



October 29, 2020

Dear Community Action Colleagues:

It is a tumultuous time in American history, rife with uncertainty and change. The year 2020 will be remembered as a challenging and unprecedented time, with the COVID-19 pandemic and its painful health and economic impacts, the fight for racial justice and expanding calls for change, and an election that seems to be dividing us as never before.

As Election Day approaches, we remember that the Community Action Network's founding principles and ideals are grounded in community involvement and civic engagement. Our very structure is designed to *ensure the voices of everyone in the community* are heard; it is the reasoning behind our tripartite board structure and our guiding principle of *maximum feasible participation*. Democracy requires engagement and we, as citizens and community members, have the power to influence our communities, our states, and the overall direction of our country.

We strongly urge all Community Action customers, staff, board members, and volunteers to make your voices heard by voting safely in the upcoming election, be it voting early, voting by ballot drop-off, or going to the polls on November 3rd.

The Partnership has compiled [resources](#) to help you in these endeavors, including a [fact sheet](#) about voting rights with links and hotlines to ensure that voters in our communities have the information they need to exercise their rights. Consider sharing with staff, board, customers, and volunteers as they prepare to vote in the next few days.

Each election is an exercise in hope, be it a primary or a general election, a local or nationwide race: Hope that our fellow citizens will participate, and that our collective voices can bring positive change; and hope that the people we elect will effectively, thoughtfully, and compassionately lead our nation, states, cities, and towns into a better future for all of us.

Yes, 2020 will end and what lies ahead for 2021 is uncertain. Regardless of election outcomes or future challenges, Community Action remains vigilant and ready to serve families and communities. Mission and purpose drive us to live the Promise of Community Action each day, to help people and change lives in every corner of America. Community Action stands ready to meet the challenges that are yet to come. Community Action embodies the spirit of hope, which is especially critical considering the difficulties this year has brought.

Make your voice heard. Cast your ballot and encourage those around you to do the same.

Bryan Duncan, CCAP, Partnership Board Chair

Denise Harlow, CCAP, Partnership CEO

The Promise of Community Action: 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.

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