

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016/2017:

Michigan Community Action: *Advocating for people and progress*



COMMUNITY ACTION HELPS:



HOMEOWNERS

USE HOUSING SERVICES

CAAs help people become self-sufficient with housing programs, such as **weatherization assistance** and **homebuyer education** classes. CAAs also help prevent homelessness with **foreclosure prevention** and **temporary shelter**.



COMMUNITIES

GET EMERGENCY AID

CAAs in Michigan feed thousands of people every year through **nutrition services**. CAAs also provide **transportation** and **assistance with heating bills** to people in emergency situations.



FAMILIES

REACH EDUCATIONAL GOALS

CAAs teach families to **stretch their household budget**, **manage expenses** and **effectively use charitable programs** for food, housing and home repair. CAAs also help thousands of Veterans and older adults stay independent and live in their own homes.



PARTICIPANTS

BUILD BETTER FUTURES

CAAs work to alleviate the causes of poverty in Michigan by providing **temporary assistance and services** to people struggling. CAAs **coach people** to **develop sustainable skills** that will help them on the road to self sufficiency.

Michigan Community Action, the state association for the 29 Community Action Agencies in Michigan, kept issues affecting people in poverty front and center throughout the year with advocacy, events and important outcomes. Community Action Agencies in Michigan helped **83,500 families** and **170,000 individuals**, leveraging **\$359 million** in federal, state, local and private funds to provide lifesaving services in all 83 counties.

Joint efforts support low-income households

MCA distributed a \$9 million **Michigan Energy Assistance Program** grant through the state's 29 Community Action Agencies to provide heating assistance to 10,268 qualified households in all 83 counties.

Services included bill payment assistance, budgeting and energy use education. The grant helped demonstrate Community Action's "wraparound" for self-sufficiency services, not only addressing the immediate situation, but also supplying the training, education and other supports to help families avoid similar crises in the future.



U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Zeeland) meets with CTKMW members. (MCA's Chere Coleman is third from right.)

Also on the energy front, MCA continued its longtime participation in the **Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm** (CTKMW), a group of nonprofit organizations and state energy providers that develop strategies for helping families avoid shutoffs or dangerous conditions.

CTKMW members met with federal and state lawmakers in 2017 to promote federal programs such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and their importance to low-income constituents back home.

MCA leader named to National Energy Board



Coleman

Chere Coleman, MCA program and policy director, was elected to the board of the **National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition** (NEUAC). Coleman assists its efforts to raise awareness of low-income households' energy needs and foster private-public partnerships with NEUAC.



People rally at the Capitol to end homelessness.

In July 2017, MCA co-sponsored a "How Housing Changed My Life" rally with Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness at the state Capitol.

Stories from people who had experienced homelessness and had been able to secure permanent housing through federal and state programs helped demonstrate the value of investments in affordable housing.

Events offer learning, recognition, networking

Volunteers, clients honored at Capitol event

Community Action leaders from across the state met with legislators during MCA's annual Day at the Capitol event May 9. Five agency volunteers and five citizens who succeeded in moving out of poverty were recognized for contributions and achievements during the awards ceremony.



Sen. Schmidt accepts award from John Stephenson, NMCAA executive director.

MCA recognized **State Sen. Wayne Schmidt** (R-Traverse City) as Legislator of the Year for his involvement with Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency and presented its first Community Services Award to **Central Michigan University Public Radio** for the station's *Warm Hearts, Warm Homes* campaign to raise funds for energy assistance.

Conference hosted international activist

Homelessness advocate **Mark Horvath** led the list of featured speakers at MCA's 2017 Summer Conference at Crystal Mountain Resort. The founder of digital storytelling platform *Invisible People* stressed the importance of changing the narrative of homelessness and correcting the flaws in programs that help people experiencing homelessness.

Partnerships help with jobs

Unemployed men and women in Michigan found entry-level and skilled trades jobs such as carpentry, roofing and construction labor thanks to a partnership between MCA and **Skilled to Build Michigan Foundation**.

As work requirements for able-bodied Michigan adults to receive food assistance went back into effect on Jan. 1, 2017, MCA's member agencies encouraged area job seekers to pursue the approximately 5,000 construction jobs that were unfilled in the state.

Radio campaign helps warm homes



Hundreds of mid-Michigan households received heating assistance thanks to a collaboration between MCA and **Central Michigan University Public Radio**. The Warm Hearts, Warm Homes campaign raised \$68,000 in donations from Consumers Energy, Isabella Bank and radio listeners to distribute to households across central and northern Michigan.

MCA 2016 Financials

Revenue

Federal, state, private grant programs	\$20,918,113
Investments, contributions, misc.	\$525,946
Total revenue	\$21,444,059

Expenses

Salaries, wages, overhead, etc.	\$21,370,675
---------------------------------	---------------------

For more information visit:
<https://mcac.memberclicks.net/mca-reports>

Professional credentials achieved

CAA staff members may complete a Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (NCRT) credential to help their agencies meet ROMA standards. To date, MCA's statewide network includes 10 NCRT-designated staff members who are available to provide peer-to-peer training and support to agencies seeking to improve their performance.

Michigan added six CAA staffers to the ranks of leaders that have achieved the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) credential, indicating the highest level of knowledge of Community Action history, best practices and ethics.

Training helps create leaders

In 2017 MCA sponsored its fifth cohort of Leadership Development Institute students, a nine-month-long curriculum tailored to the needs of Community Action Agency managers.

To date, 155 CAA staff members in Michigan have completed the program, creating a strong bench of future CAA leaders prepared to step into greater responsibilities at their local agencies.



LDI graduates pose with Rebecca Kraus (left) and John Stephenson (right).

In August 2017, MCA IT director **Keith Schafer** and member services specialist **Maddy Kamalay** toured five cities to provide training on changes to the national Results Oriented Management Accountability (ROMA) standards that measure and evaluate agency performance.

MCA names new 2017-19 directors

A new board of directors took the helm Oct. 1 to help lead MCA's mission of alleviating the causes and circumstances of poverty. **Jill Sutton**, Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency, serves as president, following two-term leader **John Stephenson**, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency. New board members included **Michelle Williamson**, Community Action Battle Creek, as secretary-treasurer; **Doug McFadden**, EightCAP, as CAA governing board officer; and **Melinda Johnson**, blue Water Community Action, as at-large officer.

Follow us on social media



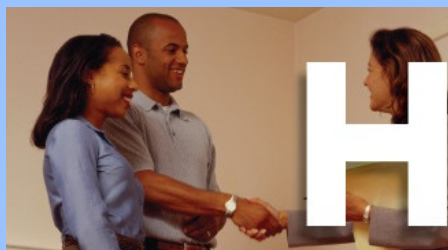
Michigan
Community Action



@MICommAction



2173 Commons Parkway
Okemos, MI, 48864
517-321-7500
info@micommunityaction.org
www.micommunityaction.org



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Weatherization, affordable housing, supportive services for Veteran families and senior citizen housing



EMERGENCIES

Food, heating assistance, rental assistance and transportation services



LEARNING

Early childhood education, financial literacy, GED preparation and parenting



POVERTY

Alleviating poverty, building skills, communities and self sufficiency

The H.E.L.P.s acronym summarizes Community Action services