



# 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 Missouri's food insecurity rate is 15.6%?*

## ADVOCACY – A voice for low-income Missourians

### Advocacy Update

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

We have a state budget that includes funding for Early Childhood education and a fully funded public school foundation formula, which should increase access to public pre-school programs. The budget also retains the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit for vulnerable renters, maintains access to vital home health care (for some, but not all), and includes the language to transfer LIHEAP funds to the Weatherization program. We did not see movement on the State Earned Income Tax Credit or the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and Utilicare was zeroed out (though the line item remains in the budget).

The federal budget is less certain, and the President's budget includes elimination of CSBG, LIHEAP, and Weatherization. While the complete elimination of those programs may be unlikely, we have our work cut out for us over the next few months to protect these programs and the stability they provide for our communities and low-income neighbors. Please be prepared to respond to requests for information, especially success stories, to help us share the immediate and long-term impact of Community Action across Missouri!

We had a successful breakfast with our national legislators, including Rep. Luetkemeyer and staff, plus staff from the offices of Senator Blunt, Senator McCaskill, and Rep. Hartzler. Attendees were highly engaged, and are looking for opportunities to learn more about Community Action. Please invite your legislators to see what you do first hand, and let us know as well. Keep up the great work, and keep telling our story!

Be sure to follow us on our social media outlets:

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

## NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

### **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 June 13-15, 2017. Topics to be discussed are the new Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Annual Report and new National Performance Indicators (NPIs). Space is limited, so please register online using your Missouri CAN account at [MissouriCAN.org/calendar](http://MissouriCAN.org/calendar).

### **MIS Onboarding Team Update**

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

The pilot agencies continue their hard work, and we are grateful for their efforts. The user interface and client/program data entry screens look great. We are still waiting to see all of the agency and system admin pages, though progress continues with weekly updates. The user training schedule and implementation dates remain unchanged, with the first group training the week of June 12<sup>th</sup>.

At the MIS Onboarding Team meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>, the team opted to let the three pilot agencies (CAASTLC, CSI, and MOCA) be the first to go live with the production system on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This allows that pilot group to verify all aspects of the data conversion and live data entry and reporting environment, before expanding to a larger group of agencies and users. The other agencies in the first group will still train as scheduled in June, but will go live with the second group of agencies on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **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 6:15 p.m.

**Saturday, July 15:** Royals vs. Texas Rangers @ Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City at 6:15 p.m.

### **Online Trainings**

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

Have you taken a moment to explore the professional development and training opportunities available via Missouri CAN University – Moodle? You can explore content related to the following areas:

1. Community Development
2. Customer Service
3. Social Media
4. Community Action Acronyms
5. History of Community Action

This is just a taste of the content available; be sure to access [Missouri CAN University – Moodle](#) to login or register and gain access to the online trainings!

### **Communications Work Group Kick Off**

*By: Kerri Voyles, Strategic Communication Manager, [kvoyles@communityaction.org](mailto:kvoyles@communityaction.org)*

Agency communication/marketing/public relations staff are invited to the Communications Work Group Kick Off meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Missouri CAN office in Jefferson City. [Registration for the event](#) is free and includes lunch.

Agency staff will have the opportunity to help define the purpose of the hands-on peer work group, discuss communication success and areas for improvement, and share knowledge and resources across agencies.

## 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 pleased to announce the hiring of our new Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) Project Manager, Mary Bifulco, who will be starting with us in June!

### **Agency Visits**

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

- James Rogers and Aubrey Schrader were pleased to be invited to EMAA's all staff day at the park. In addition to sharing membership and MIS updates, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves drawing raffle tickets and judging the relay race opening the scavenger hunt.
- Becky King and Aubrey Schrader spent time at SCMCAA during their all staff day. The two spoke about Missouri CAN training and technical assistance resources, as well as membership benefits with agency staff.
- As a part of the Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance, Becky King traveled to CAPNCM and toured the agency facilities and learned about some of their programs.
- Kurt Brewer and Brian Valentine conducted a membership recruitment presentation for CAASTLC.
- Brian Valentine visited ESC in Joplin and was given a tour of the agency, while discussing ways Missouri CAN could offer more support in T/TA.
- Kurt Brewer presented a Missouri CAN overview for the JFCAC Board, and also visited EMAA.

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!

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

## ON THE CALENDAR

### **NASCSP**

June 13-15...Jefferson City

### **MCADA**

June 14...Missouri CAN Office

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

June 14...Jefferson City

### **Communications Work Group Kick Off**

June 21...Missouri CAN Office

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

June 24...Busch Stadium, St. Louis

### **Independence Day**

July 4...Missouri CAN Office Closed

### **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

### **HRPA – Human Resource Professional Alliance**

August 3...Missouri CAN Office

### **MCADA**

August 9...Missouri CAN Office

### **IRCPA – Internal Roma Consultants Professional Alliance**

August 10...Missouri CAN Office

### **National Community Action Partnership Annual Convention**

August 28-September 1...Philadelphia, PA

### **Labor Day**

September 4...Missouri CAN Office Closed

**View additional details and register for events on the Activity Calendar at [MissouriCAN.org/calendar](http://MissouriCAN.org/calendar).**



**Kurt Brewer, Missouri CAN Executive Director**  
June 1, 2017