

CT CAPs

Connecticut Community Action Profiles



“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable.

“Even a superficial look at history reveals that no social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability.

“Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

*~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
(from TheKingCenter.org)*

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.



Heating Program Under Attack

As the federal heating program faces the threat of a 50% funding cut, CAFCA and Operation Fuel held an event to call attention to the impact the cut would have on families across Connecticut.

The ongoing impact of the recession has forced more people than ever into vulnerable positions, so the need for energy assistance is greater than ever. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is administered locally by the state’s twelve Community Action Agencies, and services families in every corner of the state. The CAAs strongly urge Congress to maintain last year’s funding level.

CAFCA Board Chair James Gatling, Ph.D. noted that, “Seniors and families on fixed incomes are forced to choose between home heating and purchasing



CAFCA Chair James Gatling fights for LIHEAP.

food or medication. Our primary concern is keeping vulnerable families safe during the winter months.”

Last year, our network served more than 117,000 households. Cutting LIHEAP would put lives at risk.

CAFCA’s ABC Featured In San Francisco

In August, over 1,000 people attended the Annual Convention of the Community Action Partnership in San Francisco. The convention, entitled “Community Action 2011: Working for Opportunity and Economic Security in America,” allowed Community Action leaders from across the country to share new data and ideas to advance the war on poverty.

Angela Glover Blackwell, founder of PolicyLink, opened the convention as the keynote speaker. She noted that our country is undergoing some significant changes, including a vast wealth gap. Other key speakers included George Sheldon, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families; Gene Nichol, Director of the University of North Carolina Center on Poverty and Law; and David Bradley,

Executive Director of the National Community Action Foundation.

Over 100 workshops were offered on a wide variety of topics, including asset development, community economic development, emerging leaders, energy and weatherization, and green jobs.

CRT’s Julie Ackerman and Raquel Santiago-Martinez provided a great workshop on ‘Pathway to Sustainability’ which shows how to create a business model for agencies to shape their organization for expansion, growth and sustainability; becoming less dependent on public dollars. CAFCA’s Rhonda Evans and Judy Feinstein presented CAFCA’s bilingual Automated Benefits Calculator in a session entitled, “ABC and Integrated Service Delivery: Connecting Families to Work Supports.”

Check it out! CAFCA.org

Connecticut's Community Action Agencies

Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)

Charles Tisdale, Executive Director
1070 Park Ave., Bridgeport 06604
(203) 366-8241 ~ www.abcd.org

Access Community Action Agency (Access)

Peter DeBiasi, President/CEO
1315 Main St., Willimantic 06226
(860) 450-7449 ~ www.accessagency.org

Bristol Community Organization (BCO)

Thomas Morrow, Executive Director
55 South St., Bristol 06010
(860) 584-2725 ~ http://bcoc.org

Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)

Amos Smith, President/CEO
781 Whalley Ave., New Haven 06515
(203) 387-7700 ~ www.caanh.net

Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc. (CACD)

Bobby Poole, Executive Director
66 North St., Danbury 06810
(203) 744-4700 ~ www.cacd-caa.org

Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)

Lena Rodriguez, President/CEO
555 Windsor St., Hartford 06120
(860) 560-5602 ~ www.crtct.org

CTE, Inc.

E. Phillip McKain, President/CEO
34 Woodland Ave., Stamford 06902
(203) 327-3260 ~ www.ctecap.org

Human Resources Agency of New Britain (HRA)

Rocco Tricarico, Executive Director
180 Clinton St., New Britain 06053
(860) 225-8601 ~ www.hranbct.org

New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)

James H. Gatling, President/CEO
232 North Elm St., Waterbury 06702
(203) 575-9799 ~ www.newoppinc.org

Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc. (NEON)

Joseph Mann, CEO
98 South Main St., South Norwalk 06854
(203) 899-2420 ~ www.neoncaa.org

TEAM, Inc. (TEAM)

Richard Knoll, President/CEO
30 Elizabeth St., Derby 06418
(203) 736-5420 ~ www.teaminc.org

Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)

Deborah Monahan, Executive Director
One Sylvandale Rd., Jewett City 06351
(860) 889-1365 ~ www.tvcca.org

Letter From CAFCA Board Chair James H. Gatling, Ph.D.

I believe in our democracy, and I believe that our elected officials want to do the right thing. They want to protect vulnerable families, help people fulfill their potential, and create an economic environment that works for businesses and families alike.

But democracy depends on participation.

All of us have a responsibility to be part of the discussion, to help our elected representatives understand how their decisions will affect people in the community. We have a moral obligation to be part of the solution.

Some well-financed factions are pressuring leaders to cut antipoverty programs, even though these programs are proven to help people get back to work. At this very moment, there is an assault on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), despite the fact that LIHEAP helps families keep their homes and their jobs, and even saves lives.

United, we must lift our voices against such attacks.

When home energy costs as much as 70% of a family's income, don't add to their pain.

When more children live in poverty today than during the recent "Great Recession," don't add to their pain.

When families who have played by the rules their whole lives find themselves jobless and beaten down amid these troubled times, don't add to their pain.

Even the tough decisions must reflect our shared humanity. And no fiscal circumstance justifies balancing budgets on the backs of our hardest-hit families.



Dr. Gatling with Deputy Commissioner Pasquale Salemi (Department of Construction Services); Deputy Commissioner Victor Dias (Department of Motor Vehicles); Claims Commissioner J. Paul Vance, Jr.; Commissioner Kevin Sullivan (Department of Revenue Services); Commissioner Glenn Marshall (Department of Labor); Commissioner Daniel Esty (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection); Commissioner Donald DeFronzo (Department of Administrative Services); and Chairman Kevin DelGobbo (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority).

Home Heating Under Attack

LIHEAP saves lives every single year. This is paramount. But policy makers must also acknowledge that there are other benefits, including to Connecticut's economy. LIHEAP funding goes to businesses throughout the state (including many small businesses) which in turn deliver fuel to eligible households. Jobs are at stake. Winter will be here before we know it, and we need a commitment now—from our elected leaders at every level—to preserve LIHEAP funding. Connecticut's families and economy are more than worth it.



CAFCA's Edith Pollock Karsky stands with State Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney, CL&P President/CEO Jeffrey D. Butler, and Dr. Gatling following the LIHEAP press conference at which the latter three spoke on the many reasons energy assistance funding must be protected.

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Community Action Calendar

NCAF Energy & Community Economic Development Partnerships Conference

October 23 and 24-27, 2011
St. Petersburg, FL
www.ncaf.org

NCAF October Legislative Outlook Summit

October 3-4, 2011
St. Petersburg, FL
www.ncaf.org

Weatherization Day

October 30, 2011
www.waptac.org

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

November 12-20, 2011
www.nationalhomeless.org

Equity Summit 2011: Healthy Communities, Strong Regions, A Prosperous America

November 8-11, 2011
Detroit, MI
www.equitysummit2011.org

NCAF 2012 Legislative Conference

February 28 and February 29 - March 2, 2012
Washington, DC
www.ncaf.org

CAFCA is Connecticut's association of federally-designated antipoverty agencies. We support our members in building community, promoting public policy, and developing leaders to end poverty. A statewide economic engine, the network employs over 3,000 staff and directly benefits more than 300,000 people annually, empowering families and strengthening communities.

CT CAPs

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Need Help Heating Your Home?

Energy Assistance Where YOU Live!

List & Contact Information www.CAFCA.org

*Energy Assistance helps families keep their homes and their jobs.
It helps families work their way out of poverty, and it saves lives.*

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