



COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH | TOOLKIT

MAY 2018

Network Talking Points

<p>The Need:</p>	<p>Whether our neighbors are experiencing a temporary set back from an event like Hurricane Harvey or have been priced out of affordable housing – too many struggle to achieve a good quality of life. Despite America’s economic recovery, 43 million of us are still living in poverty and even more are just one missed paycheck away from hardship. Everyone should be able to take care of their families and have an equal opportunity at success.</p>
<p>How the Network Addresses the Need:</p>	<p>The nation’s 1,000-plus Community Action Agencies are a robust, state and local force – reaching children and families in 99% of America’s counties with life-changing services that create pathways to prosperity. These Agencies:</p> <p>Connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed – including quality education programs for children, job retraining for adults, stable and affordable housing for families, utility assistance for seniors, and so much more.</p> <p>Promote community-wide solutions to seemingly stubborn challenges throughout our cities, suburbs, and in rural areas – whether it’s the lack of affordable housing or the need to promote economic growth that benefits all families.</p> <p>Share expertise with national, state, and local leaders looking for evidence on what works to promote greater economic opportunity for children and families.</p> <p>Community Action Agencies are locally run but receive a range of public and private resources for their work. This includes funding from the federal Community Services Block Grant – America’s commitment to putting tax dollars back into communities to strengthen the economic security of families.</p>
<p>The Vision: <i>Voice for Opportunity</i></p>	<p>America’s Community Action Agencies connect millions of children and families to greater opportunity, transforming their lives and making our communities – and our nation – stronger. Every year, these agencies help:</p> <p>Tens of thousands of children and youth with before-and after-school programs. More than 165,000 unemployed people get a job. Almost 220,000 families find safe and affordable housing. About 6.5 million people, including seniors, make their homes more energy efficient and lower their utility bills.</p>