

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

# WEEKLY UPDATE

Volume 4, Issue 11

April 27, 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

### **May Meetings**

The May 18, 2020 MCA Board of Directors meeting in Marquette is canceled, however there will be a virtual Director's Council meeting from 12pm-1pm that day. Meeting details will be sent in May.

### **EightCAP Announces New Leadership**

EightCAP Governing Board has approved an employment contract with John Van Nieuwenhuyzen as "Agency President" effective Friday, April 24, 2020, for an 18-month period. John has been serving as "Interim President" since the departure of Daniel Petersen back in January 2020. John has provided the Agency with valuable leadership and guidance during the COVID-19 situation that is devastating our Nation. Please join us in congratulating John on his appointment and welcome him back to community action!

### **Veterans Affairs recipients to receive automatic economic impact payments**

The IRS has announced recipients of Veterans Affairs benefits were added to the list of individuals who will automatically receive economic impact payments. [Read more.](#)

### **The COVID-19 crisis is leading to lasting change in the workplace, and it's not all bad**

It helps to look at the positive these days. Here are 11 ways the COVID-19 is leading to positive changes in the workplace and our lives. [Read more.](#)

### **The IRS has posted 67 FAQs on the employer tax credits for paid sick and family leave enacted in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

[Read more.](#)

### **Beware of COVID-19 Scams. Our auditors at Yeo & Yeo share the top scams and how to avoid them**

Some dishonest people have already turned the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to their advantage by preying on unsuspecting victims and exploiting their fears.

**May 18** - Finance Committee meeting is now virtual. Details forthcoming.

**May 18** - Board of Directors meeting CANCELED.

**May 18** - Directors Council meeting is now an informal virtual meeting. 12 pm -1 pm EDT. Details forthcoming

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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## **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

Top categories of COVID-19-related fraud complaints include:

- Reports regarding cancellations and refunds for travel and vacation plans
- Problems with online shopping
- Mobile texting scams, and
- Government and business imposter scams

[Read more.](#)

## **MI Treasury Releases Guidance on State Tax Filing Extension**

The notice from April 17 outlines further detail related to the extensions of annual return filing and payment date for calendar and fiscal filers, date for application and payment for extension requests and estimated payments date for Q1 and Q2 2020. [Read more.](#)

## **#GivingTuesdayNow Will Take Place Tuesday, May 5, 2020**

Giving Tuesday has announced that [#GivingTuesdayNow](#), a global day of giving and unity, is set to take place on May 5, 2020 as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. Visit the Community Action Partnership's [Crisis Communications webpage](#) has some great resources to help support your agency's efforts, including customizable memes.

## **Housing Update from the National Low Income Housing Coalition**

The CARES Act provides a temporary moratorium on evictions for most residents of federally subsidized apartments, including those supported by HUD, USDA or Treasury (Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments) as well a moratorium on filings for evictions for renters in homes covered by federally-backed (FHA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac) mortgages for 120 days after enactment. NLIHC has created a [searchable database and map](#) of multifamily properties covered under the federal moratoriums to help renters know if they are protected. While the database is not yet exhaustive of all covered properties, NLIHC will continue to update it as new data become available.

<https://nlihc.org/eviction-and-foreclosure-moratoriums>

For additional housing support services visit:

<https://evictionlab.org/why-eviction-matters/#affordable-housing-crisis>

[www.justshelter.org](http://www.justshelter.org)

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## **Upcoming Grants**

### **Grants Promote Racial Equity and Economic Mobility in the Great Lakes Region**

The mission of the Joyce Foundation is to improve quality of life, promote safe and healthy communities, and build a just society in the Great Lakes region. The focus of the Foundation's grant-making is on advancing racial equity and economic mobility for the next generation in the Great Lakes region, specifically the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The Foundation's program areas include the following:

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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Culture, Democracy, Education and Economic Mobility, Environment, and Gun Violence Prevention and Justice Reform. (Several program areas have specific geographic limitations within the Great Lakes region.) Letters of inquiry should be submitted at least six to eight weeks prior to the proposal deadline. The upcoming proposal deadline is August 5, 2020. Visit the Foundation's website for detailed guidelines for each of the program areas.

[Read more and apply.](#)

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## Webinars/Trainings

### **Policies in Practice webinar series hosted by CAPLAW**

- Procurement Policy, Thursday April 30, 1:00 PM EDT [Register here](#).
  - Conflict of Interest Policy, May 14, 1:00 PM EDT [Register here](#).
  - Record Retention Policy, June 4, 1:00 PM EDT [Register here](#).
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## COVID-19

### **Why many "essential" workers get paid so little, according to experts**

There are four key reasons, economists say, including an entrenched power differential. [Read more.](#)

### **The state of Michigan has launched a website that provides mental health resources for free during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced The Stay Home, Stay Mindful website was launched through a partnership with [Headspace](#), an organization that specializes in mindfulness and meditation, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

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## Remote Work Resources

### **Keep Your Team Going: Make Telecommuting Easy**

With the right technology setup and tools, employees can work from home seamlessly. Learn how to create an efficient home workspace. [Read more.](#)

**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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