



# Network Connection

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 that 20.2% of Missouri children lived in poverty in 2015?*

## ADVOCACY – A voice for low-income Missourians

### **Advocacy Pre-Season (part II)**

by Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, [kbrewer@communityaction.org](mailto:kbrewer@communityaction.org)

As professional baseball enters the post-season, and football gets into the heart of the fall season, energy and excitement increase. Every play seems to matter more. Managers' and coaches' decisions become more critical, and casual observers become more involved. As we continue to prepare for the upcoming legislative session, we continue to work to provide current information for ongoing and upcoming issues that impact low-income Missourians. In August we focused on health. September gave us the new poverty data and we provided some general information. In October we are highlighting Weatherization's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Head Start Awareness month. Be on the lookout for upcoming webinars and other resources to help us all be prepared!

We have recently submitted a letter of support to help ensure funding for the Women's Health Services Program in Missouri, and we signed onto a national letter of support for rules that would help govern/restrict predatory practices of payday and title loan operations.

Let us know what's going on in your area, and what questions/topics you'd like to see us cover. Make sure that your voice is heard, and bring your friends to the conversation as well. We are all part of the same team, working toward the same goal – a state where everyone can thrive! If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on social media:

- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/MoCommunityAction](https://facebook.com/MoCommunityAction)
- **Twitter:** [twitter.com/Missouri\\_CAN](https://twitter.com/Missouri_CAN)
- **Blog:** [MissouriCAN.org/blog](http://MissouriCAN.org/blog).

## **Save the Date! 2017 Advocacy Day at the Missouri Capitol**

by Heidi Lucas, Outreach Manager, [hluca@communityaction.org](mailto:hluca@communityaction.org)

Have you been thinking about the exhibit your agency will display at the Capitol? The 2017 Community Action Network Advocacy Day will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Please mark your calendars now. This is an important day for our network to show our legislators the true power of Community Action in the State of Missouri.

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

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

To help prepare for the next 30-day comment window and to provide the Office of Community Service (OCS) with information on possible solutions to the challenges noted in the August feedback, OCS, the Community Action Partnership, and National Association for State Community Services Program (NASCSP) convened a small group of ROMA Practitioners in Washington DC on September 20-21, 2016 to strategize about possible solutions. This group includes representatives from all the national partner organizations, a mix of local agencies (including Deb Markman from Economic Security Corporation in Joplin), state associations, and state CSBG offices, as well as representatives from OCS. The recommendations and discussion of the ROMA Practitioners will support the modifications made to the CSBG Annual Report and ensure a strong final product. Check out the ROMA Practitioners [Meeting Summary](#) for more information.

NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

## **Onboarding Team Update**

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

The Onboarding Team was busy in the month of September. The Data Diva Team members and I came together on September 20-21, 2016 to complete set up for fiscal year 2017. This was done in preparation to make the transition to version 6 smoother for the Network. Each program in MIS is now tied to one of the following categories: Education, Emergency, Employment, Housing, Income, Nutrition, Health or Transportation. Agency and statewide reporting will be easier with the set up change.

AdsysTech's version 6 development group is working on suggestions that were made during our August meeting. The changes should be completed the week of October 24, 2016. The Data Diva team members, AdsysTech staff, and I will be on a joint webinar to review the changes to version 6 in late October.

Next steps included an assessment team meeting on October 11, 2016 at the Missouri CAN office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The next Onboarding team meeting is October 19, 2016 at the Missouri CAN office. This meeting will allow teams to work together on their project list.

## **Missouri CAN Professional Development Update**

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

We have lots of professional development initiatives currently going on at Missouri CAN! Below is a brief update of each.

**Family Development Credential (FDC) Instructor:** 11 certified. Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas Community Action builds capacity to offer FDC classes as more instructors are certified. The three-day institute prepared instructors to offer FDC classes to family workers in their agencies.

**Nationally Certified ROMA Trainer (NCRT) Certification:** *5 progressing.* Candidates are currently in phase III of the ROMA Certification process, delivering practice sessions of the Intro to ROMA curriculum. Evaluation sessions for certification will be occurring this winter.

**Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer (NCRI) Pilot:** *11 progressing.* ROMA expertise continues to grow in-state as we prepare for ROMA Next Generation and this certification will be important in bridging the gap between the concepts and the application of ROMA. NCRI candidates just attended the one-day ROMA training where they compared ROMA concepts to their agency processes and documents. Portfolio development will run through December 2016 with a certifying exam at the end.

**Certified Community Action Professionals (CCAP):** *16 engaged.* The first informational class for the CCAP preparatory cycle was held September 23, 2016. At the next class on October 25, 2016, participants will discuss their Candidate Data Form, learn the guidelines of the Executive Skills Portfolio, and dive into the history and ethics of Community Action.

**Missouri Academy for Leadership and Community Action:** *14 participating.* The 4<sup>th</sup> session of 5 is approaching in October. At this session, participants will discuss the topics of advocacy and motivating others for optimum performance. Graduation and community project presentations will be held December 2, 2016.

## **Annual Training Plan**

by Courtney Kohler, Program Director, [c.kohler@communityaction.org](mailto:c.kohler@communityaction.org)

Thank you to all those who filled out the annual training survey! We received over 200 responses and lots of great feedback. We are compiling this information now to help influence the coming year's training plan. Stay tuned for an outline of the trainings to come.

## **Safe at Home Application Assistant Training**

by Becky King, Training Manager, [bking@communityaction.org](mailto:bking@communityaction.org)

The Safe at Home Application Assistance Training on October 6 was a success with 25 in attendance! These participants are now eligible to register as a certified Application Assistant through the Secretary of State's office. Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence also presented on the approach of working with clients who have had these traumatic experiences. The Safe at Home address confidentiality program has helped survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, or stalking in their efforts to stay safe by providing a designated address to use when creating new public records. To sign up for the program, participants must meet with a certified Application Assistant. Missouri Community Action Agencies have found that organizations that offer this service are limited and the clientele is often already being served by Community Action. For more information on Safe at Home, visit <http://www.sos.mo.gov/business/safeathome/>.

## **2017 Missouri CAN Annual Conference**

by Becky King, Training Manager, [bking@communityaction.org](mailto:bking@communityaction.org)

The 2017 Missouri CAN Annual Conference will be held April 4-6, 2017 in Springfield. Conference committee and Missouri CAN staff are busy preparing for another great conference for Missouri Community Action staff to come together and *Becoming One Community Action!* Workshops are in development and focus on service delivery, HR, technology, communication, Head Start, and organizational performance. Topic specific panels will be a new feature this year. The keynote is Mia Birdsong, a family activist who advocates for strong communities and the self-determination of everyday people. For a preview, check out her [Ted Talk](#).

Lastly, the entertainment this year will be the "Missouri CAN Olympics!" We will do a series (5-7) of short "minute to win it" events in which each agency has an opportunity to compete. No need for costumes or a skit - it is a game of skills this year! Agencies are asked to dress up in their country's colors.

## Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

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

Missouri CAN is pleased to offer a Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training on November 14-15, 2016 in St. Louis at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel. The facilitator training will allow participants to become familiar with the components of the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) kit, the facilitation process and tips for conducting an efficient and effective simulation. Participants will also experience the poverty simulation on the first day of training. Registration includes training and all materials, and lunch on the second day. Registration information is available on the Missouri CAN website. \*Registration is free for Missouri Community Action Network staff members who register before October 21, 2016. \* [Register online at MissouriCAN.org](#).

Missouri CAN CAPACITY – Helping us help you

## Missouri CAN At-Large Board Member Elections

by Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, [kbrewer@communityaction.org](mailto:kbrewer@communityaction.org)

There were some delays in mail delivery of the At-Large Board Member ballots, and a large number of new member forms arrived at our office shortly after the deadline for the mailing list. Due to these issues, original ballots were sent to the new members (all had joined prior to the deadline), and the Missouri CAN Board voted to extend the deadline for returning ballots to September 30, 2016. Ballots will be counted and the results announced in October. New Missouri CAN Board Members will be seated at the November 10, 2016 Board Meeting.

## Agency Visits

- Courtney Kohler had the opportunity to present on Missouri CAN at the Fall 2017 Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA) agency boot camp.
- Jayna Gray had the opportunity to conduct MIS refresher training in Trenton for Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri (CAPNCM) users.

ON THE CALENDAR

[Activity Calendar at  
MissouriCAN.org under the “For Members” tab](#)

**Kurt Brewer, Missouri CAN Executive Director**  
**October 10, 2016**