

National Office
1020 19th Street, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: 202.265.7546
Fax: 202.265.5048

info@communityactionpartnership.com
www.communityactionpartnership.com

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Community Action Partnership Fact Sheet

The Community Action Partnership is a national, nonprofit organization that works to strengthen, promote, represent and serve its network of member Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to assure that the issues of poverty are effectively presented and addressed.

Since their inception as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, CAAs have helped low-income Americans escape poverty and achieve economic security. Through programs such as Head Start, job training, housing, food banks, energy assistance, and financial education, CAAs tailor their services to meet the needs of the individuals and communities they serve. They put a human face on poverty, advocate for those who don't have a voice, and provide opportunities.

The Partnership has spearheaded a number of quality training and technical initiatives designed to help CAAs enhance their capacity to serve vulnerable people and communities. These include:

- **CSBG Organizational Standards**
The CSBG (Community Service Block Grant) Organizational Standards document the accountability of local CSBG Eligible Entities, and serve as a capacity-building tool to help agencies provide comprehensive and coordinated anti-poverty services across America. Stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels of the Community Action Network were involved in developing the standards.
- **Learning Communities Resource Center**
The Learning Communities Resources Center features webinars, white papers and other materials for members of the Partnership's Learning Communities. The Learning Community Groups (LCG) consist of Community Action employees who assist each other (during virtual or in-person meetings) with strategies to improve poverty outcomes within CAAs. LCG members focus on poverty-related topics: Decreasing Family Homelessness, Increasing Financial Empowerment for Families, Utilizing Place-Based Strategies, Bundling Services to Improve Outcomes, Trauma Informed Approaches for Alleviating Poverty, and Poverty Trends.





- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families**

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) is a community-based program funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The program utilizes the rapid re-housing model in providing supportive services to very low-income veteran families that are homeless or imminently homeless. The program started in 2010 and has continued to make a tremendous impact across many local communities the United States. The Community Action Partnership currently has three SSVF grant awards and collaborates with six sub-grantee Community Action Agencies, which directly provide a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability.

- **Pathways to Excellence (for CAAs)**

Pathways to Excellence is the Partnership's capacity building initiative for CAAs that is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Process. It involves CAAs undertaking a team-based and very detailed self-assessment of their policies and practices, and compares them to 34 Standards of Excellence—which emphasize the systemization of these best practices.

- **Certified Community Action Professional program (for individuals)**

The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) program is a peer recognition certification program established by the Partnership in 1992 for current or emerging Community Action managers and leaders. In order to become a CCAP, candidates must demonstrate their mastery of a comprehensive Community Action body of knowledge covering history, vision, values, management, and leadership, as well as theories of the causes and remedies of poverty.

- **CSBG Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center**

The Partnership—along with the National Association for State Community Services Programs—maintains the CSBG Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center. It offers access to toolkits, webinars, and reports on evidence-based program models. Individuals can also register for training, engage in online dialogue with colleagues, submit requests for training or technical assistance, and search a consultant bank for experienced professionals serving the Community Action Network.

The Partnership also hosts an annual convention and management and leadership training conference, oversees the National Community Action Month (May) public awareness campaign, recognizes Community Action success stories and best practices with national awards, and publishes a magazine and a weekly electronic newsletter

For media or general inquiries, please call 202-265-7546. Additional information is also available via the web: www.communityactionpartnership.com and social media: @CAPartnership on Twitter and Community Action Partnership national office on Facebook.

