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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**

**Day at the Capitol**

MCA will host its annual [Day at the Capitol](#) on May 2. Activities will include legislative visits, presentation of our Community Action Awards, and a complimentary buffet lunch for members, legislators, and staff. If you'd like help setting appointments with legislators, please contact [Mike Shalley](#) or [Robb Kennedy](#) for assistance. Click here to see the event [agenda](#).

**New Chair for MCA Legislative Committee**



Susan Harding, executive director of Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, has been named the new chair of the association's Legislative Committee, following the years of service by Toby Berry of Community Action Agency in Jackson. We thank both for their active involvement in furthering the agenda of Community Action in Michigan!

**Upcoming Events**

Directors Council meetings May 13, 2019 in Okemos and June 24 on Mackinac Island.

2019 CAPLAW National Training Conference June 19-21 in Charlotte, NC

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

**Did you know?**

MCA's Legislative Committee has released Advocacy Agendas for state and federal legislation. See what issues we'll be focusing on throughout 2019-20.

- [State Advocacy Agenda](#)
- [Federal Advocacy Agenda](#)

**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

**Allegan County CAA Housing Project to be Featured at Conference**



Community Action Allegan County (CAAC) is building a house in downtown Allegan MI. The agency began construction in midwinter and will be presenting on the finished project at the [Building Michigan Communities Conference](#), April 29-May 1, if you would like to learn more! MCA is a longtime sponsor of BMCC and participates on behalf of our member agencies engaged in housing and community development.



**Register for Frontline Staff Training**



Time is running out, but there's still room for more at MCA's two upcoming training events for Frontline Staff! Nationally-known CAA and Head Start trainer Jordana Shakoor will present practical and relevant insight and tips on communication skills that will help you work better with clients and co-workers. The training is free, but you must register in advance. The last day to register is April 30th, registration info can be found [here](#).

**CEDAM Seeking Americorps Hosts**



The Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) is soliciting host site applications for their AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA programs.

CEDAM's AmeriCorps State members provide direct financial stability services to clients while VISTA members do behind the scenes work to build capacity within your organization. Learn more about the programs, download the host site application and register for informational webinars [here!](#) Applications are due May 10, 2019.

**Register for Summer Conference!**



MCA-BCAEO 2019 Summer Conference

We're finalizing the schedule for the MCA-BCAEO summer conference to be held July 23-25 at Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls. Hotel rooms are going fast, so move faster than you can and get yourself registered for the biggest Community Action event in Michigan. Registration info [here](#).



**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 course 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\* \*Not combinable with select tuition discounts
- 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.

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LEARN MORE [www.capella.edu/michigancommunityaction](http://www.capella.edu/michigancommunityaction)