

2016 Year in Review



Missouri Community Action Network

Missouri CAN Vision: A state where all people and communities thrive.

Missouri CAN Mission: To advocate for low-income Missourians and strengthen the Community Action Network.

Over the past year, our Community Action Network has accomplished so much together! Missouri Community Action Network - Missouri CAN - has provided a wide variety of training opportunities, resources, and technical assistance to our 19 agencies based upon our Network's strategic commitments.

We have also advocated on behalf of low-income families as well as the services you provide each day that help keep our state's citizens stable and moving toward self-sufficiency. Here are a few highlights from this past year!

Strategic Commitment 1: Advocacy

To be an effective advocate in policy and program development to positively impact low-income Missourians and the Community Action Network

Legislative Accomplishments

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: food, health, education, housing & energy, and family & economic security. Our legislative priorities included Medicaid Expansion and funding for energy programs (Utilicare and Weatherization). To move our priorities forward and stop harmful legislation, Missouri CAN staff, network members, and our lobbyists, Madsen & Wright, met with legislators and state office holders to share information about poverty and the Community Action Network.

We testified on numerous bills and provided letters of support, opposition, and information. Although the legislature was unwilling to have the debate on Medicaid Expansion, we were able to move forward with other priorities and improve harmful legislation. We protected our core federal programs like CSBG and LIHEAP. A few more highlights:

Food

- Supported the expansion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women's Infants and Children's Program (WIC) to ensure that low-income families have access to nutritious food.

Health

- Advocated for expanding Medicaid to close the coverage gap for working Missourians.

Education

- Secured \$3.5 million for Early Childhood programs (Early Head Start).
- Advocated to establish the Early Childhood Health and Education Act.

Housing & Energy

- Secured \$4 million for Utilicare to help families meet their basic energy needs.
- Advocated for a transfer of LIHEAP dollars to weatherize additional homes, permanently reducing energy consumption.

Family & Economic Security

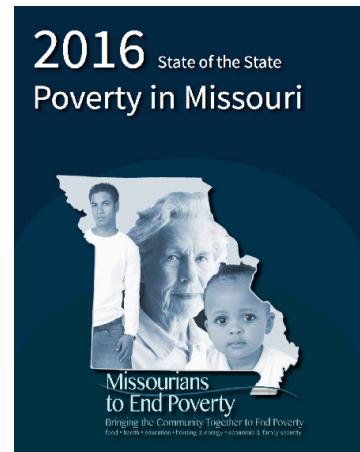
- Advocated for a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to help lift working families out of poverty.
- Supported Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and reforms to predatory lending practices.

2016 State of the State of Poverty Report

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH the Missourians to End Poverty coalition, Missouri CAN released the *2016 State of the State of Poverty Report* in February. The report highlighted the latest data around the 5 elements of poverty. It was downloaded more than 1,600 times from the Missouri CAN website.

Advocacy Day 2016

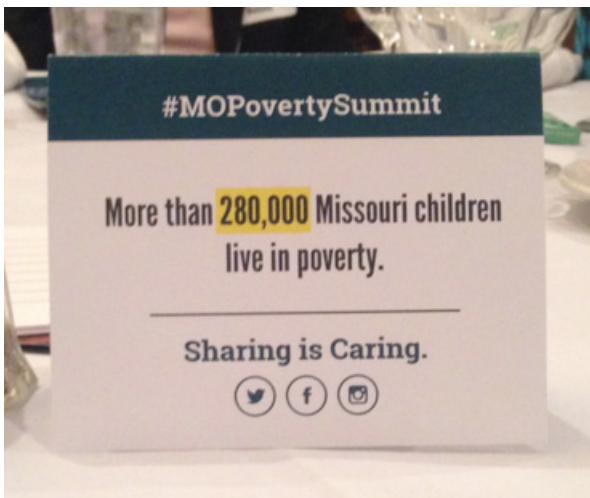
DURING THE SESSION, we hosted the 2016 Missouri CAN statewide advocacy event “Community Action Cares” which brought 100 Community Action Network members to the Capitol to rally for low-income families to ensure all families and communities thrive.



National Advocacy

MISSOURI CAN CONTINUED to work closely with the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) to move the Network’s federal legislative priorities forward. David Bradley, NCAF’s Executive Director, conducted numerous webinars and communicated regularly about our federal legislative priorities. NCAF’s efforts continue to focus on sharing the impact and providing stable or increased funding for core Community Action Programs, including Community Services Block Grant (CSBG); Weatherization; LIHEAP; Head Start; and Housing. While CSBG reauthorization did not happen in 2016, we continue to maintain and improve relationships with our U.S. Senators and Representatives on both sides of the aisle, and making them aware of the statewide and local impact of Community Action in Missouri.

2016 Missouri Poverty Summit



MISSOURI CAN SPONSORED and assisted in coordination of the 4th annual Poverty Summit on April 27th in Jefferson City. This event connected businesses, nonprofits, governmental agencies, and interested community members from across the state. Approximately 350 individuals came together to share strategies and build new networks to fight poverty.

Building Relationships

MISSOURI CAN ALSO focused on building relationships with state departments and statewide office holders to advocate for positive program development, including the implementation of changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Missouri CAN has also increased our partnerships with statewide organizations, including:

- Missouri Head Start Association
- Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Empower Missouri
- Missouri Medicaid Coalition
- Missouri Health Care for All
- Health Advocacy Alliance
- Missourians to End Poverty
- Missouri Family Health Council
- United Way 211
- Missouri Primary Care Association
- Missouri Hospital Association
- Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- United States Department of Agriculture

Strategic Commitment 2: Network Capacity

To increase the capacity of the individuals and agencies of the Missouri Community Action Network

Training and Professional Development

All 19 Missouri Community Action Agencies participated in training opportunities this past year, resulting in over 2,700 trained in 2016. Some training highlights include:

- More than 440 individuals participated in webinars, and 154 were engaged in Moodle, the online learning management system.
- Missouri CAN has offered training on a variety of topics in 2016, including Community Action Planning, ROMA, Case Management, Governance, Resource Development, Leadership, & Strategic Communications.
- Missouri CAA professional development outcomes include:
 - 5 new Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (NCRT).
 - 11 progressing through the Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer (NCRI) pilot.
 - 3 new CCAPs and 14 recertified.
 - 13 leaders graduated from the Missouri Academy for Leadership and Community Action.
 - Over 57 family workers have received their Family Development Credential (FDC) in Missouri this year. Missouri FDC is now made up of 14 organizations, 40 certified FDC instructors, and more than 45 portfolio advisors.
 - 7 participated in the Building Performance Institute.
- Missouri CAN coordinated 28 professional alliance meetings this year in 9 different areas of expertise with approximately 423 in attendance.
- Missouri CAN has been able to connect and leverage resources through participation in the following learning communities, workgroups, and taskforces:
 - Bundled Services to Improve Outcomes (Community Action Partnership)
 - Trauma Informed Approaches to Alleviating Poverty (Community Action Partnership)
 - Region VII ROMA Next Generation Workgroup (Region VII – KACAP lead)
 - National Performance Indicators (NPI) Workgroup (NASCSP/OCS)

In addition, Missouri CAN has enhanced or added various technology platforms for training communication and resources:

- Membership software with online training registration
- Moodle, an online learning management system with e-courses for Community Action
- Missouri CAN blog resource for members

Annual Conference



The 2016 Missouri CAN Annual Conference was held June 21-23 at The Renaissance Airport Hotel in St. Louis. Our theme was “Our Next 50 Years.”

- 310 people attended the conference
- The event attracted 15 sponsors and exhibitors
- Keynote speakers included Dr. Robert Putnam and Rev. Starksy Wilson
- 20 workshop sessions on different topics including nonprofit leadership, advocacy, and communication
- William “Bill” Bunch was presented with the Charles Braithwait Award
- 19 Outstanding Community Partner Awards were presented on behalf of the agencies

MIS Training and Technical Assistance

- 64 trained in User & Administrator Training.
- MIS Train-the-Trainer program resulted in 16 MIS Trainers to assist in supporting the Network.
- 10 MIS Agency Goal Plans in progress; 4 in maintenance phase.
- 98% of Tier 2 & 3 tickets resolved.
- 652 (19 entities) participated in 31 weekly training webinars.

MIS RFP and Vendor Selection for Adsysstech Version 6

THE FAMILY SUPPORT Division (FSD), in conjunction with the Missouri Community Action Directors Association (MCADA), asked Missouri CAN to conduct a competitive search for a statewide software solution. Missouri CAN convened an Onboarding Team with representatives from all 19 CAAs, the FSD office, MCADA, and the Missouri CAN office. A formal RFP was distributed in March and the final vendor was chosen in July. It was determined that the Network would continue with Adsysstech, Inc and migrate to Version 6 of the software, customized to meet the needs of the Network.

A full project plan for implementation has been developed. As of the end of December, the upgrade and transition plan are on schedule. In preparation for the new system, a new assessment has been drafted through a sub-group of the onboarding team. Program set-up was completed for all 19 agencies by the Data Diva sub-group to link each program to one of eight domains. This will help with the migration to Version 6 and provide consistency across the Network.

Strategic Commitment 3: Missouri CAN Capacity

To further develop Missouri CAN as an effective statewide organization



Missouri CAN Name

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION for Community Action unveiled the new name Missouri Community Action Network or Missouri CAN at the 2016 Missouri CAN Conference! This new identity helps communicate our Community Action movement. The Missouri “CAN” acronym empowers us to speak with a unified voice that together, Missouri CAN thrive. Missouri agencies have the option and support to co-brand and elevate Community Action’s statewide reach and local impact. View the Missouri CAN video: youtube.com/user/themissourican.

Membership

Being a Missouri CAN Member makes you part of both a national and a statewide network. The nineteen Missouri Community Action Agencies are part of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the United States. Missouri CAN is the only statewide association in Missouri that exists for the purpose of serving the needs of the Community Action Network.

Missouri CAN works every day for you, your agency, and your community. A strong network puts you in touch with your colleagues across the state and gives you a unified voice, and a vital communications link to state agencies and other organizations, both public and private, that share or support the mission and promise of Community Action. Your energy and involvement have helped to keep Missouri CAN responsive to your needs and build a strong Community Action Network. Your membership gives you more than ever before...access to training, educational opportunities, publications, tools, resources, relaxation, and more.

2016 Missouri CAN Membership Numbers:

- 1015 Missouri CAN Members
- 19 Missouri Community Action Agency Members
- 14 Missouri CAN Allies
- 29 Missouri CAN Supporters
- 28 Agency Board/Policy Council Members



Gale Palmer crosses the finish line of his first ever 5K at the Missouri CAN Run! in October.

Missouri CAN Network Day

THIS YEAR, we also hosted our 3rd annual Community Action Network Day at Busch Stadium in St. Louis and at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City. Nearly 1,000 Community Action Network employees and families were able to enjoy discounted tickets.

Poverty Simulation

- This year alone, Missouri CAN sold 200 full Poverty Simulation kits.
- Missouri CAN hosted and conducted two Poverty Simulation facilitator trainings in Missouri for more than 215 new facilitators from across the country.

Missouri CAN Run!

MISSOURI CAN LAUNCHED its first-ever Missouri CAN Run! on October 15th in Jefferson City. The event raised awareness of poverty, Community Action in Missouri, and Weatherization. More than 90 runners and walkers registered for the event that was sponsored by Shoe Carnival. Funds raised will go to the Building Performance Institute training scholarships to help weatherize homes. The fun run concluded with a medal ceremony for the top three female and top three male finishers along with door prizes.

Missouri CAN Financials

MISSOURI CAN'S ANNUAL audit was clean, with no findings of any kind.

Together, Missouri CAN thrive!