



# 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 the Missouri Community Action Network helped 252,811 low-income individuals in FY2015?*

## ADVOCACY – A voice for low-income Missourians

### **Advocacy Update**

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

We continue to track numerous bills, and the budget process in particular, but so far, nothing is confirmed. The one thing that is certain is that legislators are hearing the voices being raised, calling for continued support of low-income Missourians, and cautioning against drastic cuts that devastate thousands of Missouri families.

At the time of this writing, the Senate passed the 2018 State Budget, and the deliberations to resolve differences between the House and Senate recommendations should begin the first week of May. Both the Senate and the House included amendments to fully fund the school foundation formula, and both versions include support for expanding Missouri Healthnet managed care statewide. Both of these topics were previously expected to be points of contention.

In addition to the state and federal budgets, current activities and issues we are following closely include:

- State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): Proposed bills in the House and Senate would enact a state EITC, with a credit of 20% of a filer's Federal EITC amount. Missouri CAN has signed onto the EITC Coalition, and we are working with others to support this legislation ([HB109](#) and [SB197](#)) that rewards work and helps lift Missourians out of poverty.
- Circuit Breaker tax credit: The 'Circuit Breaker' tax credit provides a small credit for seniors and disabled residents who rent. The credit is designed to offset the amount of rent that goes to property taxes, and the income cutoff is \$29,000 for joint tax filers (less for single filers). There is a bill ([HCB 3](#)) to remove these

credits, which is on the informal calendar in the Senate. The impact of removing these credits could be devastating to many low-income seniors and disabled residents who rent their homes.

- LIHEAP transfer to Weatherization: This remains in the latest version of the budget documents.
- Early Childhood Education: The traditional \$3.5 million allocation for Early Head Start remains.
- Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program: [SB373](#) and [HB327](#) would implement a federal program in Missouri that provides vouchers for seniors to use at farmer's markets and similar outlets for fresh produce, with zero impact on the Missouri budget. We have testified in support of these bills.

Be sure to follow us on our social media outlets:

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

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

*By: Brian Valentine, Program Director, [bvalentine@communityaction.org](mailto:bvalentine@communityaction.org)*

Missouri CAN has partnered with National Association of State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) to offer additional training on ROMA Next Generation (NG). The workshop will be held May 30, 31, and June 1, 2017. Topics to be discussed are the new Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Annual Report and new National Performance Indicators (NPIs). There will be 25 spaces available, so please register online using your Missouri CAN account at [MissouriCAN.org/calendar](https://MissouriCAN.org/calendar).

## NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

### MIS Onboarding Team Update

*By: James Rogers, Information Systems Manager, [jrogers@communityaction.org](mailto:jrogers@communityaction.org)*

The pilot agency training took place between March 20 and 24. Many of the new features were available for the pilot training. The pilot agencies felt that the upgrades in version 6 will streamline the intake process and reduce user errors. The administrative features will be finished in time for the full pilot this month. A training webinar will be conducted on the administrative features as soon as they are available. The goal of the pilot is to work with the full system and determine if there are any functionality issues that need to be addressed before the full agency launch. Regular pilot meetings will be held to clarify issues that arise.

The next meeting of the MIS onboarding team will be held on May 17 at the Missouri CAN office.

### Community Action Network Days – Royals & Cardinals Events in 2017

*By Jessica Hoey, Outreach Director, [jhoey@communityaction.org](mailto:jhoey@communityaction.org)*

An important part of helping you help others means making sure we take some time for ourselves every now and then. This is the fourth year of our Network Day events. Last year, more than 700 Community Action employees, families, and community partners attended one of our events. This year, we are again pleased to provide discount tickets to both the Cardinals and the Royals over the summer. You will be able to buy tickets through a single point of contact at your local agency. Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

**Saturday, June 24:** Cardinals vs. Pittsburgh Pirates @ Busch Stadium in St. Louis at 6:15pm

**Saturday, July 15:** Royals vs. Texas Rangers @ Kaufman Stadium in Kansas City at 6:15pm

## Winter Online Trainings

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

New to Missouri CAN University - Moodle in March was the three part Social Media Boot Camp! Take a moment to check out the newly launched courses for free through [Missouri CAN University - Moodle!](#) The newest courses include the following, which can be found under General Training, Social Media in Moodle:

1. **Social Media Boot Camp Module 1 – A Guide to Healthy, Active Social Media**  
This video module provides a brief overview of social media strategy and an explanation as to why that strategy is important.
2. **Social Media Boot Camp Module 2 – How: Steps 1-2**  
Learn how to form your social media strategy by conducting an audit and setting goals.
3. **Social Media Boot Camp Module 3 – How: Steps 3-6**  
Put your social media strategy into action by planning and gearing up.

## 2017 Missouri CAN Membership Campaign RECAP

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

Thanks to all the membership campaign coordinators and recruiters at each agency! Due to your enthusiasm and drive, we added 149 new members to the Missouri Community Action Network. There were 87 recruiters responsible for those new members. The agency with the largest percentage increase (112%) was Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph, and the greatest numerical increase (29 new members) was Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation.

## 2017 Missouri CAN Annual Conference RECAP

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

Missouri CAN's Annual Conference held at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield on April 4-6, 2017 was another great event! We had more than 204 in attendance for the full conference, and 290 for the awards luncheon.

In addition to 20 breakout sessions and five pre-conference sessions, we had a variety of keynotes and general session speakers. Our keynote speaker, Mia Birdsong, reminded us to do something *kind*, something *brave*, and to *fail* at something each day. She also challenged us all to see the biases and barriers in our world that promote discrimination, and she encouraged us to engage in meaningful dialog to pursue genuine solutions. Dale McCoy spoke on emotional intelligence at our general session, and reminded us that we all make dozens of choices each day whether we will be happy or not. Even when the unexpected happens (like getting cut off in traffic), we might lose the 30 seconds that were taken from us, but we don't have to lose the rest of the day stewing over it. Jeannie Chaffin shared her perspectives coming from an agency, the state Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) office and as the former Director of Office of Community Services on what Community Action means to her, to our communities, and to our future. She highlighted the upcoming Results Oriented Management & Accountability (ROMA) and CSBG Annual Report changes, and how they work with the Organizational Performance Standards to provide a framework for consistent national measures of success, and for ongoing improvement to better serve our clients and communities. Finally, Greg Burris helped close our conference by sharing the great work they are doing in the City of Springfield, utilizing hard data to identify the top priorities, and bringing resources to bear for focused interventions that get real results.

Congratulations to the 2017 Charles Braithwait Leadership Award recipient, Marye Sanderson from West Central Missouri Community Action Agency! Special thanks to Bill Bunch, last year's recipient, for returning to present the award to Ms. Sanderson. We also presented twenty local community partners with Outstanding Community Service Awards, and we heard from two inspiring speakers who shared their success stories with us.

The Missouri CAN Olympics were a huge hit! There was fierce competition and a lot of laughter as agencies competed for the coveted Community Action Cup! The winner of the games, and the overall winner was Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation, who earns bragging rights, and the opportunity to choose next year's basket auction theme. South Central Missouri Community Action agency won the basket auction with their extravagant overflowing kayak basket, which went for more than \$500 at the auction. The basket auction and 50/50 drawing combined to raise over \$4000 for National Community Action Foundation and CAP-PAC, with the 50/50 winner taking home more than \$1000! Our small item raffle raised an additional \$400+, with Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph raising the most individual funds. They won the pot, which they donated to a local school to help pay down overdue lunch accounts. Thanks to everyone for their generosity during our fundraisers!

Thanks again to our sponsors and more than 20 exhibitors, for helping make this event one of our very best. Please visit the conference website – [MissouriCAN.org/2017conference](http://MissouriCAN.org/2017conference) - for a list of sponsors and exhibitors, and to view handouts from sessions you were not able to attend!

Save the date for next year's conference, May 15-17, 2018, at Tan-Tar-A Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks!

## Missouri CAN CAPACITY – Helping us help you

### Missouri CAN Staff Update

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

We are nearly fully-staffed again! We are screening candidates and scheduling interviews for our CAPS (Poverty Simulation) Project Manager. Please see the 'Our Team' page of our website for more information about your Missouri CAN team.

### Agency Visits

As promised, we are getting out and about to visit your agencies!

- James Rogers and Kurt Brewer visited CAASTLC and MOCA for MIS and agency orientation and tours.
- Brian Valentine, Aubrey Schrader, and James Rogers visited CAPSTJOE and CSI for agency tours and a poverty simulation with CSI at Northwest Missouri State University.
- Jessica Hoey visited MOCA to observe a poverty simulation with Waynesville schools at Ft. Leonard Wood.
- Kerri Voyles met with ESC in Kansas City for hands-on strategic communication training.

There is nothing better than an agency visit to help new staff learn (and to remind all of us) about the great work that you are doing every day, and to discover what we can do to better serve you!

We are planning a Tour of Missouri during Community Action Month in May, so please let us know if you have any upcoming events, from community fairs or weatherization projects to open houses or all-staff picnics, and we'll try to get someone there!

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

## ON THE CALENDAR

### **Truman's Birthday Holiday**

May 8...Missouri CAN Office Closed

### **MCADA**

May 10...Missouri CAN Office

### **Missouri CAN Board**

May 11...Missouri CAN Office

### **CCAP – Certified Community Action Professional**

May 15...Missouri CAN Office

### **MIS Onboarding Team**

May 17...Missouri CAN Office

### **OMPA - Outreach Managers Professional Alliance**

May 18...Missouri CAN Office

### **OPPA – Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance**

May 18...Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri (CAPNCM)

### **Memorial Day**

May 29...Missouri CAN Office Closed

### **NASCSP - CSBG Annual Report Workshop**

May 30-June 1...Missouri CAN Office

### **MCADA**

June 14...Missouri CAN Office

### **CCAP Study Day - Certified Community Action Professional**

June 13... Missouri CAN Office

### **CCAP Exam- Certified Community Action Professional**

June 14... Missouri CAN Office

### **Missouri CAN St. Louis Cardinal Game Day**

June 24...Busch Stadium, St. Louis

### **Independence Day**

July 4...Missouri CAN Office Closed

### **ITPA – Information Technology Professional Alliance**

July 5-6...Missouri CAN Office

### **MCADA**

July 12...Missouri CAN Office

### **Missouri CAN Board**

July 13...Missouri CAN Office

### **Missouri CAN Kansas City Royals Game Day**

July 15...Kauffman Stadium, Kansas City

### **RDPA – Resource Development Professional Alliance**

July 18...Missouri CAN Office

### **EHPA - Energy and Housing Professional Alliance**

July 19...Missouri CAN Office

### **CKMW – Citizens to Keep Missourians Warm**

July 20...Missouri CAN Office

### **MIS Onboarding Team**

July 25...Missouri CAN Office

### **OMPA - Outreach Managers Professional Alliance**

July 26-27...Missouri CAN Office

**View additional details and register for events on the Activity Calendar at [MissouriCAN.org](http://MissouriCAN.org) under the “For Members” tab.**



**Kurt Brewer, Missouri CAN Executive Director  
May 5, 2017**