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**MCA's Mission**

To strengthen and inspire Community Action Agencies to champion solutions to poverty and to promote economic opportunity.

**Announcements**

**Two Classes for Bridges Out of Poverty Being Offered**

Bridges Out of Poverty Training, **November 7** at the Ramada Inn of Grayling and **December 6** at the office of Kent County Community Action. Contact [mshalley@micommunityaction.org](mailto:mshalley@micommunityaction.org) for information, or go [here](#) to register for the class.

For a full list of announcements, visit [MCA's website](#).

**Upcoming Events**

**Time Management Training: Strategies for the Overwhelmed; October 30, 9-4:00, MCA Office Registration details [here](#).**

**Webinar: Creating a Value Proposition in Hiring and Retention, November 7 at 10-11:00 am ET Registration details [here](#).**

**MCA Directors Council Meeting, November 12, 10:00-Noon ET, MCA Office**

**MCA Summer Conference Planning Session, November 13, 1-4:00 p.m. ET, MCA Office. Register for the planning session [here](#).**

**Community Action Partnership 2019 Management and Leadership Training Conference, January 15-18, Westin New Orleans Canal Palace. Click [here](#) for registration.**

For a full list of events, visit [MCA's calendar](#).

**Did you know?**

MCA was awarded a \$6 million Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) grant for 2019 from the Public Service Commission. We will subcontract with our member agencies to distribute the funds to support bill payment assistance, affordable payment plan enrollment, financial counseling, energy use education, and other measures to help clients move toward self-sufficiency.

**Catalyst welcomes input, story ideas**

Is there a story or issue you'd like to see covered in Catalyst?

Let us know what's happening in your agency or region. Success stories? Recent events? People news?

We welcome your input and feedback. Please send your comments and ideas [here](#).

**MCA Officers/Board Members 2017-2019**

**Jill Sutton**  
 President  
 Mid Michigan CAA

**Louis Piszker**  
 Vice President  
 Wayne Metro CAA

**Michelle Williamson**  
 Secretary Treasurer  
 Community Action

**Toby Berry**  
 Urban Officer  
 Community Action Agency

**Kerri Duff**  
 Upper Peninsula Officer  
 Gogebic Ontonagon CAA

**Art Fenrick**  
 Lower Peninsula Rural Officer  
 Southwest Michigan CAA

**Melinda Johnson**  
 At-Large Officer  
 Blue Water Community Action

**Doug McFadden**  
 CAA Governing Board Officer  
 EightCAP

**Matt Purcell**  
 Directors Council Chair  
 GCCARD

**Eric Schertzing**  
 CAA Governing Board Officer  
 Capital Area Comm. Services

**Summer Conference Planning Meeting**



Last year MCA had great success in outlining the breakout session topics and speakers for the summer conference by hosting a planning meeting in November 2017. We'd like to try again this year and are requesting participants to sign up for the planning session for the 2019 Summer Conference to be held July 23-25 at Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls, MI. The planning session will be held on November 13 from 1-4:00 at the MCA office in Okemos. If you are a part of the Community Action network in Michigan and would like to take part in this planning session, please RSVP to Nicole Caroen at [ncaroen@micommunityaction.org](mailto:ncaroen@micommunityaction.org). We hope to get 30-40 people involved in the process.

**October 30 is National Weatherization Day**



Testing the residence for air leakage is part of the Weatherization home energy audit.

October is the perfect month to prepare your home for the upcoming Michigan winter. Installing weather stripping around windows and doors, beefing up the insulation in the attic and walls, and getting a furnace tune up are just a few of the common steps we can take to ensure a warm and cozy home throughout the colder months.

But such commonplace measures can be beyond the means of many low income families and the higher heating bills that result place an additional economic burden on an already struggling household. And that's where [Michigan's Weatherization Assistance Program](#) can help!

In Michigan, the Weatherization Assistance Program is primarily administered by the [state's 29 Community Action Agencies](#). These services reduce energy use and lower utility bills, thus creating more self-sufficient households. As part of a nationwide network of Weatherization Operators, Michigan's Community Action Agencies are taking part in a celebration throughout October, with activities culminating on October 30 as [National Weatherization Day](#), which recognizes the benefits of the program in reducing the energy burden for low income families, promotes health and safety, improves the housing stock, and creates and sustains thousands of jobs in the energy efficiency sector.

For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program and how to apply, please contact your local Michigan [Community Action Agency](#).

**MCA Supports CCAP Students with Study Group**



Julie Hintz of Macomb Community Action receives her Certified Community Action Professional certificate at the Community Action Partnership conference in DC last August. Julie took advantage of MCA's CCAP study group meetings to help her master the materials and prepare for the test.

MCA encourages our staff from our member agencies to become a Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP). This certification is designed for current and emerging managers or leaders in the Community Action Profession and is administered by the CCAP Commission. To achieve certification, employment in either a CAA, a delegate agency or sub-grantee of a CAA, a CSBG eligible entity, a state or regional association office, or a state community services program office is required.

- CCAP gives members visible recognition for their accomplishments in the field. CCAP enhances the credentials of Community Action staff.
- CCAP provides an edge in competing for public and private grant funds.
- CCAP improves members' professional marketability when competing for jobs.
- CCAP establishes standards that encourage future community action leaders to carry on the quality work of the movement's founders.

MCA will continue its support of members seeking the CCAP credential by hosting a study group throughout 2018-19. (Current dates are October 9, November 20, and January 29.) The sessions will be facilitated by a national expert and CCAP Emeritus Charles McCann who brings a career's worth of experience and dedication to the ideals of Community Action to the group and individual members.

**MCA Welcomes New Executive Directors in the UP**



Michelle LaJoie, Executive Director, CAAM

Since the last issue of Catalyst, published in June 2018, our network now includes two new member agency executive directors. **Dennis McShane** is taking the helm at Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac CAA and **Michelle LaJoie** is named executive director at Community Action Alger-Marquette. While Dennis is new to Community Action, Michelle formerly served as a long-time program manager at C-L-M before accepting her new job in Marquette. In other member agency staffing news, **Caitlin Nagler** has joined Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development as the new Human Service Policy Specialist. Welcome all!



MCA's Kate White moderates the meeting of State Community Action Associations at the national Community Action Partnership conference in DC. Newly-appointed administrator of the federal Office of Community Services, Clarence Carter, addressed the group in August.

**FLEXPATH: CAPELLA OFFERS A REVOLUTIONARY WAY TO EARN A DEGREE**



Capella's FlexPath learning format offers career-advancing skills and the knowledge with a class schedule entirely controlled by you. FlexPath is personalized, efficient and economical; adapting to the schedules and needs of busy professionals like yourself.

With a self-paced format, you are in control of your course schedule. Pace will determine price and you can complete as many courses as you want, up to 2 simultaneously, each session for one flat fee<sup>1</sup>. Leverage what you already know to move faster through courses and take time on what you need to learn. Support from start to finish with tutors, faculty, and personalized planning from coaches.

<sup>1</sup>Books, supplies, and other fees may apply

**Available FlexPath Programs**

Health Care Administration | Psychology | Business | Information Technology | Education | Nursing

As a staff member of an MCA affiliated agency, you and your immediate family are eligible for significant financial and educational benefits:

- 50% off the first 12-week session toward a degree program for eligible students who start a FlexPath program before January 2019
- \$4,000 grant toward a degree program for eligible students who enroll in a GuidedPath program by January 2019
- Additional 10% tuition discount for all eligible students\*
- Credit for your professional certificates and prior learning
- Free professional development webinars

Capella University is an accredited online university dedicated to providing an exceptional, professionally- aligned education that puts you in the best position to succeed in your field. You can earn certifications, or bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in areas such as information technology, business, human resources, health care, and nursing. Our courses and programs are designed to meet standards established by professional associations and accrediting bodies- so you gain skills and knowledge that are immediately applicable to your career goals.

Learn more at [Capella.edu/MichiganCommunityAction](http://Capella.edu/MichiganCommunityAction)

\*Not combinable with select tuition discounts