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**TAKING ACTION.**  
*Improving Lives.*

Indiana Community Action Network Newsletter

January 2010

## IN-CAA Stimulus Web Site Launched

The Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA) was one of 34 state Community Action Agency Associations awarded ARRA funds by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration of Children and Families (ACF), to do education and outreach related to ARRA including the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

The IN-CAA Stimulus web site was launched at a Public Education meeting for CAAs and state officials, attended by 31 people, on January 13, 2010. This web site provides information on ARRA and programs administered by Indiana's Community Action Agencies and of which received ARRA funds. It also highlights client success stories. This web site is one of many public education tools IN-CAA is developing. Please visit the web site at [www.incaastimulus.org](http://www.incaastimulus.org).

IN-CAA has also created a Facebook page for this initiative, become a fan at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/INCAA-Stimulusorg/283816946240>.

## HHS Releases LIHEAP Funds

*By Congress Daily*

On January 13, 2010, HHS released \$1.2 billion in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds to states in order to help low-income families pay their energy bills. The program was allocated at \$5.1 billion for FY 2010; this release was the second installment of funds. According to Reuters, HHS will likely release additional emergency funds in the next few weeks. Because of the cold weather and the recession, a group of 48 Senators led by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) have urged the Obama Administration to release funding as soon as possible.

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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

## New Publications and Resources from the Indiana Institute for Working Families

The Indiana Institute for Working Families is publishing their e-publication *Inside the Statehouse*, on state legislation when the Indiana General Assembly is in session. If you would like to receive this newsletter visit IN-CAA's web site [www.incap.org](http://www.incap.org) and click on the e-newsletter sign up button and select the Action Alert category or you can send an email telling us you would like to subscribe to [jfraser@incap.org](mailto:jfraser@incap.org). We will also send Action Alerts through this list serve from time to time.

The Institute has also released several publications this past month including a 2009 Annual Report, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) policy brief, and Property Tax Cap policy brief. You can view all of these publications by visiting <http://www.incap.org/iwvfRandP.html>.

In addition, the Institute has issued several press releases and has received extensive news coverage the last few weeks on tax equity, the EITC, and food insecurity. To view these press releases and articles, please visit <http://www.incap.org/iwvfPressReleases.html>.

Lastly, the Institute has also created a Facebook page. To stay up-to-date on Institute reports and other news related to working poor families, become a fan at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Indiana-Institute-for-Working-Families/429277330606>.



## Client Spotlight: Community Action Program of Western Indiana Youth Advocate Presents at National Guard Symposium

*By Kathy Walker, Community Action Program of Western Indiana*

Lexxi Spragg is a participant in the Community Action of Western Indiana's Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program. Lexxi is an upcoming senior at Attica Jr./Sr. High School was selected as the Regional Winner of the Youth Advocate of the Year in May 2009 by the Indiana Tobacco Prevention & Cessation agency. Lexxi received the award due to the high level of advocacy she has demonstrated as a member of VOICE. As the Youth Advocate of the Region, Lexxi presented information on "Don't Glam Tobacco" and the VOICE movement at the Indiana National Guard Youth Symposium on August 2, 2009.



Development; Foster Grandparents; Legal Services; Neighborhood Centers; Summer Youth Programs; Senior Centers; 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 learn more about the Indiana Community Action Network or State Association, please visit

Lexxi's presentation challenged the youth in attendance to help expose the marketing practices of the tobacco industry, which target youth. Youth were also encouraged to sign a petition in support of getting smoking removed from movies especially those rated G, PG and PG-13. Studies have shown that exposure to smoking in the movies has a huge impact on youth who look up to their favorite star and often strive to model their behavior. Often movies include tobacco in ways that make it look glamorous. There is nothing glamorous about lung cancer, heart disease, pre-mature wrinkling, emphysema and the numerous other adverse health conditions caused by tobacco use. Most tobacco users started before the age of 18. Teens are more susceptible to the addictive nature of tobacco and too often what started as experimentation leads to a lifetime of addiction.

The Youth Symposium along with the Family Program Workshop had a theme of "The Power of Healthy Families" this year. The idea being that information/knowledge can bring about healthy lifestyles whether it be mind-body-soul. The Youth Symposium strives to bring military youth ages 12-17 together to network, learn and have fun. They share the common bond of being related to someone in the military. We hope by coming together in this forum that they will learn new information and go back share with their families, peers and community. Most of the teens that attend are already taking a leadership role in their schools, communities and within the National Guard Youth Program. Our guest speakers each shared with us this year information pertaining to making healthy choices. Choices that affect our physical and mental being.

Lexxi rounded out our weekend by telling us the dangers in smoking and taking the "cool" factor out of smoking so our teens will make positive healthy choices and not succumb to peer pressure.

For more information about VOICE, the youth-led, youth-movement working to expose the manipulative practices of the tobacco industry, visit [www.VOICE.tv](http://www.VOICE.tv).

## Social Enterprise Training in Indiana, Sponsored in Part by TRI-CAP

### What is it?

- Intense hands-on experiential training in the skills required to launch a successful earned income venture to diversify organizational revenue sources into sustainable, unrestricted income.
- The training is delivered over 3 days with guided homework in between.
- Up to 8 agencies will participate in the training together.
- Taught by the principals at Social Enterprise Ventures, LLC, a national training company that helps agencies build capacity through earned income and best practices.

### When is it?

#### April 15 - Modules 1 & 2

- Assess Organizational Dynamics.
- Build an Inventory of Assets.
- Develop a Stakeholder Communication Plan.
- Brainstorm Earned Income Opportunities.

#### May 20 - Modules 3 & 4

- Market Research and Feasibility Studies.
- Profile the Customer and Competition.
- Identify Competitive Advantage.

### **July 15 - Modules 5 & 6**

- Perform Costing Analyses.
- Develop a Sales Plan.
- Prepare the Business Plan.

### **Why Should My Agency Participate?**

- Develop sources of *renewable unrestricted* income for staffing, program development, expansion, etc.
- Invest in ways to sustain new initiatives.
- Traditional funding sources for nonprofits are projected to remain strained and competition will be fierce.

### **What's Involved?**

- Agencies build a dedicated team of Board and Staff to participate in the program.
- Teams learn and work from a comprehensive workbook.
- Training sessions are high energy, hands on and interactive.
- Held in Dubois County, (SW) Indiana. Place to be announced depending upon registration.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- A carefully developed plan for earned income.
- Enhancement of current programs and services to reach new markets.
- Collaboration with other area agencies.

### **Cost**

- Only \$13,000 per agency, regardless of the size of the team (cost includes expenses).
- Includes workbooks for all team members.
- Consulting on earned income planning for up to one year.

### **To Be Considered for the Training:**

Visit [www.socialenterpriseventures.com](http://www.socialenterpriseventures.com)

Contact Jean Block, Managing Partner, Social Enterprise Ventures for pre-registration interview.

[jean@socialenterpriseventures.com](mailto:jean@socialenterpriseventures.com) 505.899.1520

## **Community Action of Northeast Indiana Looking for Executive Director**

CANI, a private non-profit corporation dedicated to removing the causes of poverty in Northeast Indiana is seeking a strategic leader with vision and a high level of commitment and integrity. CANI has accomplished much success in the past and wants to accomplish even more in the future.

The Executive Director is the CEO of CANI and is the corporation's resident agent.

Responsibility includes the overall management of the agency affairs, administration and coordination of agency programs and activities in accordance with board established policies and legal constraints. The successful candidate will have a track record of success and will be results oriented, creative and an innovative thinker who is able to translate ideas into reality.

Candidate Eligibility includes:

- Master's degree in the area of business management, public administration, social services, or a related field. Bachelor's degree in business management, public administration, social services, or

a related field along with ten (10) years of relevant experience may be considered.

- A minimum of five (5) years of management experience with progressively more responsibility in leadership, financial and personnel management.
- Current knowledge of legislation and issues impacting low-income persons.
- Ability to develop a thorough understanding of basic community action concepts and the regulations governing agency programs.
- Ability to relate well with diverse groups from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds.
- Demonstrates excellent oral, interpersonal, presentation and written communication skills.
- Proficient in MS Office applications.
- High comfort level with public interaction including: public affairs, serving as the organization's spokesperson and making recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter including a salary requirement range and a resume to [DirectorApps@canihelp.org](mailto:DirectorApps@canihelp.org).

Resumes will be accepted through Monday, February 8, 2010. CANI is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.



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