About the Cover

The cover is an original drawing by Springfield artist Olu-Jimi Adeniyi. The figures in the drawing illustrate this year’s theme, *Time for Change*. They are contemplating how to change their lives, and those of their children, for the better. The central figure personifies Community Action, reaching out to those who need her to be a hand up out of poverty.

A Time for Change

In the past several months, we have been witness to many tumultuous and climatic events – funding threats, administrative changes, hurricanes, tornadoes – all have impacted our environments have effectively, moved us out of our comfort zone. They have reminded us that change is a common element in all of our lives.

Change becomes our opportunity, our challenge and, lest we forget, our strength. After all, Community Action is an agent of change – assisting and helping Illinois’ most fragile residents. But we need to change from within – to adapt by seeking new funding streams, working smarter, utilizing our influence and broadening our scope. We have the capacity to alter our course and find our way despite the many roadblocks that clutter our path.

The time for change is now. Let’s move ahead together – united and strong.
ICAA’s Mission & Vision

MISSION STATEMENT

The Illinois Community Action Association is a membership organization which serves as the network for Illinois’ not-for-profit corporations and units of government which strive to raise the health, education and economic standards of Illinois’ low-income population. The Illinois Community Action Association serves the collective interests of its members by:

- Aggressively and pro-actively advocating the public policies that serve its members and the low-income population of Illinois.
- Actively promoting the value of the Association, its member network services and programs to stakeholders and the general public.
- Building member capacity and effectiveness through training, technical assistance and other value-added services.
- Providing timely and reliable information on core issues important to members and stakeholders.
- Educating and informing the membership and general public on issues that impact the low-income population of Illinois.
- Building partnerships that advance the Community Action network and stakeholder interests.

VISION STATEMENT

By the year 2008, the Illinois Community Action Association will be widely known and recognized as:

- The leadership organization providing a unifying voice for its members and the low-income populations of Illinois.
- Visible and highly respected by policy-setting and legislative groups.
- Responsive to members and stakeholders.
- Highly influential in areas of advocacy and institutional change.
- The authority on issues affecting members in Illinois.
- The clearinghouse for information and perspectives on poverty.
- A well-directed and professional organization.
- A highly effective capacity building resource for members and stakeholders.
- A highly regarded source for training and technological advancement services.
Message from the Chair

Dear Members:

Four years ago when I took over the chairmanship of our state association, we were an organization that was going through a process of renewal. We needed to rebuild stronger partnerships with our funders, we needed to become an association that was more responsive to its membership and staff, and most importantly we needed to assume leadership in areas we had not in the past. With the development of a transition plan which led to our strategic plan, I am happy to report that not only did we accomplish what we had set ourselves to do, but in most cases we have exceeded our own goals. I am also happy to report that we now have an organization that is poised to deal with the difficult challenges that lay ahead of us in this War on Poverty.

The challenges that we now face in the Community Action movement prompts us to re-examine how and why we became a movement charged with the insurmountable task of eliminating poverty. How do we continue to effectively build a case for relevancy when more people are falling into poverty? What types of skill sets, tools and resources do we need as organizations to take these challenges head on and into the next generation of our movement? How have partnerships at different levels provided us with the effectiveness of carrying out our missions? These are the questions we need to critically examine because there are those who would say that Community Action is at a crossroads.

In a time when fierce competition among Not for Profit organizations is rampant for the scarce resources which have never been enough to effectively fight the War on Poverty, merely ensuring that we are in compliance within our various programs and funding entities is no longer satisfactory. Why should funders and politicians continue to look to us as recipients for funding to carry out the War on Poverty? We need to not only adopt the standards of excellence developed by our national association but we also need to develop best practices for all aspects of a Community Action Agency so that we can have a frame of reference for what an agency of excellence looks like in Illinois. This will include, but not be limited to, job descriptions, personnel policies, organizational structures, wage information, financial procedures and by-laws.

I urge you as members to continue to support the Association and its initiatives. A strong association has meant a strong Community Action network. If we maintain solidarity we will continue to be effective in this War on Poverty. I would like to thank the ICAA Board of Directors for their hard work in the past year. Secondly, I would like to thank the membership for its support of the Association, the staff for their dedication and hard work. Finally, I would like to thank all of our partners for their continued support.

Sincerely

Dwight A. Lucas, CCAP
Dear Community Action Leaders and Friends:

In the last three years, Community Action in Illinois has “Renewed the Commitment on the War on Poverty”, “Defined the Future,” and as we continue to define the future of our movement and the families with low income whom we serve, we need to call for change in how this war has been fought in the last 40 years. This year’s theme of “A Time for Change” asks us as soldiers in the war on poverty to approach this necessary and moral war with invigorated renewal and new strategies. As President Abraham Lincoln so eloquently said “The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As in our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.”

It is quite disconcerting that every year the challenges Community Action has to deal with are not getting any easier. How can we be expected to focus on our mission when the majority of our time is spent on fighting for our survival? How can we truly win the war on poverty when we are constantly engaged in a war for funding? One thing we have shown those that are our detractors over the years is resolve, focus and determination to help and change people’s lives. No matter what they throw at us or the road blocks they place in our way, Community Action is here to stay for as long as poverty exists in America.

The year 2005 brought many challenges to Community Action. The Community Services Block Grant funding had been zeroed out in the President’s budget for FY 2006. The justification continued to be that CSBG supported organizations that were static and had no tangible outcomes. These cuts and language justification had been consistent with the administration’s budget in the four years of its first term, in spite of the tremendous work that has been done by community action to tell its remarkable story of changing people’s lives. The Community Action movement rallied the troops and worked hard to have the funding cuts restored with great success.

A greater state challenge we dealt with on the legislative front was SB 110, which proposed to provide the Department of Healthcare and Family Services the flexibility to allow townships to administer the LIHEAP program in the territories within their jurisdictions. This certainly posed a very serious challenge and threat on the network, but at the same time it gave us an opportunity to utilize our “grassroots club” to defeat the legislation. The membership should be highly commended for responding to the call for advocacy around this issue. Many were reminded of the ability the grassroots movement has to effectively organize around issues impacting those whom we serve. We intend to continue to build our capacity on this grassroots victory.

The year 2006 ought to be embraced with a sense of optimism because in spite of the challenges ahead, there are opportunities we ought to seek to overcome those challenges. Reenergizing of our grassroots plan on the feet of SB110 and a rather tumultuous legislative session we experienced with Congress regarding our programs and many others in 2005 has become a necessity for our continued survival here and beyond. Grassroots advocacy is the one way we can be heard by those who are in positions of making decisions.

An activity being planned that will help us to enhance our advocacy efforts, fundraising and communications is training on messaging. This training will help us to conduct a self assessment on how we communicate our issues to those in positions of making decisions. How effective is our messaging? How do those to whom we communicate respond to our message? What model or framework is out there that can be adopted for purposes of communicating? The goal would be for our network to adopt an effective means of framing our issues so that they resonate with decision makers.
The last initiative I would like to outline in this letter is the Community Partnership’s Pathways to Excellence. As you know one of ICAA’s enhanced Skillbank activities is “Corporate Stability”. This program has enabled this organization to serve its membership through technical assistance in a very meaningful way. Through the utilization of peers from the network, ICAA has facilitated agency wide assessments, program assessments and individualized systems analysis for member agencies. I believe that this activity has helped to build stronger agencies in Illinois. For those that have been involved on the peer teams, their experience has been so enriching that their agencies have become better as a result. However, this initiative has focused on keeping agencies in compliance so that they maintain their funding. It is now time for us to work on how we can build our agencies to be agencies of excellence. Our national association has developed a program called “Pathways to Excellence” which utilizes the Baldrige approach to standards of excellence. I believe that this initiative will help us create that competitive edge if you will for Community Action against other entities in this environment of fierce competition for funding that is already scarce. Together with the Board of Directors and the state we will work on bringing this initiative to Illinois.

Finally, our Board Training manual has been published. This training is designed to be quite comprehensive by not only focusing on the role of the board, but includes ROMA, Head Start and specific CSBG requirements. We are now accepting requests for training to be conducted for your local boards. I look forward to working with you on these initiatives and also getting input from you on what you believe the Association should be working on behalf of the membership in 2006.

I would like to thank the membership for its support, our Board of Directors and staff for their dedication to the cause.

Sincerely,
Dalitso Sulamoyo, CCAP
ICA 2005 - 2006 Officers

Board Chair
Dwight A. Lucas, CCAP
East Central IL Community Action Agency - Danville, IL

Board Vice-Chair
McFarland A. Bragg II
Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity - Peoria, IL

Board Treasurer
Frank Schwab
IL Valley Economic Development Corporation - Gillespie, IL

Board Secretary
Mary Lockhart-White, CCAP
Community Action Partnership of Lake County - Waukegan, IL

2005 - 2006 Board of Directors

Keith Brown,
BCMW - Centralia, IL

John Burrill
Mid Central IL Community Action, Inc. - Bloomington, IL

George Davis
Rockford Department of Human Services - Rockford, IL

Walter Hunter
Madison County Community Development - Edwardsville, IL

Mary Olson
DeKalb County Community Services Department - DeKalb, IL

Tracy Parsons
Urban League of Champaign County - Champaign, IL

Ken Pettijohn, MPA
Wabash Area Development, Inc. - Enfield, IL

Robert Wharton
Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County - Chicago, IL

Kris White
Will County Center for Community Concerns - Joliet, IL

Ex-Officio
Dalitso Sulamoyo, CCAP – President & CEO
IL Community Action Association - Springfield, IL

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Ramsey Alwin, Director of Program Services for the National Association of State Community Service Programs, speaker for Advocacy Day
Grassroots Organizing: Several years ago the ICAA Board of Directors and the membership made a conscious decision to increase the visibility of the CAA network and to become a statewide leader in advocating for the best interests of the network and for low-income people. While progress has been steady, there were a couple significant breakthroughs in 2005.

LIHEAP ADVOCACY: In the Spring Session of the Illinois General Assembly there was a move by some Township Supervisors to become local administrators of the LIHEAP program. ICAA vigorously opposed this legislation and the ICAA Grassroots Club responded in a powerful demonstration of unity. On three separate occasions the network turned out in large numbers. On two of these occasions, there were over 100 people present at the Capitol. This grassroots show of power defeated the legislation and educated many members of the General Assembly that we will stand together as one network.

INTERNET ADVOCACY: Because the ICAA Grassroots Club is made up very busy people, and because ICAA values their time and participation, ICAA added the Legislative Advocacy Center to the ICAA website in early 2005. This new addition to the website simplifies advocacy and provides for an efficient means for CAA supporters to contact members of Congress or the General Assembly. The way it works is that ICAA posts advocacy issues to the website and Grassroots Club members can sign on and take action by simply forwarding fact sheets or position statements.

CSBG ADVOCACY: At the national level, ICAA members worked in close cooperation with NCAF to save the Community Service Block Grant in 2005. The President had proposed to eliminate the CSBG program in his budget proposal. After 11 months of advocacy, Congress was finally able to restore CSBG to the level funding of 2004. This struggle is ongoing in 2006 with the President once again proposing zero funding for CSBG.
These homes are from IDA participants in Rockford purchasing their first home.
2005 marked the 5th year of the ICAA Individual Development Account (IDA) program and what a busy year it was! ICAA provides a match of 2:1 ($2 in match for every $1 participants save) and allows participants to choose from home purchase, start-up or expansion of small business, or post-secondary education as their asset.

**Major Events/Accomplishments**
On April 28, 2005 ICAA held a press conference to announce that the program had exceeded the benchmark of more than $100,000 in match money distributed to graduates since the program began. Graduating participants had individually saved over $50,000. Since then, these numbers have continued to grow, reaching quite an impressive level. In 2005 alone, participants saved over $46,000, earning matching funds of over $93,000. Since the program’s inception in 2000, participants have saved over $93,000 dollars and over $183,000 had been distributed in matching funds. 31 small business have been expanded and 44 participants have pursued post-secondary education with their IDA savings. In terms of home purchase, 32 homes have been purchased since the program began in 2000, with the total purchase price of these homes adding up to just under $3,000,000.

**What’s Next for 2006?**
In 2006, the ICAA IDA program will see the completion of their first IDA grant, along with anticipated purchases of 39 additional homes, 14 small business expansions and at least 14 more participants pursuing post-secondary education. The second IDA grant should also be successful, with additional purchases anticipated in all three asset categories. For more information on the ICAA IDA program, please visit [http://www.icaanet.org/ida/](http://www.icaanet.org/ida/) or [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/assetbuilding/](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/assetbuilding/)
Below are families who were helped by the following community action agencies: Dekalb County Community Services Department, DuPage County Division of Human Services, and Embarras River Basin Agency.
Illinois Community Action Agencies established the Family and Community Development (FCD) Program in 1995 in response to a growing need for comprehensive family assistance and case management in many areas, including prevention and intervention services for family violence, mental health problems, drug and alcohol abuse, and medical illness. Now in the 11th year, over 800 Illinois CAA staff hold FCD specialist certification.

The FCD program goals are to cultivate self-reliance in families at risk of long-term welfare dependency and to work with communities to identify economic development opportunities. There are three components to the FCD program: family development, community development and outcomes-based program planning. Community Action Agency staff participates in an initial 12 day certification training covering these three components. Upon successful completion of the training, participants are certified as Family and Community Development Specialists who continue to participate in follow-up and supplemental training throughout the year. Within their agency, the FCD specialist has the capacity to provide comprehensive case management, utilizing a family-strengths approach, to Community Action Agency families.

**Major Events/Accomplishments**

In 2005, 46 Illinois Community Action Agency staffers successfully completed the FCD specialist training and will graduate in May, 2006. One new component for FCD training is recertification training. This one day training provides updated information, especially for ROMA reporting, and refreshes important case management skills, such as group work and interviewing. In May 2005, 36 FCD specialists were successfully recertified through 2010. More opportunities for FCD recertification training are available, both in May and June, 2006.

**What’s Next for 2006?**

This year, ICAA will be gathering more information about FCD specialists and the work that they do with clients. We are interested in caseload numbers and the number of clients who have gained employment, housing and health benefits. This information will assist ICAA with Statewide ROMA reporting and equip ICAA with robust information to advocate for the FCD programs in many different areas.

Finally, ICAA staff is collaborating with University of Illinois-Springfield faculty to shift four days/modules of the full FCD training to on-line, internet-based coursework. Course materials will be made available online, and discussion groups and blogs will be used for both lecture and interactive learning. The on-line learning environment has dramatically improved in the last two years and FCD specialist students will have greater flexibility in their learning environment. Agencies will also be able to save money on travel costs. We anticipate the on-line course to be rolled out in the fall of 2006.
At the Federal Level: More than ever, the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) continues to be a vital service delivered by the Illinois Community Action Network. While energy bills were higher than ever in this past winter, the LIHEAP resources helped low-income consumers pay energy bills. The income support provided by the federal LIHEAP program, is an essential aspect of helping low-income people stay in their homes and maintain self-sufficiency.

Outcomes achieved and future projections: LIHEAP has enjoyed a traditional bi-partisan support in Congress. However in 2005, there was even a stronger bi-partisan support for LIHEAP. This strong support base led to a successful reauthorization of LIHEAP as a part of the Energy Bill. That reauthorization brings little substantive change to the program, but boosted the funding mark for annual appropriations to $5.1 billion. If appropriated, this would be more than twice what has been appropriated in recent years.

At the State Level: The winter of 2005-2006 brought on the second year of the LIHEAP.NET system. Other than some expected start up challenges to overcome, there was great progress made. ICAA has worked closely with its member CAAs and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to move through these challenges. The cooperation between the department and the CAAs has greatly improved, and adaptability and skill at the CAA level has been very impressive.

ICAA continued to advocate for more affordable energy and has worked closely with IDHFS and the utilities to implement program changes. The changes ICAA has been advocating are outlined in the Affordable Energy Plan including: (1) A Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) where L-I customers can agree to make monthly PIPP payment of 10% of their income for their energy bill; (2) Energy efficiency measures designed to reduce program costs by lowering participant heating bills by using weatherization services and low-cost efficiency strategies for all participants; (3) Hedging of Natural Gas prices to stabilize the natural gas costs and avoid the volatility of market fluctuations in cold winters; and (4) Arrearage Reductions that would be provided to L-I customers in exchange for regular payments.

What’s Next for 2006?

The Winter of 2005-2006 started out with many significant challenges. The CAA network made great progress in working with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services concerning the operations of Liheap.net. Next year the program will start off with improved functions, but improvements in the affordability of energy will depend on the willingness and ability of the utilities, IDHFS, the General Assembly and the LIHEAP network of CAA’s to work together for future program improvement.
Welch Woods project in Beardstown
Welch Woods, the 42 unit affordable family development was completed on time, within budget and remains fully leased, with a waiting list. Since its completion, this project was featured in various local, state and national articles as an example of small, rural housing developments.

Illinois Community Action Development Corporation (ICADC), working with local partners, is shifting its focus from traditional apartment style complexes, i.e., Welch Woods & Strawberry Meadows, to developing detached, single-family housing for both direct sales and rent-to-own, integrated within new subdivision developments.

ICADC is developing innovative home ownership financing packages that provide every possible advantage for a first time homebuyer. In addition to providing homebuyer training, ICADC will provide each homebuyer with a 1300 square ft. unit containing two full baths, two car garage, central air & heating, on a minimum 8,000 square foot lot. Homebuyers can receive up to $40,000 off the cost of the house and only need a $1,000 downpayment in order to purchase the new home.

ICADC also intends to utilize Low Income Housing Tax Credits to build identical units, as the for-sale units for rent. These rental units will convert to home ownership units after 15 years and sell considerably below market value to the indigent households. Most of these integrated for-sale and rent-to-own units will occur in small, rural communities where new housing and population growth is rare.

Currently ICADC has entered into “Option” agreement to acquire up to 19 acres of land in Virginia and 9 acres in Ashland in Cass County. With the combination of sites in both Ashland and Virginia, ICADC would control approximately 28 acres of land, accessible to water, sewer and major highway routes. The Cass County Project is extremely complicated involving a mixed use, mixed finance, multi-location development.

The mixed use involves developing single-family detached residential units, as “for-sale” and “rent-to-own”. The mixed financing involves not just financing the projects as rental and for-sale, but also for families earning from 40% to 100% AMI. Although, the “bundled,” application is considerably more complicated than the typical tax credit application, it is the best (and only) method to bring tax credit projects to rural communities in need of affordable housing.

In short, bundling permits rural counties to simultaneously, develop multiple sites of tax credit properties in more than one municipality. Most small rural towns cannot absorb the minimum 50 units, required for a tax credit application, therefore it is necessary to “bundle” multiple rural towns under one tax credit application to attain the minimum 50 units.

Market studies will identify the number of both rental and home ownership units that individual municipalities can absorb. Given the abundance of relatively inexpensive available land, in most small rural communities, it makes sense to build individual houses on separate parcels of land. Housing is the lifeblood of any community and ICADC, along with its Community Action partners intends to work with communities throughout the state to sponsor new housing opportunities.
Above: Christine Westerlund, Training Specialist for ICAA conducting a workshop on outcomes for HUD.

Below: Brenda Hanbury, Bureau Chief for the Department of Human Services, Homeless Services and Supportive Housing, and Mark Johnston, Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, HUD, Washington D.C. presenting at the HUD Peer-to-Peer Conference.
The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) Report *Out of Reach 2005* states that, “the national Housing Wage (the wage a full time worker would have to earn per hour to afford the rent and utilities for modest two-bedroom apartment) in Illinois is $15.43 for the state as a whole, which makes the state 36th in affordability.” Further straining the budget of all renters is the 18 percent hike in the cost of housing-related heating and utilities that has occurred over the last year. Even as housing and other costs have risen, the real value of workers’ wages has fallen by 1.6 percent according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Major Events/Accomplishments**

In March of 2005, ICAA coordinated its Advocacy Day Activities with a rally a week earlier at the State Capitol coordinated by Housing Action Illinois (formerly the Statewide Housing Action Coalition or SHAC) and the Housing Roundtable, a consortium of Illinois advocacy organizations. Issues included doubling state funding for the state’s Homeless Prevention Program and support for the Residential Tenant Protection Act, the Safe Homes Act to protect renters who are victims of domestic violence, and the Comprehensive Housing Planning Act codifying Governor Blagojevich’s 2003 Executive Order. ICAA Housing and Homeless Specialist Al Timke has been selected for a second term as Chair of the Housing Action Illinois advocacy committee.

ICAA, Housing Action, and the It Takes a Home to Raise a Child Campaign contributed to the creation of Illinois’ new Rental Housing Support Program (RHSP) which became law in the Spring of 2005. ICAA members will likely be among the local agencies selected by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) through a Request for Proposals to administer the rental subsidy program. RHSP will help bridge the affordability gap documented by *Out of Reach* and other sources.

Under contract with the Illinois Department of Human Services, ICAA distributes approximately 1100 copies of the *Homeless Headlines* monthly newsletter and the *Homeless Hotline Bulletin*. Both publications are now also available by email, and on the ICAA web site. A column especially useful to front line staff has been added this year entitled “Making the Connection.” The new column explains the intricacies of regulations for programs such as Food Stamps and SSI that can prevent homelessness in some cases by supplementing the budgets of families in crisis.

In 2005, for the seventh year, ICAA organized the HUD Peer-to-Peer Homeless Providers Conference. The conference has come to consistently attract 200 to 300 attendees. The 2005 event featured a panel on Hurricane Katrina featuring national HUD officials and several key Illinois officials responsible for hurricane-related activities. ICAA has diversified its HUD technical assistance to homeless service providers in the past year. Two case management and program evaluation trainings have been offered and received enthusiastic receptions.

**What’s Next for 2006?**

ICAA looks forward to its 16th year of providing technical assistance for the Illinois Department of Human Services. In 2006, ICAA will also work with HUD and homeless service providers around the state on the Eighth Annual HUD Peer-to-Peer Conference to be held in Collinsville. ICAA will continue to expand other HUD technical assistance programming. ICAA and its member organizations also anticipate being among the nonprofit organizations chosen by IHDA to help administer the Rental Housing Support Program and to continue to advocate for services to low income Illinois residents.
The Community Food & Nutrition Program (CFNP) is a federal initiative intended to address the presence of hunger and malnutrition in America’s children through innovative approaches to increasing the accessibility of Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). The CNPs include the Food Stamp Program, the Women, Infants and & Children Program, the School Breakfast and School Lunch Programs, the Summer Food Program, and the Child & Adult Care Food Program.

The ICAA utilized its CFNP grant in 2005 to increase school participation in the School Breakfast Programs, enlarge the number of Summer Food Service Project sites, boost the number of eligible families participating in the Food Stamp Program, and raise public awareness of the Child Nutrition Programs through promotional materials, a 2006 anti-hunger calendar, and a quarterly newsletter titled break bread.

**Major events/accomplishments**

**School Breakfast Program** – As a result of ICAA’s collaborative efforts with the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Hunger Coalition and the Dairy Council in 2005: 83 schools are now participating in the School Breakfast Program and 42,341 children now have access to breakfast at school.

**Summer Food Service Program** – The ICAA subcontracted with 5 Community Action Agencies in 2005, which resulted in the initiation of 10 new SFSP feeding sites.

**Food Stamp Outreach Project** – The ICAA subcontracted with 4 Community Action Agencies in 2005, which resulted in 344 families now participating in the FSP. According to Illinois Department of Human Services, the average monthly FSP household allotment is $220. This translates into the ICAA Food Stamp Outreach Project bringing in approximately $75,000 each month in new federal money into the state’s economy.

**Increasing awareness of the CNPs** - Pens, pill boxes, and water bottles containing the Illinois Hunger Hotline number were purchased and distributed to the CFNP sub-grantee communities. A 2006 calendar was created using the drawings of local school children that depict their solutions to hunger. The calendar was distributed to local, state, and national elected officials. The quarterly food security and advocacy newsletter, break bread, was distributed to a national audience.

**What’s Next for 2006?**

Unfortunately, Congress eliminated funding for the Community Food and Nutrition Program (CFNP) in FY 2006. As a consequence, the ICAA will no longer be able to work within Illinois communities to facilitate increased accessibility and participation in the Child Nutrition Programs. The ICAA intends to be actively involved in efforts to restore funding for the CFNP in the FY 2007 Congressional budget.

The ability to obtain enough food for an active, healthy life is the most basic of human needs. Households that lack sufficient resources to provide food cannot achieve this fundamental element of well-being.
Village of Ridgway’s Water Treatment Plant
Clean and Safe Drinking Water for Everyone

Village of Ridgway (Gallatin County)
The Village of Ridgway’s Water Treatment Plant has been in operation since late the 1970s. It serves 481 customers numbering over 1,000 people. In the last several years the Ridgway Water Treatment plant has been producing finished water within the current acceptable maximum range allowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But concern for the aging system arose due to new Maximum Contaminant Level standards for arsenic, which were implemented in January 2006 by the EPA, and thereby placing the Village out of compliance. Local leaders made the decision to build a new system that would meet the new EPA standards.

IL RCAP assisted the community by conducting an Environmental Assessment and completing the Environmental Status Checklist for the CDAP design grant. The project received approval from the Illinois EPA for a stopgap measure to reduce the arsenic content in their drinking water. Moreover, as a result of the work of IL RCAP, Ridgway received notification in the fall of 2005 from DCEO that $85,600 of CDAP funds had been awarded for designing the new system. Thankful for the assistance from RCAP, the Village then sought additional support from the RCAP program to administer their CDAP grant.

Village of Patoka (Marion County)
Patoka is on a permanent boil order and nine violations were found in their last Sanitary Survey. The community leaders along with their engineering firm decided that updating and improving the existing water system would not be cost effective. They joined the newly formed Gateway Regional Water Company, a cooperative that services rural communities within a four county area with a water treatment plant and transmission service.

IL RCAP assisted this community in preparing their application for CDAP funding. RCAP mapped the area and conducted an income survey. The community is still awaiting notice of funding.

What’s Next for 2006?
Statewide Training – IL RCAP will be sponsoring statewide training on financial mechanisms available to small communities. The training will be held in four locations around the state. Representatives from USDA-Rural Development, IL EPA, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), IL Facilities Fund and ICAA member agencies will be invited to attend. The state USDA-RD has strongly endorsed this IL RCAP training activity. The first portion of the training will focus on funding sources. The second portion will focus on IL RCAP and the services it provides to small rural communities.
Statement of Activities

Expenses
- Grants 86%
- Meeting 4%
- Dues 1%
- Other 2%
- Contributions 2%
- Lease 5%
- Contract Services 4%
- Remaining 16%
- Meetings/Trainings 8%
- Space 6%
- Community Action Agency Subcontracts 42%
- Salaries/Benefits 24%

Revenue
- Grants 86%
- Contributions 2%
- Meeting 4%
- Dues 1%
- Other 2%
- Lease 5%
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<th>Program Service Expenses</th>
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<td>Individual Development Account Program</td>
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<td>U.S. Dept. of Health &amp; Human Services</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Support Services</strong></td>
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</table>
Agency Directory

**BCMWW Community Services, Inc.**
909 E. Rexford, P.O. Box 729
Centralia, IL 62801-0729
Keith O. Brown, Executive Director
Telephone: (618) 532-7388
Fax: (618) 532-0204
www.bcmw.info
Service Area: Bond, Clinton, Marion, Washington Counties

**Carver Community Action Agency**
P.O. Box 28, 235 E. Main St.
Galesburg, IL 61402
Jeannie Shelton, Chief Executive Officer
Telephone: (309) 342-0158
Fax: (309) 342-8179
Service Area: Knox County

**C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation**
1805 S. Banker, P.O. Box 928
Effingham, IL 62401-0928
Paul White, Executive Director
Telephone: (217) 342-2193
TDD: (217) 342-2212
Fax: (217) 342-4701
Web: www.cefseoc.org
Service Area: Christian, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie and Shelby Counties

**Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation**
1800 W. Fifth St. Road
Lincoln, IL 62656
Angela Stoltzenburg, Executive Director
Telephone: (217) 732-2159
Fax: (217) 735-1753
Service Area: DeWitt, Fulton, Logan, Mason, Menard and Piatt Counties

**Champaign County Regional Planning Commission**
1776 E. Washington, P.O. Box 17760
Urbana, IL 61803
John Dimit, Executive Director
Telephone: (217) 328-3313
Fax: (217) 328-2426
www.ccrpc.org
Service Area: Champaign County

**Chicago Department of Human Services**
1615 West Chicago Avenue, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60622
Carmelo Vargas, Commissioner
Telephone: (312) 746-8545
Fax: (312) 746-8973
www.cityofchicago.org/HumanServices
Service Area: City of Chicago

**Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois**
300 E. Monroe, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701
Vicky Wilson, Executive Director
Telephone: (217) 522-7016
(800) 433-8848
Fax: (217) 522-7024
www.ccdionline.org
Service Area: Statewide

**Community Action Partnership of Lake County**
Box 9059
Waukegan, IL 60079
Mary Lockhart-White, Executive Director
Telephone: (847) 249-4330
Fax: (847) 249-4393
Service Area: Lake County
Community Contacts, Inc.
100 S. Hawthorne St.
Elgin, IL 60123
Susan Wohl, Executive Director
Telephone: (847) 697-8800
Fax: (630) 232-1467
Web: www.cci-hci.org
Service Area: DeKalb and Kane counties

Community & Economic Development
Association of Cook County, Inc.
208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60604
Robert L. Wharton, President/CEO
Telephone: (312) 795-8844
Fax: (312) 795-1034
Web: www.cedaorg.net
Service Area: Suburban Cook County, City of Chicago

Crosswalk Community Action Agency
410 W. Main
West Frankfort, IL 62896
Debra Jackanicz, Executive Director
Telephone: (618) 937-3581
Fax: (618) 937-3583
Service Area: Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson & Williamson Counties

Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation
1122 E. Marietta St.
Decatur, IL 62521
Gail Evans, Executive Director
Telephone: (217) 428-0155
Fax: (217) 428-0169
Service Area: Macon County

DeKalb County Community Services Department
2550 N. Annie Glidden Road
DeKalb, IL 60115
Mary Olson, Executive Director
Telephone: (815) 758-3910
Fax: (815) 758-3407
www.dekalbcounty.org
Service Area: DeKalb County

DuPage County Human Services
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Philip R. Smith, Administrator
Telephone: (630) 682-7000 or (800) 942-9412
Fax: (630) 682-7382
www.dupageco.org
Service Area: DuPage County

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 N. Vermilion
Danville, IL 61834
Dwight A. Lucas, CEO
Telephone: (217) 443-2705
Fax: (217) 431-0725
www.comaction.org
Service Area: Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion Counties

Embarras River Basin Agency
115 S. Kentucky, P.O. Box 307
Greenup, IL 62428-0307
Marsha Roll, Executive Director
Telephone: (217) 923-3113
Fax: (217) 923-5155
www.erbainc.org
Service Area: Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland Counties

Illinois Migrant Council
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60604
Eloy Salazar, Executive Director
Telephone: (312) 663-1522
Fax: (312) 663-1994
www.illinoismigrant.org
Service Area: Statewide

Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation (A Community Action Agency)
223 S. Macoupin St., P.O. Box 88
Gillespie, IL 62033-0088
Frank J. Schwab, Executive Director
Telephone: (217) 839-4431
Fax: (217) 839-3647
Service Area: Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, and Macoupin Counties

Kankakee County Community Services, Inc.
657 East Court Street, Suite 207
Kankakee, IL 60901
Vincent Clark, Executive Director
Telephone: (815) 933-7883
Fax: (815) 933-0635
www.kccsi-cap.org
Service Area: Kankakee County

Kendall-Grundy Community Action
(A Unit of Kendall County Department of Health and Human Services)
500A Countryside Center
Yorkville, IL 60560
Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director
Telephone: (630) 553-9100
Fax: (630) 553-0167
Email: kchhs@co.kendall.il.us
CJohnson@co.kendall.il.us
Service Area: Grundy and Kendall Counties
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Madison County Community Development</td>
<td>130 Hillsboro Ave.</td>
<td>(618) 692-6200, ext. 4386</td>
<td>(618) 692-7022</td>
<td>Madison County</td>
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<tr>
<td>McHenry County Housing Authority</td>
<td>1108 N. Seminary Ave., P.O. Box 1109</td>
<td>(815) 338-7752</td>
<td>(815) 338-1217</td>
<td>McHenry County</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCS Community Services</td>
<td>345 West State Street</td>
<td>(217) 243-9404</td>
<td>(217) 245-4159</td>
<td>Morgan, Cass and Scott Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Central Community Action, Inc.</td>
<td>923 E. Grove</td>
<td>(309) 829-0691</td>
<td>(309) 828-8811</td>
<td>McLean and Livingston Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.</td>
<td>711 W. McBean Street</td>
<td>(309) 671-3900</td>
<td>(309) 671-3913</td>
<td>Peoria County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project NOW Community Action Agency, Inc.</td>
<td>418 19th St.</td>
<td>(309) 793-6391</td>
<td>(309) 793-6352</td>
<td>Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties</td>
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<td>Rockford Human Services Department</td>
<td>612 North Church</td>
<td>(815) 987-5782</td>
<td>(815) 987-5762</td>
<td>Boone and Winnebago Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sangamon County Department of Community Resources</td>
<td>200 S. Ninth St., Room 311</td>
<td>(217) 535-3120</td>
<td>(217) 535-3119</td>
<td>Sangamon County</td>
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<td>Shawnee Development Council, Inc.</td>
<td>P.O. Box 298</td>
<td>(618) 634-2201</td>
<td>(618) 634-9551</td>
<td>Sangamon County</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department/Community Action Agency</td>
<td>No. 19 Public Square, Suite 200</td>
<td>(618) 277-6790</td>
<td>(618) 236-1190</td>
<td>St. Clair County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tazwood Community Services, Inc.</td>
<td>2005 S. Main St.</td>
<td>(309) 266-9941</td>
<td>(309) 266-9174</td>
<td>Tazewell and Woodford Counties</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Tri-County Opportunities Council
405 Emmons Ave., Box 610
Rock Falls, IL 61071-0610
Sandra Julifs, President/CEO
Telephone: (815) 625-7830
Fax: (815) 625-7302
www.tcohelps.com
Service Area: Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside Counties

Two Rivers Head Start Agency
222 E. Wilson St.
Batavia, IL 60510
Jane Whitaker, Executive Director
Telephone: (630) 406-1444
Fax: (630) 406-1519
Web: www.trhlsa.org
Service Area: Kane County (CSBG and Head Start programs) Kendall, DeKalb, Grundy & Boone (Head Start program only)

Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials
1125 Hampshire, Suite 100
Quincy, IL 62301-3000
Larry Markway, Executive Director
Telephone: (217) 224-8171
Fax: (217) 224-9145
Service Area: Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler Counties

Urban League of Champaign County
314 Neil St
Champaign, IL 61820
Tracy Parsons, President/CEO
Telephone: (217) 363-3333
Fax: (217) 356-1310
www.urbanleague.net
Service Area: Champaign County

Wabash Area Development, Inc.
110 Latham St.
Enfield, IL 62835
Ken Pettijohn, Executive Director
Telephone: (618) 963-2387
Fax: (618) 963-2525
Service Area: Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Saline, Wabash, Wayne and White Counties

Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council
No. 1 Industrial Park, P.O. Box 7
Steeleville, IL 62288-0007
Paulette Hamlin, Executive Director
Telephone: (618) 965-3458
Fax: (618) 965-9733
www.weeoc.org
Service Area: Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph Counties

Western Illinois Regional Council – Community Action Agency
223 S. Randolph
Macomb, IL 61455
Suzan Nash, Executive Director
Telephone: (309) 837-2997
Fax: (309) 836-3640
www.wirpc.org/3.html
Service Area: Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren Counties

Will County Center for Community Concerns
304 N. Scott St.
Joliet, IL 60432
Kris White, Executive Director
Telephone: (815) 722-0722
Fax: (815) 722-6344
www.wccc.net
Service Area: Will County
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Kankakee County Community Services, Inc.
Kendall-Grundy Community Service (Unit of Kendall County Health and Human Services)
Carver Economic Opportunity Corporation
Tri-County Opportunities Council
Embarra River Basin Agency for Economic Opportunity, Inc.
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