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TAKING ACTION.
Improving Lives.

Indiana Community Action Network
Newsletter

January 2012

FEATURE ARTICLE

**National Discussion on Solutions to Restore
America's Prosperity**



The nationally televised discussion, "Remaking America: From Poverty to Prosperity", was broadcasted live by C-SPAN on Thursday, January 12, 2012.

The Panelists

The conversation was moderated by Tavis Smiley and the panelists include: Cornel West, Princeton University professor and author; Suze Orman, America's leading authority on personal finance; Michael Moore, Academy Award®-winning filmmaker; Barbara Ehrenreich, prolific author of *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*; Jeffrey Sachs, poverty expert and Professor of Health Policy and Management at

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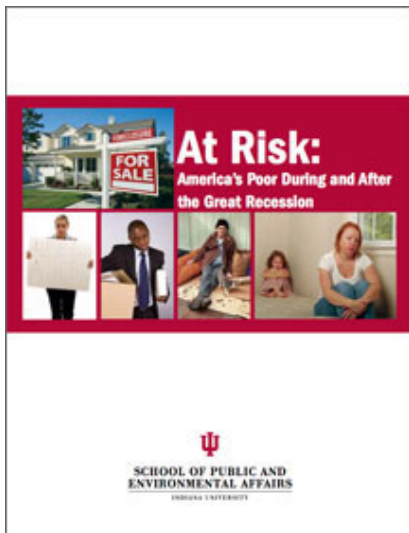
The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (EOA) established over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) at the local level to implement EOA programs. EOA programs included: VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America); Job Corps; Neighborhood Youth Corps; Head Start; Adult Basic Education; Family Planning;

Columbia University; Majora Carter, Urban Revitalization Strategist; and Vicki B. Escarra, President and CEO of Feeding America.

If you missed the broadcast [you can watch it here.](#)

The White Paper on America's Poor During and After the Great Recession Panelists discussed solutions for restoring America's prosperity. Additionally, the participants discussed At Risk: America's Poor During and After the Great Recession. **This White Paper from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs** reveals the "new poor" and how the face of poverty in America has changed.

[Download the White Paper.](#)



Harder for Americas to Rise From Lower Rungs

Editorial from The New York Times
January 4, 2012



Community Health Centers; Congregate Meal Preparation; Economic 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.

There are 23 CAAs that serve all 92 counties of Indiana. CAAs periodically analyze 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.



Ryan Garcia/The Flint Journal, via Associated Press

Occupy protesters, like these in Flint, Mich., have pushed discussions about economic mobility toward center stage.

To find your local CAA or to learn more about the Indiana Community Action Network or State Association, please visit www.incap.org.

WASHINGTON - Benjamin Franklin did it. Henry Ford did it. And American life is built on the faith that others can do it, too: rise from humble origins to economic heights. "Movin' on up," George Jefferson-style, is not only a sitcom song but a civil religion.

But many researchers have reached a conclusion that turns conventional wisdom on its head: Americans enjoy less economic mobility than their peers in Canada and much of Western Europe. The mobility gap has been widely discussed in academic circles, but a sour season of mass unemployment and street protests has moved the discussion toward center stage.

Former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, a Republican candidate for president, warned this fall that movement "up into the middle income is actually greater, the mobility in Europe, than it is in America." National Review, a conservative thought leader, wrote that "most Western European and English-speaking nations have higher rates of mobility." Even Representative Paul D. Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican who argues that overall mobility remains high, recently wrote that "mobility from the very bottom up" is "where the United States lags behind."

Liberal commentators have long emphasized class, but the attention on the right is largely new.

"It's becoming conventional wisdom that the U.S. does not have as much mobility as most other advanced countries," said Isabel V. Sawhill, an economist at the Brookings Institution. "I don't think you'll find too many people who will argue with that."

One reason for the mobility gap may be the depth of American poverty, which leaves poor children starting especially far behind. Another may be the unusually large premiums that American employers pay for college degrees. Since children generally follow their parents' educational trajectory, that premium increases the importance of family background and stymies people with less schooling.

[Read the entire article here.](#)

Human Services, Inc. recognizes Alan Whitted



On December 27th., Human Services, Inc. Board of Directors recognized Alan Whitted Columbus City Attorney for his past loyal dedication and unwavering commitment to the agency. Alan began his journey as a Private Representative of Bartholomew County to the Human Services, Inc. Board of Directors in 2003. In 2005 Alan became President and served in this position until May 2011 where he decided it was time to give other qualified individuals residing on the agency board of directors a chance to lead the agencies functions. Alan has been a good teacher who has helped the agency make a positive difference in many people's lives and has been a supporting advocate of assuring that the agency continues to strive for excellence in all programs and services that it delivers. Diane Rick, current President of Human Services, Inc. Board of Directors shares that it has been and will continue to be a pleasure to work closely with Alan as the agency works toward its mission of helping individuals and families improve their lives through education and intervention programs administered through the agency.

Family Development Certification Updates and Trainings

Those Currently Certified

For those who are already certified under the Indiana Family Development Certification System as a Family Development Outreach Worker and/or Specialist you received an email at the end of December with information as to how many CEUs you had earned, and if your certificate is up for renewal,

information needed for new certifications. Unless you did not have enough CEUs, you should have received your new certificate and your information was updated in the Family Development database which will be updated on IN-CAA's web site the end of this month. If you do not have enough CEUs, and if you do not CEU approval paperwork to Lisa Travis at ltravis@incap.org by 1/31/12, you will need to retake the class to be certified again.

Those Being Granfathered In from Old Certification System

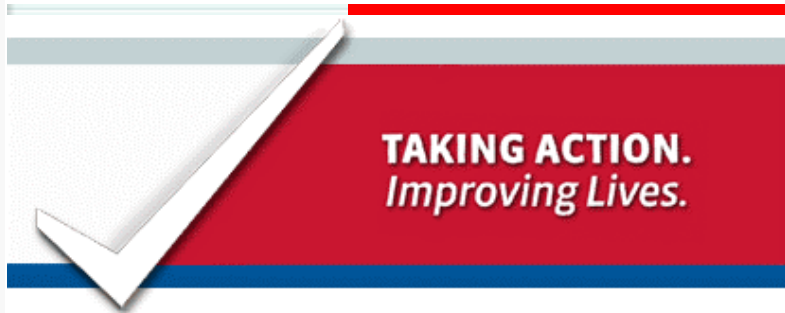
For those who were previously certified by University of Iowa, Lisa will begin to process your paper work this week and you should receive you certificates by mid-February. Also the database posted to the web site by the end of February will reflect you as being certified.

Those Who are New and Need to be Certified

For those who are new to Community Action and who need to earn their certification as a Family Development Outreach Worker and/or Specialist, the Family Development Trainings will be held the week of February 13th at Real Services in South Bend. For more information and to register, please visit: http://reg.abcsignup.com/view/view_month.aspxas=22&aid=ICAA&wp=51.

The registration deadline is February 8, 2012!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contract Lisa Travis at ltravis@incap.org or 317-638-4232.



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