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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Michigan Community Action Provides a Special Viewing of: Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America***

Lansing, MI, Monday, November 2, 2020 – The Michigan Community Action (MCA) provided a special viewing of *Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America*, a two-hour documentary that examines the long history of African Americans on U.S. roads from the 1930's to today. This groundbreaking documentary was created by Author and Professor Dr. Gretchen Sorin and Emmy-winning director Ric Burns, which originally aired on PBS on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

"We were honored to have over 200 individuals join us for this special viewing," Chong-Anna Canfora, Executive Director, Michigan Community Action (MCA) said. "Michigan Community Action is committed to providing ongoing professional development opportunities related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for our association members and support them as they work to fulfill the promise of Community Action—to build a more just world free of poverty."

Following the viewing of the documentary, open discussion took place with viewers, moderated by Tedi Parsons, President & CEO, Michigan Diversity Education Center (MiDEC). "It was a great honor to take part in this discussion and hear what others had to say," said Parsons. "Viewers provided great insight on how the documentary affected them and what their next-steps towards action will be."

"We know that it not enough for us to declare that we stand for equity and justice and in denouncing racism, intolerance, and exclusion. We have to put in the work to identify how to build the core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion into everything we do. We cannot do that work without learning about the legacy of slavery, and the difficult history of how systemic racism operates and still operates in our country. There are no shortcuts. We have to put in the work and make the commitment to act," said Mary Trucks, Chair, Michigan Community Action Social and Racial Justice Team, Executive Director, FiveCAP.

"The present-day pandemic has made it clear to many people the level of racial inequality in many areas, including health care. And a lot of people were shocked! If we understood the history of racial inequality, in housing, education, wealth, opportunities and health care, the devastating impact of the present-day pandemic would not have come as a shock to so many people," said Jamon Jordan, Historian & Educator, Black Scroll Network History & Tours and President, Detroit Chapter, Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH-Detroit). Jordan joined the discussion as a special guest, providing insight and context to the history of slavery, racism and Driving While Black in America.

"With our ongoing commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Michigan Community Action Social and Racial Justice Team is excited to continue to provide top quality events like these to our partners and the communities we serve," said Canfora.

**About Us:** Michigan Community Action is the state association for the 28 designated Community Action Agencies in Michigan. We are part of a national network of over 1,000 local organizations that help people move from poverty to economic stability and self-sufficiency. Our mission is to strengthen and inspire Community Action Agencies to champion solutions to poverty and to promote economic opportunity and stability for all. Our network is united by the promise of Community Action, which 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. To learn more about MCA or to get involved, visit [www.micommunityaction.org](http://www.micommunityaction.org), call (517) 679-6400, or email [info@micommunityaction.org](mailto:info@micommunityaction.org).