



Michigan Community
ACTION
Helping People. Changing Lives.

UPDATE

TO STRENGTHEN AND INSPIRE
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES TO
CHAMPION SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY AND
TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.

Volume 5, Issue 1

Jan 12, 2021

In This Issue...

Announcements | Webinars/Trainings | COVID-19 Resources | Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources

Announcements

Upcoming Events



MSHDA Accepting nominations until Feb 12, 2021 for the Duvernay Award: Excellence in Community Development/ Affordable Housing

The Terrence R Duvernay Award is recognized as a pinnacle for any career in the affordable housing and community development industry.

This award commemorates the lifelong commitment of this past Executive Director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). As the namesake of this annual leadership award, Duvernay has the distinction of creating some of the most successful and innovative housing finance programs in the United States. His contributions to the industry fostered significant growth in affordable housing and community development for the state of Michigan.

Jan 13 - Training
Committee Meeting
10:00 AM EST

Jan 19 - Five Generations in the
Workplace: Closing the
Generational Gap
12:00-2:00 PM EST

Jan 20 - Legislative Committee
Meeting
10:00 AM EST

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

The Michigan Community Action Update is a 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.

In obtaining this honor, the recipient receives a cash award that they direct to the housing nonprofit organization of their choice, as well as recognition for their hard work.

The Duvernay Award Committee is requesting you to distribute the form to your members and peers for consideration. The committee is also suggesting you think about nominating a person from your organization to be considered for the award. The form contains a description of the award and application timelines.

[PDF of application](#)

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps the most vulnerable American families afford their home energy bills.

LIHEAP helps keep our neighbors safe and warm in their homes.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey

neuac

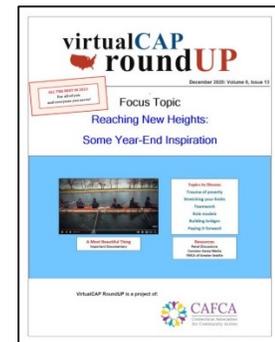
An Open Letter to Congressional Appropriations Committees In Support of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Dear House and Senate Appropriators:

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a critical, life-saving program that targets and serves the most vulnerable — including older Americans, individuals with disabilities, and children. The majority of these families and individuals survive on less than \$20,000 per year; many are on fixed incomes. Their pay does not increase when the cost of heating and cooling their homes increases. Living at the lowest levels of poverty, recipients of these funds make choices every day between food, medicine, or utilities – choices that have been exacerbated by the ongoing economic repercussions of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

We welcome your input and feedback.

Please send your comments and ideas [here](#).



VirtualCAP RoundUP: A Unique Community Action Network Resource

Start the New Year by taking a look at the [December issue](#) of VirtualCAP RoundUP. MCA provides each member agency in Michigan with a subscription to RoundUP. A special Focus Topic starts off each issue followed by short articles on **Successful CAA Funding Initiatives, Innovative CAA Programs, Community Action News** and more. Links are included for source material and useful resources.

[Request assistance](#) if needed with your agency's username and password to access the current issue and archives. Each issue is published online and PDF download.

"RoundUP energizes our staff and we can't wait for the next issue to arrive! Great information about the innovative work of

[Please read the rest of this letter and click here to see if your organization has signed the letter already. If they have not, please sign on.](#)

CAAs that helps advance our agency."

Webinars/Trainings



The MCA Social and Racial Justice Team Series is a set of training and learning resources for community action agencies and anti-poverty activists. We are committed to fulfilling the promise of Community Action to serve all people by deepening our learning about anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion and taking action. Trainings are free for Michigan Community Action members; non-members are encouraged to attend for a suggested donation of \$25 per training to the Michigan Community Action Greatest Needs Fund. <https://micommunityaction.org/campaigns/greatest-needs-fund/>

To register for these trainings to be held at 12-2 PM EST on the dates below please visit: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NGkWAN1Q19aKJ03Y17msaw

- **Tuesday, January 19, 2021 - Five Generations in the Workplace: Closing the Generational Gap**
 - Working Side by Side, team members and partners will gain a better understanding of the five generations in today's workplace and how working together, can create a strong cross-generational winning team (where everyone wins). Open Dialogue & group/table exercise will take place.
- **Tuesday, February 16, 2021 - Identifying & Removing Biases, Stereotypes & Isms in the Workplace**
 - Discussion will take place on how Biases, Isms and Stereotypes can create a strong (negative) impact on the overall culture at the organization in our communities and for the clients served. Team Members/partners will take part in meaningful dialogue to help them to identify and remove their own biases and stereotypes.
- **Tuesday, March 16, 2021 - Identifying & Removing Microaggressions in the Workplace**
 - Team Members/partners will learn what microaggressions are and the big impact these (left unchecked) can have on the entire organization and the clients served. In-depth discussion and a group/table exercise will take place centered on how to identify and remove micro-aggressive behaviors and how to replace with microaffirmations, which can help shift the culture of the organization – creating a space and place where everyone feels affirmed, valued and welcomed.
- **Tuesday, April 20, 2021 - Managing Conflict in the Workplace**
 - Team members will learn the top Five Conflicts in the workplace and how to resolve conflicts/disputes using the Conflict Management process. This course is designed to assist HR professionals and leaders/management in identifying, addressing and removing conflict in the workplace. Group discussion and a Case Study will be presented.

REGISTER TODAY - MCA Social Racial Justice Team is hosting a Generations in the Workplace event on January 19th from 12 – 2 EST.

Working Side by Side, team members and partners will gain a better understanding of the five generations in today's workplace and how working together, can create a strong cross generational winning team (where everyone wins).

Open Dialogue & group/table exercise will take place. Register here: [Monthly Social and Racial Justice Team Series Webinar - Michigan Community Action \(micommunityaction.org\)](https://micommunityaction.org)

Public Good App House: Apps that Address Food Insecurity | TechSoup | February 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM (PST)

About this event

Food insecurity affects about a quarter of the world's population and more than 80 percent of US food banks are serving more people now than they did a year ago.

How can we apply technology towards these challenges? Join the next Public Good App House demo event and discover four apps that address food insecurity.

[Register for this event.](#)

Grant Writing in 2021: What's Different and What's the Same? | TechSoup | February 18, 2021 at 11:00 (PST)

2020 was quite a year! There was not much "business as usual" and we all had to adapt to new ways of doing things. Nonprofit organizations were significantly impacted by the epidemic and not only suffered from a lack of funds, but also saw an increase in people needing services. How do we move forward in our grant writing strategies in 2021? During this webinar, we will discuss trends in giving, what has changed, and what remains the same so we can weather the storm and continue providing important, mission-driven services.

COVID-19 Resources



Stimulus Package Summary

Federal lawmakers have passed a \$900 billion stimulus package bringing needed relief from this pandemic to families and businesses around the country. Below are the details of the package, please use the links provided for additional information.

Direct payments to Individuals

Individuals making up to \$75,000 a year will receive a payment of \$600, while couples making up to \$150,000 will receive \$1,200, in addition to \$600 per child, payments could be received in accounts as early as December 29. [Learn more](#)

Jobless benefits

Jobless workers will get an extra \$300 per week in federal cash through March 14. The legislation also extends employment benefits to self-employed individuals, gig workers and those who've exhausted their state benefits. [Learn more](#)

Covid-19 Testing

Nearly \$50 billion for the purchase of vaccines, vaccine distribution and aide to states with testing, tracing and Covid-19 mitigation programs.

Additional assistance

\$13 billion to boost food stamp benefits by 15 percent. \$13 billion in direct payments to farmers and ranchers to help cover pandemic-related losses. The federal eviction ban has been extended through the end of January.

Small Business PPP

A total of \$325 billion was included for small business: \$284 billion in loans through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), \$20 billion for businesses in low-income communities, \$15 billion for struggling live-audience businesses—movie theaters and museums.

EEOC Issues Vaccination Guidance for Employers

The federal agency responsible for enforcing workplace anti-discrimination laws, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), has added a section on vaccinations to its [guidance addressing compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The section answers questions employers may have as they consider rolling out vaccine-related policies for their workplaces. This Legal Update provides a summary of some of the major points in the guidance, but we encourage CAAs to review it themselves.

You may also want to register for this free webinar from Ballard Spahr for 1.13.21 12PM ET

[Vaccines in the Workplace: What to Do?](#)

Click here to learn if the 2nd Round of PPP funding can help your Nonprofit and additional flexibility in how to use the funds.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources



5th annual National Day of Racial Healing

Tuesday, January 19th is the National Day of Racial Healing. Join us in observing this important day.

Tuesday, January 19th is the National Day of Racial Healing. Join us in observing this important day. Find links to virtual events & toolkits [here](#).

Join MCA in creating a Racial Healing and Racial Equity Proclamation, find the template and other toolkit information [here](#).

MCA Officers/Board Members 2019-2021

Jill Sutton

President
Mid Michigan CAA

Toby Berry

Urban Officer
Community Action Agency

Lisa Evans

Lower Peninsula Rural
Officer
Community Action of
Allegan County

Michelle Williamson

Vice President
Community Action

Michelle LaJoie

Upper Peninsula Officer
Community Action Alger- Marquette

Melinda Johnson

At-Large Officer
Blue Water Community Action

Dennis McShane

Directors Council Chair Chippewa-Luce-
Mackinac Community Action Agency

Kerri Duff

Secretary Treasurer
Gogebic Ontonagon CAA

Doug McFadden

CAA Governing Board
Officer
EightCAP

Mary Ann Neopolitan

CAA Governing Board
Officer
Monroe County
Opportunity Program

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 ET.

Be well and stay safe everyone. .

