



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Michigan Community
ACTION
Helping People. Changing Lives.

2022 STATE ADVOCACY AGENDA



WWW.MICOMMUNITYACTION.ORG



EQUITY AND INCLUSION ARE INGRAINED IN OUR MISSION AND VISION.

Our agencies commit to:

- Treating all people with dignity and respect and we recognize that structural race, gender, and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.
- Providing hope, adequate resources and opportunities so everyone can reach their fullest potential.
- Creating an environment that pursues innovation and excellence through multi-sector partnership and collaboration.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in Michigan educate thousands of children ages 0 – 5 through Early Head Start, Head Start, and the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). A rich learning environment is critical for later school and social success. Families also benefit through training in parent education; comprehensive health, nutrition, and social services; and program leadership.

MCA supports:

- Increasing funding for early childhood care and education services, especially in communities where racial disparities exist to implement continually evolving quality standards, provide teacher professional pathways and development, and invest in high quality facilities.
- Expanding access to high quality early care and education for low to moderate income families.



SENIOR PROGRAMS

Michigan's CAAs provide a wide range of services to assist older residents with tools to maintain self-sufficiency and social connections through their later years.

MCA supports:

- Expanding efforts to increase state funding for in-home services that assist individuals and family caregivers in managing and/or performing necessary activities of daily living, including personal care, homemaking, chore assistance, home-delivered meals, minor home repairs, and other needed services.
- Ensuring that seniors have access to transportation and financial empowerment programs.



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

When properly nourished, children learn and retain information better and adults are healthier, more positive, and more resilient. Community Action Agencies in Michigan feed thousands of people every year through a wide variety of food-related services, including food pantries, Meals on Wheels, and congregate meals for seniors.

MCA supports:

- Securing adequate administrative funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program managed by the Michigan Department of Education.
- Making the COVID-19 waiver of work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) permanent.



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES

Michigan's low-income families deserve decent, safe, and affordable housing, and many Community Action Agencies offer programs that assist them in achieving home ownership, while protecting those facing foreclosure and homelessness. Cultivating responsible homeownership and rentals is essential to growing our state's economy.

MCA supports:

- Revising government policies to focus on homelessness prevention and to address systemic barriers for residents who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color.
- Increasing Emergency Shelter program funding and expanding shelter diversion programs and housing vouchers for youth aging out of foster care or children at risk of being placed in out-of-home care.
- Waive State ID fees for homeless applying online and allow homeless specialty court programs to waive driver's license clearance fees.
- Expanding homebuyer education, mortgage counseling, and property tax foreclosure prevention.
- Developing and preserving affordable housing policies to support thriving communities for children, parents, and seniors, such as establishing real estate transaction fees to support a Housing and Community Development Fund for affordable housing.
- Help localities meet match requirements for HUD federal grants. Many local governments are unable to participate in this program due to not being able to meet the 25% matching requirement.



FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

A dollar saved is a dollar earned. Community Action Agencies encourage financial independence by helping low-income Michiganders take ownership of their finances and household budgets.

MCA supports:

- Expanding financial literacy and banking access programs.
- Returning the state Earned Income Tax Credit to 20 percent of the federal EITC.
- Securing funding for and access to innovative tools like Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and Child Allowances.
- Increasing funding for tax preparation services for low income residents.
- Protecting consumers against predatory lending tactics and products.



HEALTH/WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

All Michigan residents should have equal opportunities for health and wellness. The social determinants of health affect the health outcomes of all, but especially people in poverty. Healthcare and insurance providers can work with CAAs to improve health outcomes, reduce health inequities, and decrease the total cost of care.

MCA supports:

- Addressing the public health crisis of racism is necessary to achieve health equity. Our agencies advocate to improve the social determinants of health for families and individuals.
- Using innovative, whole-family/two-generation, trauma informed approaches to address the conditions and causes of poverty.
- Expanding the use of community health workers at Community Action Agencies to address Social Determinants of Health.
- Using the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to improve a home's indoor air quality to reduce asthma and other illnesses.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Community Action Agencies' energy services increase home values, put local contractors to work, and reduce household utility expenses. Our partnerships with utility companies and individual agencies' own fundraising events stretch public dollars even further.

MCA supports:

- Using the US Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to promote the health and safety of residents and to lower the energy burden for low-income families and to increase conservation.
- Expanding opportunities to leverage utility Energy Efficiency Programs with DOE Weatherization to maximize resources.
- Continuing the annual state appropriation of Federal LIHEAP funds for Weatherization efforts.



FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE ECONOMY

Empowering people to participate in the community and in economic opportunities requires access to services like the internet and the ability to prove residency and citizenship. Seeking work, attending school, volunteering, voting and finding a place to live all require identification and increasingly, access to the internet.

MCA supports:

- Expanding wireless and broadband access to the underserved and unserved. Closing the digital divide ensures that families can fully participate in educational activities that are the bedrock of resilient and thriving communities.
- Increasing services to assist all citizens seeking identification documents (state ID, driver's licenses, birth certificates, etc.). Empowering people to participate in the community and in economic opportunities requires access to services like the internet and the ability to prove residency and citizenship.

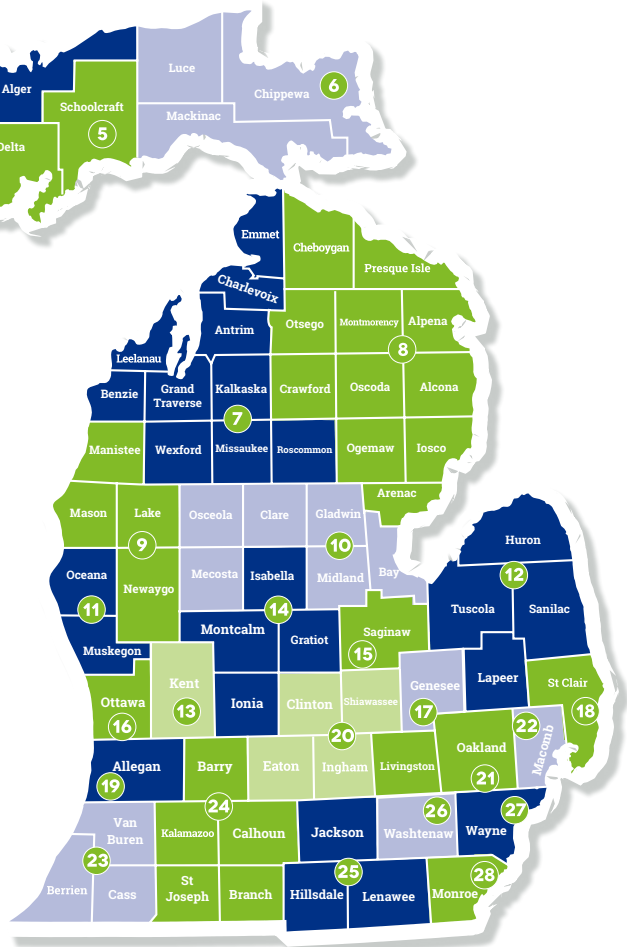
Michigan Community Action is the state association for Michigan's 28 federally designated Community Action Agencies.

OUR PROMISE!

MCA has a promise and code of ethics that guides our work. Our promise to the community and our partners is: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



SERVICE AREAS OF MICHIGAN'S COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES



- 1 Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency**
(906) 667-0283
- 2 Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Community Action Agency**
(906) 482-5528
- 3 Dickinson-Iron Community Services Agency**
(906) 774-2256
- 4 Community Action Alger-Marquette**
(906) 228-6522
- 5 Menominee-Delta-Schoolcraft Community Action Agency**
(906) 786-7080
- 6 Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency**
(906) 632-3363
- 7 Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency**
(231) 947-3780 (800) 632-7334
- 8 Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency**
(989) 358-4600
- 9 FiveCAP**
(231) 757-3785
- 10 Mid Michigan Community Action Agency**
(989) 386-3805
- 11 Muskegon-Oceana Community Action Partnership**
(231) 725-9499
- 12 Human Development Commission**
(989) 673-4121 (800) 843-6394
- 13 Kent County Community Action**
(616) 632-7950
- 14 EightCAP**
(616) 754-9315
- 15 Saginaw County Community Action Committee**
(989) 753-7741
- 16 Ottawa County Community Action Agency**
(616) 393-4433
- 17 Genesee County Community Action Resource Department**
(810) 232-2185
- 18 Blue Water Community Action**
(810) 982-8541
- 19 Community Action of Allegan County**
(269) 673-5472
- 20 Capital Area Community Services**
(517) 393-7077
- 21 Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency**
(248) 209-2600
- 22 Macomb Community Action**
(586) 469-6999
- 23 Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency**
(269) 925-9077
- 24 Community Action**
(877) 422-2726
- 25 Community Action Agency**
(517) 784-4800
- 26 Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development**
(734) 544-6748
- 27 Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency**
(734) 284-6999, (313) 388-9799
- 28 Monroe County Opportunity Program**
(734) 241-2775

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