



Network Connection

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Advocacy p. 1-2

- Advocacy, Save the Date, ROMA

Network Capacity p. 2-4

- MIS Update, Organizational Standards, Leadership Academy, Annual Training Plan, Asset Development Program, National Learning Communities and Webinars, Membership Campaign, Annual Conference, Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

Missouri CAN Capacity p. 4

- 2016 Strategic Plan Outcomes, Staff Vacancies, Agency Visits

Calendar p. 5 and MissouriCAN.org

Did you know that 583,000 Missourians had no health insurance in 2015?

ADVOCACY – A voice for low-income Missourians

Advocacy – Do you know who you represent?

By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

The election has passed. We now know who is representing us at all levels. We have traded the onslaught of political ads for the annual onslaught of Black Friday and Christmas sales ads. But if you pause for just a minute and block out the noise of the hustle and bustle, you can hear a different voice. It can't rise above the din, but its message is clear. Someone needs help. Not just with food and shelter today, but in pursuing their dreams for tomorrow. Dreams that many of us take for granted. Dreams of self-sufficiency and competing for quality job opportunities. Dreams of not having to choose which necessity to skip this week. Dreams of accessing preventive health care and not going to work sick to keep a job. Dreams of contributing to the success of families and communities.

Advocacy efforts allow us to speak in a collective voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Low-income Missourians are impacted by a myriad of legislative and policy issues, many of which are beyond their control. It is our job to help raise their voice to the decision-makers, and to make sure that the concerns of more than 875,000 Missourians are not ignored.

There are countless opportunities to give this season, and giving is important. But as you go through the excitement of the holiday season, I'm asking you to listen to the voice that is in the background. Can you hear it? Are you listening? Do you know who *you* represent? Take a deep breath. Because next month, the real work begins. Are you with us? 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!

I recently had the opportunity to discuss poverty in Missouri and the impact it has on everyone, not just those living in poverty. You can watch the interview with Mike Ferguson on Missouri Viewpoints website or on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/190552801?ref=em-v-share>.

If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on social media:

Facebook: [facebook.com/MoCommunityAction](https://www.facebook.com/MoCommunityAction)

Twitter: twitter.com/Missouri_CAN

Blog: MissouriCAN.org/blog.

Save the Date! 2017 Advocacy Day at the Missouri Capitol

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

The 2017 Community Action Network Advocacy Day will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. As part of our program we will again be holding a rally in the rotunda of the Capitol! It is always a great event. 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

At this time, we are waiting to hear the decision by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The final 30-day comment period is now closed. OMB will review for four to eight weeks and potentially approve for a 3-year period. There has been a lot of work at all levels that has gone into this draft CSBG Annual Report/ROMA Next Generation. The Dear Colleague Letter from 10/25/2016 is the best and quickest way to get a review of the changes made and can be found [here](#). We will keep the Network informed as we hear more.

NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

Onboarding Team Update

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

The first quarter of the fiscal year has been busy for the Onboarding Team. Activities include program set up for all 19 Community Action Agencies and Urban League, as well as drafting and revising a new Version 6 Assessment. The program set up will help with the migration to Version 6. Each program is now linked to the following categories: Emergency, Education, Housing, Health, Employment, Income, Nutrition and Transportation. The final draft of the assessment also follows the categories listed previously and is in sync with ROMA and Head Start. The assessment group met in mid-November to make the final revisions and it is currently under review by the Family Support Division, CSBG Office. The December 6 Onboarding Team Meeting allowed members an opportunity to glance into Version 6 for Missouri, as well as discuss user acceptance training (UAT), pilot agencies, and group training.

Organizational Standards

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

Just a reminder that Organizational Standards are due to the state office through submission in MIS December 30, 2016. Further guidance and documentation was shared with the Network on November 18. As you prepare for submission, remember that a self-assessment check-list, a webinar on expectations, and over 90 resources are located in the [Organizational Standards Resource Bank](#). Email me for the password to access the Drop Box or with any questions.

Missouri Academy for Leadership & Community Action – 13 new graduates!

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

As of December 2, 2016 the Missouri Community Action Network has 13 new graduates from the Missouri Academy for Leadership and Community Action. In addition, Becky King, Missouri CAN Training Manager, shadowed the class this year to become a future facilitator. Community projects were presented on the final day. Graduates were presented with graduation certificates and keepsakes to support them as future leaders. Advisors, instructors, and Missouri CAN staff were present to congratulate this achievement. Between participants, instructors, and advisors, 11 organizations were engaged.

Congrats to...

Cassie Binkley, OACAC	Sarah Givens, SCMCAA	Sarah Gruber, CMCA	Cortney Jolliff, MVCAA
Denise Faulkner, SCMCAA	Kelley Lucero, CMCA	Brooke McKinney, WCMCAA	Sarah Nichols, CMCA
Mary Rohrbach, CMCA	Monica Stewart, PCAC	Karen Sutton, SCMCAA	Jim Thomas, PCAC
Stefani Thompson, CMCA	Becky King, MCAN		

Annual Training Plan

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

The Annual Training Plan for the Network should be out by mid-December to help people prepare their 2017 calendars. Topics include ROMA Next Generation, training/facilitation, community needs assessment, project management, and MIS Version 6 for statewide trainings. A variety of topics will also be included in e-course format in Moodle, the online learning management system.

Missouri Asset Development Program

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

We now have a manual for the Missouri Asset Development Program. It takes you from eligibility determination and recruitment to completion and how to track in MIS (which is now a requirement). In addition, several resources and links are included to help with developing non-federal match funds. Please email me for a copy of the manual, or if you have any questions related to the program.

National Learning Communities and Webinars

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

Are you taking advantage of the Community Action Partnership's Learning Community Resource Center (LCRC)? A blog and a number of resources are available to the national network, as well as a variety of upcoming webinars. To access the blog, visit www.lcrcweb.com. Below is a list of the upcoming webinars and many are able to participate, even if not engaged in the related Learning Community.

Racial Equity Webinar Mini-Series

Dec 19: Understanding Implicit Bias

Jan 28: The Quest to Build Wealth for People of Color

Date TBD: White Privilege

Date TBD: Structural Racism

National LCRC Webinar Series

Feb 28, Apr 13, June 15: Poverty Trends

Dec 9: Importance of Trauma Informed Approaches
to 2 Gen Programs

Dec 13: Learning with the Learning Community

Apr 25 & June 21: Decreasing Family Homelessness

2017 Missouri CAN Membership Campaign

By: Becky King, Training Manager, bking@communityaction.org

Do you like to win money? If so, the 2017 Membership Campaign is a great opportunity for you! December 15-March 15 will be the tenure of our 2017 Membership Campaign. Current Missouri CAN members will have their name placed into the \$100 "Member Get a Member" drawing for each new member they recruit during the campaign. A second \$100 prize will be drawn from all existing members. Drawings will take place at the Annual Conference and you do not have to be present to win either prize.

We will recognize the agency with the largest increase in membership and the agency with the largest percentage increase in membership for the period of June 1, 2016 through March 30, 2017. The winning agencies will win a "Sweet Treat" delivered by Missouri CAN staff at the agency's All Staff Day or day of choice.

2017 Annual Conference

By: Becky King, Training Manager, bking@communityaction.org

The awards luncheon during Annual Conference is a time to recognize and honor community partners throughout the state that help to achieve our vision as a state where all people and communities thrive. Who will your agency nominate this year? Be thinking about that partner in your community that has helped to further your agency mission. Award nomination forms were sent out with conference registration, which opened December 5, and are also available on the Missouri CAN website, Annual Conference page: MissouriCAN.org/2017conference.

Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

By Heidi Lucas, hluucas@communityaction.org

The Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training was held November 14-15 in St. Louis at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel. We were excited to host almost 80 participants from all over the United States who attended the training to learn about becoming advocates for low income community members. Our next training will be March 20 & 21, 2017 in Kansas City. Look for more information in December. Registration will again be free for Missouri Community Action Agency staff members registering by the Early Bird registration deadline. The Network will be notified via email when registration opens.

Missouri CAN CAPACITY – Helping us help you

2016 Missouri CAN Strategic Plan Outcomes

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

Our Strategic Plan includes a variety of goals and objectives in three major categories, which we call Strategic Commitments: Advocacy, Network Capacity (CAAs), and Missouri CAN Capacity (the association office). The Missouri CAN Board of Directors has set an overall target of achieving 80% of plan goals each year. For FY2016, we achieved an overall rate of 91%, exceeding the 80% mark in each of the three categories. Broken down by category, Advocacy reached 92%, Network Capacity 97%, and Missouri CAN Capacity 84%. While these all met the Board's target, the Missouri CAN Capacity achievement is lower than expected due to staff transitions, and a delay in receiving a key grant application. That application has since been completed. 76 of the 98 specific objectives in the plan achieved or exceeded the 100% mark.

As we continue with many transitions, our Strategic Plan helps keep us focused on concrete objectives and outcomes, and helps us to keep an eye on long-term and short-term goals.

Missouri CAN Staff Vacancies

By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

We have filled one of our vacancies (Terra Guittar, Administrative Assistant), and are conducting interviews in December for our Data Analyst/IT Support position. We continue to evaluate needs and identify gaps, and expect to advertise in January to fill another vacant position in our office.

Agency Visits

- Kerri Voyles, Strategic Communication Manager, visited Economic Security Corporation (ESC) to photograph the agency's programs and services on November 3-4, 2016.
- Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, visited Jefferson-Franklin Community Action Corporation (JFCAC) November 1, 2016 to tour the central office and talk with Jill Lombardo, CEO of JFCAC, and agency staff about programs and initiatives in their agency.
- Becky King, Training Manager, Amy Thrasher, Office Assistant, and Terra Guittar, Administrative Assistant, visited Missouri Ozarks Community Action, Inc. (MOCA) at their All Staff Day on November 18, 2016 and spoke about Missouri CAN membership and the upcoming Membership Campaign.

Activity calendar on the following page

ON THE CALENDAR

Human Resource Professional Alliance

December 7...Missouri CAN Office

MCADA

December 14...Missouri CAN Office

Christmas Holiday

December 23-26...Missouri CAN Office Closed

New Year's Holiday

January 2...Missouri CAN Office Closed

CCAP – Certified Community Action Professional 2017

January 4...Jefferson City

ITPA – Information Technology Professional Alliance

January 4-5...Missouri CAN Office

MCADA

January 11...Missouri CAN Office

Missouri CAN Board

January 12...Missouri CAN Office

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 16...Missouri CAN Office

EHPA – Energy and Housing Professional Alliance

January 18...Missouri CAN Office

CKMW – Committee to Keep Missourians Warm

January 19...Missouri CAN Office

OMPA – Outreach Managers Professional Alliance

January 25-26...Missouri CAN Office

MEP – Missourians to End Poverty

January 26...Missouri CAN Office

RDPA – Resource & Development Professional Alliance

January 31...Missouri CAN Office

CCAP – Certified Community Action Professional 2017

February 3...Missouri CAN Office

MCADA

February 8...Missouri CAN Office

President's Day Holiday

February 20...Missouri CAN Office Closed

Community Action Advocacy Day 2017

March 1...Missouri State Capitol

HRPA – Human Resource Professional Alliance

March 2...Missouri CAN Office

MCADA

March 8...Missouri CAN Office

Missouri CAN Board Meeting

March 9...Missouri CAN Office

ITPA – Information Technology Professional Alliance

March 15-16...Missouri CAN Office

Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

March 20-21...Hilton KC Airport Hotel, Kansas City, MO

2017 Missouri CAN Annual Conference

April 4-6...University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO

MCADA

April 12...Missouri CAN Office

RDPA – Resource & Development Professional Alliance

April 18...Missouri CAN Office

EHPA – Energy and Housing Professional Alliance

April 19...Missouri CAN Office

CKMW – Committee to Keep Missourians Warm

April 20...Missouri CAN Office

OMPA – Outreach Managers Professional Alliance

April 26-27...Missouri CAN Office

MEP – Missourians to End Poverty

April 27...Missouri CAN Office

View additional details and register for events on the Activity Calendar at MissouriCAN.org under the "For Members" tab.



**Kurt Brewer, Missouri CAN Executive Director
December 6, 2016**