

Michigan Community  
**ACTION**  
*Helping People. Changing Lives.*  
**UPDATE**

Volume 4, Issue 24

Oct 19, 2020

### *In This Issue...*

[Announcements](#)

[Upcoming Grants](#)

[Webinars/Trainings](#)

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[MCA Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Legislative Priorities](#)

[CAAs in the News](#)

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### *MCA's Mission*

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

### *Upcoming Events*

## Announcements

### **Dennis McShane appointed as MCA Directors Council Chair**



Chippewa-Luce-Mackinaw Community Action Executive Director Dennis McShane was appointed by MCA Board Chair Jill Sutton to Chair the Michigan Community Action Directors Council. He will complete the remainder term vacated by the retirement of Genesee County Community Action Resource Department Executive Director, Matt Purcell ending September 30, 2021.

The Directors Council Chair presides at all meetings of the Directors Council, and the Chair is responsible for bringing action items from the Directors Council to the Board of Directors. The Council is responsible for advising the MCA Board of Directors about programs and policies affecting Community Action Agencies. The next meeting of the Director's Council is scheduled for Monday, November 9th from 1-3PM.

### **Michigan Community Action Mourns the loss of two Michigan Community Action Heroes, Mr. Edward Revis and Mr. Ronald Calery**

Michigan Community Action staff and members are pausing to recognize the enormous impact and contributions of Edward Revis and Ron Calery, two long-serving former Executive Directors and tireless advocates for the work of Michigan Community Action.

The tributes below for Edward and Ronald only reflect a fraction of the affection and gratitude that so many feel for their work that we are fortunate to continue. Edward and Ron both embodied the spirit of hope and power of community action to improve lives. We are thankful for them and are better for having called them friends.

#### **Statement from Oakland Livingston Community Action on the Passing of Retired CEO, Edward Revis:**

We were saddened to learn of the passing of one of OLHSA's retired CEO's and have included some information about Mr. Revis, who was very bold and full of hope for our community. Mr. Edward Revis served in Community

**Oct 21** - Legislative Committee Meeting 10:00 AM EDT

**Nov 9** - Finance Committee Meeting 10:30 AM EST

**Nov 9** - Directors Council Meeting 1:00 PM EST

**Nov 9** - Board of Directors 3:00 PM EST

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

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**The Michigan Community Action Update is a round-up of important information for members of Michigan Community Action. We may send more frequent updates when important information breaks that impacts the Community Action network. We welcome your input and feedback.**

**Please send your comments and ideas [here](#).**

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### **MCA Officers/Board Members 2019-2021**

**Jill Sutton**  
President  
Mid Michigan CAA

**Michelle Williamson**  
Vice President/Directors Council Chair  
Community Action

**Kerri Duff**  
Secretary Treasurer  
Gogebic Ontonagon CAA

**Toby Berry**  
Urban Officer  
Community Action Agency

**Michelle LaJoie**  
Upper Peninsula Officer  
Community Action Alger-Marquette

**Lisa Evans**  
Lower Peninsula Rural Officer  
Community Action of Allegan County



Action at OLHSA during the 1970s-80s and remained a friend to many in our community.

Many of you knew Edward P. Revis as the second executive director of OLHSA and as a devoted advocate for community action.

OLHSA staff member, Joyce Allen, that has also passed on, is quoted as saying that Edward Revis taught her that "there is no such word as 'can't,'" when he ran the Neighborhood Youth Corps in the 1970s, but when she came back to work for him in the 1980s she described him as a "great man," and our previous CEO, Ron Borngesser, is quoted as saying that Ed Revis "really grew the agency, was its director for 20 years and was a tremendous influence on a lot of people."

Mr. Revis departed this life on Sunday, September 27, 2020. Funeral services were held on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. at Mr. Zion Church, 4900 Maybee Road, Village of Clarkston, Michigan with Pastor Rich Nowik, officiating. You can find Mr. Revis's obituary and online memorial here on the Cobb Funeral Home [website](#).

### **Statement from Chippewa-Luce-Mackinaw Community Action Executive Director Dennis McShane on the Passing of Ron Calery:**

Ron Calery, former CLM ED, passed away on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at the age of 86. As you are no doubt aware, Ron was a larger than life figure and Community Action fixture for many years. I have written the statement below for distribution to the network.



Ronald J. Calery was a founding board member and served as Executive Director of Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency (CLMCAA) for more than 45 years. During his tenure, CLMCAA grew from its roots in the War on Poverty to one of the largest, most comprehensive, human and community service organizations in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Ron was instrumental in founding Michigan Community Action (MCA), the state association of Community Action Agencies. He served as president, vice-president and chairman of the legislative committee and was also active with Community Action's national network.

Ron's career in service to people in poverty began in 1964 as Branch Office Director of Catholic Social Services in Sault Ste. Marie. This work, and the connections Ron made, laid the groundwork for the founding of CLMCAA.

Ron lived an uncompromising life, on his own terms. It was his strong-will and innate sense of justice that drove CLMCAA and its staff to continue the work of serving those in poverty. But Ron did not just run CLMCAA. In many ways, he was CLMCAA. His office door was always open, and he prodded and guided his staff to improve and continue to grow and achieve. Many of those folks are still with the Agency which is a testament to the loyalty and devotion Ron engendered. His employees became a part of his family and he advocated them with the same passion.

His open door also allowed Ron to monitor what was going on in the lobby. He had a drawer filled with snacks and a fridge of juice boxes and waters to provide for children and adults alike. Many times, Ron was the last person to leave the office at night because he was helping sort out a place for a

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

**Doug McFadden**  
CAA Governing Board Officer  
EightCAP

**Mary Ann Neopolitan**  
CAA Governing Board Officer  
Monroe County Opportunity  
Program

**Dennis McShane**  
Directors Council Chair  
Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac  
Community Action Agency

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client to stay for the night, arrange transportation and provide some food to help someone in need.

Ron's spirit will continue to live through CLMCAA, those who worked with him, those who live in the housing he built, his amazing family, and the thousands of lives he touched over decades of advocating for the community he loved.

You can find Mr. Calery's obituary, details about his memorial, and ways to send condolences to his family [here](#).

## Census Count Ended October 15, 2020

Thank you all for your Census efforts! After much deliberation, the Census Bureau ended their data collection efforts on October 15, 2020. If you participated in the Association's Census Program, MCA will be sending links to the final reporting. You have all risen to the challenge to ensure undercounted voices were heard!

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## Upcoming Grants



## Announcing the 2021 AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)-Senior Companion Program (SCP) Expansion Sponsor Competition Notice of Funding Opportunities

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in FGP and SCP help to support vulnerable populations in the community through caring, mentoring, and companion relationships. Grant funding covers expenses to operate an AmeriCorps Seniors FGP and SCP project, such as staffing, supplies, volunteer stipends and expenses, volunteer stations, and training of staff and members.

The AmeriCorps Seniors FGP NOFOs prioritizes grant making in the education focus area. Under this focus area, grants must provide and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged people, especially children and for children with special and/or exceptional need.

The AmeriCorps Seniors SCP NOFO prioritizes grant making in the Healthy Futures focus area. Under this focus area, grants must address health needs within communities by focusing specifically on independent living (aging in place), and access to health care.

Applicants are encouraged to read the full NOFO for complete description on funding priorities. [Find out more](#).

Application Deadline: Applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. ET, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. Successful applicants will be notified by early April 2021.

## Webinars/Trainings



## FACSPRO Videos

FACSPRO end-user training videos on Customer Intake are available in the [MCA Learning Management System](https://mcaac.mclms.net) (mcaac.mclms.net). Contact [mcawebhelp@micommunityaction.org](mailto:mcawebhelp@micommunityaction.org) if you have any trouble logging in. Additional FACSPRO training modules to come soon.

## Wipfli Webinar Coming in November!

Is your agency experiencing frustrations with antiquated accounting software but don't know where to start, what process to follow, and what to focus on? Has the experience of working remotely through the pandemic also created countless problems within your



fiscal department? If so, please consider joining us for a valuable training session. Led by Wipfli LLP, a well-known CPA and consulting firm that works with CAAs across the country, this session will walk through the things to consider when evaluating the need for a finance transformation, specifically including your financial software system and fiscal processes. This 90-minute webinar will be held in November, date to be determined. Please email [Angelia Miller](mailto:Angelia.Miller@wipfli.com) to sign up.

## An Asset for Community Action's Families: Resources at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau



Community Action Partnership: Weds Oct 21, 2 PM ET

We know that COVID-19 has had a major impact on the lives of our most vulnerable families. One area of life that will be affected by the pandemic long after its health and economic impacts have begun to recede is families' personal finances. The pandemic has stressed many families' finances and credit in profound ways. Late rent payments, potential

evictions, accruing utility/water payment balances, credit card debt and other financial challenges have spiraled. What rights do people have? What tools/resources can help Community Action staff as we work with families to provide hope that they can build a solid financial future? The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has many resources available to help, and this webinar will provide an overview of these resources. Learn how!

Presenters: Denise DeVaan, Jill Wheeler, Irene Skricki from CFPB; NASCSP; NCAP [Register](#)

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## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources

### **SAVE THE DATES: Michigan Community Action's Social and Racial Justice Team holding a two part screening of PBS' documentary Driving While Black**

MCA's Social and Racial Justice Team will hold a screening of PBS' new documentary [Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America](#) followed by a facilitated discussion after the conclusion of part 2.

Please mark your calendars for 9:30AM-10:30AM EST Monday October 26

(viewing of Part 1) and 9:30-AM-11:30AM, Monday November 2, (viewing of Part 2 followed by a facilitated discussion). Details on how to join the viewing sessions will be sent out via email and posted to the MCA website. This screening is free and open to all MCA members.



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## COVID-19 Resources

### **How to Build Rapport While Wearing a Face Mask**



Wearing a mask can make it difficult to make and interpret nonverbal social cues. The Society for Human Resource Management recommends these tips for building rapport while wearing a mask:

- Avoid Clear Masks Unless Necessary
- Use Gestures and Body Language
- Practice Active Listening
- Mirror Your Counterpart
- Smile with Your Eyes
- Practice Your "Mask Voice"

Read the full article [here](#).

MCA is continuing to observe CDC guidelines encouraging remote work practices and following local public health guidelines. The office remains physically closed to anyone outside of immediate staff. We are accessible by phone and email during normal business hours Monday through Friday, 8:30AM-5PM EDT.

Be well and stay safe everyone.

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