



Our Mission

*Serving
Community
Action Agencies
in Michigan,
strengthening
their capacity
to alleviate
the causes and
circumstances
of poverty.*



*Community
Action Agencies
improve lives
of Michigan
residents
through
collaborations,
partnerships,
innovative
programs*



SERVICE
Empowering member agencies



RESOLVE
Never veering from the quest to reduce poverty



COMMUNICATION
Leading the discussion about issues that matter

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016:

Building leaders, changing lives

This past year, Community Action Agencies assisted more than 162,865 vulnerable and low-income people. Michigan Community Action stands behind them and beside them to provide the training, support and leadership development to ensure that this work continues and that progress is made toward ending poverty in Michigan. The pillars of Michigan Community Action are Service, Resolve and Communication.





NETWORK IMPACT

Agencies improve lives of Michigan residents

In order to assist Michigan's vulnerable populations, agencies provided services to **162,865 low-income individuals in 83,538 families**, including 49,767 seniors, 47,690 children, 25,466 people with disabilities and 7,617 people who lacked health insurance.

To realize 1,248,632 indicators of movement toward self-sufficiency and community revitalization, Michigan CAAs used **\$22,080,178 of Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds** with **\$357,873,920 of the network's non-CSBG funding**.

SERVICE: EMPOWERING MEMBER AGENCIES

In 2016 MCA lead a study group that empowered six of our members to become nationally Certified Community Action Professionals (CCAPs) expanding our bench of future leaders of the Community Action movement. Michigan went from two to eight CCAPs in just one year.

Thirty-four staff members of 16 Community Action Agencies completed the Leadership Development Institute, preparing them to be managers and innovators of the future.

Results matter and MCA supported the training and certification of 10 Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (NCRTs), tripling the number of NCRTs in the state.



MCA President John Stephenson (left) and MCA Executive Director Kate White (right) accept a check from Carrie Schneider of Consumers Energy for the 2016 Walk for Warmth Campaign.

HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborations and communications bolster CAA network

Throughout the year, MCA improved conditions for its member agencies and working families through collaborations with its allied groups. Among the most significant partnerships and outcomes were:

MCA partnered with the **Skilled to Build Michigan Foundation** to help unemployed men and women find entry-level and skilled trades jobs.

RESOLVE: NEVER VEERING FROM THE QUEST TO REDUCE POVERTY

MCA's legislative victories, in cooperation with our valued partners, this year included:

MEAP legislation
Silver Key Coalition

COMMUNICATION: LEADING THE DISCUSSION ABOUT ISSUES THAT MATTER

Award winning newsletter: Michigan Society of Association Executives honored MCA with its top award in the Electronic Newsletter category at the 2016 Diamond Awards event in Plymouth. Michael Shalley, MCA's membership services director, accepted the award.

MCA continued its charitable partnership with **Central Michigan University Public Radio** and **Consumers Energy** on the station's **Warm Hearts, Warm Homes** fundraiser.

The MCA Website was updated to promote the Community Action Network and support our members with additional training and resources.



(From left) Kiesha Guy, Muskegon/Oceana Community Action Partnership, Celeste K. Clark, Kellogg Foundation and Art Fenrick, Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency executive director gather at the 2016 National Community Action Convention.



Events fostered education, networking opportunities

As part of its efforts to develop connections with state legislators, MCA held **Community Action Day** at the Capitol on April 28, 2016. The day included exhibits on the main floor of the Capitol Building and an awards ceremony for agency clients and volunteers. Michigan's second lady, **Julie Calley**, praised volunteers for their efforts in her keynote address, while both houses of the Legislature issued proclamations citing May as "Community Action Month" in Michigan.

Honored Rep. Tim Greimel as Legislator of the Year

House Democratic Leader **Tim Greimel** (D-29) was named Legislator of the Year for his continued support of his local Community Action Agency, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA). Griemel was cited for his effort in the Walk for Warmth fundraiser, his assistance in OLHSA's attempt to find funding for blight removal and his frequent visits to the agency's Head Start classrooms and board meetings.

MCA honored five clients who achieved self-sufficiency and five volunteers who contributed so much.

Community Action mobilized 27,164 volunteers and community members to improve conditions around Michigan and to ensure that all people have a seat at the table to make local decisions.

MCA's 2016 **Summer Conference** attendees heard legislative updates and gained insight on innovative program models, collaborative community development and leadership. The conference drew **250** Community Action Agency staff and supporters to the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron. The two and a half day conference featured keynote presentations from leading anti-poverty professionals and breakout sessions in agency operations to improve client outcomes and agency performance.



Rep. Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) accepts the Legislator of the Year award from Ron Borngesser, (right) past executive director of Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency.

The MCA conference was the largest conference the Blue Water Convention Center had hosted since it opened and the attendees made a significant contribution to the local economy. Bringing the conference to Port Huron allowed Community Action to recognize the community and reward its efforts at revitalization. It is a beautiful venue and we are proud of our ability to support community economic development.

Energy assistance gives economic boost to communities

With **more than 600,000 Michigan homes** weatherized since 1976, MCA celebrated Weatherization Month in

October and 40 years of helping families reduce their energy costs, creating job opportunities for local contractors and workers and providing an economic boost in local communities. Michigan's Weatherization Assistance Program also helps communities:

- **Improve housing stocks and neighborhood housing values**
- **Improve residents' health and safety**
- **Reduce hospitalizations and missed work and school days.**

In order to provide energy assistance to qualified households, MCA leveraged a **\$9 million** grant from the Public Service Commission for the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) to help member agencies distribute funds to eligible households and provide training in energy efficiency, household budgeting and other ways to increase self-sufficiency. In total, MCA's member agencies served **9,285** households, distributing **\$7,309,827** in direct assistance payments to utility providers, **doubling the original program goal of 4,650 households.**

In addition to participating in MEAP, CAAs across Michigan held **Walks for Warmth** or similar fundraisers in 2016 for local families who needed help paying their utility bills, raising **additional thousands of dollars** in private donations for energy assistance.



Walkers log miles in a Walk for Warmth, raising money for families that need heating assistance.



Legislative efforts protected low-income programs

Fostering self-sufficiency was at the heart of MCA's support for renewal of the **Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)**. MEAP helps more than 87,000 low-income families pay utility bills that consume large portions of their income, and shows them how to reduce and budget for their energy costs. On June 8, 2016, Public Act 147 was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder, extending MEAP for three years, until Sept. 30, 2019.

Training and technical assistance supported member agencies

In order to promote best practices, MCA hosted **12** webinars and **numerous** live training events in 2016, focused on professional development, agency management and customer service. Among the highlights were a two-day session in Marquette on Strategic Planning and Community Needs Assessments for board members; a Bridges Out of Poverty Training for U.P. agencies; and four half-day training sessions for front-line staff on Energy Education for Clients at various agency locations.



The 2016 Summer Conference was held in Port Huron at the new Blue Water Convention Center.

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