



Mission: To advocate for low-income Missourians and strengthen the Community Action Network  
 Vision: A state where all people and communities thrive

## What's in this issue?

- Advocacy** (pp. 1-3)
- Legislative Update, Poverty Summit, ROMA
- Network Capacity** (pp. 3-4)
- Annual Conference, MACA University, Community Action Network Days
- MACA Capacity** (p. 5-6)
- At-Large Board Members, Training Manager Position, Caring for Missouri, Agency Visits, Executive Director Position
- Calendar** (p. 7)

*Did you know...that Missouri has seen an increase in child homelessness of over 71% since 2009-2010?*

## ADVOCACY – Speaking up for low-income Missourians

### Legislative Update

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

The 2016 legislative session will end on Friday, May 13, 2016. We have tracked nearly 100 bills this session, and several of our legislative priorities are still moving forward. However, with multiple contentious bills set to be debated in the final week, the road to pass our bills, could prove very difficult. Below, are a few of the highlights of our legislative priorities as we enter the final week of session:

For the second year in a row the budget was completed weeks before the continually required deadline. Governor Nixon signed the remaining appropriations bills for the 2017 fiscal year – thanking the General Assembly for answering his call for smart, fiscally-responsible investments, while cautioning legislators against redirecting these dollars toward special interest tax breaks in the last week of the session. Governor Nixon line item vetoed two sections of the budget, but Community Action's Core Programs and supplemental priorities were protected, including the following:

- 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
- Missouri Works Assistance

### **Earned Income Tax Credit**

HB 1605, which would establish a state Earned Income Tax Credit was passed out of the House by a vote of 115-35! It now moves onto the Senate and they have one week to act on the bill. We have focused significant effort on this bill this year because we know that an EITC has proven benefits. It rewards work, decreases poverty, & helps families strive for the middle class. It improves health and education outcomes, and increases kids' earnings as adults.

### **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). There are three bills that continue to move forward that would impact these important safety net programs. They would establish a farmer's market program for seniors, mandate that the Department of Social Services contract with a third party to determine eligibility for core programs, and establish a joint committee on public assistance.

A full and final report will be shared with the Network once session has ended. We also continue to work closely with the National Community Action Foundation to protect our core federal funding.

### **Missouri Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee**

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

MACA participated in the quarterly Missouri Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee in April. At the committee meeting, The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) announced it will be conducting public hearings regarding the FY2017 Draft Missouri Housing Trust Fund Allocation Plan and Notice of Funding. The hearings were held in early May in various locations across the state. The funding documents can be found on <http://www.mhdc.com/notices/ph/default.htm>.

### **2016 Missouri Poverty Summit**

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

We are proud to report that the 4th Missouri Poverty Summit was a huge success! This one-day event on April 27th in Jefferson City brought 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.

Please check the Missourians to End Poverty website at [www.moendpoverty.org](http://www.moendpoverty.org) for more information!

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

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

The National Association of State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) held an Initial Comment Period from March 3, 2016 – April 13, 2016 and is using your feedback to make changes to ROMA Next Generation that reflect the collective response of the Network. Over 50% of the Community Action Agencies across the country responded

to the surveys. The Network will have additional opportunities to review and provide feedback to the revised ROMA Next Generation framework during the next 60-day public comment period, which will then be followed by another 30-day comment period, before the final ROMA Next Generation package is submitted for OMB clearance. Please feel free to contact MACA staff with questions regarding ROMA Next Generation.

## NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

### 2016 Annual Conference

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

Join us at the 2016 MACA Annual Conference on June 21-23 at Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel! This year will include hands-on workshops, entertainment, an auction, keynote speaker Robert Putnam on the growing class gap among young Americans, and much more! You will have the chance to network with other Community Action members and nonprofit leaders, all while learning the latest best practices in the fight against poverty.

Registration is now open and can be booked via the MACA website at:

<http://www.communityaction.org/annualconference>

### 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).

### New Course on MACA University – Introduction to Trauma

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

MACA is strengthening its focus on being trauma-informed and has recently connected with the MO Department of Mental Health who contributed resources for a new Moodle course – Introduction to Trauma. Currently, eight courses are available and they include a variety of video modules, PowerPoint slides, handouts, activities, and quizzes based on subject matter. An Introduction to ROMA course will also be added soon. We hope you enjoy and share this new resource. It is free to all Missouri Community Action Agencies. Individuals can sign up and access MACA University here: <http://www.communityaction.co/moodle>.

We continue to orient the Network to the site and are beginning to evaluate usage. Soon, we will be gathering input from the network on what topics might be priority to add next. We welcome feedback as you take the current courses and think through future distance training needs!

## Professional Development Update

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

MACA is pleased to announce that 14 Missouri Community Action Agency staff members have been accepted into the 2016 Missouri Academy for Leadership and Community Action. This represents six of the 19 agencies and sessions will run July - December. Angela Hirsch (CMCA) and Lindsey Dumas-Bell (OACAC) will be co-facilitating along with me again this year. We are excited for a great class of growing leaders!

The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) candidates are also busy studying and preparing for the CCAP Exam in June. We currently have seven from the Network that are planning to test.

Lastly, our cadre of Internal ROMA Consultants continues to grow as six candidates are progressing through the certification process this year to become Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (NCRT). These candidates will be attending the phase II in-seat training session in Iowa May 10-12. We also have 4 Missouri Community Action Network staff who are helping to pilot a new ROMA Certification this year – the Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer (NCRI). It is great to see the ROMA expertise continue to grow in-state as we prepare for ROMA Next Generation.

## Summer Trainings

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

The team at MACA is busy preparing to offer some great trainings this summer!

- Advanced Grants: Focus on Data Analysis: July 12
- Communicating with Strength: August 2-3
- Community Action Planning (tentative/TBD)

More information on each coming soon!

## 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

### A Note from MACA Executive Director

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

As some of you may have heard, my last day with the Missouri Community Action Network will be May 27, 2016. This was a very difficult decision to make, but it is the best decision for my family at this time. I have had the privilege to be a part of this Network for ten years. For almost three years, I have had the honor to lead our Network's initiatives and the association.

When I first came to Community Action, I had an immediate connection with the mission and purpose of our movement. That connection only increased when I came to work for MACA in 2008. I have enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of such a powerful Network of people who are deeply committed to ending poverty. I will continue my commitment to the mission and vision of our network, and I still believe I can contribute to achieving our vision, although through a different role.

I am extremely proud of all our Network has accomplished together in the last three years. Some of our most significant accomplishments include: 1) the implementation of our strategic plan; 2) increasing our membership (and benefits) to our highest levels in recent years; 3) engaging in advocacy efforts that resulted in additional funding and protected benefits for low-income families; 4) increasing the association's unrestricted funds; 5) increasing the capacity of the network and MACA staff; and 6) increasing awareness of our Network and poverty.

The association has a strong Board of Directors and a team of very talented and dedicated staff who will work together through the transition. I am so grateful for the trust and support you have given me over the years. I cannot wait to see all that this Network achieves in the years to come! Thank you!

### MACA Executive Director Position

Heather Lockard will be leaving her position as Executive Director of the Missouri Association for Community Action (MACA) on May 27, 2016. Therefore, the MACA Board of Directors is seeking applicants for the Executive Director position.

The position is based in Jefferson City, MO. Necessary skills and abilities include interacting with internal staff and members and working externally with community, statewide, and national leaders. The position is accountable to a Board of Directors. MACA's operating budget is \$2.5 million with ten full-time employees.

A Master's degree in Business Administration, Sociology, Social Work, Public Administration or related liberal arts field is preferred. A minimum of three years' experience in Community Action management, state association administration or other similar not-for-profit executive management is preferred. Salary will be based on experience, and MACA has a comprehensive benefits package.

Resumes and applications will be accepted until June 6, 2016, and should be emailed to MACA Search Committee, ATTN: Pam LaFrenz, at [lafrenz@mvcaa.net](mailto:lafrenz@mvcaa.net). To access the application, and learn more about MACA's members, mission and vision, please visit [www.communityaction.org/our-team](http://www.communityaction.org/our-team). Both the application and a resume are

required and must be sent as a simple attachment to the email, please do not embed links. MACA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## **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 were released on April 13<sup>th</sup>. You must be a MACA Individual Member to apply and the application is available at [www.communityaction.org/for-members](http://www.communityaction.org/for-members). 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.*

### **Agency Visits**

- Jayna Gray had the opportunity to visit United Services Community Action Agency (USCAA) to conduct new MIS user training on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Jayna also conducted MIS user training at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo for CSBG/LIHEAP staff of Jefferson Franklin Community Action Agency.

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

**On the Calendar****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

**Resource Development Professional Development**

June 28...MACA Office

**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

**Advance Grants – Focus on DATA Analysis**

July 12...MACA Office

**MCADA**

July 13...MACA Office

**MACA Board**

July 14...MACA Office

**MIS**

July 19...MACA Office

**Energy and Housing Professional Alliance**

July 20...MACA Office

**Information Technology Professional Alliance**

July 21-22...MACA Office

**Employment and Training Professional Alliance**

July 26...MACA Office

**Outreach Manager Professional Alliance**

July 28-29...MACA Office

**Communicating with Strength**

August 2-3...MACA Office

**Internal Roma Consultants Professional Alliance**

August 4...MACA Office

**MCADA**

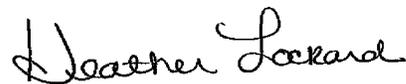
August 10...MACA Office

**Leadership Academy**

August 11-12...MACA Office

**MIS**

August 16...MACA Office


**Heather Lockard, MACA Executive Director****May 11, 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).*