Community Action has had on their lives.

The event was a great success! 100% of participants said they were able to meet with legislators and it was a great way for them to advocate on behalf of low-income people. Agency staff were able to share how our Network helps families reach self-sufficiency, provides emergency services to stabilize families in crisis, and mobilizes communities to come together to fight the causes and conditions of poverty!

## **2016 Missouri Poverty Summit**

*By Heidi Lucas, Outreach Manager, [hluucas@communityaction.org](mailto:hluucas@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 will bring together businesses, nonprofits, 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) or the MEP website at [www.moendpoverty.org](http://www.moendpoverty.org) for more information.

## **Missouri Kids Count Data Book**

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

The Missouri Kids Count Data Book was released on April 5. The *Missouri KIDS COUNT Data Book* is a collaborative project of the [Family and Community Trust \(FACT\)](#), [Children's Trust Fund \(CTF\)](#), the [Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis \(OSED\)](#) at the University of Missouri, and more than 20 public and private organizations across the state. CTF and the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) provide the primary funding for the data book and data tool. The mission of the *Missouri KIDS COUNT Data Book* is to improve the well-being of Missouri's children and families. MACA serves as a member of the Kids Count Advisory Committee.

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

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

The ROMA Next Generation initial feedback period ended on April 1, 2016, which was on a tight timeline. This feedback period will be followed by the OMB clearance process, which will allow additional time for comment. The OMB clearance process will include an initial 60-day public comment period, and a final 30-day comment period. NASCSP will make changes to ROMA Next Generation documents, tools, and reports based on the Network's feedback and prepare for submission to OCS for the OMB Clearance Process.

MACA staff will be outlining the changes and feedback during the April Internal ROMA Consultant Professional Alliance. Please stay engaged in the feedback process as we move forward. Detailed and specific comments are especially critical at the early stages of the process to ensure that the documents are as strong as possible and allow us to showcase the work of Community Action at all levels of the Network.

## NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

### MIS Update

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

MIS New User Training was held at Columbia College in Jefferson City on March 17<sup>th</sup>. There were 23 attendees from 9 different CAAs. This was a hands-on training, using the system in the computer lab to enhance users' knowledge and skills of MIS.

### MIS Request for Proposals (RFP) Update

By Kurt Brewer, Informational Technology Director, [kbrewer@communityaction.org](mailto:kbrewer@communityaction.org)

The Family Support Division (FSD), in conjunction with the Missouri Community Action Directors Association (MCADA), has asked MACA to conduct a competitive search for a statewide software solution. This request comes as the state is reviewing software systems across the state, and it has been more than 12 years since a competitive search was conducted for our CAA software. MACA convened an Onboarding Team with representatives from all 19 CAAs, the FSD office, MCADA, and the MACA office. A formal RFP was distributed in March, with an April 6<sup>th</sup> response deadline.

We are happy to report that we have received 10 proposals, including one from our current provider, Adsystem. The Onboarding Team is in the process of selecting the top three candidates, which will then receive further scrutiny from our statewide team in the coming months.

### Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment in Community Commons

By Jayna Gray, Information Systems Manager, [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 Jayna Gray at [jgray@communityaction.org](mailto:jgray@communityaction.org).

### MACA University

By Courtney Kohler, Program Director, [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.

## Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

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

The Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training on March 21-22 in Kansas City was a huge success! We were excited to have over 70 participants from all over the United States attend the training. Our next training will be November 14-15 in St. Louis. Please look for registration information this summer.

## Project Management: A Critical Factor for Sustainability

By Jeff Barlow, Development Director, [jbarlow@communityaction.org](mailto:jbarlow@communityaction.org)

Whether you're working on a grant, a fundraiser or an outreach event, getting staff and volunteers on the same page is critical for success. One way to improve communication and ensure staff understand their roles, specific tasks and deadlines is to use a project management methodology.



The Project Management Institute (PMI) definition of a project: "A project is **temporary** in that it has a defined beginning and end in time, and therefore defined scope and resources...a project is unique in that it is not a routine operation." Project Management is then defined as the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to project activities to meet the project requirements. It also ensures projects end on time and within budget.

At MACA, we are piloting a new web-based project tracking tool on some of our projects. This tool is free for groups of 15 or less. Check it out and consider a pilot in your agency. Go to [www.asana.com](http://www.asana.com) to learn more or ask one of the MACA staff to give you a quick review of the tool the next time you are in the MACA office.

## Save the Date: Community Action Network Days - Royals & Cardinals Events in 2016

By Jeff Barlow, Development Director, [jbarlow@communityaction.org](mailto:jbarlow@communityaction.org)



An important part of helping you help others means making sure we take some time for ourselves every now and then. For the past two years, we have been pleased to provide discount tickets to hundreds of Community Action employees, their families, and community partners to attend a game at Busch Stadium.

This year, we were able to get tickets for both the Cardinals and the Royals in September. More information will be available soon! Once again, you will be able to buy tickets through a single point of contact at your local agency. The two options to mark on your calendar are:

**Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>:** Cardinals vs. Brewers @ Busch Stadium in St. Louis at 6:15

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>:** Royals vs. White Sox @ Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City at 6:15

## MACA CAPACITY – Helping us help you

### MACA At-Large Board Member Elections

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

Are you interested in helping to guide MACA for the next two years to achieve our mission, to advocate for low-income Missourians and build the capacity of the Community Action Network?! If yes, please consider applying to be an At-Large MACA Board member. MACA is seeking nominations for the 2016-2018 At-Large board members. We need board members that have the ability and commitment to move us towards reaching the Missouri Community Action Network's mission and vision. It is important for At-Large members to have the support of their executive director and the time to devote to the MACA Board. At-Large applications will be released on April 13<sup>th</sup>. You must be a MACA Individual Member to apply. Thank you for your consideration of this important role!

### Learn more about At-Large directors from the MACA bylaws:

*The Individual Members shall elect a maximum of ten (10) At-Large directors. Each director shall be elected for two-year terms. The nomination process shall be determined by the MACA Board of Directors. Each CAA member organization may select one individual for the ballot. In the event there are ten or fewer nominations for the At-Large positions, then no election will be held and the MACA Board of Directors will vote to seat the nominated candidates. In the event there are more than ten nominations for the ten At-Large positions, then there will be an election by the Individual Membership with the process to be determined by the MACA Board of Directors.*

### MACA is Hiring

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

Missouri Association for Community Action seeks a full-time experienced Training Manager. The Training Manager, in a team oriented environment, helps to build a respected, strategic, statewide organization through the design, development and delivery of the Community Action Network's training and development programs. This position will be responsible for the initiation, implementation, and tracking of various projects and events. This includes providing leadership and creating alignment with network-wide professional development initiatives and partnering closely with the membership to develop additional training and development programs.

Outstanding communication skills, program design skills, project management skills, and the desire to make a difference are essential. A bachelor's degree in related field plus two years of experience in adult or continuing education is required. Compensation, with excellent benefits, is commensurate with experience and education. Submit your resume and MACA application (found at [www.communityaction.org/our-team](http://www.communityaction.org/our-team)) by April 22, 2016. MACA, 2014 William Street, Jefferson City, 65109 or [info@communityaction.org](mailto:info@communityaction.org).

### Caring for Missouri Masquerade Ball & Charity Auction – Funds Now Available for CAAs

By Jeff Barlow, Development Director, [jbarlow@communityaction.org](mailto:jbarlow@communityaction.org)

We were pleased to finalize our role as the fiscal agent for the Network's first statewide fundraiser. You can download the final report on the event website at: <http://caring4missouri.org/blog/>. In summary, we raised \$178,077 and after expenses, each charity received \$47,649.81 to use for their specific causes. In MACA's case, we have those funds reserved for use by the Network for three areas. The MACA board approved the funds to be used

for educational scholarships for out-of-network training, for special technical assistance needs for agencies to hire consultants and trainers, etc., and for additional Moodle courses to be developed and accessible by the entire Network. Funds requested by agencies will be accessed via the normal training and technical assistance request form and process. Contact Courtney at [ckohler@communityaction.org](mailto:ckohler@communityaction.org) for more information.

## Agency Visits

- On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Heather Lockard traveled to St. Joseph to meet with their new executive director, Whitney Lanning, to discuss MACA and our Network's resources.
- Heidi Lucas and Jayna Gray attended the MWA Conference on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to present Part I of our new training, Building Effective Relationships.
- Jayna Gray had the opportunity to visit Missouri Ozarks Community Action (MOCA) on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss program tracking in the MIS.
- Jayna also attended the CSBG/LIHEAP staff meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> at West Central Community Action Agency (WCMCAA) to discuss the MIS goal plan for WCMCAA with staff.
- Jeff Barlow traveled to Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation (JFCAC) on March 28<sup>th</sup> to meet with Jill Lombardo, executive director, and her executive team to discuss MACA support available to them in resource development and marketing and to provide some fundraising information.
- On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Jeff travelled to Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph (CAPSTJOE) to meet with Whitney Lanning, CAPSTJOE's new executive director, and her staff to discuss creation of a sustainability plan focused on a major donor campaign and fundraising events and to share some marketing lists.

**Activity Calendar on following page**

## On the Calendar

### **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

### **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 Alliance**

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**

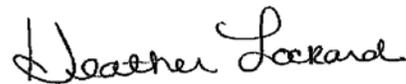
July 4

### **Leadership Academy**

July 6-7...MACA Office

### **On Boarding Team-Vendor 4 demo**

July 8...MACA Office



**Heather Lockard, MACA Executive Director**  
**April 13, 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).*