

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

Volume 4, Issue 10

April 20, 2020

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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

### **Greatest Needs Matching Fundraiser Update**



As of midnight, April 16th **\$102,538** in funds were raised for the Michigan Community Action Greatest Needs Fund matching campaign in partnership with the DTE Foundation. Thank you to all of the agencies that made phone calls to donors, emailed their lists and posted to their social media about this opportunity – your efforts contributed to the success of this campaign. Each agency will be contacted by the association with follow up information soon.

### **Economic Impact Payments**

Payments have started to roll out via direct deposit and the IRS has made available a [new portal for non-filers](#) to enter their information.

### **April is Financial Literacy Month**

Here are 3 tips to get you started from our friends at Mutual of America

1. Get Up to Speed with Financial Information. Choose a few reliable content sources online that provide easy-to-understand and helpful insights about financial literacy and money. Resources on these subjects, as well as budgeting worksheets, are also available at [federalreserveeducation.org](#) and [mymoney.gov](#).

2. Crunch the Numbers Using Our Online Calculators. Spend a few minutes taking our [Investment Questionnaire](#). This questionnaire can help you explore your investment experience, risk preferences, and help you develop your investment strategy. Also, try the [Retirement Savings](#) and [Retirement Income](#) Calculators to help you assess where you are with your savings goals.

**Apr 20** - Leadership Development Institute

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

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

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

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

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**The Michigan Community Action Update is a new, weekly 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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## **Community Action in the News**

### **Older Americans Learn to Cope with Isolation**

TRAVERSE CITY — The social life of Rose Sickie, 82, is on hiatus thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not long ago, her social life was thriving thanks in part to the Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network. [Read more](#)

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

**Jill Sutton**  
President  
Mid Michigan CAA

3. Take Advantage of Our Personalized Service. Connect with your local Mutual of America Participant Account Representative by phone, email or in person to answer your questions about the various financial concepts that relate to your retirement savings. They can also emphasize the value of saving for your future and help you assess your retirement readiness as you plan for a financially secure retirement.

For more information, contact your local [Mutual of America](#) representative today.

## **Census Timelines Have Changed**

COVID-19 has caused many changes to Census deadlines. Please check the Census Bureau website for updated timelines.

Michigan's self-response rate:54.7%, currently 3rd in the United States, National response rate is 48.1% While you can't hold in person events right now, consider hosting a Facebook virtual event.

## **April is Fair Housing Month**

[HUD](#) has great resources for fair housing news, to learn more about fair housing and how COVID-19 is affecting housing.

## **Self-Employed, Other Newly Eligible Workers Can Apply for Unemployment on Monday, April 13, \$600 Federal Payments Also Begin**

Michigan's self-employed workers, gig workers, 1099-independent contractors and low-wage workers affected by COVID-19 can apply for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) beginning Monday, April 13 at 8 a.m. Under the federal CARES Act, workers on state unemployment have already begun receiving the set \$600 federal weekly payment in addition to their state benefit amount. Michigan is one of the first states to begin sending the \$600 payment. Workers who were previously denied benefits should log back into your unemployment account for next steps. These steps will also be emailed to workers.

## **More Families Eligible for SNAP Benefits**

The food assistance will go to Michigan families with students between the ages of 5 – 18 who are enrolled in the Michigan Department of Education program for students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. This includes families currently receiving Food Assistance Program benefits as well as those not currently enrolled in the program. This is expected to reach approximately 895,000 students.

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## **Upcoming Grants**

### **Emergency Response Grant Opportunities**

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness is making available small grants to agencies responding to COVID-19. The deadline to apply is Monday, April 20 at 5:00 pm. Download the [RFP and Application](#) and check out our [regularly updated list](#) of local funding opportunities.

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## **Webinars/Trainings**

**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

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## 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](#).

## Virtual Peer to Peer Fundraising Training Event to be Held on April 23 FREE

Do you know how to make virtual peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns and events a success? Do you know what it takes to transition in-person events to virtual events? How to improve the impact of your campaigns? What's working for other nonprofits?

Register for this FREE event [here](#) to find out more:

## NCAF Introduces Community Action Together Video Series

Each [episode](#) will feature David Bradley in conversation with a Community Action Agency (CAA) from around the country to hear more about their agency's community and response to the current health and economic crises.

## COVID-19 Weekly Dialog with Michigan Homeless State Partners

You are invited to join members of MCAH, MDHHS, MSHDA, and CSH for a weekly call: for important COVID-19 updates. Register [online](#).

Watch the recording of the [April 15 call](#) and access the [meeting notes](#)

View materials shared on the call, including [MSHDA's CARES Act update](#) and MDHHS' updated [Guidance for Homeless Shelters](#)

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## COVID-19

\*\*Some items will be found under Webinar/Trainings

## USDA's COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today unveiled a one-stop-shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic on April 13, 2020. [The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) is a first-of-its-kind resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address this pandemic.

USDA has taken many immediate actions to assist farmers, ranchers, producers, rural communities, and rural-based businesses and organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on these actions, visit [www.usda.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usda.gov/coronavirus).

## When and to Whom Does an Employer Have a Duty to Report a COVID-19 Case?

In certain circumstances, employers may have a legal duty under OSHA or common law to share limited details of a workplace exposure to a communicable disease with employees, clients, and other third parties. For example, if an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, depending on the circumstances, an employer may have a duty to provide some notice to individuals who recently came into contact with the employee and to take other reasonable measures designed to prevent further transmission of the illness. Employers should take steps to ensure such communications avoid the disclosure of the employee's name or any other personally identifiable information. Generally, this information is not subject to HIPAA's privacy

rule, but may be protected as confidential information under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This [link](#) provides more information and you should also follow the guidance of your local counties and health departments.

### **Michigan Launches New Mental Health Line for People Dealing with Trauma from COVID-19**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) launched a statewide mental health hotline for Michigan residents Monday. The line will operate seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. at 888-PEER-753 (888-733-7753).

It is intended to serve individuals living with persistent mental health challenges including anxiety, depression and trauma.

### **Director Donofrio Gives Update on Unemployment Uystem and Implementation of Federal CARES Act**

Labor and Economic Opportunity Director Jeff Donofrio and Unemployment Insurance Agency Director Steve Gray gave updates on unemployment system and implementation of the federal CARES Act on April 14, 2020. [YouTube](#)

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## **Remote Work Resources**

### **Are Pets the Best Co-Workers?**

Respondents to a survey by Rover.com thinks so. Here are 5 ways working at home with your pets makes you happier.

- 86% of pet parents said spending time with their pets helps alleviate stress from today's news topics like the coronavirus, economy, and politics.
- 70% said working from home helps them get more exercise by walking or playing with their pet.
- About 67% said they feel happier working from home because they have the company of their pet.
- 54% said they feel less anxious because they have their pet with them.
- 40% of pet parents said they turn to their dog or cat to help relieve stress. That's compared to 23% who said they turn to their significant other and 13% who said they rely on a family member.

**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.**

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