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TAKING ACTION.
Improving Lives.

Indiana Community Action Network Newsletter

December 2009

Community Action of Southern Indiana Receives Two New Grants

CASI is Recipient of Early Head Start Grant

Community Action of Southern Indiana was notified that it was one of the agencies awarded funding by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Head Start for the expansion of Early Head Start Services to pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers. The program will serve 60 children zero to three year olds and twelve (12) pregnant women in Clark County. Funding will be \$483,486.

The program will employ 11 home visitors who will serve in a home based program along with an Education Manager, Administrative Assistant, and Case Manager. Educational services will be one day a week for an hour and a half in each child's home and socialization will be provided one or two days a month in the agency's new Sellersburg center location. Homework and learning activities will be provided to parents and children each week.

Joy Shanks Head Start Director said "We are honored to be a recipient of this Early Head Start Grant and view it as an increased opportunity to serve children and families." Fred Mitchell, Executive Director added "We are delighted to among the agencies chosen in a competitive process to receive this grant. We are excited for our community."

CASI is one of ten Indiana Community Action Agencies to receive Head Start expansion funding.

Emergency Services Grant Awarded to CASI by the Southern Indiana Community Foundation

Emergency Services ranked number one for Community Action of Southern Indiana in the recent state wide community need assessment and continues to be a high service priority. In response to this growing need the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana in conjunction with Horseshoe Foundation approved a grant to CASI in the amount of \$18,000 to provide crisis assistance to 100 low-income families within the next 120 days. CASI Executive Director, Fred Mitchell said "The current economic conditions and joblessness has lea many new families to seek help. We have with

In This Issue

[CASI Awarded Two New Grants](#)
[Client Spotlight: CANI](#)
[2009 ITI Materials](#)
[Holiday Greetings](#)
[About the Network](#)

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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;

the grant from the Community Foundation been able meet some of the increasing need."



Client Spotlight: Community Action of Northeast Indiana Helps Retired Woman Reduce \$200 a Month Gas Bill

By Angela Mapes Turner, The Journal Gazette

Gerri Mann is just grateful for whatever help people in her situation can get. Leaves are just beginning to fall around the retiree's mobile home on Fort Wayne's south side, littering the grass around her carefully tended flower beds.



She and her late husband had caulked around windows and put foam around electrical plates. She set her thermostat to 67 degrees at night and 64 degrees during the day.

But after three decades, her home's original furnace and poor insulation have combined to cause her gas bills to creep up to \$200 monthly.

Finally, her youngest daughter called Community Action of Northeast Indiana about its energy-assistance program. CANI referred Mann to the weatherization program, and in August, workers spent two days insulating, repairing ductwork and installing a new furnace and thermostat.

Mann is just eager to see the effects of the weatherization done on her mobile home. Mann said she was surprised how extensive the work was for the amount of money spent.

"I never expected it all," she said.

and others.

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

2009 Indiana Training Institute (ITI) Materials

We have materials left from several of the 2009 ITI trainings. Available items/materials are listed below. If you would like any of these materials, please send an email to ltravis@incap.org.

learn more about the Indiana Community Action Network or State Association, please visit www.incap.org.

- **Our Customers Deserve the Best Training** - 2 binders
- **Internal Controls and Cost Allocation Training** - 1 binders
- **990 Form and Required Disclosures Training** - 2 binders
- **War on Poverty Training** - 7 binders
- **Motivational Counseling from A to Z** - 5 binders
- **Case Notes Training** - 2 binders
- **Pathways to Excellence Training** - 2 binders
- **Goal Setting for Your Agency Training** - 1 binders
- **Family Medical Leave Act and American Disabilities Act Regulations Training** - 4 binders
- **2009 Statewide Conference for Indiana's Community Action Agencies** - 4 packets and 16 conference CDs with all handouts

Additionally, there are five binders left from the recent training **Reverse Equity Mortgages as a Foreclosure Intervention Tool**, which was sponsored by Indiana's Attorney General's Office.

Happy Holidays

The Indiana Community Action Association would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season!



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