

Michigan Community
ACTION
Helping People. Changing Lives.
WEEKLY UPDATE

Volume 4, Issue 19

June 22, 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.

Announcements

OLHSA has issued a statement on racial equity and their commitment to the Community Action Promise.

A local agency has issued a statement on racism, community action and how it will be a catalyst for change.

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency says amidst these trying times where families are coping with overwhelming grief, fear and economic hardships; they continue to face another more insidious epidemic - racism. The Agency says they've heard personal stories of community members of color having to make tough decisions to survive the COVID-19 pandemic all while continuing to endure racism's ongoing adverse impacts. [Read more.](#)



Connect Detroit



Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

Connect Detroit awarded \$50,000 grant to help bring grow Detroit's young talent workforce readiness program online for summer 2020.

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency's CARES Relief & Recovery Services funds online platform and technology to keep youth safe and employed during COVID-19. [PDF](#)

Eviction Diversion and Rental Assistance

Governor Whitmer extended the state eviction moratorium through June 30 and is [indicating](#) that she is going to sign the [supplemental budget](#) passed by the legislature this week that dedicates \$60 million from the federal Coronavirus Relief Funds towards rental assistance and eviction diversion.

Census Contracts to be Extended

If you have a contract with MCA for Census 2020 work, the contracts will be extended until October 31, 2020. MCA will follow up with your agency for contract extensions the week of June 22, 2020.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources

Upcoming Events

July 15 - Legislative Committee
10:30 AM EDT.

July 27 - Finance Committee
10:30 AM EDT

July 27 - Directors Council 1:00
PM EDT

July 27 - Board of Directors 3:00
PM EDT

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

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](#).

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

A Note from MCA: CAAs and organizations of every industry may have staff, board members and volunteers who are at various stages of grappling with current events connected to racial justice and inequality, the impact on the anti-poverty work of Community Action. MCA will share various resources like this that can help CAAs engage with these difficult issues.

Michigan Non-Profit Association offers Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Assessment

MNA developed the Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Assessment - a tool designed to help nonprofit organizations assess their current status and future progress on the journey to make these values a reality. [Purchase options here](#).

The Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation

The leadership of the American Public Health Association are featured in a webinar series about racism's impact on health and disparities. Includes a free downloadable, webinar guide, three-part series webinar recordings, and slides. [More information](#).

DEI News

- [Virtual CAP releases updated national list of Community Action Statewide Association Statements on Injustice](#)
- [Michigan lawmakers want to declare racism a public health crisis](#)
- [Is racism a public health crisis? Some community health leaders think so](#)
- [Ingham leaders pledge to label racism a public health crisis](#)

Webinars/Trainings

Community Action Network COVID-19 Town Hall. Hosted by Community Action Partnership. Join Community Action National Partners CAP, CAPLAW and NASCSP for an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the network. NCAF will participate as schedules allow. June 25 at 3 PM EDT. [Register](#)

Making a Clean Energy Future an Equitable One. Hosted by Community Action Partnership. June 29, 2020 at 2:00 PM EDT. [Register](#)

Voter Registration & Community Action: Rules, Regulations, and Effective Strategies for Voter Engagement. Hosted by Community Action Partnership. July 16, 2020 3:00 PM. [Register](#)

Eviction Diversion: Guidance for HARAs and CAAs. Hosted by MSHDA-mandatory for HARA (Housing Assessment and Resources Agencies). Each HARA must have a staff member attend June 23, 2020 at 10:30 EDT. [Register](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: MSHDA Eviction Diversion Webinar - On June 11 MSHDA, MDHHS, and MCAH co-hosted a webinar featuring partners from Michigan eviction diversion programs. You can now access the [recording](#), [presentation](#), [Q&A document](#), and [list of district court contacts](#).

Upcoming Grants

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

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Grants for Grassroots Groups Addressing Environmental Justice

The Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) is a leading resource for grassroots environmental activism, with a vision for clean, green neighborhoods nationwide. CHEJ's Small Grants Program helps grassroots, community organizing groups build leadership, increase capacity, and provide training and education. The program is designed to especially reach people from low-wealth communities and communities of color who are impacted by environmental harms. Grant activities can include board development, membership outreach, and fundraising efforts. Grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$20,000 depending on the size of the applying organization. The upcoming application deadline is July 17, 2020. Visit the [CHEJ website](#) to download the Small Grants Program guidelines.

COVID-19

EEOC Gives Thumbs-Down to Mandatory Antibody Testing for Employees

As businesses evaluate whether and how to reopen their doors, some employers have considered mandatory antibody testing for employees. "Not so fast," said the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) recently. Yesterday, the EEOC declared that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits mandatory antibody testing as a condition for employees' return to the workplace. [Read more.](#)

Nonprofit Network offers COVID-19 Reopening Toolkit from Lenawee County [PDF](#)

Remote Work Resources

Take care of your staff's mental health during COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make work from home a necessity, not everyone is cut out for working alone at home. Some need the physical interaction. Not seeing everyone in the office makes it more difficult for people to notice if someone is struggling. Here are some steps to take care of your staff's mental health:

- Communicate Clearly
- Check in
- Listen well
- Encourage self-care
- Emphasize that leadership supports mental health

Follow [this link](#) for more information.

New to Working Remotely? These Resources Can Help

New to working from home? These courses provide work/life hacks that can help you create a productive remote work environment, optimize your schedule for peak productivity (including meaningful breaks to help you avoid burnout), and show up the way you want to on video conference calls. [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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