



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, ROMA
- Network Capacity** (pp. 3-5)
- Annual Conference, MIS Onboarding Update, Professional Development, Community Action Network Days
- Missouri CAN Capacity** (p. 5-6)
- Name Change, At-Large Board Members, Agency Visits
- Calendar** (p. 7)

Did you know that over 2.5 million tax returns were processed in Missouri last year with over 500,000 Missourians claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit?

ADVOCACY – Speaking up for low-income Missourians

Legislative Update

by Heidi Lucas, Outreach Manager, hluucas@communityaction.org

One of our biggest membership benefits is the advocacy work that we do on the federal and state level for community action agencies, staff, programs and clients. Your dues help us to pay for our lobbyists and the time it takes to do this important work. 2016 was a busy legislative session. Overall, this session we tracked nearly 70 bills that would impact low-income families and community action programs and services. We also focused on several specific pieces of legislation within the five elements of poverty.

EITC: We advocated to create a State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for working families. We supported House Bill 1605 and Senate Bill 1018, which would establish a state Earned Income Tax Credit. We have focused significant effort on EITC 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. EITC had good momentum this year; the bill was passed out of the House by a vote of 115-35. This was the first time the bill passed the House. With bi-partisan support and increased lawmaker awareness, the bill passed farther than ever before. However, the bill did not make it to the finish line this year. We hope that EITC will continue to build on momentum next year for the 2017 session.

Public Assistance Programs: Again this session, our public assistance programs faced an attack. Legislation would have been much more punitive than finally adopted had it not been for direct intervention by members of the Community Action Network with their representatives and senators in the General Assembly. Our network is to be commended for its action on this legislation; it kept the bad from becoming the worse.

The CCS/HCS/SB 607 Act modified several provision of law related to public assistance programs including:

- Data verification for public assistance eligibility;
- MO HealthNet reimbursement for certain health care providers;
- the Joint Committee on Public Assistance; and
- MO HealthNet reimbursement for ground emergency medical transportation services.

Medicaid Expansion: In Missouri, we want to close the coverage gap. Medicaid saves lives and prevents thousands of deaths every year in Missouri. Expanding Medicaid will help allow 260,000 more hardworking Missourians who earn just a fraction of the federal poverty line to purchase insurance. A recent study shows that expanding coverage could even save the lives of as many as 6% of the people who enroll. Although we provided information on the needs and benefits of expansion, our legislature has been unwilling to have the debate. Our hope, and the hope of all of the members of the Missouri Medicaid Coalition, is that after the elections in November the 2017 legislative session will be the year to get Medicaid passed in Missouri!

Appropriations/Budget: This session, we were also very focused on the budget process to ensure that funding for critical programs and services were maintained. Through meetings, testimony, and outreach we were able to secure critical funds for our programs. We were able to:

- Protect our core federal programs like CSBG and LIHEAP.
- Secure \$3.5 million for childhood education through Early Head Start.
- Advocate for a transfer of LIHEAP dollars to weatherize additional homes, permanently reducing the energy consumption.
- Secure \$4 million for Utilicare.
 - According to 5 year Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) data, only 4.2% of the households served accessed the program every year, and over 73% of those households were classified as vulnerable, meaning that the household has individuals who are elderly, disabled, or children under the age of 5.
 - On average, homes that have had Weatherization services save \$437 per year on utility costs. An Ameren Missouri study of homes weatherized showed an average savings of 12% per home.

As you can see, we have had some legislative wins and losses. Overall, the important thing to remember is that our network helped to shape legislation that will have a positive impact on low-income families and community action agencies. I want to take a moment to thank our lobbyists Madsen & Wright who have been at the state Capitol fighting for our network and families all session. I also want to thank our partners and fellow advocates who have worked together to fight for critical programs and services to move people out of poverty. Most importantly, I want to thank you, our network, for your advocacy work within your community and with policy makers on behalf of those we serve. We are working every day for Missourians, especially those living in poverty. Together, we will reach our vision of a state where families and communities thrive.

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Next Generation

By Courtney Kohler, Program Director, ckohler@communityaction.org

The Office of Community Services released the current draft of ROMA Next Generation for the first of two public comment periods recently through the Federal Register. This comment period will run for 60 days and provide the Community Action Network and others the opportunity to comment.

The entire Community Action Network is encouraged to take a close look at the materials and work together at the local, state, and regional levels to provide feedback. *This 60-day period is our primary window to inform the process.* As noted in the Dear Colleague Letter, "At the end of the 60-day PRA comment period, OCS will complete a review of all comments and submit a revised CSBG Annual Report to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). During the second phase of the PRA process, which includes a 30-day comment period, OMB will review the comments. Once OMB determines it is appropriate to approve the information collection, the collection will be approved for a three year period."

[Click here](#) to access the ROMA Next Generation Materials out for comment now. Missouri CAN will be including this as an agenda item for upcoming professional alliance meetings. Please let us know if we can assist in any way and we encourage the network to be educated and submit feedback.

NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

2016 Annual Conference

By Heidi Lucas, Outreach Manager, hluucas@communityaction.org

We are excited to announce that the 2016 Missouri CAN Annual Conference that was held on June 21-23 at Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel was our biggest and best yet! We had over 275 in attendance for our whole conference and over 310 in attendance for our awards lunch. I am happy to say that makes the 2016 Conference the most well attended conference to date!

This year we heard from keynote speakers Robert Putnam and Rev. Starsky Wilson who got us excited and energized to continue the work that we do. At the Awards Luncheon, Bill Bunch received this year's Charles Braithwait Leadership Award and twenty local community partners were honored with Outstanding Community Service Awards. Attendees also had the chance to network with other Community Action members and nonprofit leaders, all while learning the latest best practices in the fight against poverty. And of course, we had a lot of fun!

Check out our Flickr account for pictures from the event! <https://www.flickr.com/photos/missouricommunityaction>

Onboarding Team Update

By Jayna Gray & Kurt Brewer, Information Systems Managers, jgray@communityaction.org,
kbrewer@communityaction.org

Kurt and Jayna want to express their gratitude to the Onboarding Team for their dedication, hard work, honesty and participation during a very difficult task. The past three months included vendor demonstrations, sandbox evaluations and onsite visits. On June 30th the team came together for the final vendor selection. After much

deliberation and discussion, the team was able to reach a consensus recommendation that will be presented to MCADA on July 13. If approved, the schedule calls for the Missouri CAN Board to consider the MCADA recommendation at the July 14 Board meeting.

Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment in Community Commons

By Jayna Gray, Information Systems Manager, jgray@communityaction.org

Have you registered with Community Commons and joined the Missouri CAN Hub? If you haven't done so already, visit 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.

Professional Development Update

By Courtney Kohler, Program Director, ckohler@communityaction.org

Missouri CAN is pleased to announce that 13 Missouri Community Action Agency staff members have begun their journey through the 2016 Missouri Academy for Leadership and Community Action. They represents six of the 19 agencies and sessions will run July - December. Angela Hirsch (CMCA) and Lindsey Dumas-Bell (OACAC) will be joining me as co-facilitators again this year. Six portfolio advisors will be mentoring participants this year – all past graduates of the Academy. We are excited for a great class of growing leaders!

The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) candidates tested in June and we now have 3 new CCAPs in Missouri!

Missouri CAN will be hosting and facilitating a Family Development Credential (FDC) Instructor's Institute on September 27-29, 2016, as well as an FDC Update meeting on September 13th. Application and registration for both will be released in the coming weeks.

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). We also have 5 Missouri Community Action Network staff who are helping to pilot a new ROMA Certification this year – the Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer (NCRI). ROMA expertise continues to grow in-state as we prepare for ROMA Next Generation.

Summer Trainings

By Courtney Kohler, Program Director, ckohler@communityaction.org

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

- Advanced Grants: Focus on Data Analysis: July 12
- Community Action Planning: July 27
- Communicating with Strength: August 2-3
- Professional Writing Workshop: Tentative/TBD

Stay tuned for more information and outcomes of each.

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

By Jeff Barlow, Development Director, 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. 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 10th: Cardinals vs. Brewers @ Busch Stadium in St. Louis at 6:15

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

The following are the single points of contact designated in each agency for ordering tickets.

CAASTLC	Georgie	Donahue	georgie@caastlc.org
CAPNCM	Aaron	Franklin	afranklin@capncm.org
CAPNEMO	Michelle	Chrisman	mchrisman@capnemo.org
CAPSTJOE	Jodi	Deering	jdeering@endpov.com
CMCA	Evan	Melkersman	Evan-Melkersman@showmeaction.org
CSI	Bonnie	Patterson	bpatterson.csi@gmail.com
DAEOC	Paula	Kinchen	pkinchen@daeoc.com
EMAA	Rob	Baker	rbaker@eastmoaa.org
ESC	Jerry	Nichelson	jnichelson@escswa.org
JFCAC	Robin	Bradford	rbradford@jfcac.org
MOCA	Mary	Mullins	mmullins@mocacaa.org
MVCAA	Pam	LaFrenz	lafrenzp@mvcaa.net
NECAC	Janice	Robinson	jrobinson@necac.org
OACAC	Debbi	Magnifico	dmagnifico@oac.ac
OAI	Kay	Mead	kmead@oaiwp.org
PCAC	Lillie	Franks	lfranks@phcenters.com
SCMCAA	Brandie	Alley	balley@scmcaa.org
USCAA	Donnie	Wilson	dwilson@unitedservicescaa.org
WCMCAA	Becky	Boden	bboden@wcmcaa.org

Missouri CAN CAPACITY – Helping us help you

Name Change from MACA to Missouri CAN

By Kerri Voyles, Strategic Communication Manager, kvoyles@communityaction.org

If you attended the 2016 MACA Annual Conference, you already know that MACA is now **officially** the Missouri Community Action Network or Missouri CAN! Moving forward we will be working to transition our website, digital media, print media, and other materials to the new name and logo.

There has been a lot of positive response within our network for the new name and logo. It is hoped that this rebranding effort will make it much easier to communicate with legislators and community partners about the work we do and our vision for the state. Please feel free to contact me at the email address above if you have any questions regarding the transition, logo or would like to have digital copies of the logo sent to you for use on your web or social media sites.



Helping People, Changing Lives

Missouri CAN At-Large Board Member Elections

By Sharron Cook, scook@communityaction.org

Twelve individual full members have chosen to become candidates for the At-Large Board members. We will distribute information about each of these candidates to all full members in the next few weeks. Then in late August we will mail a ballot to each full member along with a return envelope asking that you vote for your top ten choices. You will have until September 15th to return your ballot to our office. As in the past, we encourage each agency to offer their members the opportunity to turn their **sealed** envelopes in to the agency with the agency returning them to our office in bulk. This should save everyone time and postage. We will announce the election results in October. The new board members will assume their new positions on the Missouri CAN Board at the November 10th meeting. Any vacancies that occur on the Board for At-Large members during the next two years will be filled by the two remaining candidates.

Learn more about At-Large directors from the MACA bylaws: (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 MIS Admin training for new staff on June 28th.

[Activity Calendar on following page](#)

On the Calendar

EHPA Work Group

July 19...Missouri CAN Office

MIS Committee

July 20...Missouri CAN Office

Energy and Housing Professional Alliance

July 20...Missouri CAN Office

Employment and Training Professional Alliance

July 26...Missouri CAN Office

Community Action Plan Training

July 27...Missouri CAN Office

Missourians to End Poverty

July 27...Missouri CAN Office

Outreach Managers Professional Alliance

July 28-29...Missouri CAN Office

Strategic Communication Training

August 2-3...Missouri CAN Office

Internal ROMA Consultants Professional Alliance

August 4...Missouri CAN Office

MCADA

August 10...Missouri CAN Office

Leadership Academy

August 11-12...Missouri CAN Office

MIS Committee

August 16...Missouri CAN Office

Finance Professional Alliance

August 17...Missouri CAN Office

Human Resources Professional Alliance

August 17-18...Missouri CAN Office

Information Technology Professional Alliance

August 18-19...Missouri CAN Office

Resource Development Professional Alliance

August 23...Missouri CAN Office

Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance

August 25...Missouri CAN Office

Community Action Partnership Convention

August 29-September 1...Austin, TX

Missouri CAN Office Closed for Labor Day

September 5

FDC Missouri State Update Meeting

September 13...Missouri CAN Office

MCADA

September 14...Missouri CAN Office

Missouri CAN Board

September 15...Missouri CAN Office

MIS Committee

September 20...Missouri CAN Office

Leadership Academy

September 21-22...Missouri CAN Office

FDC Missouri Instructors' Institute

September 27 - 29...Missouri CAN Office



Becky Britton, Missouri CAN Interim Executive Director

July 13, 2016

For the most current list of events and for more information, check the calendar on our website at www.communityaction.org.