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Did you know: In 2016, more than 1,270,000 Missourians visited a food bank?

ADVOCACY – A voice for low-income Missourians

Advocacy – Now is the Time
By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org

With the release of the Governor’s budget in February, the legislative session is in full swing. Our lobbyist, Madsen & Wright, is tracking over 100 bills as they are read and assigned to committees. Some items are moving quickly under the new administration, and others are still waiting on the sidelines. We may need to call on agency experts on short notice to help demonstrate the value of key issues, and to ensure your legislators know the positive outcomes of Community Action programs in local communities. We may also need to educate decision makers about the potential impact of proposed policy changes, for better or worse.

Current activities and issues we are following closely include:

• State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): the federal EITC is one of the most effective tools for lifting families out of poverty. EITC rewards work, and recipients of this tax credit typically spend the funds on daily necessities such as child care, groceries, car repairs, etc., boosting local economies. A state EITC would expand on the federal credit, providing a refund of state income tax to working families.

• LIHEAP transfer to Weatherization: for the past several years, the state budget has included a transfer of federal LIHEAP funds to the Weatherization program, providing funding for energy efficiency and health & safety improvements for thousands of Missouri homes. Last year, this transfer allowed the Weatherization of an additional 1,492 homes, providing an estimated annual energy savings of more than $422,000. We are working to ensure that the transfer language is restored to the Missouri state budget.

March 2017
• 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. On behalf of the Network, I testified in support of these bills in their respective committee hearings in the House and Senate.

Be on the lookout for our Network Advocate mailer, and sign up for the email version to receive information sooner. Also, please follow us on our social media outlets:


2017 Missouri CAN Advocacy Day at the Missouri Capitol - RECAP

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

The 2017 Community Action Network Advocacy Day was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. This is an important day for our Network to show our legislators the true power of Community Action in the State of Missouri. We had over 100 people show up for the Rally and meet with their legislators. We appreciate all that showed up to help make this a great day! Survey results will be available soon.

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

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

OMB has approved the annual report package. Implementation will come in phases and no immediate changes to reporting will occur for agencies this year. More information on implementation and what the package includes is in JM 152. Missouri CAN is coordinating training for the Network this spring to be prepared to plan under the new reporting requirements this summer. A workshop session will be held at annual conference on April 4th and a one-day training on the application of ROMA NG and the new annual report is being coordinated for late spring.

MIS Onboarding Team Update

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

The User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and training event on Feb 6-10 was highly successful. We had three Adsystech team members on site to work with the Missouri UAT team to review the new platform and conduct an initial training overview. UAT members were impressed with the new user interface and many of the new features. During the course of the week, the team identified a number of minor issues to be addressed, which was the goal of the event. A series of follow-up webinars were conducted later in February to review additional changes. The next step will be confirmation of the development phase, and the pilot agency training March 20-24th.

Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

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

The deadline to register for the Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training that will be held March 20-21 in Kansas City is March 10th. Join us for a great event that includes participants from all over the United States learning about becoming advocates for low income community members.
Community Needs Assessment Workshop  
*By: Courtney Kohler, Program Director, ckohler@communityaction.org*

We have 59 registered for the two-day Community Needs Assessment workshop at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach on March 15-16. Participants will not only learn the best practices of the Community Needs Assessment, but also have work sessions to compile results, analyze data, and determine questions to explore with remaining qualitative research back at their agency. The team from the Community Toolbox at University of Kansas will be present on day one to share their expertise, specifically around qualitative data collection. Now that your teams are established and you are registered to attend, don’t forget the following as you prepare:

- **Bring any data collected.** Pull reports from Community Commons for agency service area and bring any client survey or focus group results.

Train-the-Trainer Bootcamp  
*By: Courtney Kohler, Program Director, ckohler@communityaction.org*

On May 2-3, Missouri CAN will be hosting a Train-the-Trainer Bootcamp for Missouri Community Action Network staff. Missouri CAN is contracting with the Bob Pike Group to deliver this training, which will be applicable to those teaching life skills classes in the community, as well as conducting agency training.

Here’s just a sampling of what you will learn:

- 20 techniques for engagement that work every time
- How to keep a class motivated ALL DAY!
- Tricks for dealing with difficult learners

More details and registration will be released to the Network soon. The training will be limited to 30 participants (each agency will be able to send at least one person; the remaining slots will be first come, first serve).

Winter Online Trainings  
*By: Becky King, Training Manager, bking@communityaction.org*

Take a moment to check out the newly launched advocacy courses for free through Missouri CAN University - Moodle! We will also be launching a short module about social media during the month of March. The newest courses include the following which can be found under Advocacy 101 in Moodle:

1. **Building Effective Relationships**  
   Effective advocacy starts in building productive, professional relationships. This short module will walk you through the necessary basics of relationship building with the intent to advocate for your cause.

2. **Advocacy: Nine Steps to Success**  
   This module will help you guide and organize your outreach efforts. Walk through these nine steps to plan a successful advocacy strategy that will end in results.

2017 Missouri CAN Membership Campaign  
*By: Becky King, Training Manager, bking@communityaction.org*

We are now on the last leg of our membership campaign as it comes to a close March 15th! Use these last few days to remind staff of the benefits to being a Missouri CAN member. Don’t forget the drawings that will occur in April at Annual Conference.
• 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.

• 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 will be recognized at Annual Conference. The winning agencies will win a “Sweet Treat” delivered by Missouri CAN at the agency’s All Staff Day or day of choice.

**2017 Missouri CAN Annual Conference**  
*By: Becky King, Training Manger, bking@communityaction.org*

The event is quickly approaching – Missouri CAN’s Annual Conference will be held April 4-6, 2017. Have you registered yet? You don’t want to miss the variety of professional development and training opportunities available this year!

New to conference this year: select conference sessions will be certified through the Missouri Workshop Calendar and tracked through the OPEN Initiative for Head Start staff. This will enable Head Start staff to count these sessions as clock hours.

Between presentations from industry professionals, to an auction and competition that is sure to entertain – there will be something for everyone!

**Missouri CAN Staff Vacancies**  
*By: Kurt Brewer, Executive Director, kbrewer@communityaction.org*

We have filled two of our vacancies (James Rogers, Information Systems Manager, and Jessica Hoey, Outreach Director). We are still accepting applications and will be conducting interviews in March for our Program Director and CAPS Project Manager. Please see the ‘Our Team’ page of our website for more information.

**Agency Visits**

• Becky King, Training Manager, has visited West Central Community Action Agency, Missouri Ozarks Community Action, Inc., Central Missouri Community Action, and Missouri Valley Community Action Agency to have a better understanding of FDC implementation from an agency perspective.

• Courtney Kohler, Program Director, visited Missouri Ozarks Community Action, Inc on March 24th to deliver a training on *Building Effective Relationships* throughout the organization.

**Activity Calendar on the following page**
MCADA
March 8...Missouri CAN Office

Missouri CAN Board Meeting
March 9...Missouri CAN Office

CCAP – Certified Community Action Professional
March 9...Jefferson City

NCAF Legislative Conference
March 15-17...Washington, D.C.

Community Needs Assessment Training
March 15-16...Tan-Tar-A at Lake of the Ozarks

Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training
March 20-21...Hilton KC Airport Hotel, Kansas City, MO

MIS Pilot Training
March 20-24...Columbia College & Missouri CAN Office

2017 Missouri CAN Annual Conference
April 4-6...University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO

2017 Missouri CAN Link Up One-Day Conference
April 5...University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO

RDPA – Resource & Development Professional Alliance
April 18...Missouri CAN Office

EHPA – Energy and Housing Professional Alliance
April 19...Missouri CAN Office

CCAP – Certified Community Action Professional
April 19...Jefferson City

CKMW – Committee to Keep Missourians Warm
April 20...Missouri CAN Office

ETPA – Employment & Training Professional Alliance
April 25...Missouri CAN Office

ITPA – Information Technology Professional Alliance
April 26-27...Jefferson City

OMPA – Outreach Managers Professional Alliance
April 26-27...Missouri CAN Office

MEP – Missourians to End Poverty
April 27...Jefferson City

Training Bootcamp
May 2-3...Missouri CAN Office

IRCPA – Internal ROMA Consultants Professional Alliance
May 4...Missouri CAN Office

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...Jefferson City

MIS Onboarding Team
May 17...Missouri CAN Office

OPPA – Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance
May 18...Missouri CAN Office

Memorial Day
May 29...Missouri CAN Office Closed

CCAP Exam– Certified Community Action Professional
June 14...Jefferson City

Missouri CAN St. Louis Cardinal Game Day
June 24...Busch Stadium, St. Louis

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
March 7, 2017