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Indiana Community Action Network Newsletter

March 2009

CAGI's Annual Meeting

On January 22, 2009, Community Action of Greater Indianapolis held their annual meeting. *Reaching for the Stars*, the theme for this year's Annual Meeting luncheon held at Riverwalk Banquet Center and had 117 confirmed guests including board and staff.

Board chair, Rosalynn West ceremoniously installed Judith Essex as a second term-Treasurer and John Gaidoo, CAGI's newest board member.



Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker Cedric Jones, professional speaker, former NFL player and Dukes Sports Hall of Famer was well received. Many were moved by and favorably commented on his exceptional speech. Mr. Jones is a well respected and true advocate for Community Action across the nation. CAGI is grateful for his coming and for helping make the event a great success.

CAGI recognized and presented awards to the following:

- Former Colts coach, Tony Dungy was the recipient of the CAGI Julia M. Carson Award for his work and compassion in promoting foster care, adoption and family services for children throughout the Indianapolis community.
- The Immigrant Welcome Center received the CAGI Community Award for their efforts in addressing and connecting immigrants and refugees to resources, services and opportunities within the Indianapolis area.
- In recognition of combined efforts towards assisting CAGI clients, Partnership Awards was presented to Indianapolis Power & Light (IPL) and Citizens Gas (CG).
- In addition, the Marion County Health Department received the

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About the Indiana Community Action Network

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (EOA) established over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) at the local level to implement EOA programs. EOA programs included: VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America); Job Corps; Neighborhood Youth Corps; Head Start; Adult Basic Education; Family Planning; Community Health Centers; Congregate Meal Preparation; Economic Development; Foster Grandparents; Legal Services; Neighborhood Centers; Summer Youth Programs; Senior Centers; and others.

Partnership Award for their combined efforts toward Lead Hazard Control for households in the community.

- Although not present, Jane Ruelle was the recipient of the Board of Directors Service Award for her commitment and dedication to the board from 2001 to 2008.

Thanks again to our board for their participation in presenting the awards on behalf of CAGI. Our executive team, Mr. Tipton and Mr. Bibbs were phenomenal in their overviews of CAGI history, accomplishments, acknowledgements and the 'Purpose Giving Life' respectively.

This first time annual meeting fundraiser event drew corporate sponsors, partners and vendors alike. Special thanks to our sponsors, contributors and staff.

Energy Assistance Program Serves Many Low-Income Hoosiers

As of March 27, 2009, the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) has served 185,146 households. This is an increase of 37,146 households from this same time last year. Additionally, this year, \$68 million has been spent on regular heating assistance and an additional \$12 million has been spent on crisis assistance, for total of \$80 million. Of those 185,146 households served, 53,781 of these households also received crisis assistance. Thus far this EAP season, the average household benefit has been \$433.97. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the CAAs on a job well done. Tom Scott, with IHCD, says they have about \$7 million left in EAP money so if your CAA needs more EAP monies, please contact Tom at tscott@ihcda.in.gov.

AP Article: Stimulus Money will Weatherize 30,000 Low-Income Indiana Homes

By RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press Writer
March 20, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana plans to weatherize the homes of more than 30,000 low-income residents with some of its federal stimulus funds by asking nonprofit groups to compete for contracts to handle the upgrades, Gov. Mitch Daniels said Friday.

The bidding process will begin next week for half of Indiana's \$132 million in stimulus energy-conservation funds. Bidding on contracts for the other half will be held a year from now. Only Hoosiers already receiving state energy assistance are eligible for the improvements, which will cover up to \$5,000 in upgrades ranging from new insulation to replacing heating and cooling systems. Many of the residents who will benefit are the elderly and disabled.

Daniels said Indiana's \$132 million in energy-conservation funds - a small portion of the state's \$4.3 billion slice of the stimulus package - will unleash Indiana's largest-ever wave of home-weatherizations over the next two years.

CAAs vary widely, with some being non-profit groups, others being city agencies, and some being community-controlled groups. Many CAAs vary greatly in how their agencies are organized and in the type of services they provide to their local communities. In fact, the number of CAAs has increased and it is now estimated that CAAs serve over 80 percent of all U.S. counties. Although CAAs were established over 40 years ago, they have a rich history of advocacy for and service to low-income people and remain important in domestic social policy to the present day.

We have 24 Community Action Agencies that serve all 92 counties of Indiana. Each Community Action Agency periodically analyzes community needs to identify strategies that will work best in attacking poverty. Each CAA is different because its programs reflect the needs of their local communities. These agencies are unique in their ability to deploy diverse program activities and services in meeting their mission. They operate an array of programs which include, but are not limited to: Head Start; the Energy Assistance Program; the Weatherization Program; Individual Development Accounts; Homeownership Counseling; Owner Occupied Rehabilitation; Housing Development; Foster Grandparents; Child Care; and many more programs and services.

To find your local CAA or to learn more about the

He called the energy-efficiency money "a major freebee" that will cut homeowners' monthly utility bills up to 30 percent, create jobs and reduce energy consumption.

The federal stimulus plan requires states to use the weatherization funds by Sept. 30, 2010.

"Our template for using the stimulus dollars remains the same - speed, jobs and to leave something of lasting value. In this case the lasting value will be the reduction of between 25 and 50 megawatts of energy consumption on an ongoing basis," Daniels said.

The weatherization campaign is expected to create about 2,300 jobs - most of them the workers who will do the actual upgrades but also about 300 workers who will be trained to evaluate the energy-efficiency weaknesses of each home.

He said the state's plan for spending the funds will direct the most money to nonprofits that achieve the most energy savings per stimulus dollar.

"We will reward and reinforce those agencies, whoever they are, who are doing a really good job," the governor said.

Daniels said federal authorities are advising every state to closely scrutinize where their weatherization money goes because past federal spending for such upgrades has been plagued by "favoritism and fraud."

The nonprofit entities that will be able to bid on contracts to administer the funds include the state's network of community action programs, the state's rural electric membership corporations and the Indiana Builders Association.

Daniels said the equipment and supplies used in the weatherization upgrades will be purchased centrally by the state to stretch the federal money further.

Ed Gerardot, executive director of the Indiana Community Action Association, said his group last year spent about \$20 million in federal and state funds to weatherize about 3,500 homes through its 24 Indiana chapters. He said the new funding will be a boon for many Hoosiers.

"This new money has a great potential to do a lot of good things, including creating green jobs, saving energy and leaving a lasting impact for low-income Hoosiers," he said.

Kerwin Olson, program director for the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, said he hopes the state moves carefully to train the 300 inspectors it will need to evaluate homes.

"We certainly understand there's a time limit here in spending this money, but we hope quality of training is maintained," he said. "With a promise of 20 to 30 percent in energy savings that's going to depend on the quality of the work and the quality of inspections."

Jacqueline Bunch, a 61-year-old retiree on a fixed income, said her Indianapolis home underwent an extensive weatherization last year

Indiana Community Action
Network or State
Association, please visit
www.incap.org.

that included replacing her worn-out furnace, insulating her attic and installing new ductwork.

Bunch said the improvements cut her monthly utility bills this winter to an average of about \$150 - far lower than the \$200-\$300 bills she faced last winter prior to the upgrades.

"It was just wonderful, and it's helping me so much the way the economy is," she said. "Its big savings and this money will help out a lot of other people."

HUD 2009 Income Limits Released

On March 19, 2009 HUD released the estimated median family incomes (MFIs) and income limits for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. MFIs are used as the basis for income limits in several HUD programs (including the Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, CDBG, and HOME programs), as well as in programs run by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Treasury, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and Government Sponsored Enterprises.

The FY 2009 estimates are calculated for 532 metropolitan and 2,043 nonmetropolitan areas in the U.S. and its territories, using the Fair Market Rent area definitions applied in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. The FY 2009 MFIs are derived from 2000 Census data updated with local and state American Community Survey 2005-2007 multiyear data.

The FY 2009 HUD income estimates and limits, a documentation system that explains the derivation of each area's limit and median income estimate, links to the current Income Limits Area Definitions, and other useful information are available as a free download from HUD USER at www.huduser.org/datasets/il/1109/index.html.

In addition to the traditional Income Limits described above, HUD has developed a new set of income limits specifically for projects that rely upon Internal Revenue Code Section 42 Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and Section 142 projects financed with tax-exempt housing bonds. Projects in these two categories are now referred to by HUD as Multifamily Tax Subsidy Projects (MTSPs). The FY 2009 HUD MTSP income limits, a documentation system that explains the derivation of each area's MTSP limit and median income estimate, and other useful information are available as free downloads from HUD USER at www.huduser.org/datasets/mtsp.html.

Funding Available

Summer Food Programs for Kids

The Indiana Department of Education is accepting applications for the Summer Food Service Program, which reimburses local sponsors that serve healthy meals and snacks to low-income children during the summer months.

Eligible applicants include schools, youth-serving nonprofits, faith-based organizations, summer camps, community centers and units of local government, including park programs.

To download an application or for more information, visit:
<http://www.doe.in.gov/food/summer/> or call 1-800-537-1142.

Grant deadline is April 27, 2009!

Training Materials Available

We have extra training materials from the 2008 Indiana Training Institute program. The following are the materials that remain:

- War on Poverty Binders (13);
- Pathways to Excellence Binders (4);
- Strategic Planning for CAP Agencies (5);
- Succession Planning (6);
- Microenterprise Development (3);
- Current Fiscal Management Issues (5); and
- Employment Law (4).

We also have some from the most recent ITI trainings including:

- Board Fiscal Oversight (2); and
- How to be an Effective Supervisor in a Time of Change (4).

If you would like copies of any of these materials, please email Lisa Travis at ltravis@incap.org with which materials you would like and how many, otherwise, we will recycle these materials and binders for future ITI trainings.

Statewide Conference Merged with the Mid-America Community Action Association (MACAA) Conference

The Statewide Conference for Indiana's Community Action Agencies has merged with the MACAA Conference, which includes CAAs from the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

The conference will still be August 10-11, 2009 and still be held in Indianapolis, IN. The theme of the conference will be CAA Leadership

More details and registration information will be coming soon!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lisa Travis at ltravis@incap.org or 1-800-382-9895.

Registration Now Open for Indiana Training Institute Trainings

The Indiana Training Institute (ITI) Trainings for March and April

2009 are now posted Community Action Training section of IN-CAA's website at www.incap.org. Training information posted includes trainers, training descriptions, training times, and registration deadlines.

Trainings currently posted include:

- **Not-for-Profit Organization Accounting, New Form 990, and Auditing Issues Update** - April 27 (Central), 28 (South), and 29 (North), 2009
- **Internal Controls, Cost Allocation, and Grants Management Training** - May 4-5, 2009
- **Our Customers Deserve the Best Training** - May 11-12, 2009
- **Purposeful Boards, Powerful Fundraising** - June 4, 2009
- **Motivational Counseling: A to Z Training** - June 11-12, 2009

Two more ITI trainings that will take place in May and be posted this week are:

- **Strategic Planning Training** - May 14, 2009
- **Case Notes Training** - May 18, 2009

More ITI training have been scheduled for 2009 and the training and registration information should be available online in the coming weeks.

If you have other questions about the training, please feel free to contact Lisa Travis, Team Leader, CAA Network Support, at ltravis@incap.org or 1-800-382-9895.

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