



2173 Commons Pkwy Office 517.321.7500  
Okemos, MI 48864 Fax 517.321.7504

[michigancommunityaction.org](http://michigancommunityaction.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
August 18, 2014

Contact: Kate White  
(517) 679-6400  
c. (517) 388-2033

### Get Ready for Winter!

#### Michigan Community Action Agencies Protected 7,443 Families from the Cold!

Lansing, MI—Michigan’s 29 Community Action Agencies report outstanding accomplishments in serving families on fixed incomes this heating season.<sup>1</sup>“Community Action Agencies have distributed \$6.8 million in funds the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) program for metered fuels,” said Kate White, Executive Director of Michigan Community Action. “With those funds, we assisted 7,443 low income households<sup>2</sup>, helping them avoid heat shut offs, preventing medical emergencies and reducing the intense stress that comes from being without essential heat,” said White. “We are very proud that 25% of the families we assisted had children under the age of 5 living in them. We also know that 18.2% of the people we assisted were elderly and 26.7% of the families that participated had someone with a disability in the home,” said White.

Local Community Action Agencies have some money left through the end of August, from another pot of MEAP funds, to help low income families **with deliverable fuel expenses** (not metered fuels) and to lock in guaranteed rates for propane,” said White. To find the Community Action Agency in your area, visit [www.mcaaa.org](http://www.mcaaa.org).

“We want families to be as prepared as possible this winter,” said White. “That is why Community Action Agencies are reporting our results now! We want people to know that Community Action is a great place to get help keeping your heat on this winter,” said White.

White also indicated that changes to the MEAP program may cause some challenges in August and September. “There are limited funds to help low income families out with metered utilities these next two months. More assistance through MEAP for metered fuels won’t be widely or significantly available until October 1, 2014. Planning ahead and alerting the local Department of Human Services (DHS) is critical if you have a medical need to avoid a shut off of metered utilities. “State Emergency Relief funds, aka SER, are extremely limited at this time of year,” said White. “We encourage families not to wait until they face a shut off to get help from DHS if they need it. Stressing your medical condition and doctor’s order for maintaining utilities, if you have one, is key to moving the process along and keeping the electricity on,” said White. ##

## OUR MISSION

**SERVING COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES IN MICHIGAN, STRENGTHENING THEIR CAPACITY TO ALLEVIATE THE CAUSES AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF POVERTY.**

<sup>1</sup> The heating season ran from November 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Families participating in the program must have incomes of 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)