



The MACA Network *Connection*

Advancing the mission of
Community Action

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.....In 2014, 1,190,600 Missourians visited a food bank?

ADVOCACY – Speaking up for Low-Income Missourians

Advocacy

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

The 2016 Legislative Session began on January 6, 2016. The major priorities of the legislature have been ethics reform and transportation. The MACA Board, staff, and our lobbyists, Madsen and Wright, have been actively meeting with legislators, providing letters of support, and testimony to move the following legislative priorities forward:

1. Health: Support Medicaid Expansion
2. Housing & Energy: Utilicare and Weatherization Funding
3. Economic & Family Security: Support the establishment of a state Earned Income Tax Credit, support and advocate for positive program development for TANF program and reform predatory lending (repayment terms, underwriting standards, collection practices, capping the maximum APR, etc.)
4. Food: Support and advocate for the expansion of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women's Infants and Children's Program (WIC)
5. Education: Maintain/Increase funding for early childhood education and care

There are currently three bills that would establish an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), two in the house, and one in the senate. An EITC has been a proven strategy to lift more than 170,000 Missourians out of poverty. We are actively

engaged in the appropriations process to monitor the federal and state funding for the Community Action Agencies, including Utilicare, Weatherization, and Early Childhood.

The legislature has continued to refuse to debate closing the coverage gap through expanding Medicaid.

TANF Reform

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

MACA met with advocates across the state and representatives from the Family Support Division (FSD) on February 5, 2016 to discuss the implementation of changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to date. The Department shared that the number of families receiving full family sanctions has increased with the changes being implemented in January.

Head Start Roundtable on Homelessness

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

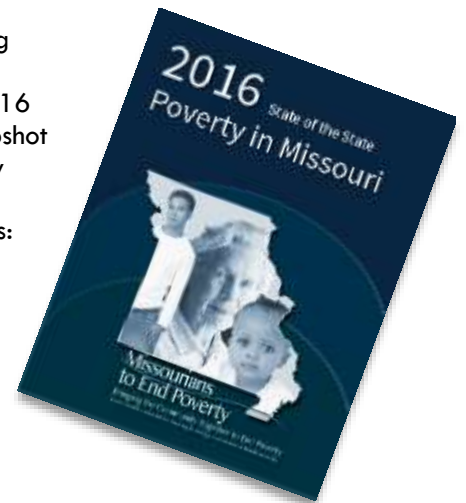
The Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office (MHSSCO) is conducting a round table discussion on homelessness and the importance of partnerships in addressing child and family homelessness on February 11, 2016. MACA will participate as a panelist with representatives from other key organizations including state departments, academics, Head Start, public schools and other homeless service providers, to discuss homelessness and its impact in Missouri.

2016 State of the State of Poverty Report

By Heidi Lucas, hucas@communityaction.org & Jessica Long, jlong@communityaction.org

In partnership with the Missourians to End Poverty Coalition, MACA has compiled the 2016 State of the State of Poverty Report. This report exists to provide a comprehensive snapshot of poverty in our state. It is the hope of the Missourians to End Poverty Coalition that by presenting the facts surrounding poverty, a better understanding of the realities of this issue can be achieved. The report provides information on the following five key factors: Food; Health; Education, Housing & Energy, and Family & Economic Security. Together, these factors highlight poverty's interconnected nature and the need for multi-dimensional solutions. You can access the report on our website at www.communityaction.org.

A press conference was held at the State Capitol on Thursday, February 4, 2016 to release the report.



Missouri Weatherization Policy Advisory Council

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

MACA was asked to serve as a member of the Missouri Weatherization Policy Advisory Council. The purpose of the MWPAC shall be to support the effective management and utilization of the State's weatherization and energy conservation resources by promoting energy-efficient housing, the long-term reduction in utility bills, and the comfort and safety of Missouri citizens, especially low-income persons who are particularly vulnerable such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high residential energy users, and households with high energy burden. The purpose of the MWPAC includes, but is not limited to, advising and assisting the Missouri Department of Economic Development/Division of Energy (DED/DE) with respect to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons.

2016 Community Action Advocacy Day- Save the Date

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

MACA is excited to announce the 2016 Community Action Advocacy Day that will be held on March 16, 2016 at the State Capitol. Our Advocacy Day will begin with a rally in the morning where we will discuss the five elements of poverty (Food, Health, Education, Energy & Housing, and Family & Economic Security) and our legislative priorities to address the needs across Missouri and hear motivational testimony from Community Action consumers.

In an effort to highlight our network's diverse and innovative approaches to address poverty throughout the state, we would like each agency to set up an exhibit of your programs and services (exhibits will be on the third floor rotunda).

Activities at the Community Action Advocacy Day include:

- Community Action Agency Exhibits around the Five Elements of Poverty
- Rally
- Legislative Visits

2016 Poverty Summit- Save the Date

By Heidi Lucas, hucas@communityaction.org

On behalf of the Missourians to End Poverty coalition (MEP), we are inviting all agencies to attend the fourth Missouri Poverty Summit!

This one-day event on April 27th in Jefferson City brings together businesses, non-profits, governmental agencies, and interested community members from across the state to share strategies and build new networks to help fight poverty in Missouri.

In order to make this nonprofit summit possible, we need your help. Please consider participating in the event as a sponsor, donor, exhibitor and/or attendee.



2016 MISSOURI POVERTY SUMMIT

APRIL 27, 2016 - Capitol Plaza Hotel - Jefferson City, Missouri

Join the Missourians to End Poverty coalition as we bring people together from across the state to explore local best practices to address poverty! See what our communities are doing to ensure a thriving state for all.

For more information visit www.MOEndPoverty.org

Please check out the MACA calendar under the Member tab at www.communityaction.org (click on the calendar entry on April 27th) or the MEP website at www.moendpoverty.org for more information.

NETWORK CAPACITY – Helping you help others

Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training

By Heidi Lucas, hucas@communityaction.org

The Poverty Simulation Facilitator Training on November 16-17 in St. Louis at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel was a huge SOLD OUT success! We were excited to have 80 participants from all over the United States attending the training. Our next training will be March 21 & 22 in Kansas City. Registration is free for Missouri Community Action Agency staff members registering by the February 29th early bird registration deadline. Please log into the new registration system

before signing up so that the fee will show up as \$0. If it is your first time to register online with our new system, please contact the MACA office at 573-634-2969 or info@communityaction.org for your login and password.

MIS Training

By Jayna Gray, jgray@communityaction.org

MIS Train the Trainer – This workshop is designed for Agency Admin team members who are responsible for MIS user training, will be held at the MACA office on March 1st, and registration is by invitation only. Those attending will have an opportunity to share best practices. If you need additional information regarding this training please email Jayna Gray at the MACA office.

MIS New User Training – This training is designed for new MIS users who have been with the agency for at least 90 days and will be held at Columbia College in Jefferson City on March 17th. This is hands on training, using the system in a computer lab, so attendees must have a valid MIS user ID issued by their agency, and attendees should be familiar with the basics of the MIS. This training should enhance users' knowledge and skills, but is not a replacement for local agency MIS training.

To register for the training: <https://maca.z2systems.com/event.jsp?event=1613&>. Or you can go to the MACA event calendar on our webpage under the Member tab, click on the March 17th event and register there. Please make sure to log in to register so that you do not create an additional account for your records. If you have not yet registered online and need your login and password, please contact the MACA office.

MIS Report Training – This training will be held on May 2nd at Columbia College in Jefferson. Additional information coming soon.

Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment in Community Commons

By Jayna Gray, jgray@communityaction.org

Have you registered with Community Commons and joined the MACA Hub? If you haven't done so already, visit www.communitycommons.org to register for an account, then click the Hub tab to find the Missouri Association for Community Action. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Missouri Academy for Leadership & Community Action

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

The 2016 Leadership Academy through MACA is currently recruiting developing leaders and accepting applications! The Leadership Academy is designed to provide the critical leadership and management skills needed now and for the future. This collaborative learning process that incorporates development, mentoring, networking opportunities, and the creation of a portfolio will allow participants to explore their leadership style, develop leadership aptitude, and empower themselves and others. The application period has been extended through *April 8, 2016* to give ample time for Missouri Community Action staff members and community partners to consider this opportunity for development. Due to the extended application period, the Academy will now start in July and end in December of 2016. An application is located at the following location on the MACA website: <http://www.communityaction.co/professional-development/#leadership>. Academy Advisors are also being recruited at this time. If you are interested in either opportunity or have any questions, please let the MACA office know.



MACA University

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

Last fall, MACA launched an online “University” of courses for community action through a learning management platform called Moodle. At this time, 7 courses are available to the Missouri Community Action Network to help orient and educate agency staff. These courses fall into two categories:

General Training:

1. History of Community Action
2. Community Action Network
3. Missouri Poverty 101
4. Community Action Acronyms
5. Customer Service
6. *Overview of ROMA - Coming Soon!*

Board/Governance:

1. Board Member Roles & Responsibilities
2. Organizational Standards for Boards
3. *Advocacy for Boards - Coming Soon!*

Individuals can sign up for a Moodle account and access MACA University here: <http://www.communityaction.co/moodle>. Agencies also have accounts that can be used for facilitating some of the course content to a group. Courses include a variety of video modules, PowerPoint slides, handouts, activities, and quizzes based on subject matter. We hope you enjoy and share this new resource. It is free to all Missouri Community Action Agencies.

We also appreciate feedback as this pilot phase continues. Once we orient the network to the site and evaluate usage this spring, we will begin to add more tracks of online course content such as human resources, MIS, or other categories based on input from the network.

ROMA Certification

By Courtney Kohler, ckohler@communityaction.org

Missouri has had 5 community action agency staff members apply to become a Nationally Certified ROMA Trainer (NCRT) this year. They represent 4 Missouri CAAs. MACA is once again working together with the other Region VII states (Iowa, Kansas, & Nebraska) to support these candidates through the [4 phase certification](#). The phase two in-seat session will be held May 10-12 in Des Moines, IA, hosted by the Iowa Community Action Association.

There is also a new ROMA Certification that is now available to the national community action network – the Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer (NCRI). Missouri will be participating in a pilot as this launches. The certification process looks somewhat different than the NCRT and includes the development of a portfolio and an exam instead of practice and evaluation sessions to become a trainer.

While the trainer certification still focuses on sharing the knowledge of the ROMA concepts, the implementer certification will focus more on the application or implementation of the concepts within the agency. The two certifications should create a great connection of the concepts *and* application of ROMA in the agency. More information about both certifications can be found on the following webpage: <http://www.roma-nptp.org/application.html>.

MACA CAPACITY – Helping us help you

MACA Transformational Plan Progress

By Heather Lockard, hlockard@communityaction.org

Overall, MACA has been very successful implementing our planned strategies to achieve our three strategic commitments. During this first year of our three year transformational plan, we focused on operationalizing the plan, accountability measures, establishing baselines, and implementing processes.



Agency Visits

Jessica Long attended West Central Missouri Community Action Agency's gala event in Clinton, Missouri on December 11th. Three employees were recognized as having been with WCMCAA for 40 years or more: Judy Brock, Michelle Allen-Irby and Marye Sanderson and over 132 employees were recognized for over 5 years of service with WCMCAA.

Courtney Kohler visited Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri (CAPNEMO) on December 22nd to present at their holiday all-staff day on MACA and membership. It was a great event to be a part of.

Jayna Gray traveled to Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri (CAPNEMO) on December 8th to conduct training for Head Staff. CAP NEMO is enrolling all Head Start clients in an MIS shell program.

Jayna also traveled to North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC) to test new v5.5 pages with NECAC's Kathy Block and Pat Bulejski from Community Action Agency of St. Louis County (CAASTLC). New MIS v5.5 was released on February 9th.

Jayna also had the opportunity to speak at the Ministerial Alliance luncheon on January 26th at Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri (CAPNCM). She spoke about how Community Action has positively affected her life as a client, as a community partner and as an employee.

Heidi Lucas went to United Services Community Action Agency (USCAA) to assist with a Poverty Simulation at Research College of Nursing. USCAA has two new trainers and they did a great job with their first simulation!

Activity Calendar on following page

On the Calendar

MACA Office Closed – President's Day

February 15

MIS Committee

February 16...MACA Office

CCAP Preparatory Class #4

February 18...MACA Office

Resource Development Professional Alliance (RDPA)

February 23...MACA Office

Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance

February 25...Joplin, MO

MIS Train the Trainer

March 1...MACA Office

Human Resource Professional Alliance

March 2-3...MACA Office

MCADA

March 9...MACA Office

CCAP Preparatory Class #5

March 9...Jefferson City

MACA Board

March 10...MACA Office

MIS Committee

March 15...MACA Office

Advocacy Day

March 16...Jefferson City

MIS User Training

March 17...Jefferson City

Finance Professional Alliance

March 17-18...MACA Office

CAPS Facilitator Training

March 21-22...Kansas City

MCADA

April 13...MACA Office

MIS Committee

April 19...MACA Office

Energy and Housing Professional Alliance

April 20...MACA Office

MWPAC and CKMW Committees

April 21...MACA Office

Information Technology Professional Alliance

April 21-22...MACA Office

Poverty Summit

April 27...Jefferson City

Outreach Managers Professional Alliance

April 28-29...MACA Office

MIS Report Training

May 2...Jefferson City

Internal Roma Consultants Professional Alliance

May 5...MACA Office

MACA Office Closed – Truman's Birthday

May 9

MCADA

May 11...MACA Office

MACA Board

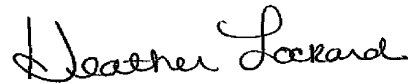
May 12...MACA Office

MIS Committee

May 17...MACA Office

Outreach Personnel Professional Alliance

May 19...MACA Office



**Heather Lockard, MACA Executive Director
February 10, 2016**

For the most current list of events and for more information, check the calendar on our website at www.communityaction.org.