Community Action 101: Community Action History and Overview

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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.
Community Action Network

Red, Blue, Purple States

Board and Staff on All Sides of the Aisle

1000+ Agencies | 44 State Associations | 50+ State CSBG Offices | National Partners
More than 15 million served

We work together to promote workable solutions that connect more families to opportunity
What can change the world today is the same thing that has changed it in the past—an idea and the service of dedicated, committed individuals to that idea.

— Sargent Shriver —
Community Action Agencies

• Connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed – including high quality education programs for children, job retraining for adults, stable and affordable housing for families, utility assistance for seniors, and so much more.

• 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.

• Share expertise with national, state, and local leaders looking for evidence on what works to promote greater economic opportunity for children and families.
“The opposite of poverty isn’t wealth. The opposite of poverty is justice”
Bryan Stevenson
Poverty Today

- Income Disparities
- Wealth Disparities
- Racial Inequality
- Education Disparities
- Health Disparities
- Affordable Housing
- Aging of America
- Opioid Epidemic

Source: Equality of Opportunity Project
Community Action Program Legal Services
CAPLAW

- Lawyers on Staff
- News Alerts
- Annual Conference (June)

- Webinars
- Toolkits and Resources
- Allison Ma’luf, Esq. Executive Director
National Community Action Foundation
NCAF

- David Bradley, CCAP
- Legislative Action
- Our Lobbyist
- Hill Visits
- CSBG Reauthorization
- Annual Convention
Federal Office of Community Services-OCS

- HHS-ACF-OCS-
  - CSBG
  - LIHEAP
  - SSBG
  - CED
- CSBG/Community Services Block Grant
  - Flows to state CSBG Offices
- Monitors States, Issues IM/Dear Colleague Letters
- Clarence Carter, Acting OCS Director
- Charisse Johnson, Director, Division of Community Assistance
National Association for State Community Services Programs

NASCSP

- State CSBG Offices
- State Weatherization Offices
- CSBG Annual Report

- Conferences
- Webinars
- Jenae Bjelland, Executive Director
National Community Action Partnership

• Conferences and Webinars
• Community Action Month
• Learning Cohorts/Communities of Practice
• Public Policy Platform
• Leveraging Energy
• Human Capacity and Community Transformation
• Denise Harlow, CCAP, CEO
Mission Statement

The mission of the Community Action Partnership is to ensure the causes and conditions of poverty are effectively addressed and to strengthen, promote, represent, and serve the Community Action Network.
We believe all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender, and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.

We believe that this nation has the capacity and moral obligation to ensure that no one is forced to endure the hardships of poverty.

We believe that with hope, adequate resources and opportunities, everyone can reach their fullest potential, and we are committed to achieving that vision.

We pledge ourselves to creating an environment that pursues innovation and excellence through multi-sector partnership and collaboration.

Value Statements

Equity • Respect • Commitment • Excellence • Hope
Community • Caring • Innovation • Opportunity
OUR VISION:

A NATION THAT_CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE TO THRIVE, BUILDS STRONG, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES, AND ENSURES A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY.
Taking Action

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy."
-Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."
-Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Perhaps you are wondering what you can do to learn and bring about real change. It all starts with us as individuals. The Partnership has compiled a short list of things we can all do today. It is not exhaustive and there are many you list out there. Some of these are for you individually, and others are for your Community Action Agency. They take time, time, and time. Some are hard, but things in life worth doing are hard. We won’t be perfect, but we must try and work to better ourselves, our communities, and our country. Remember it will end with us.

1. **Understand racism and white supremacy.** Not just quietly, but outwardly and publicly:
   - a. Issue a formal statement approved by the CAO’s Board of Directors.
   - b. Review agency mission, vision, and values and ensure that they recognize the role structural racism has on poverty.
   - c. State it publicly: **Black Lives Matter.**
   - d. Use the one below (or other relevant material) on your social media pages to demonstrate racism and show public support that Black Lives Matter.

2. **Speak truth to power.** Black said and done. In both our professional and personal lives, we must speak the truth. The narratives used in private are those that are carved into the public space, and can be the hardest to counter:
   - a. Challenge and hold your colleagues and groups you interact with accountable for their language, their ideas, and their outcomes.
   - b. Check your friends and family members who continue to use racist and superstitious rhetoric. You can do it in loving manner but let them know you are uncomfortable and will not tolerate it. The power of friends and family to alter us is real and we cannot allow our silence to remain in complicity.
   - c. Use direct terms in your speaking and writing. Get comfortable and use words like oppression, marginalization, institutional racism, poverty, white supremacy. Know what they mean, understand the distinction, and speak them out loud.

3. **National Community Action Partnership Affirms Its Core Values (Washington, DC, May 20, 2020).** Our work is involved with a pandemic for which there is currently no cure. Already, COVID-19 has taken 200,000 lives, and it is the US has confirmed millions. We mourn all who have been affected and affected by this work. In every short, the pandemic has highlighted the reality and scope of our work. While COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on the health, economy, and lives of those who have been made sick, it has also revealed an existing condition that places us at an even greater risk. The hierarchy of human values and to be more specific, RACISM, has served as an arbiter that has accelerated the loss of our disproportionate losses impacted populations from our country. Puppies of color, who in many cases worked with lower incomes and in places that were already struggling with more physical, mental, and social harms.

During this very trying time, we believe it is important to note our commitment, especially given the severely charged events that have played out in recent months and weeks. Racism, the African American community, increases Americanism, has been called a business, and the number of increasingly severe events, and the miscarriages and consequences of these events. All too often, these events are also associated with the racism of people who to the best of our knowledge, people are calling, for instance, to avoid the key tenets of media, black lives, and do it. It is not enough to help and support in our racist causes. We must move beyond that into constructive and racist action that might even cause us to have to redefine the context or advantage that some of those harms. RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION.

Currently, there is a need to work to protect our our public salud. While we are one nation, family, both conditions are important to us, both are conditions that are determined by our relationship. While this process is clearly racial, in our community. We affirm that we are a bond to the strengthening our connection to our neighbors, our friends, our workers, and our communities. Our vision center. "We believe that the people of this great city of people will fight back and resist any change that may harm race, gender, and other language is not enough; the opportunity and relationship that we have simply to better ourselves, we must act.

We cannot continue to watch and wait. We have a responsibility to everyone and to protect civil and social movements. A moment 50 years ago, Community Action was part of the civil rights movement, and we continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to this fight. We recognize the power of Community Action to change lives and by what we believe, "Our care for the whole community," our love and unity, we will interrupt the darkness of this moment and continue to "enlighten the spirit of hope."

Community Action Partnership, Community Action changes people’s lives, transforms the fabric of neighborhoods. The words of Community Action President are not unique and what we believe, “We care for the whole community.” Our love and unity, we will interrupt the darkness of this moment and continue to "enlighten the spirit of hope."

We care about the collective community and we are dedicated to fighting big people help themselves and each other. We care about the collective community and we are dedicated to fighting big people help themselves and each other. We care about the collective community and we are dedicated to fighting big people help themselves and each other. We care about the collective community and we are dedicated to fighting big people help themselves and each other. We care about the collective community and we are dedicated to fighting big people help themselves and each other.

- **Cheryl Brown, National Community Action Partnership President**
- **Robyn Brown, National Community Action Partnership CEO**
- **Kendra L. Bunch, National Community Action Partnership Director of Communications**
- **Evelyn J. Adams, National Community Action Partnership Director of Research and Policy**
- **Darrin W. Johnson, National Community Action Partnership Director of Strategy and Innovation**
- **Timothy J. Brown, National Community Action Partnership Director of Finance and Administration**
- **Jessica A. Johnson, National Community Action Partnership Director of Development**
- **Kendra L. Bunch, National Community Action Partnership Director of Communications**
- **Evelyn J. Adams, National Community Action Partnership Director of Research and Policy**

The National Community Action Partnership is a 501c3 local Community Action agency that provides life-changing services to individuals and families in the community. The Partnership’s mission is to ensure the voices and conditions of families are effectively addressed to strengthen partnerships, represent, and enhance the Community Action Network.

**Selected Resources for Community Action to Understand, Communicate, Strategize, and Take Action to Eliminate Structural Racism**

- Care For Mental Health in Communities of Color During COVID-19: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Economic Equity Considerations: NAACP
- Economics in African Americans and Other People of Color: John Hopkins Medicine
- Racial and Ethnic Minority Access Centers: The National Center for US Policy and Civic Involvement

**Honor Juneteenth**

by committing to fight structural racism and injustice
Are we different?

- Salvation Army
- NeighborWorks
- Red Cross
- Catholic Charities
- Lutheran Social Services
- Other multi-service nonprofits
Are we different?

• Yes, while addressing similar community challenges as other nonprofits, Community Action is different. It has a unique history, a federal mandate to address poverty, and is a network that serves 99% of America’s counties engaging local communities to address local challenges. **We are the national infrastructure across the US to fight poverty where and how we find it.** We are called to fight poverty, not provide a specific program or service.
Community Action is Different

• Flexible
• Accountable
• Tripartite Board Structure
  – 1/3 Democratically selected from the low-income community-Maximum Feasible Participation
  – 1/3 Elected Officials
  – 1/3 Private Sector
• Local Needs Assessment
Addressing Poverty...

- Settlement Houses
- Field of Social Work/Hull House
- Aid to Widows
- Depression
- WWII
- New Deal
  - Social Security
  - ADC
- GI Bill/Mortgage Insurance Program
Points in Time Across the Decades

- 1960’s
- 1970’s
- 1980’s
- 1990’s
- 2000’s
- 2010’s
- 2020 and Beyond
Back in the day...

- Ford Foundation funding other “gray areas projects
- Michael Harrington’s book *The Other America* caused a stir at the White House.
January 1964-State of the Union
President Johnson

• “Let us carry forward the plans and programs of John F. Kennedy, not because of our sorrow or sympathy, but because they are right....This administration today, here and now, declares an unconditional War on Poverty in America....Our joint federal-local effort must pursue poverty, pursue it wherever it exists.”
August 1964-Signing of the Economic Opportunity Act
Foundation of Community Action

Economic Opportunity Act of 1964

“Although the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States have progressed to a level surpassing any achieved in world history, and although these benefits are widely shared throughout the Nation, poverty continues to be the lot of a substantial number of our people. The United States can achieve its full economic and social potential as a nation only if every individual has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of his capabilities and to participate in the workings of our society. It is, therefore, the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the Opportunity to live in decency and dignity.

It is the purpose of this Act to Strengthen, Supplement, and Coordinate efforts in furtherance of that policy.”
Also Created as Part of the EOA

- VISTA
- Job Corps
- Neighborhood Youth Corps
- Head Start
- Adult Basic Education
- Family Planning
- Community Health Centers
- Congregate Meal Preparation
- Economic Development CDCs
- Foster Grandparents
- Legal Services

- RSVP
- Legal Services
- Neighborhood Centers
- Summer Youth Programs
Two Big Amendments to Address Influence of Community Action

GREEN Amendment
• 1967: stipulated that local elected officials had authority to designate the official CAA for their areas. Most were certified but a few big cities took control and replaced the existing CAA.

QUIE Amendment
• 1967: stipulated that 1/3 of board must be composed of elected officials and 1/3 would be private sector representatives. This limited “maximum feasible participation” of the poor on the boards to 1/3 of the membership.
1969

- Nixon appoints Donald Rumsfeld as Director of the OEO. Rumsfeld surprises and is basically supportive of OEO and works to improve its efficiency. Rumsfeld hires Dick Cheney and Christy Todd Whitman as assistants. Rumsfeld publishes CAA mission guidance.
“The Act this gives the CAA a primary catalytic mission: to make the entire community more responsive to the needs and interests of the poor by mobilizing resources and bringing about greater institutional sensitivity. A CAAs effectiveness, therefore, is measured not only by the services which it directly provides but, more importantly, by the improvements and changes it achieves in the community’s attitudes and practices toward the poor and in the allocation and focusing of public and private resources for antipoverty purposes.” (DR)
Nixon Administration

• Attempted to shut down Community Action
• Network responded and sued the Nixon Administration and won
• Charles Braithwaite
1973-1974

• In 1974, during President Gerald Ford’s administration, the Economic Opportunity Act was terminated.

• However, Congressional support swelled and funding for Community Action activities was included in the Community Service Act of 1974. With this change, the Office of Economic Opportunity (which was a cabinet level office) was terminated and a replacement agency was created under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare: the Community Services Administration (CSA).
1981: The Block Grant Was Born

• Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 created two block grants: Social Services Block Grant, under Title XX of the SSA; and CSBG which included activities administered by the CSA
• States administer block grant
• By 1983, all 50 states assumed administrative responsibility
  – Greater local autonomy
  – Decreased administrative complexity
• States tried to achieve a more equitable geographic distribution of funds
• Political activities and voter registration still restricted
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) was Born

- State offices were now installed as recipients of the Block Grant funding and therefore as intermediaries for local Community Action Agencies.
- 90% of the CSBG funds were to be used at the local level
- Eligible CAAs were the same organizations previously eligible under OEO and CSA determinations. They were “Grandfathered.”
- States had the responsibility for monitoring CAAs and could spend up to 5% of the State’s CSBG allocation for administrative purposes. The remaining 5% was designated for State discretionary anti-poverty funded activities.
The Block Grant has been Reauthorized 5 Times

- CSBG has been reauthorized 5 times:
  - 1984
  - 1986
  - 1990
  - 1994
  - 1998
  - 2020??
• 1994 -- The Monitoring and Assessment Task Force (MATF) was created by the Office of Community Services (OCS) to explore the results that had been identified by various CAAs across the country.
  – The MATF included local CAA directors, state office staff, Association staff and others working in the field.
  – The purpose of the task force was to find ways to talk about the work of CAAs.
  – The MATF produced the Six National Goals
2000-2011

- 2000: Network undertakes re-branding initiative
- 2001: Information Memo 49 clarifies ROMA and the need for it to “tell the story” of CSBG
- 2004: Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART): CSBG has “no discernable outcomes”
- 2005: National Indicators of Community Action performance
- 2007: The Great Recession
- 2009: ARRA
- 2011: President Obama’s State of the Union and Community Action Responds!

- ROMA Next Generation
- Organizational Standards
- State and Federal Accountability Measures

Updated CSBG Performance Management and Measurement Systems
ROMA Next Generation

• National Theory of Change and Support for local Theories of Change
• Renewal of necessity to work toward community change as well as individual and family outcomes
• Focus on improved data collection and analysis
  – New Annual Report
  – Increased use of data
  – National Theory of Change
• Integration of all phases of the ROMA Cycle
The National Community Action Network Theory of Change

Community Action Goals

**Goal 1:** Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security.

**Goal 2:** Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunity.

**Goal 3:** People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.

Services and Strategies

- Employment
- Education & Cognitive Development
- Income, Infrastructure & Asset Building
- Health/Social Behavioral Development
- Housing
- Civic Engagement & Community Involvement

Core Principles

- Recognize the complexity of the issues of poverty
- Build local solutions specific to local needs
- Support family stability as a foundation for economic security
- Advocate for systemic change
- Pursue positive individual, family, and community level change
- Maximize involvement of people with low incomes
- Engage local community partners and citizens in solutions
- Leverage state, federal, and community resources

Performance Management

How well does the network operate?
- Local Organizational Standards
- State and Federal Accountability Measures
- Results Oriented Management and Accountability System

What difference does the network make?
- Individual and Family National Performance Indicators
- Community National Performance Indicators

A national network of over 1,000 high performing Community Action Agencies, State Associations, State offices, and Federal partners supported by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) to mobilize communities to fight poverty.

This publication was created by NASCSP in the performance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services, Grant Number 90ET0451.
CSBG Organizational Standards

Organized into three thematic groups

**Maximum Feasible Participation**
- Consumer input and involvement
- Community engagement
- Community assessment

**Vision and Direction**
- Organizational leadership
- Board governance
- Strategic planning

**Operations and Accountability**
- Human resource management
- Financial operations and oversight
- Data and analysis
2020 and Beyond

Community Action & COVID-19

RESPONSE
- Safety of staff & customers secured
- Needs assessed
- Continuity of services arranged
- Emergency services expanded
- New services created
- Coordination with partners enhanced
- New funding secured

RECOVERY
- Community needs monitored
- Workplace safety procedures implemented
- Access to emergency services ensured
  - Food
  - Housing
  - Utilities
- Staff connected to customers via technology & internet
  - Virtual applications
  - Virtual Services
  - Virtual Case Management

RESILIENCY
- Individuals return to work
- Economic growth
- Social & economic mobility accelerated
- Health & Well-being Improved
- Transformed Systems and Policies
- Equity
- Apply learning
- ???
Community Action Census Webpage

www.communityactionpartnership.com/census2020

#countmein

COMMUNITY ACTION WILL ENSURE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY COUNTS IN CENSUS 2020.

CENSUS 2020

WE CARE ABOUT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

WE COUNT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

#communityactioncounts
#countmein
The Hard-To-Count Are:

- Immigrants
- Multi-Family
- Homeless
- Rural
- Large Households
- Native American
- Low-Income
- Low Literacy
- Frequent Movers
- Households
- Young Children
- Single-Parent
- People of Color
- Migrant
- Seniors
- Returning Citizens
- Disabled
- Unwired
- Second Language
- Distrust Government

Weatherization Works
May is Community Action Month
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>First day of Community Action Month</td>
<td>Share the Promise meme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Huggy Heart Day</td>
<td>- Sample Tweets Provided -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>#factfriday</td>
<td>Share our #Maythe4thBeWithYou meme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>STAR WARS DAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>National Nurses Day</td>
<td>Share National Nurses Day meme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>National Teacher’s Day</td>
<td>Share National Teacher’s Day meme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>IMPACT WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Share Impact Meme Sample Tweets Provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>THROWBACK THURSDAY</td>
<td>Share our LBJ meme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Provider Appreciation Day</td>
<td>Honor providers with posts &amp; photos on social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Stats Saturday</td>
<td>Tweets Provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>#ARMEDFORCESDAY</td>
<td>Recognize &amp; thank those serving in the armed forces Share our meme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mission Monday</td>
<td>Use our meme creator to feature your mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Motivation Monday</td>
<td>Share our #MLK meme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>#training tuesday</td>
<td>Tweets provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>We Care Wednesday</td>
<td>International Day of Families Thank National Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Thankful Thursday</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>NATIONAL PIZZA PARTY DAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>#ARMEDFORCESDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>Share our Memorial Day meme to honor those who served &amp; sacrificed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Transformation Tuesday</td>
<td>- Tweets Provided -</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>IMPACT WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Share our Shriver meme</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>#Throwback Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>FACT FRIDAY</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>#Shoutout Saturday</td>
<td>Shoutout local partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Thankful Thursday</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Weatherization Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Thankful Thursday</td>
<td>Post &quot;I Love Community Action&quot; Selfie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>FUN Friday</td>
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#WeR1000Strong
#CommunityActionWorks
National Community Action Partnership

• Toolkit & Style Guide

This updated Community Action Toolkit and Style Guide aims to provide the necessary tools and guidance for Community Action Agencies and State Associations to enhance the national brand and maintain a unified presence across the country. Whether agencies choose to fully adopt the national logo, use logo components or taglines, or maintain a unique local brand, this guide will provide tools necessary to strengthen our network’s connection to each other and to our collective audiences across America.

Whether or not you are using the national brand it is vital that our network maintain our connection. To do that, we request that all Community Action Agencies and State Association members of the National Community Action Partnership visually connect with the Partnership on their website and other media outreach where possible. Suggestions include adding the national brand logo to your agencies website footer and/or homepage and adding text to build the connection. This is especially important for agencies that do not have “Community Action” in their organizational name. Adding links to the Partnership, your state association, and other national CAA partners also strengthens our connection as a network illustrating that we are “1000 Strong.”

- XYZ Community Action Agency is a member of the Community Action Partnership, which is the national body that joins the nation’s 1,000+ local Community Action Agencies and State Associations to each other and to leaders looking for solutions that connect families to great opportunity.
- We are a proud member of the National Community Action Partnership.
- A Community Action Agency
Using National Branding Devices
Engaging Through State Associations
Community Action Academy

Moodle is an online learning platform designed to provide trainers and learners with a single robust, secure, and integrated system to create personalized learning environments. [https://moodle.communityactionpartnership.com](https://moodle.communityactionpartnership.com)

- Free & Accessible to the entire Community Action Network!
- On-demand courses, videos & resources
- Peer Engagement & Virtual Networking
- Virtual space for Learning Community Groups
Mobile App for Community Action Academy

1) Search your **App Store** (Apple) or **Google Play** (Android) for the official moodle app (can simply type "moodle").

2) Once the app is downloaded to device, enter URL: **moodle.communityactionpartnership.com**

3) Login on the moodle app using your same credentials for Community Action Academy on the computer.

*For more information, you can visit this [link](#).*
On-Demand Learning

eCourses available to the entire CSBG Network through
Community Action Academy

• Health Intersections
• Results at the Community Level
• Cultivating Data-Centered Organizations
• Advancing 2Gen in the Rural Context
• Family-Centered Coaching
• Creating a Local Theory of Change
• Understanding Community Level Work
• Data Collective, Analysis, and Use
• ROMA for Boards Training Series (7 eCourses)

more coming soon!
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
Building Opportunity for All

The National Need
Despite America's economic recovery, millions are still living in poverty and even more are just one missed paycheck away from hardship. Whether our neighbors are experiencing a temporary set back or have been priced out of affordable housing - too many struggle to achieve a good quality of life.

- Nearly 40 million people in America live poverty.
- 1 in 6 children go hungry at some point during the year.
- People of color are disproportionately impacted.
- 6.1 million Americans are unemployed.
- 44% of Americans can't cover a $400 emergency expense.

Community Action’s Reach
The nation’s 1,000+ Community Action Agencies are a robust, national, state, and local force, reaching children and families in 99% of America’s counties with life changing services that create pathways to opportunity and prosperity. Annually, we reach:

- 15 million low-income individuals
- 3.9 million children
- 6.2 million families
- 2.3 million seniors
- 1.7 million people with disabilities

January 2019

Our Impact
America's Community Action Agencies embody our nation's spirit of hope, change people's lives, and improve communities. We promote workable solutions that connect more families to opportunity - and make America a better place to live for everyone.

Community Action Agencies:
- Connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed - including high quality education programs for children, job training for adults, stable and affordable housing for families, utility assistance for seniors, and so much more.
- 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.
- Share expertise with national, state, and local leaders looking for evidence on what works to promote greater economic opportunity for children and families.

As a result, each year:
- 800,000 households increased their financial Assets or skills
- More than 8 million people received food, healthcare services and more to increase family Health & Well-Being
- 4 million Children & Families accessed childcare, after school programs, and more
- 229,000 people obtained safe, affordable Housing - and millions more received emergency help with heat or energy assistance
- 5.8 million people were put on a pathway to good Jobs through employment support

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 (CSBG), which provides the Community Action Agency designation. For every $1 of CSBG funds, the Network annually leverages $7.70 from state, local, and private sources.

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www.communityactionpartnership.com

Community Action Podcast Series

Six-part series featuring our CEO Denise Harlow in conversation with nationally recognized experts and leaders in Community Action Advocacy - Innovative Practices - Racial Equity - The State of CSBG - How to Use the Impact Report - Convening to Make a Difference
Community Action Body of Knowledge

A HISTORY OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Maximum Feasible Success
Books Reflecting Today’s Poverty

- *The Forgotten Americans* by Isabel Sawhill
- *$2.00 a Day* by Kathryn J. E. Beach
- *Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Richard Rothstein
- *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh
- *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *Toxic Inequality* by Thomas M. Shapiro
- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond
Questions?

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