COMMUNITY ACTION CHANGES PEOPLE’S LIVES, EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF HOPE, IMPROVES COMMUNITIES, AND MAKES AMERICA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.
IACAA President/CEO Dalitso Sulamoyo proposed a different format for the December Winter meeting in 2008. Agencies from around the state gathered in Chicago for an Appreciative Inquiry summit. IACAA entitled the meeting an “Empowerment Summit”. Appreciative Inquiry uses a strength based approach for strategic planning in order to facilitate change.

The cover page photos and images below capture the images and spirit of the participants and the themes that were expressed throughout the process.

The summit brought together over 200 participants representing the gamut of stakeholders including all levels of staff, funding sources, board members, and clients. The purpose of the summit was to gain input and to build a statewide plan that would bring about positive change to the culture of Community Action.

Led by experienced facilitators with assistance of student volunteers from Benedictine University, participants reflected on and communicated stories related to their positive experiences with Community Action. With those stories in mind, the event continued with participants envisioning what they would like to see Community Action become, and putting together plans to realize those visions. The outcome of this event was the creation of multiple agency and network projects which were revisited in follow-up meetings and will be addressed in future conferences.

ABOUT THE COVER

STRENGTHS  OPPORTUNITIES  ASPIRATIONS  RESULTS

Tools for Change
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DEAR MEMBERS:

We are indeed privileged to have been bestowed this awesome task of assisting fellow citizens come out of the dreads of poverty into a life of dignity, self worth and self sufficiency. Even though poverty has been around since biblical times, it is a condition which is created and sustained by man. Therefore its eradication and amelioration can only be done through the actions of man. President Lyndon Johnson in his dynamic wisdom saw the need for a concerted effort to launch a war against poverty almost forty five years ago. It was through those actions that our movement was indeed born. In these last forty five years, we have been through trials and tribulations, shed blood, toil, tears and sweat to improve the human condition. Through it all we have been resilient yet steadfast on the mission at hand.

This last year was perhaps one of the most defining moments of our time. We celebrated and commemorated significant milestones that will perhaps define this country and its efforts to improve the human condition throughout history. We commemorated the 145th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination, the 43rd anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the 44th anniversary of the Equal Opportunity Act, the 44th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and we capped the year off with the celebration of the election of our 44th President, the first African American to hold that position in the history of this country. The commemoration and celebration of these critical milestones was eclipsed by a troubled economy shining the proverbial light into a distant past. It was almost 80 years ago that this world experienced the most difficult economic conditions in the history of economic systems. With the current down turn of the economy, the demands for Community Action’s services have risen dramatically. The social and political landscape in which you as Community Action Agencies advance your missions has changed. Your community needs have grown in size and diversity. Community Action is serving families and individuals who once held great paying jobs and now seek assistance to survive this fledgling economy. The face of poverty has changed in a matter of months. We have to work tirelessly with our elected officials to not fall into the economic abyss of the past.

History will judge us by how we effectively respond to these trying times. Our history for the most part has been written for us by people who never valued our mission or the plight of the poor. As a movement, we have an opportunity to define our own legacy which every household will know because we would have transformed their lives through opportunities and assistance. The work we have been doing these last 45 years has now become a significant part of the economic recovery effort.

It is the role of this Association to provide leadership to its network through training, technical assistance, advocacy and facilitation of change for organizational effectiveness. It is critical that we ensure our network is prepared for the opportunity to join our President and Governor in rebuilding our economy. This is why we held an Empowerment Summit last December in Chicago. The summit was an opportunity for Community Action to engage the talent in its network as well as external stakeholders in a large group change process that would begin a cultural shift toward

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
learning and transformative organizations. This was an opportunity for Community Action to develop a bold plan for transformational change that promises to redefine the War on Poverty in Illinois and hopefully in America. The Empowerment Summit was designed to be much more than an intervention. It was focused on ways to create an environment which would celebrate your strengths as Community Action agencies, build commitment and energy towards transformational change. The hope was that we would collectively feel empowered and be positioned to move toward a shared future of mission effectiveness.

The Empowerment Summit has reenergized the Community Action network in Illinois through re-focusing our strengths amidst what might be one of the most challenging economic environments in recent times. Most recently, we were able to express our collective power by working with the recently seated Governor of Illinois Patrick Quinn to move our programs from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services back to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The empowerment summit reminded us of the strength we possess collectively and that if used effectively great things can happen. The momentum that was started in December continues to peak as we engage in economic recovery with the President and Illinois’ Governor.

It is not by accident that the President chose some of our key programs to be part of his recovery effort. It is not by accident that we have survived through years of attacks and efforts to bury our movement into the books of history. This country and your communities need you now more than ever to fight for everyone’s livelihood. Fortunately we have had years of great practice. As we embrace the opportunities that allow us to be part of this historical effort, I am reminded of why we all are part of this Community Action movement. Ours is a calling to improve and change the human condition for the better. As the President stated in one of his speeches, “we are the ones we have been waiting for.” It is now time to roll up our sleeves and do what we know how to do best. Helping People! Changing Lives!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors for their leadership in guiding and building this association to be an effective organization for the membership, the membership for your continued support and the staff for their commitment to the cause. “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... 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

Sincerely,
Dalitso Sulamoyo
President/CEO

IT IS NOT BY ACCIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT CHOSE SOME OF OUR KEY PROGRAMS TO BE A PART OF HIS RECOVERY EFFORT
DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS:

Let me begin by thanking the Board of Directors for instilling their confidence in me to lead this bodacious organization as its chair. I come into this position with a sense of humility and purpose as I take the place of our past chair, Mr. Dwight Lucas. It is imperative that we continue to build an effective Association that represents our collective interests at both the state and national levels. Now is a time more than ever when we need an association that can lead and represent us effectively. We are experiencing perhaps the most trying times in the history of our movement brought by a fledgling economy.

When I accepted the baton of leadership from Mr. Lucas in the fall of 2008, the environment in which we operated was on the brink of unprecedented change. We witnessed the winds of change sweep in through an administration that is empathetic to the lives of the working poor at the national level. We also recently witnessed changes at the state level that have brought in an administration that is a champion for working families and the poor that our movement serves. The most significant result of these changes is that both administrations know who we are and appreciate what we do for Illinois’ families. We spent the last few years fighting for our survival and holding onto the little we had while serving families in need. We spent the last few years fighting to be at the table where impactful decisions were made. We have fought hard to renew the War on Poverty both within our home state and at the national level. Based on tragic circumstances and decisions that have affected our economy, we are now in a position to lead in efforts that will strengthen our economy for every American. Our movement is at a crossroads of opportunity brought by transformational leaders who have the audacious task of leading us out of challenging times both nationally and at the state level. It will be through this Association that we can ensure the paths of opportunity we take lead us to improving the lives of our customers.

We have built a strong Association that is nationally recognized for its leadership in many different areas of our movement. This has largely been due to a supportive, resilient and united membership. “An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success” (Stephen Covey). We are still here because we speak with one voice. I look forward to the opportunity to continue building a powerful organization that looks out for our interests and that of our customers. I would like to thank the staff for their commitment and leadership as we face unprecedented opportunities to significantly reduce poverty in our country. I would like to thank our funding partners for their continued support of the Community Action movement. I look forward to working with you through these trying times for our customers and communities at large.

Sincerely,
Kris White
IACAA Board Chair
## 2008 Financial Highlights

### Year Ended December 31, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue and Other Support</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue</td>
<td>$8,147,730</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$8,147,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>163,955</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>163,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>33,360</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33,360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental and services income</td>
<td>232,203</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>232,203</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income (loss)</td>
<td>(5,453)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(5,453)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>30,550</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>95,521</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>95,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions - Satisfaction of program restrictions</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>(30,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>8,727,966</td>
<td>(30,000)</td>
<td>8,697,966</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditures

#### Program services

| Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program                       | 134,167      | -                      | 134,167 |
| Community Services Block Grant                                 | 481,865      | -                      | 481,865 |
| Adsytech                                                       | 798,328      | -                      | 798,328 |
| U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development                      | 85,603       | -                      | 85,603  |
| Illinois Department of Human Services                          | 94,217       | -                      | 94,217  |
| Office of Community Services                                   | 49,172       | -                      | 49,172  |
| Rural Community Assistance Program                              | 198,426      | -                      | 198,426 |
| Illinois Division of Mental Health                             | 39,960       | -                      | 39,960  |
| Rental Housing Support Program                                 | 210,475      | -                      | 210,475 |
| Illinois Housing Development Authority                         | 791,052      | -                      | 791,052 |
| Tourism Grant                                                  | 85,550       | -                      | 85,550  |
| ComEd & Ameren Rate Relief Program                             | 5,270,353    | -                      | 5,270,353|
| **Total Program Services**                                     | 8,239,168    | -                      | 8,239,168|

#### Support Services

| Administrative/Membership Services                              | 363,015      | -                      | 363,015 |
| Building                                                       | 216,463      | -                      | 216,463 |

| **Total Support Services**                                     | 579,478      | -                      | 579,478 |

| **Total Expenditures**                                         | 8,818,646    | -                      | 8,818,646|

| Change in Net Assets                                           | (90,680)     | (30,000)               | (120,680) |

| Net Assets, Beginning of Year                                  | 1,157,475    | 144,635                | 1,302,110 |

| Net Assets, End of Year                                        | 1,066,795    | 114,635                | 1,181,430 |

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**Change**
The change in net assets for the year ended December 31, 2008, is (120,680). This represents a decrease in net assets from 1,302,110 to 1,181,430.
PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY WORK IN 2008

SENATOR BOMKE READS TO HEAD START CHILDREN IN LINCOLN ILLINOIS

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
**FEDERAL ADVOCACY**

Each year IACAA staff attends the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) Legislative conference in early March in Washington, DC. In March of 2008, IACAA staff made hill visits to every member of the Illinois Congressional delegation. The issues focused on predominantly were CSBG, LIHEAP and Weatherization. In addition to this annual trip to DC, IACAA and its members make numerous contacts with the Illinois offices of our Congressional delegation to make sure that they are up to date with issues that affect low-income people. This is very important work because members of Congress will not know or understand the need for these programs unless CAAs are active in educating them on a regular basis.

As the federal fiscal year was coming to a close, this advocacy paid off better than ever before. In late September of 2008, the Congress had not approved appropriations for CSBG, LIHEAP and Weatherization. As a result of this stalemate, the Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) on September 30th that provided ongoing funding for these programs. Below is a brief summary on the huge success that CAAs had concerning CSBG, LIHEAP and Weatherization.

**CONGRESSIONAL CONTINUING RESOLUTION (CR)**

- **LIHEAP:** The bill payment assistance program (LIHEAP) was a big winner in the CR. LIHEAP has been authorized to receive an appropriation up to $5.1 billion for the past 10 years. However, Congress has been accustomed to appropriating less than half that amount. Advocates negotiated at the $2 billion mark. However in 2008, this all changed. In the CR, LIHEAP was fully funded at $5.1 billion for the 2008-2009 heating season. This meant a 78% increase in funding for Illinois.

- **CSBG:** The Community Services Block Grant also received an increase in funding in the CR. CSBG will receive approximately a $50 million increase for 2009 for a total funding of $700 million. In early 2009, the economic stimulus bill included an additional $1 billion for CSBG. This is record high funding for CSBG.

- **WAP:** The Continuing Resolution contained an additional $250 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program. When combined with the economic stimulus that became law in early 2009, this will have the effect of increasing the WAP funding for the next program year by five times. In the 2008-2009 program year, CAAs will weatherize approximately 8,000 homes. The funding increase will make it possible for us to weatherize approximately 45,000 homes in each of the next two years.

**STATE ADVOCACY**

IACAA also had a very successful year with state level advocacy. There were two notable successes to report.

In early 2008, IACAA joined with other advocates in support of a bill introduced by the Heartland Alliance. This was a bill to establish a commitment by the state of Illinois to cut extreme poverty in half by the year of 2015. IACAA made this a top legislative priority and we were successful along with other advocates in making sure that the bill passed the Illinois General Assembly in May of 2008.

However, our biggest victory that was initiated in late 2008, came in March of 2009. Since the energy assistance programs were transferred to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and family Services (HFS) in 2004, CAAs have had ongoing complications with the state regarding LIHEAP and Weatherization. As 2008 was coming to a conclusion, IACAA made a decision to advocate for the transfer of energy assistance programs back to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). With the full support of Governor Patrick Quinn, this effort culminated on March 10th, 2008 when Governor Quinn appeared before the membership (at the statewide LIHEAP and WAP conference in Springfield) and signed the Executive Order to transfer the programs back to DCEO.
BUILDING AGENCY CAPACITY THROUGH TRAINING - FCD TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

TRAININGS, TRAININGS AND MORE TRAININGS CONTINUE TO BE THE CORNERSTONE OF IACAA’S OUTREACH TO OUR MEMBER AGENCIES.
Planning is underway for the Professional Development Institute (PDI), which will be the educational umbrella organization for IACAA. The first step in this process is working with the University of Illinois-Springfield to vision and complete a comprehensive business plan for the PDI roll-out. Registration, space coordination, a master training catalog, marketing materials and expanded opportunities are all in progress to provide a robust, responsive training experience for the IACAA membership.

In 2008, IACAA expanded training to include Certified Public Manager training, Customer Strengths/PIPP training, CCAP Illinois candidate class, Poverty Simulation presentations and on-demand trainings/presentations for agency staff meetings and in-services. IACAA’s foundational training remains the Family and Community Development Specialist Training, which is now offered in three sections: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced. Christine Westerlund, IACAA’s Training Specialist, participated in a nationwide training broadcast which explored and showcased Illinois’ capacities for Family and Community strength-based training. Overall, more than 600 Illinois Community Action network staff members took advantage of these training opportunities and improved their abilities to provide excellent service to Community Action customers.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY ACTION PROFESSIONAL (CCAP) CANDIDATE CLASS

CCAP is a National Community Action Partnership certification track which provides training in the management and direction of Community Action Agencies. Charles McCann, CCAP Emeritus, leads the Illinois Candidate Class through the History of the Community Action Movement.

Poverty exploration, Traditional Management Skills, Leadership, and Ethics. A final exam is taken by all candidates to attain the highly sought CCAP designation. Successful candidates are acknowledged during the Annual National Community Action Partnership Conference. The CCAP professionals are often called upon by the Community Action Partnership to provide feedback on national incentives. They are encouraged to engender the spirit of CCAP in their own respective agencies to encourage others to seek the designation. The 2009 cohort is moving towards successful completion of the training.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGER TRAINING

Certified Public Manager (CPM) training is offered through the University of Illinois – Springfield. It is a comprehensive approach to management development based on the assumption that certain managerial practices produce better results than others do. This certification track training offers sessions in: Program Management, Effective Supervision, Leadership and Organizational Excellence, Human Resource Management, Financial Management, and Presenting Yourself to One or Many. The entire certification track will be offered again in 2009, beginning in the Fall.

CUSTOMER STRENGTHS/PIPP

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and IACAA cooperatively designed a curriculum to assist the Illinois Network with techniques and tools to work effectively with Community Action customers seeking energy assistance. This training was presented in November, 2008.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST TRAINING

In coordination with the University of Illinois-Springfield, FCD Specialist Certification training continues to effectively train Illinois Community Action staff members in strength-based case management techniques. The new curriculum design was rolled out in 2008, which now allows for Illinois Community Action staff members to apply directly for placement in the Intermediate FCD Specialist training – the track which leads to certification. Additionally, two online sessions were converted back to classroom sessions. Advanced FCD Specialist training has added a new dimension to the training, with FCD Specialists eager to expand their abilities to reach out and engage the needs of their customers. Recertification training for FCD specialists was not held in 2008, planning is underway to hold two trainings targeted at pre-2004 FCD specialists.

ON-DEMAND

IACAA staff has the capacity to respond to Agency training needs, either through the identification of a trainer/educator or from within the Peer Network. In 2008, presentations included: Customer Service, Grant Writing 101, Accountability, ROMA basics, History of Community Action, and Governance issues.

POVERTY SIMULATION

In May 2008, a Poverty Simulation was presented at the Annual Membership meeting. The Simulation recreates living a month in poverty through role playing and time constraints. After the simulation, a de-briefing session is held among participants, which is an opportunity to reflect, share and grow in poverty knowledge. A successful simulation needs about 70-80 participants to vividly create the needed chaos. PCCEO hosted back-to-back Poverty Simulations in August, 2008 and 3 out-of-network Simulations are scheduled for 2009.
OTHER TRAINING

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KANKAKEE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES SPEAKS OUT AT THE EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT DURING IACAA WINTER MEETING.

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COOP

Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP), the acronym may bring to mind an immediate association with a chicken coop. What does a chicken coop have to do with community action? COOP is for continued operations planning, an important process any organization should undergo to prepare for emergencies. A COOP identifies the essential functions of an organization and establishes a plan to restore operations within a short time frame. Whether it is a natural disaster—flood, tornado, blizzard conditions—that can shut down an organization; or loss of key personnel, a COOP can help agencies recover more quickly and provide immediate direction to staff.

The Association partnered with the University of Maryland, Department of Homeland Security to provide free training to the Illinois community action network on how to prepare a COOP. The University receives funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to provide free training to federal, state and local organizations.

The training was well received by the membership in attendance. There were a total of 26 participants representing 10 Community Action Agencies from across the state. No less than 5 agency executive directors were in attendance for the full course of the workshop. This representation reflects a solid commitment to the concept of COOP planning by the Illinois network of CAAs.

The training was interactive; there were pre and post tests, a train the trainer component, and overall good dialogue among attendees. The Association is providing follow up with the agencies to assist them in completing COOPs for their individual agencies.

PEER TO PEER GROWTH

The Association’s peer to peer process experienced a significant growth in the number of new peer reviewers. The Peer to Peer is a service the Association offers to its membership to assist in strengthening organization systems of operation. The service is used for preparing agencies for Head Start Federal Reviews, stabilizing organizations experiencing crisis, and strengthening individual programs such as Weatherization and CSBG.

The new reviewers represented Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, City of Rockford, Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois, Community Action Partnership of Lake County, Springfield Urban League and Wabash Area Development. The new reviewers were recommended by their respective executive directors and/or identified by their peers as knowledgeable in their areas of expertise. The Association has worked to recruit more reviewers to meet the growing demand for the service, and to create a database of reviewers from a variety of experience, skill sets and agencies.

More than ever, the network is realizing the value of the peer to peer process. In this time of increased scrutiny and ever changing regulations, having an outside, objective review of an agency’s Head Start Program or any service is helpful to improving the quality of the program.

All of the peer reviewers, but in particular the new recruits view the peer process as a training opportunity. While the reviewers provide technical assistance to the agency being reviewed, they also gain tremendous knowledge and understanding of the regulations and best practices in fulfilling those regulations. It is common to hear that reviewers gain just as much from the process as the agency staff. The new reviewers have also provided valuable feedback to the Association related to the review, orientation and report to the participating agencies.
HUD PEER-TO-PEER
HOMELESS HEADLINES

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
The 2008 HUD Peer to Peer Conference coordinated by the Association offered Homeless providers myriad opportunities for training and technical assistance. This longstanding conference has become an institution among Illinois homeless service providers. The conference consistently attracts about 250 attendees. In 2008, 338 persons were in attendance.

Keynotes for the 2008 conference included an inspirational opening address by Dan Buck, Executive Director of St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, and Wayne Richard from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. A special attraction this year was Ann Oliva, Director, HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, Washington, D.C. April Lasker, Manager, Rental Housing Support Program at the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) updated conferees on the initial implementation of the Rental Housing Support Program (RHSP). RHSP resulted from a long-term advocacy effort by IACAA and partners including Housing Action Illinois (HAI).

A SAMPLE OF THE WORKSHOPS INCLUDES:
- Client Actions and Consequences, Helping Clients Help Themselves
- Breaking Down Barriers to Employment
- Social Entrepreneurship: Program Support, Employment, and Self-Sufficiency
- Federally Qualified Health Centers and Supportive Housing Programs
- Community Collaborations in Serving Mentally Challenged Homeless Populations
- HIV/AIDS: Challenges and Solutions for Homeless Clients

HOMELESS HEADLINES
The Homeless Headlines newsletter enjoys a readership of over 1,000 representing homeless service providers, food assistance agencies and housing developers. Through funding from the Department of Human Services, IACAA provides readers with news on local programs serving low-income people, housing and homelessness-related legislation, trainings, and a range of resources. The newsletter is available in print, online at the IACAA web site, and by email.

LEAD STORIES IN 2008 INCLUDED:
- Action on Economic Recovery Package Expected by President’s Day
- New Hope Apartments - Permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless
- Homeless Prevention in Southern Illinois by BCMW, a Community Action Agency
- Social Entrepreneurship at the Chicago Christian Industrial League
- Rapid Re-housing demonstration funds
- Building on Solid Ground - La Casa Norte, a homeless youth program
RCAP - RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NATIONALLY, THE RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RCAP) IS THE OLDEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE U.S. PROVIDING RURAL AREAS WITH PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND ON-SITE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

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RCAP works with communities to address their drinking water, wastewater treatment, and other community service needs. The RCAP Technical Assistance Providers are experienced rural development specialists who provide services through a seven state network known as Great Lakes RCAP. In Illinois the RCAP program is administered by the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies.

COMMUNITIES ASSISTED IN 2008

- Moweaqua
- Grafton
- Thawville
- Central Alexander
- Tilden
- Curran Gardner
- West Prairie Water Company
- Alto Pass
- Ridgway
- Mason
- Swedona Water Association
- St. Peter
- Fancy Creek Water District
- Emden
- Belmont Acres (Watseka)
- Woodhull
- Cisco
- Taylorville
- Sharpsburg
- Colton
- Mt. Auburn

FEATURED COMMUNITY

Village of Tilden (Randolph County)

Tilden is approximately 40 miles southeast of St. Louis, and is located in Randolph County. The Village of Tilden has been experiencing water infiltration at two points in their sewage collection system, and other main deterioration. Creating a force main will greatly enhance the service and allow for additional customers and extension of services. The Association first began working with the Village of Tilden in 2006. Within the past 2 years, the Illinois RCAP has assisted the community with various needs such as conducting community meetings and facilitating public hearings regarding their failing waste water system, reviewing engineering studies, conducting an income survey to determine funding, and facilitating a Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) grant application.

As a result of the work of the Association, Tilden received notification in December 2008 from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that $44,900 of CDAP funds had been awarded for design of the upgrades and additions to this failing system. As a result of the support from Illinois RCAP, the village was able to obtain additional funding to supplement the CDAP funding. IACAA will continue to work with Tilden until the project is completed.

SMART ABOUT WATER

Mt Auburn (Christian County)

The Association received new funding in 2008 through a grant called SMART About Water. Strategic Management and Available Resources and Technology (SMART), is a partnership program between the National Environmental Service Center (NECS) and RCAP, which is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. The goal of this program is to promote small community awareness about the importance of wastewater management through training and technical assistance and to the development of source water and wellhead protection plans.

The Association used the SMART funds to assist Mt. Auburn in developing a Source Water Protection Plan along with a Security and Vulnerability Assessment and Environmental Response Plan. Once these plans are complete, the Illinois RCAP plans to assist Mt. Auburn with its numerous drinking water and community development needs.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR 2009?

RCAP will be busy throughout the year with helping communities access the millions of dollars in stimulus money that has been allocated for drinking water and waste water systems. The stimulus funding will also allow for growth within the Illinois RCAP program to support additional staff members and expand the services of the program.
2008 MARKED THE SECOND YEAR THAT THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES PARTICIPATED IN PROVIDING RATE RELIEF FUNDS CONTRIBUTED BY AMEREN AND COMMONWEALTH EDISON.
AMEREN AND COMMONWEALTH EDISON BEGAN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME FAMILIES FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF THE RATE FREEZE LEGISLATION, WHICH OCCURRED ON JANUARY 1, 2007. AS UTILITY RATES CONTINUE TO RISE, THESE TWO PROGRAMS HAVE BECOME EXTREMELY VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR IACAA MEMBER AGENCIES TO ASSIST THEIR CUSTOMERS.

LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY DESPERATE TO FIND WAYS TO KEEP THEIR UTILITIES CONNECTED AS THE LIHEAP AND WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS ARE NOT ALWAYS ENOUGH.

AMEREN

In 2007, IACAA signed a four year contract to operate Ameren’s Rate Relief Programs. The contract with Ameren stipulates that IACAA and the 27 Community Action Agencies in the Ameren territory would operate two programs designed to provide assistance to customers of the Illinois Ameren utilities (IP, CILCO, and CIPS) up to 400% of poverty. Ameren contributed $5 million dollars in 2008 to the CAAs to distribute to their customers who qualify for one or both programs. The Special Hardship program provides $600 to any customer who demonstrates personal hardship and earns below 400% of the poverty level. The hardship criteria are broadly defined to include medical, disability, senior, or military. The second Ameren program, Bill Payment Assistance, provides a $300 grant to any Ameren customer that falls between 151-200% of poverty. The impact is shown below.

COMMONWEALTH EDISON

IACAA signed a second contract with Commonwealth Edison to continue operating their Rate Relief programs from June – December of 2008. ComEd committed $3 million to the program which would be operated by fourteen agencies. Customers who earn below 400% of poverty and could demonstrate a personal hardship would be eligible for the Special Hardship program. These credits could be up to $1,000. The second ComEd program, The Summer Bill Credit, runs from June – August and provides $30 credits to customers up to 200% of poverty. The impact of these programs in 2008 is shown below.

Tuesday luncheon. Governor Pat Quinn entered to a standing ovation and spoke to a group of over 350 IACAA members. The purpose of the appearance was to announce the move of the LIHEAP and Weatherization programs from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The move returns the programs to the agency at which they operated prior to 2004.

“I want to thank the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies for all that they are doing to aid families across Illinois, especially during these tough economic times,” Governor Quinn said. “This executive order will help us better assist families across the state that are unable to meet the demands of their increasing utility bills.”

The move was coordinated by IACAA to promote economic development for Illinois’ low-income families and to reunite these programs to the core Community Action funding, the Community Services Block Grant, which is also administered by DCEO.

In welcoming the Governor, IACAA President/CEO Dalitso Sulamoyo commented that, “The transfer from DHFS to DCEO will allow us to take advantage of the economic development, job creation, job training and energy efficiency expertise that DCEO possesses.”

Joining the Governor at the luncheon was the newly appointed Director of DCEO, Warren Ribley, and Illinois State Representative Lisa Dugan (D-79th District). The event was emceed by IACAA’s Vice President for Public Policy, John Colgan, who worked closely with the Governor in helping make this move possible.

IMPACT:

- $3.8 million dispensed to 9,955 customers for special hardship
- $106,380 dispensed to 3,546 customers for summer bill credits

LIHEAP AND WEATHERIZATION MOVE TO FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS

Attendees to the annual Energy Assistance conference in Springfield this March were surprised with a distinguished guest during the
Technology: Database Initiative

→ CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
TOOLS FOR CHANGE

“An experience in patience,” that is how one can describe the implementation of the Illinois statewide database initiative. Deploying new software at one agency can be challenging but at a statewide level the challenges are magnified. For the last several years, the network has been using software for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) programs, likened to a compact car, a good product but limited in capacity to do long distance driving. With a grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Association purchased the Adsystech software for 700 concurrent users. The capacity of the new software is tremendous in terms of interfacing with other databases, centralizing intake process, creating reports on any data entered into the system, and providing a solution to managing the other major programs operated by the CAA network—LIHEAP, Weatherization and Head Start. However, implementation of the software has not been easy. Some of the lessons learned through this journey so far are noteworthy.

STRONGLY CONSIDER LOGISTICS IN SCHEDULING AGENCIES FOR DEPLOYMENT

However, initially the agencies were grouped into phases based on their interest in being in the first wave of implementation. There were 16 agencies that volunteered to be in the first grouping. While this was a very positive indication of support for the project, geographically, the location of the agencies was all across the state. With a project team consisting of the project manager and system administrator, this proved an inefficient use of their time. The phases were reorganized to reflect the regions of the state, north, central and south.

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

Touting the positive features of a new product is commonly done to garner support for change. However, the message must also be balanced to manage the expectations of the new users.

- Learning curve—it takes time to learn how to use new software especially one with greater capacity. Learning the nuances of the software even the simple tasks take time.

- Expect delays—this is not a positive perspective but it is certainly a realistic outlook for these kinds of projects. So many dynamics come into play—technical, political, funding, learning curve, agency readiness—that can add months even years to a project completion. It will take time and investment in the software to begin using it to its potential.

At this juncture, the schedule indicates that the project team should be working with the phase IV agencies. Instead, the team is simultaneously working with the phase II and phase III agencies with lingering issues with the phase I agencies.

The Association has worked hard to juggle all of the competing factors and keep the agencies focused on the positive outcomes awaiting the network—one system managing all or most of their client data, creating efficiencies in operation and the ability to build internal capacity and better serve their customers.
THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP IS SWORN INTO OFFICE AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN AUGUST, 2008 IN CHICAGO.
IACAA and its member agency, the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA), were instrumental in planning the Community Action Partnership Annual Convention, Sowing the Seeds of Change, held in Chicago August 26-29, 2008. IACAA, with the help of its Members and a grant from DCEO, was able to present the Community Action Partnership with a check for $100,000 to sponsor the Welcome Reception.

The Welcome Reception featured authentic Chicago cuisine and a band from Danville, Illinois and was a great kick off to this historic convention. In addition to the Welcome Reception, IACAA planned a reception for emerging leaders in Community Action.

IACAA also coordinated volunteers from its Membership that helped with registration, staffed the elections and moderated workshops. The host agency, CEDA, helped the Community Action Partnership in planning the service projects and the Walk for Food. Both IACAA and CEDA were able to procure video welcome addresses from political figures, notably U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, then Lt. Governor Pat Quinn and U.S. Representative Danny Davis. The help from the capable volunteers from Illinois ensured the success of the national convention. All in all, the convention was hailed as one of the best in the history of the Convention.

STAFF FROM DECATUR MACON COUNTY, SHAWNEE DEVELOPMENT AND LAKE COUNTY ENJOY RECEPTION AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE SPORTING THE ILLINOIS CAA DELEGATION SHIRTS WORN TO SHOW UNITY AS HOSTS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE.
New Collaborations:
Rental Housing Support Program
Mental Health Housing Program
A combination of low wages and limited availability of affordable rental housing units requires many families and households throughout the State of Illinois to pay a disproportionate share of their income for basic housing. Simultaneously, there are households in the state that face additional difficulty in finding affordable housing due to disabilities or special needs of family members. The Association is making a difference in promoting permanent housing for low income households through two statewide rental subsidy programs.

ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RENTAL HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Illinois’ Rental Housing Support Program promotes permanent housing through the funding of rent subsidies for these “rent burdened” extremely and severely low-income households.

Less than half the states in the country have a rental assistance program and only two other states, Massachusetts and Connecticut, provide long-term rental support. The RHSP program places a $10 surcharge on real estate document recordings and is expected to generate more than $25 million dollars each year and assist an estimated 4,000 households annually.

In 2008, The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) awarded IACAA a three (3) year contract to administer this program within 16 rural counties of Illinois. Participating agencies in the endeavor are Project NOW, Rockford Human Services, Two Rivers and WADI. Currently 57 families are being assisted through this funding.

February 2009, the Association was awarded another grant from IHDA for $1.5 million. For this application, the Association partnered with three (3) member agencies. Through these two grants, IACAA will impact rent burdened households in 32 counties which is 31 percent of the total 102 counties in the state.

Through these two grants, IACAA will impact rent burdened households in 32 counties which is 31 percent of the total 102 counties in the state.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH BRIDGE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Association received a contract from the Department of Mental Health to administer the Bridge Subsidy Program. This program caters to the mental health population transitioning into independent living situations. There are two facets to the program—temporary or bridge rent subsidy and transition funding. The bridge subsidy pays a portion of the rent while these individuals wait for permanent rental housing through public housing or voucher program. The program also helps these individuals transition to new housing by paying for things such as security deposits and basic household needs up to $2,000. The Association works with mental health agencies located throughout the state that represent these consumers who are transitioning into rental housing. To date, IACAA has assisted 4 consumers with rent subsidy and has issued 59 transition cards for a total amount of $22,400.00.
The staff of Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity stand in their commercial kitchen where they prepare meals for senior citizens and their Head Start program.

IACAA MEMBERSHIP

CSBG FUNDS ARE UTILIZED BY CAAS TO TOTALLY OR PARTIALLY SUPPORT PROGRAMS INCLUDING ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:

SECURING AND MAINTAINING EMPLOYMENT
Job placement partnering with local businesses to:
- Employee support program that defrays work related expenses and funding for skill upgrading. Outreach is done to identify workers in threat of losing employment due to unmet employee related needs including daycare vouchers
- Transportation programs including Drive To Success (rehab vehicles for customers), bus vouchers
- Job preparedness training—Employment business entrepreneurship with a goal of developing business start up plans that create at least one job
- Employment resource lab that provides access to computers, internet and case management counseling
- Micro enterprise development provides T/TA for business expansions and startups
- Workforce Investment
- CSBG Loan Program

- Summer Leadership Camp for Youth
- Consumer Education—home management life skills, community building
- Public Education and Public Information
- Tutoring for at risk High School Hispanic Students
- Development of affordable housing including specialized senior housing, single family, and multi family units, rural development
- Continuum of Care
- Court Advocacy

PROVIDING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
- Enrollment in adult literacy education
- GED and ESL classes
- Head Start
- Computer literacy
- Training for childcare providers
- School to work job shadowing initiatives for high school students
- Scholarships to pursue education
- Summer tutoring for youth, consumer and community
- Business

- Individual Development Account requires all participants to take 10 hours of general financial literacy and 10 hours of asset specific training.
- Savings incentive program that allows participants to receive a maximum of $500 to pay for home, car, tuition expenses
- Income management counseling that includes personal budgeting, credit reports, taxes and consumer education
- Counseling assistance for senior citizens and disabled individuals on tax relief applications

- Cash Assistance
- Donated goods and services (Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets)
- Food pantries
- Energy assistance
- Domestic Violence
- Elder Abuse

PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES
- Senior meals
- Soup kitchens
- Food Stamp Outreach
- Food vouchers
- Summer Food
- WIC

- Medical and Dental assistance
- Assisting with health care insurance applications
- Prescription Drugs
- Immunization for children
- Substance abuse counseling
- Circuit Breaker

ENSURING HEALTH
- Foster Grandparent
- Fatherhood involvement
- Summer Camps
- Leadership seminars
- Teen Reach
- Summer Youth Jobs that includes training on job preparedness, interviewing, employer expectations, etc
- Court Diversion Services for Youth

- Housing counseling including mediating tenant-landlord disputes and credit counseling
- Establishing and maintaining business relationships with local lending institutions
- Homebuyer program
- Weatherization
- Housing rehabilitation to eliminate health and safety issues
- Rental/mortgage assistance
- Lead abatement
- Transitional housing

- Development of affordable housing including specialized senior housing, single family, and multi family units, rural development
- Continuum of Care
- Court Advocacy
Association New Member: Springfield Urban League
This year IACAA welcomes a new member agency, the Springfield Urban League. The Springfield Urban League, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civil rights and community-based movement that serves nearly 6,000 people annually providing direct services, research and policy advocacy to assist individuals and communities in reaching their fullest potential. Primarily working with African Americans, Hispanics, and other emerging ethnic communities it is networked with over 100 affiliates in over 35 states across the nation. Like Community Action, the Urban League works to close equality gaps for people at all economic levels and stages of life, and gives citizens a chance to give back as volunteers. The Springfield Urban League administers the Head Start program for both Sangamon and Morgan Counties. IACAA has partnered with the Springfield Urban League on Head Start peer review teams. Working in common purpose we look forward to a productive partnership.
It is a testament to the work of Community Action that CSBG was included in the President’s stimulus package.

Stimulus Activity: The Reinvestment Act and Impact on CAA Network

PRESIDENT OBAMA’S $800 BILLION ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL WILL UTILIZE THE COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK TO HELP BOOST THE ECONOMY AND ASSIST INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY THE RECESSION.
WEATHERIZATION

The Reinvestment Act includes $5 billion for the Weatherization program over the next two years and an additional billion dollars for CSBG. In 2008, Weatherization was funded at $227 million nation-wide. With the stimulus package, it is estimated that Illinois alone could receive between $240 and $270 million over the next two years. This represents a 500% increase in funding!

For years, advocates have viewed the Weatherization program as a “best kept secret.” However President Obama has brought notoriety to the program by speaking out about the importance of the program. In an interview with Katie Couric, Obama touted, “Not only are you immediately putting people back to work but you’re also saving families on your energy bills and you’re laying the groundwork for long term energy independence. That’s exactly the kind of program that we should be funding.”

The increase funding represents an enormous challenge to Community Action – Illinois could go from weatherizing 8,000 homes a year to 30,000 or 40,000 homes a year. However, Illinois CAAs appear ready to meet these goals. The Association has helped the network prepare for the increase by organizing regional roundtables to plan for “ramping up.” In the north, Will County Center for Community Concerns hosted in Joliet; Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity (PCCEO) held the central roundtable; and Wabash Area Development, Inc., in Enfield hosted the southern agencies.

Each of these meetings included a presentation by the Office of Energy Assistance concerning the funding, training possibilities, and changes in program rules. Participants were then led through a SOAR analysis as a part of strategic planning to identify Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results. And finally, a select number of agencies presented their own efforts at planning in terms of additional equipment, staffing, contractors and the overall organizational structure that would have to be changed to accomplish the task at hand.

The Association prepared a report to summarize the discussions in the meeting and designed the report as a tool to be used by each agency to make their own plans based on individual needs. Discussions and meetings will be ongoing throughout 2009 in order to make sure that each agency has the knowledge and resources available to accomplish the President’s goals.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

The Reinvestment Act increased the CSBG grant by a billion dollars which equated to $46 million to Illinois community action agencies. Moreover, the act allows states to increase eligibility of CSBG funds from 125% to 200% percent of poverty. States have until September 30, 2010 to expend funds.

Increased allocations to agencies outside of regular allocations, ranged from $136,000 for the smaller agencies and lowest concentration of poverty, to the Chicago agencies receiving 19 million and over $5 million in stimulus money. The allocations followed the distribution of the regular CSBG funding which is based on the proportion of state poverty. It is a testament to the work of Community Action that CSBG was included in the President’s stimulus package. The Community action network’s record of helping people become self sufficient made it an appropriate conduit in the Reinvestment Act. Raising the eligibility to 200% of poverty allows this network to help those Americans that have been sorely impacted by the recession.

Members of the Illinois network that attended the annual conference of the National Community Action Foundation in Washington DC shared the importance of Community Action spending the stimulus money efficiently and effectively. There is much skepticism on community action’s ability to expend the billion dollars in the short time frame. If community action is successful in demonstrating significant impact with the funding, then the case to keep funding at a higher level increases.

OBAMA TOUTED, “NOT ONLY ARE YOU IMMEDIATELY PUTTING PEOPLE BACK TO WORK BUT YOU’RE ALSO SAVING FAMILIES ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS AND YOU’RE LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR LONG TERM ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. THAT’S EXACTLY THE KIND OF PROGRAM THAT WE SHOULD BE FUNDING.”

The Association in partnership with Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) planned a similar roundtable for CSBG as Weatherization to guide and invoke discussion on how best to spend funds. The state provided some valuable direction to the agencies on how to expend the funds.

- Plan, plan, plan
- Review CAP plans for areas of need
- Build and create partnerships—agencies cannot do it along. Look to local government negatively impacted to see how stimulus money can be used to strengthen programs—summer work for youth, etc.
- Promote job creation and scholarship programs—Illinois CAAs are required to put 10 percent of those funds into CSBG loan program or job creation activity;
- The state also strongly encouraged agencies to expand scholarship programs.
BCMWM Community Services, Inc.
909 East Rexford - P.O.Box 729
Centralia, Illinois  62801
Keith Brown, Executive Director
618/532-7388 Fax: 618/532-0204
Web: www.bcmw.info
Service Area: Bond, Clinton, Marion, Washington Counties

Carver Community Action Agency
235 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 28
Galesburg, Illinois  61402-0028
Jeannie Shelton, Chief Executive
Officer
309/342-0158 Fax: 309/342-8179
E-mail: carvercaa@galesburg.net
Service Area: Knox County

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation
1805 S. Banker - P.O .Box 928
Effingham, Illinois  62401
Paul White, Chief Executive Officer
217/342-2193 Fax: 217/342-4701
Web: www.cefseoc.org
Service Area: Christian, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie and Shelby Counties

Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois
1800 5th Street
Lincoln, Illinois  62656
Angela Stoltzenburg, Executive Director
217/732-2159 Fax: 217/735-1753
Web: www.capcil.org
Service Area: DeWitt, Fulton, Logan, Mason, Menard and Piatt Counties

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
1776 East Washington Street
Urbana, Illinois  61803-7760
Cameron Moore, Executive Director
217/328-3313 Fax: 217/328-2426
Web: www.ccrpc.org
Service Areas: Champaign County

Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
1615 W. Chicago Ave, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois  60622
Mary Ellen Caron, PhD, Commissioner
312/746-5683 Fax: 312/746-8973
Web: www.cityofchicago.org/HumanServices
Service Area: City of Chicago

Community Action Partnership of Lake County
P.O. Box 9059
Waukegan, Illinois 60079
Mary Lockhart-White, CCAP, Executive Director
847/249-4330 Fax: 847/625-6328
Service Area: Lake County

Community & Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.
208 S. LaSalle, Suite 1900
Chicago, Illinois  60604-1001
Robert Wharton, President/CEO
312/795-8844 Fax: 312/795-1034
Service Area: Suburban Cook County, City of Chicago

Crosswalk Community Action Agency
410 West Main
West Frankfort, Illinois  62896
Debra Jackanicz, Executive Director
618/937-3581 Fax: 618/937-3583
Service Area: Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson and Williamson Counties

Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation
1122 East Marietta Street
Decatur, Illinois  62521
Gail Evans, Executive Director
217/428-0155 Fax: 217/428-0169
Service Area: Macon County

DeKalb County Community Services Department
2550 North Annie Glidden Road
DeKalb, Illinois  60115
Donna Moulton, Executive Director
815/758-3910 Fax: 815/758-3407
Web: www.dekalbcounty.org
Service Area: DeKalb County

DuPage County Division of Human Services
421 North Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois  60187
Philip Smith, Director
630/407-6500 Fax: 630/407-6501
Web: www.dupageco.org; www.dupagecris.org
Service Area: DuPage County

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 North Vermillion - P.O .Box 1335
Danville, Illinois  61834-1335
Dwight Lucas, CCAP, Chief Executive Officer
217/443-2761 Fax: 217/431-0725
Web: www.comaction.org
Service Area: Ford, Iroquois and Vermillion Counties

Embarras River Basin Agency for Economic Opportunity, Inc.
115 South Kentucky - P.O. Box 307
Greenup, Illinois  62428
Marsha Roll, Executive Director
217/923-3113 Fax: 217/923-5155
TTD:  800/526-084
Web: www.erbainc.org
Service Area: Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland Counties

Illinois Migrant Council
28 East Jackson Blvd. - Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois  60604
Eloy Salazar, Executive Director
312/663-1522 Fax: 312/663-1994
Web: www.illinoismigrant.org
Service Area: Statewide

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation  
223 South Macoupin Street - P.O. Box 88  
Gillespie, Illinois 62033  
Frank Schwab, Executive Director  
217/839-4431 Fax: 217/839-3647  
Service Area: Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin Counties

Kankakee County Community Services, Inc.  
657 E. Court St., Suite 207  
Kankakee, Illinois 60901  
Vincent Clark, Executive Director  
815/933-7883 Fax: 815/933-0635  
Web: www.kccsi-cap.org  
Service Area: Kankakee County

Kendall-Grundy Community Services (Unit of Kendall County Health and Human Services)  
811 W. John St.  
Yorkville, Illinois 60560  
Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director  
630/553-9100 Fax: 630/553-0167  
E-mail: cjohnson@co.kendall.il.us  
Service Area: Grundy and Kendall Counties

Madison County Community Development  
130 Hillsboro Avenue  
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025  
Cheryl Jouett, Executive Director  
618/692-8940 Fax: 618/692-7022  
Service Area: Madison County

McHenry County Housing Authority  
1108 North Seminary Avenue  
P.O. Box 1109  
Woodstock, Illinois 60098-1109  
Julie Biel-Claussen, Executive Director  
815/338-7752 Fax: 815/338-1217  
Service Area: McHenry County

MCS Community Services  
345 West State Street  
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650  
Dan Little, Executive Director  
217/243-9404 Fax: 217/243-4159  
Web: www.morgancounty-il.com/mccs.htm  
Service Area: Morgan, Cass and Scott Counties

Mid Central Community Action, Inc.  
1301 W. Washington  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
John Burrill, Executive Director  
309/829-0691 Fax: 309/828-8811  
Web: www.mccainc.org  
Service Area: McLean and Livingston Counties

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency  
103-109 North Chicago  
Freeport, Illinois 61032  
Marcia Derrer, Executive Director  
815/232-3141 Fax: 815/232-3143  
Email address: nicaa3@nicaa.org  
Service Area: Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties

Peoria Citizen’s Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
711 West McBean  
Peoria, Illinois 61605  
McFarland Bragg II, President/CEO  
309/671-3900 Fax: 309/671-3913  
Web: www.pcceo.org  
Service Area: Peoria County

Project NOW Community Action Agency  
418 19th Street  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201  
Maureen Hart, Executive Director  
309/793-6391 Fax: 309/793-6352  
Web: www.projectnow.org  
Service Area: Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties

Rockford Human Services Department  
612 North Church  
Rockford, Illinois 61103  
George Davis, Executive Director  
815/987-5782 Fax: 815/987-5762  
Web: http://ci.rockford.il.us/human/human.htm  
Service Area: Boone and Winnebago Counties

Sangamon County Department of Community Resources  
200 South 9th Street - Room 311  
Springfield, Illinois 62702  
Sharmin Doering, Executive Director  
217/535-3120 Fax: 217/535-3119  
Web: www.co.sangamon.il.us  
Service Area: Sangamon County

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
Shawnee Development Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 298
Karnak, Illinois 62956
Cheryl Vanderford, Executive Director
618/634-2201 Fax: 618/634-9551
Service Area: Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski and Union Counties

Springfield Urban League
100 North 11th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
Nina Harris, President/CEO
217-789-0830
www.springfieldul.org
Service area: Sangamon County

St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department/Community Action Agency
19 Public Square - Suite 200
Belleville, Illinois 62220-1624
Debra Moore, PhD, Executive Director
618/277-6790 Fax: 618/236-1190
Service Area: St. Clair County

Tazwood Community Services, Inc.
2005 S. Main St.
Morton, IL 61550
Cindy Bergstrand, Executive Director
309/266-9941 Fax: 309/266-9174
Service Area: Tazewell and Woodford Counties

Tri-County Opportunities Council
405 Emmons Avenue - Box 610
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071-0610
Sandra Julifs, CCAP, President/CEO
815/625-7830 Fax: 815/625-7302
Web: www.tcochelps.com
Service Area: Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside Counties

Two Rivers Head Start Agency
1661 Landmark Rd.
Aurora, Illinois 60506
Jane Whitaker, Executive Director
(630) 264-1444 Fax: (630) 264-1151
Web: www.trhsa.org
Service Area: Kane County (CSBG and Head Start programs), Kendall, DeKalb, Grundy and Boone Counties (Head Start program only)

Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials
936 Broadway
Quincy, IL 62301
Cheryl Esselman, Executive Director
217/224-8171 Fax: 217/224-9145
Service Area: Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler Counties

Wabash Area Development, Inc.
110 North Latham Street
Enfield, Illinois 62835
Ken Pettijohn, Executive Director
618/963-2387 Fax: 618/963-2525
Service Area: Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Saline, Wabash, Wayne and White Counties

Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council
1 Industrial Park - P.O. Box 7
Steeleville, Illinois 62288-0007
Paulette Hamlin, Executive Director
618/965-3458 Fax: 618/965-9421
Web: www.weeoc.org
Service Area: Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph Counties

Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency
223 South Randolph
Macomb, Illinois 61455
Suzan Nash, Executive Director
309/837-2997 Fax: 309/836-3640
Web: www.wirpc.org
Service Area: Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren Counties

Will County Center for Community Concerns
304 North Scott Street
Joliet, Illinois 60432
Kris White, Executive Director
815/722-0722 Fax: 815/722-6344
Web: www.wccc.net
Service area: Will County
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Patrick Gleason
Rural Development Specialist

Charles “Bud” Mason
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Lincoln, IL

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Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County
Chicago, IL

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Two Rivers Head Start Agency
Aurora, IL

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IL Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA)
Springfield, IL

*These individuals left IACAA employment in 2009.
**This individual left the IACAA Board in 2009.