OUR MISSION
The Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) is the membership organization that provides a unified voice and support to the poverty-fighting network of Community Action Agencies.
Dear Friends

2015 shaped out to be one of the most challenging years for Community Action and many social service organizations whose mission is to serve the poor and marginalized. We began the year faced with a proposal to eliminate the state LIHEAP funding in the proposed 2016 budget. Later in the year, the budget stalemate between the governor of Illinois and the general assembly froze federal pass-through funds in the middle of program operations. This imposed a cost burden for member agencies to continue operating programs without access to operating cash and in some cases the guarantee for repayment.

This annual report demonstrates the resiliency of the network through all of the advocacy that was done to unfreeze both federal and state funding so that families and individuals served by Community Action did not need to suffer unnecessarily. There is a well-known African proverb that states “when two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled.” IACAA and its members stood up for the poor through smart advocacy and collectively stretching resources to keep doors open and services available.

This report also demonstrates how the IACAA was able to remain steadfast and resolute in fulfilling other aspects of its mission such as training, technical assistance and program operations during a highly demanding and challenging time for the organization.

I would like to thank the IACAA Board of Directors for their hard work and leadership in the past year. Secondly, I would like to thank the membership for its support of the Association, and the staff for their dedication and hard work. Our network remained intact and united during some very difficult months last year. For that I am personally grateful. Finally, I would like to thank all of our partners for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Dalitso Samson Sulamoyo, Ph.D, CCAP
President/CEO
Dear Friends and Colleagues

The Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) continues to be the organization that unites Community Action around its collective work to effectively address poverty in Illinois. As the lead organization for Community Action Agencies and their services, IACAA continues to strengthen the network through advocacy strategies, training and technical assistance, capacity building and programs.

This annual report represents the hard work done by the Association on behalf of its member agencies. The report exemplifies how IACAA has led the network to be resilient in the face of insurmountable challenges while remaining poised and resolute to tackle and address the issues of poverty in Illinois.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the board for their hard and dedicated work, the IACAA staff for their commitment, our partners for their support and the membership for who you are. Let us continue to remain steadfast in our mission to address and alleviate poverty so that every Illinoisan has the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

Sincerely,

Kris White
Chair
Illinois’ political and fiscal environment presented significant challenges to the Community Action Network in 2015. IACAA turned those challenges into opportunities to lead in advocacy efforts at the General Assembly and with a new administration so that funding to the network was protected and preserved.

**Save LIHEAP Campaign**

On February 18, 2015 Governor Rauner presented his budget which proposed zero funding for the state LIHEAP supplemental fund which represents one-third of the funding for the LIHEAP program in Illinois. This meant no funding for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) and the denial of benefits to thousands of households who could not afford their utilities because of living in poverty. IACAA initiated the Save LIHEAP Campaign which engaged policy makers, the media and the public on the importance of the state LIHEAP supplemental fund. The Save LIHEAP Campaign was designed to make the issue of the state LIHEAP supplemental fund one of the key public policy issues at the General Assembly in a very tough budget environment.

**Approach**

- Data and stories were collected from the network
- Over 25,000 signatures were collected from people of all walks of life in support of the state LIHEAP supplemental fund
- The Community Action Network wrote letters to both legislators and the governor on the need to appropriate funding for the state LIHEAP supplemental fund
- Meetings were held with legislators whereby data was shared on the impact and need for the LIHEAP funds
- The media covered press releases and interviewed individuals on the need for the funding

**Outcome**

On December 7, 2015, the Senate concurred with the House of Representatives on the passage of SB 2039 which appropriated state LIHEAP funds among other critical sources of funding needed throughout the state. Governor Rauner signed that appropriation bill into law on the same day. The state LIHEAP supplemental funds were released to the network immediately after SB 2039 was signed into a budget act.

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**Legislative and Public Policy Conference**

A legislative and public policy conference was held March 11-12, 2015 in Springfield. The two-fold purpose of the conference was (1) to provide IACAA’s membership with the opportunity to engage in discussions on both state and federal legislative priorities affecting the work of Community Action; and, (2) to provide our membership the opportunity to engage and educate their elected officials on the work that Community Action does in addressing poverty.

**Approach**

**March 11, 2015**
- State legislative report by IACAA’s contractual lobbyist Tony Rossi
- A workshop on lobbying entitled *Lobbying and Political Activity: Playing By the Rules*, sponsored by CAPLaw
- Key note address by Representative Elgie Sims
- Capitol visits
- Legislative reception

**March 12, 2015**
- Federal Legislative Report by Community Action’s national lobbyist David Bradley, CEO of the National Community Action Foundation
- Update on Organization Performance Standards by the Office of Community Services
- Community Action Update by National CEO, Denise Harlow

**Outcome**

The IACAA membership discussed the network’s federal and state policy agenda. The Save LIHEAP Campaign was officially launched at the conference. The network began to build its collective and united presence at the General Assembly as a result of the conference.

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**Federal Pass-through Funding**

The FY 2016 budget passed by the General Assembly was vetoed by the governor. The only spending that was authorized in the vetoed budget was funding for education K-12. The veto included the authorization of federal funds. This meant that Community Action’s core funding was not authorized for spending in the new fiscal year even though the network had existing contracts in place with the State of Illinois. The core funding that was affected included LIHEAP, Weatherization and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Having the contracts in place meant that the agencies could continue with program operations although they would not have access to grant funds until an appropriation was approved for the funds to be spent.

**Approach**

- IACAA worked with other affected groups to call for a standalone budget bill authorizing the spending of federal funds
- Letters were written to policy makers on the need for a standalone budget
- Letters were written to Congress and the Obama administration
- IACAA testified before the full General Assembly in a Committee of the Whole on the need for a standalone budget
- IACAA testified in committee hearings on the need for federal funds to be appropriated
- Data was gathered from the network on the impact of the inaccessibility to federal funds

**Outcome**

Senate Floor Amendment 1 to SB 2042 was introduced on August 3, 2015 to authorize the spending of federal pass-through funds. The bill passed unanimously in the Senate.

The House tagged House Amendment 3 which added other federal funds left out of the initial bill passed in the Senate. SB 2042 was signed into law by Governor Rauner on August 20, 2015. The network was able to access federal funding, resume services, and rehire staff that had been laid off.
Legislation Developed and Supported by IACAA

Besides working on budget issues, IACAA authored and passed legislation designed to improve and maximize program operations for the LIHEAP and Weatherization programs.

SB 418: LIHEAP Carryover Bill

The State LIHEAP Supplemental Fund contained carryover funds from previous years that could not be obligated for expenditures by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the LIHEAP Local Administering Agencies (LAAs). This was due to an interpretation made by the state on the provision regarding administrative expenses and the set aside for weatherization services in the statute that established the fund. IACAA worked with chief sponsor Senator Andy Manar, and Representative Art Turner to pass one of the few bipartisan pieces of legislation to become part of statute in 2015.

Components of the Legislation

- Administrative and weatherization funds that were a component within the State LIHEAP Supplemental Fund could not exceed 10% of the total receipts collected in a given year.
- State LIHEAP Supplemental Fund grant dollars that were unallocated or unspent in a previous program year could only be allocated to the current year energy assistance programs without administrative funding attached to them.

Approach

- IACAA drafted language to clarify the technicality in the statute that affected the carryover of funds. IACAA also worked with the DCEO to ensure that the language allowed carryover of administrative funds.
- IACAA identified sponsors in both the Senate and House
- IACAA met with and provided information on the bill to the governor’s office
- IACAA testified at committee hearings

Outcome

SB 418 passed unanimously in both chambers and was signed into law in August 24, 2015. This was one of the few pieces of legislation that passed on a bipartisan basis in a much divided political environment.
“The [peer consulting] training was excellent. Not only did it add a dimension to our own skill set, it also gave us the opportunity to look inward at our own agencies and to experience the shared issues and problem solving techniques of others.”

— Ken Pettijohn, Executive Director
Wabash Area Development

1,315 participants
43 training opportunities
100% increase from 2014

Executive Leadership Training
- IACAA developed comprehensive leadership curriculum that focuses on improving skills, competencies and business acumen of Community Action Agency (CAA) executives.
- The training is a 3-day seminar that focuses on five key strategy areas: structure, systems and processes, metrics and rewards, and people (see diagram below).

Two sessions were held in 2015 in southern and northern Illinois. Total attendees 46

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Professional Development Institute
- 1,315 participants in 43 training opportunities — a slightly more than 100% increase from 2014
- Proactively worked with local school leaders and Sangamon County Community Resources to promote eight poverty simulations as teacher in-service opportunities.
- Launched the ROMA peer training initiative, with 12 Illinois ROMA trainer candidates
- Assisted five agencies with strategic planning

- STRUCTURE
- SYSTEMS
- STRATEGY
- PEOPLE
- PROCESSES
- METRICS and REWARDS
Peer Consulting Training

△ IACAA continued to professionalize the peer consulting program it uses to build capacity of its membership organizations. IACAA developed training to help CAA staff that participate in the reviews to see themselves as consultants and think systems.

DHS Technical Assistance

△ Every month IACAA electronically delivers over 600 copies of Keystone Magazine to families and individuals experiencing homelessness.
△ Illinois service providers, including IACAA member agencies, play a major role in the statewide distribution of Keystone Magazine to local homeless persons.
△ Keystone Magazine is supplemented by the Keystone website at https://sites.google.com/site/kswebhome. The site has developed into a very useful tool for connecting homeless persons to the information and resources they need to make decisions about where their life goes from here.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building is at the core of what IACAA provides to its membership. IACAA offers affordable training options to the membership that address operations of an organization.

Organizational Standards

OMB Uniform Guidance Training

△ IACAA brought in Wipfli LLP for a 2-day training that was informative for both fiscal and program staff. There were 61 attendees, representing 21 agencies.
△ The training covered changes to procurement, monitoring sub-recipients, internal control and other components to fiscal management.

Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)

△ IACAA’s RCAP program helps rural communities obtain access to safe drinking water and viable wastewater systems.
△ Served 36 communities across Illinois impacting over 43,000 residents, many of whom make below 50% of their county median household income.

“I thought the OMB Uniform Guidance training was exceptional! It is rare that a training of this depth is held with both state and agency staff, as well as association staff, all at the same “table” hearing the same message. The presenters have such an extensive knowledge base and are nationally respected by agencies across the country and funding sources alike.”

—Chuck Freutel, Fiscal Officer
City of Rockford Human Services Department

△ Presented at RCAP regional and national conference on water/wastewater technical issues.
△ Develop partnership with The Illinois Section of American Water Works Association (IL-AWWA) which was recognized as a model partnership by Rural Community Assistance Partnership, the National RCAP affiliate.
△ Invited to present on utility management issues for small systems at the American Water Works Association National Conference, the largest water conference in the world.

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Delivered a project from concept to completion to USDA-Rural Development for funding. This $2.9 million dollar project was awarded over $1 million dollars in grant funds to complete construction of a new elevated storage tank and replace the community’s water plant. This project addressed health and safety issues and provided a significant increase in water pressure to the community water supply that improves the quality of living.

Since 2010, RCAP has leveraged 1.1 million dollars in program grants to secure over $43 million in infrastructure repair and new construction projects in Illinois’ rural communities through our capacity development and technical assistance services.

The Bridge Subsidy Program assists populations with chronic serious mental health disorders, homelessness who are able to live on their own with rental subsidies until they are able to secure permanent housing.

- Application fee: apartment application fee
- Bank Cards: debit cards to purchase home essentials to live in an apartment
- Inspections: property inspections to ensure rental units are safe and meet housing code
- Security Deposit: to hold an apartment for rental
- Rent: monthly rent subsidy
- Other, can include:— reimbursements
— cost to move a client (paid to moving company)
— painting an apartment
— furniture purchase/delivery
— approved payment of fees other than application fee
IACAA served over 650 clients in various capacities during fiscal year 2015. The grant included three classifications of clients—Money-Follows-the-Person, Bridge Subsidy, and the court decree *Williams vs. Quinn* clients.

**Rental Housing Support Program (RHSP)**

IACAA subcontracts with nine Community Action Agencies to operate the Illinois Housing Development Authority subsidized rental payment program for those living in rural areas with income under 30% of the Average Median Income. The chart below shows the three round of funding operated by IACAA and the number of rental units supported by the Program.
**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**
- Cash and cash equivalents ........................................ $ 937,069
- Operating Account ........................................ 53,101
- Reserve Account Fund ........................................... 991,740
- DMH Checking .................................................. 702,321
  
  **Total Cash and cash equivalents** ................................ $ 2,684,230

- Investments ............................................................ 320,263
  
  **Total Investments** ............................................... $ 320,263

- Accounts receivable ............................................. 14,630
- Intercompany Receivable ....................................... 143,872
- Grants/contracts receivable .................................... 234,031
- Prepaid expenses .................................................. 214,716
  
  **TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS** ....................................... $ 3,611,742

**FIXED ASSETS**
- Debt issuance costs ............................................... 14,900
- (Less Amortization) ............................................... (13,906)
- Land ........................................................................ 94,250
- Building ............................................................... 1,455,421
- Vehicles ............................................................ 35,509
- Equipment and Furniture ....................................... 208,559
- (Less Accumulated Depreciation) .............................. (736,833)
  
  **TOTAL FIXED ASSETS** ........................................ $ 1,057,899

**TOTAL ASSETS** ...................................................... $ 4,669,641

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**
- Accounts Payable ................................................... $ 122,765
- Unearned Revenue ................................................... —
- Deferred Grant/Contract Revenue ....................... 1,415,209
- Deferred Rent Revenue ........................................... —
- Accrued Wages .................................................. 14,331
- Accrued Income Tax ................................................... —
- Accrued Interest ................................................... —
- Intercompany Payable ........................................ 413,344
  
  **TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES** .......................... $ 2,008,399

**LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**
- Auto Loan .............................................................. —
- IFF Note Payable ................................................... —
- Sangamon Cty Bond Note ........................................ 370,600
- IVCA Loans Payable ............................................ 64,867
  
  **Total Long-Term Liabilities** ................................ $ 435,467

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** ............................................. $ 2,443,866

**NET ASSETS**
- Retained Earnings .............................................. 2,172,081
- Board Designated ................................................... —
- Net Income (Loss) .................................................. 53,694
  
  **TOTAL NET ASSETS** ........................................ $ 2,225,775

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** .................... $ 4,669,641
Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies

BCMW Community Services, Inc.
909 East Rexford
Centralia, IL 62801
Sue Castleman, Executive Director
Phone: 618/532-7388
Web: www bcmw.info
Service Area: Bond, Clinton, Marion, Washington Counties

Carver Community Action Agency
235 East Main Street
Galesburg, IL 61402
Jeannie Shelton, Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 309/342-0158
Email: carvercaa@galesburg.net
Service Area: Knox County

C.E.F.S Economic Opportunity Corporation
1805 South Banker
Effingham, IL 62401
Paul White, Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 217/342-2193
Web: www.cef soc.org
Service Area: Christian, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties

Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois
1800 5th Street
Lincoln, IL 62656
Alison Rumler-Gomez, Executive Director
Phone: 217/732-2159
Web: www.capcil.org
Service Area: DeWitt, Fulton, Logan, Mason, Menard and Piatt Counties

Community Action Partnership of Lake County
P.O. Box 9059
Waukegan, IL 60079
Mary Lockhart-White, CCAP, Executive Director
Phone: 847/249-4330
www.caplakecounty.org
Service Area: Lake County

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
1776 East Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61802
Elizabeth Murphy, Acting Director
Phone: 217/328-3313
www.ccrpc.org
Service Area: Champaign County

Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
1615 West Chicago Avenue, 3rd Floor
Evelyn Diaz, Commissioner
Phone: 312/746-5683
Web: www.cityofchicago.org/HumanServices
Service Area: City of Chicago

Community & Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.
567 West Lake Street, Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60661
Harold Rice, Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 312/795-8844
Service Area: Suburban Cook County, City of Chicago

Community Contacts
100 South Hawthorne
Elgin, IL 60123
Lowell Tosch, Executive Director
Phone: 847/697-8800
Web: www.cci-hci.org
Service Area: Kane and DeKalb Counties

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

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

DuPage County Division of Human Services
421 North Annie Glidden Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Mary Keating, Director
Phone: 630/407-6500
Web: www.dupageco.org
Service Area: DuPage County

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 North Vermillion
Danville, IL 61834
Angele Thibodeaux-Burns, CEO
Phone: 217/443-2761
Web: www.comation.org
Service Area: Ford, Iroquois and Vermillion Counties

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

IACAA — continued on next page
IACAA Membership—continued

Embarras River Basin Agency
115 South Kentucky
Greenup, IL 62428
**Cathy Feltner, Executive Director**
Phone: 217/923-3113
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, IL 60604
**Eloy Salazar, Executive Director**
Phone: 312/663-1522
Web: www.illinoismigrant.org
Service Area: Statewide

Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation
223 South Macoupin Street
Gillespie, IL 62033
**Tracey Kriepe, Executive Director**
Phone: 217/839-4431
Service Area: Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin Counties

Kankakee County Community Services
657 East Court Street, Suite 207
Kankakee, IL 60901
**Vincent Clark, Executive Director**
Phone: 815/933-7883
Web: www.Kccsi-cap.org
Service Area: Kankakee County

Kendall-Grundy Community Services
(unit of Kendall Grundy County Health and Human Services)
811 West John Street
Yorkville, IL 60560
**Dr. Amaal Tokars, Executive Director**
Phone: 630/553-9100
Service Area: Grundy and Kendall Counties

Madison County Community Development
130 Hillsboro Avenue
Edwardsville, IL 62025
**Frank Miles, Executive Director**
Phone: 618/692-8940
Service Area: Madison County

McHenry County Housing Authority
1108 North Seminary Avenue
Woodstock, IL 60098
**Julie Biel Claussen, Executive Director**
Phone: 815/338-7752
Service Area: McHenry County

MCS Community Services
345 West State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650
**Dusty Douglas, Executive Director**
Phone: 217/243-9404
Web: www.morgancounty-il.com/mccs.htm
Service Area: Morgan, Cass and Scott Counties

Mid Central Community Action, Inc.
1301 West Washington
Bloomington, IL 61701
**Deborah White, Executive Director**
Phone: 309/829-0691
Web: www.mccainc.org
Service Area: Mclean and Livingston Counties

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency
27 South State Avenue, Suite 102
Freeport, IL 61032
**Marcia Derrer, Executive Director**
Phone: 815/232-3141
Service Area: Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties

Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.
711 West McBean
Peoria, IL 61605
**McFarland A. Bragg II, President/CEO**
Phone: 309/671-3900
Web: www.projectnow.org
Service Area: Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties

Sangamon County Department of Community Resources
2833 South Grand Avenue, East Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62703
**Sharmin Doering, Executive Director**
Phone: 217/535-3120
Web: www.co.sangamon.il.us
Service Area: Sangamon County

Shawnee Development Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 298
Karnak, IL 62956
**Denna Williams, Executive Director**
Phone: 618/634-2201
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**
Phone: 217/789-0830
Service Area: Sangamon County

St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants
Department/Community Action Agency
19 Public Square, Suite 200
Belleville, IL 62220
**Terry Beach, Executive Director**
Phone: 618/277-6790
Service Area: St. Clair County
Tazwood Community Services
2005 South Main Street
Morton, IL 61550
Cindy Bergstrand, Executive Director
Phone: 309/266-9941
Service Area: Tazewell and Woodford Counties

Tri-County Opportunities Council
405 Emmons Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071
Terri Lawrence, President/CEO
Phone: 815/625-7830
Web: www.tcochelps.com
Service Area: Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside Counties

Two Rivers Head Start Agency
1661 Landmark Road
Aurora, IL 60506
Diane Lacey, Executive Director
Phone: 630/264-1444
Web: www.trhsa.org
Service Area: Kane County (CSBG and Head Start Program); Kendall, DeKalb, Grundy and Boone Counties (Head Start only)

Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials
1125 Hampshire Street
Quincy, IL 62301
Mike McLaughlin, Executive Director
Phone: 217/224-8171
Service Area: Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler Counties

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

Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council
1 Industrial Park
Steeleville, IL 62288
Paulette Hamlin, Executive Director
Phone: 618/965-3458
Web: www.weeoc.org
Service Area: Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph Counties

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

Will County Center for Community Concerns
2455 Glenwood Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435
Kris White, Executive Director
Phone: 815/722-0722
Web: www.wcccc.net
Service Area: Will County
IACAA STAFF LIST

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Rural Development Specialist, State Coordinator

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Sheila Powell
Office Manager/Program Specialist

Michelle Pulce, CCAP
Vice President of Programs

Tami Rechner
Housing Subsidy Manager

Karen Redenbaugh
Fiscal Assistant

Al Timke
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Director of Professional Development

Haley Wilson
Membership Services Manager