MCA Network Census Efforts A Success

The MCA Network has played a large role in ensuring historically undercounted populations are counted. Agencies have been sharing information, providing avenues to complete the census, encouraging partnerships & regional collaboration with the many groups working to ensure a complete count. Michigan's current self response rate is 71%, compared the national average of 66%.

In the midst of Covid MCA's network was able to quickly pivot from planned in person events to enhanced social media outreach along with safe socially distant efforts. Many are providing census materials in their food distribution & back to school kits, providing internet to households that don’t have it so they can still complete the census safely from their homes and receive other necessary services, hosting drive thru census events, sharing census instructional videos & training their staff and Board’s on the importance of the census and what it means for funding for the programs they offer.

As of right now, 2020 Census data collection must continue through October 31, 2020. However, appeals will continue and October 31st may or may not end up being ultimately the final deadline. This is ever changing but there’s still time!

Encourage people to complete the census online here: https://2020census.gov/en.html

October is Energy Awareness Month

The Community Action Partnership has designed a toolkit that can be accessed here.

Mark your calendar for these important October dates: Energy Efficiency Day (October 7), and Weatherization Day (October 30)

State of Michigan Budget Released
Last week, the Michigan House Fiscal Agency released the 2020-21 omnibus budget analyses. The breakdown of the budget, so far, includes $17.65 billion for the School Aid Fund and $45.1 billion for the general omnibus budget, totaling $62.75 billion for the coming year. See the summary and detail here.

SMCAA Teams up with local farmers to increase food distribution

The Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency has been busy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization, which was formed to assist people in economic need, has seen changes this summer after partnering with local farmers to offer fresh fruit and vegetables in their food distribution efforts. Read full article.

DOL Issues Revised Rule on FFCRA Leave in Response to Court Ruling

CAAs considering employee requests for paid sick leave and emergency family and medical leave (FMLA) under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) should be aware of a revised rule announced by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) that will take effect on September 16, 2020. The revised rule is a response to an August 3, 2020, ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (the court) that invalidated four parts of the DOL’s rule (See CAPLAW News Flash, Federal Court Strikes Down Certain FFCRA Rules).

Upcoming Grants

FCC’s Rural Digital Opportunity Fund – Due October 22

The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund is the Commission’s next step in bridging the digital divide. On August 1, 2019, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to establish the $20.4 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund to bring high speed fixed broadband service to rural homes and small businesses that lack it. On January 30, 2020, the Commission adopted the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Report and Order, which establishes the framework for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, building on the success of the CAF Phase II auction by using reverse auctions in two phases. The Phase I auction, which is scheduled to begin on October 29, 2020, will target over six million homes and businesses in census blocks that are entirely unserved by voice and broadband with download speeds of at least 25 Mbps. Phase II will cover locations in census blocks that are partially served, as well as locations not funded in Phase I. The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund will ensure that networks stand the test of time by prioritizing higher network speeds and lower latency, so that those benefitting from these networks will be able to use tomorrow’s Internet applications as well as today’s. For more information click here.
Webinars/Trainings

The Board's Role in Setting the Mission and Direction of the CAA

Thursday, October 8 at 2 PM ET | 1 PM CT

Organizational Standard 4.1 states that the Board reviews the organization's mission statement within the last 5 years and ensures that it addresses poverty and the programs and services of the agency align with it. While the minimum requirement is the review, the Board has a fundamental duty to set the mission and direction of the organization. Join this webinar to learn about meeting this standard, as well as leveraging Strategic Planning (Category 6) and promising practices to move beyond compliance. Click here to register for the webinar.

Community Action Regional Race and Poverty Listening Sessions hold Regional Meetings for Community Action Network

The National Community Action Partnership will be hosting regional listening sessions with the Community Action Network. The aim of the regional listening sessions is to listen to the members of our Network by creating an opportunity for local CAA, state, and regional leaders to share stories about their experiences of racial inequities and injustices and their local responses. This will also be a space for Network leaders to share local and state priority needs that will inspire national, regional, state, and local strategies as we work collectively to build resiliency, power, and social and economic mobility for everyone in our communities.

We are seeking maximum feasible participation and strongly encourage CAA staff, board members, policy council, and customers/community members to join us for these sessions.

Please plan to join the session scheduled for your region below:

1) Region 5 (IL, MI, MN, OH, WI, IN) | October 6th | 10:00am-11:30pm ET/9:00am-10:30am CT

or 2) All REGIONS (If you are unable to attend your Regional date above) | October 26th

4pm-5:30pm ET/3pm-4:30pm CT/2pm-3:30pm MT/1pm-2:30pm PT/AKT 12:00pm-1:30pm

To register for the session scheduled for Region 5:

REGISTER (http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=6y5mnelab&oeidk=a07ehbzerpp007cbf471)

Region 5 (IL, MI, MN, OH, WI, IN) | October 6th | 10:00am-11:30pm ET/9:00am-10:30am CT
3 Ways to Motivate Your Team Through an Extended Crisis

As we flip our calendars to yet another month of our large-scale Covid-19 remote-work experiment, it’s no wonder that motivation, performance, and well-being are flagging for many. Months in, managers need new tools to reenergize their teams, to accurately identify and diagnose recurring struggles, and to empathetically help employees address their problems.

A large part of a leader’s responsibility is to provide structure, guidance, and regulation; yet many workplace studies point to the fact that the most important gauge for a healthy work environment isn’t a strong external framework, but whether individuals can foster internal motivation.

Using a well-established theory of motivation called self-determination theory, or SDT, we have identified three main psychological needs that leaders can meet to help their employees stay engaged, confident, and motivated. Read full article.

Diversity and Inclusion Resources

Why we need to end the culture of "Cultural Fit"

By Vu Lee, ED of Nonprofit AF

A few weeks ago, the Building Movement Project released this critical report, Race to Lead: Confronting the Nonprofit Racial Leadership Gap, which has profound implications for our sector. Read the entire 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.