



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Community Services Block Grant

The federal Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) is Community Action's core funding. These funds are tailored to the individual needs of each local Community Action Agency and their local service areas.

MCA supports:

- Reauthorization of the CSBG Act.
- Increased funding to match growing requirements for data collection and reporting.



Early Childhood Education and Childcare

Community Action Agencies in Michigan educate thousands of children ages 0-5 through Early Head Start, Head Start, and Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). A rich learning environment is critical for later school and social success. Families also benefit through training in parent education; comprehensive health, nutrition, and social services; and program leadership and advocacy opportunities.

MCA supports:

- Increasing funding for early childhood services, to implement continually evolving quality standards.
- Restoring income eligibility for GSRP to 300% of poverty.
- Continued funding of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program in Michigan to provide expanded academic enrichment opportunities for children attending low-performing schools.
- Expanding access to childcare services for low income families.



Food and Nutrition Services

When properly nourished, children learn and retain information better and adults are healthier, more positive, and more resilient. Community Action Agencies in Michigan feed thousands of people every year through a wide variety of food-related services, including food pantries, Meals on Wheels, and congregate meals for seniors.

MCA supports:

- Securing more Commodity Supplement Food Program slots for Community Action Agencies as allocated by the Michigan Department of Education.
- Expanding The Emergency Food Assistance Program's (TEFAP) administrative funding to include costs of distributing "bonus" items.



Senior Programs

Michigan's CAAs provide a wide range of services to assist older residents with tools to maintain self-sufficiency through their later years.

MCA supports the Silver Key Coalition' efforts to increase state funding for in-home services that assist individuals and family caregivers in managing and/or performing necessary activities of daily living, including personal care, homemaking, chore assistance, home-delivered meals, minor home repairs, and other needed services.



Veterans Services

Michigan veterans are at risk for homelessness, unemployment, and physical and mental disabilities. Treating these special citizens with respect and value is of the utmost importance.

MCA supports the expansion of available Veterans Programs such as Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



Housing Services

Michigan's low income families deserve decent, safe, and affordable housing, and many Community Action Agencies offer programs that assist them in achieving home ownership, while protecting those facing foreclosure and homelessness. Cultivating responsible homeownership and rentals is essential to growing our state's economy.

MCA supports enhancing policies that can help prevent homelessness and provide homebuyer education and mortgage counseling. Furthermore, we support state housing policies that foster the development of thriving communities for children, parents and seniors.



Financial Independence

A dollar saved is a dollar earned. Community Action Agencies encourage financial independence by helping low income Michiganders take ownership of their finances and household budgets.

MCA supports:

- Expansion of financial literacy programs.
- Returning the state Earned Income Tax Credit to 20 percent of the federal EITC.
- Expanding funding for and access to Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)
- Funding for tax preparation services for low income residents.
- Protecting consumers against predatory lending tactics.



Energy Efficiency

Reducing the amount of energy used in our businesses and households benefits all of Michigan. Community Action energy services increase home values, put local contractors to work, and reduce household utility expenses. Our partnerships with utility companies and our agencies' own fundraising events stretch public dollars even further.

MCA supports:

- Preserving and promoting energy efficiency and home weatherization measures to lower the energy burden for low income families and to increase conservation.
- Expanding energy efficiency programs for utilities that choose not to operate low income energy programs on their own.
- Continuing the annual state appropriation of Federal LIHEAP funds for Weatherization efforts.



Full Participation in the Community and the Economy

Empowering people to participate in the community and in economic opportunities requires access to services like the internet and the ability to prove residency and citizenship. Seeking work, attending school, and finding a place live all require identification and, increasingly, access to the internet.

MCA supports:

- Expanded wireless and broadband access in underserved communities.
- Increased services to assist all citizens seeking identification documents (state ID, driver's licenses, birth certificates, etc.)