

Michigan Community
ACTION
Helping People. Changing Lives.
WEEKLY UPDATE

Volume 4, Issue 7

March 30, 2020

In This Issue...

[Announcements](#)

[Upcoming Grants](#)

[Webinars/Trainings](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Remote Work Resources](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[MCA Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Legislative Priorities](#)

[CAAs in the News](#)

Follow MCA on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn

Keep up with news coverage and action alerts. Click on the links below to follow MCA today.



MCA's Mission

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

Upcoming Events

Legislative Committee Meeting Apr 15

Leadership Development Institute Apr 20

Finance Committee meeting May 18 at Marquette Alger Regional Educational Service Agency, Marquette.

Board of Directors meeting May 18 at Marquette Alger Regional Educational Service Agency, Marquette.

Directors Council meeting May 18 at Marquette Alger Regional Educational Service Agency, Marquette.

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

We welcome your input and story ideas

The Michigan Community Action Update is a new, weekly round-up of important information for members of Michigan Community Action. We send more frequent updates when important information breaks that impact the Community Action network.

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

MCA Officers/Board Members 2019-2021

Jill Sutton
 President
 Mid Michigan CAA

Michelle Williamson
 Vice President
 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

Melinda Johnson
 At-Large Officer
 Blue Water Community Action

Doug McFadden
 CAA Governing Board Officer
 EightCAP

Matt Purcell
 Directors Council Chair
 GCCARD

Mary Ann Neopolitan
 CAA Governing Board Officer
 Monroe County Opportunity Program

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES – Was this e-newsletter forwarded to you? Sign up for email updates from Michigan Community Action, your statewide network of anti-poverty agencies [here](#).

Announcements

Important Policy Updates from the Bureau of Community Action & Economic Opportunity waiving asset testing and notarized signatures.

- Please click [here](#) to access a PDF version of the 200 Series Community Services Policy Manual.



No April fools, April 1 is Census day.

You can complete the Census online or by phone. Checkout the 9 census questions here: www.MIVoiceCounts.org

MCA Day at the Capitol has been canceled (originally scheduled for April 30), however, the recognition of Community Action Award recipients (Client, Volunteer and Legislator of the Year) will still occur using alternate means. Stay tuned for developments.

Michigan Community Action Greatest Needs Fund: Michigan Community Action is partnering with DTE Foundation to raise emergency funds for the 28 Community Action Agencies that serve Michiganders in poverty in every county of our state. The DTE Foundation is generously doubling donations up to \$5,000 made by midnight Monday April 6, 2020. Donors can choose to make a gift earmarked for a specific Community Action agency or contribute to a general fund by going to: <https://mcac.memberclicks.net/donate>

Upcoming Grants

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the MI E-Grants system for the TSH-2021-Transitional Supportive Housing - 2021.
 - For application instructions, please visit <http://egramsmi.com/mdhhs> and click the "About EGrAMS" link. The "Competitive Application Instructions" manual will provide detailed instructions on completing an application in the MI E-Grants system. Request for Proposal documents can be found by clicking "Search Grants" and searching for "Competitive" grant opportunities..

Webinars/Trainings

- National Council of Nonprofits Webinar - Federal Coronavirus Relief Bills: What Do They Mean for Nonprofits? Register [here](#)
- NCAF held a Zoom meeting "Conversation with the Department of Energy" on Weds, March 25th. If you were not able to attend the meeting you will find the recording [here](#).
- In response to requests from the network, **CAPLAW will be conducting a second webinar on the new paid leave requirements next Tuesday, March 31st, from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm EDT.** "We will cover substantially the same material as we did in yesterday's webinar. We will also discuss any additional guidance issued by the Department of Labor or IRS." Register [here](#)

COVID-19

*See also webinar section for COVID-19 resources

- The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)** requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The Department of Labor's (Department) Wage and Hour Division (WHD) administers and enforces the new law's paid leave requirements. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Get more resources here:
 - See this HR Compliance bulletin provided by Michigan Group Benefits – titled "Family First Coronavirus Response Act" <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>
- While staying at home and social distancing are critical to reducing the spread of COVID- 19, it's also important to take care of your mental health. Check out this blog from the AICPA on 10 Ways to stay social at a distance:
 - <https://blog.aicpa.org/2020/03/10-ways-to-stay-social-at-a-distance.html#sthash.ZEe4cq5V.dpbs>
- Events are postponed, schools closed, church services cancelled, office desks empty, gym memberships languishing. But literally every single one of those things has gone virtual. Social media is where community is happening right now. Here are eight ways to be there:
 - <https://www.mrss.com/lab/what-to-do-right-now-social-media/>

Remote Work Resources

New Horizons Learning Centers has created some training videos focused on the sudden changes in how many individuals work in the current pandemic. The videos include tips for both remote working staff and their management team.

- Effectively Managing Remote Teams: <https://youtu.be/8qA6mzWD1Js>
- Organizational Skills When Working From Home: <https://youtu.be/I9Vr1QjrRMA>
- Strategies to Become a Better Remote Worker: <https://youtu.be/S1cV3uFZDjA>

For those who are new to using virtual meeting software (or cloud software) there are training videos to help get you more comfortable with the setup and control of a virtual meeting thru different platforms.

- GoToMeeting: <https://youtu.be/BAiGOudfCXU>
- Zoom: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKpRxBfeD1kEM_11ld3N_XI77fKdzSxe
- Microsoft Office 365: <https://support.office.com/en-us/office-training-center>

Techsoup Nonprofit resources for Remote Work During the COVID-19 Outbreak

- <https://blog.techsoup.org/posts/nonprofit-resources-for-remote-work-during-the-covid-19-outbreak>
- As companies continue to implement full-time remote work policies due to COVID-19, here are some smart ways to keep your employees engaged in their jobs. <https://www.uschamber.com/co/run/human-resources/keeping-remote-employees-engaged>

A little fun:



We're here for you: We've made a number of changes at MCA so that we can continue to serve you and the network, including closing the physical MCA office and making arrangements for MCA staff to work remotely since March 16, 2020. All direct phone lines, as well as the general line have been forwarded to mobile phones, and staff are all accessible by email as well.

Thank you. Be well and stay safe, everyone.