



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

Indiana Community Action Network  
Newsletter

Summer Edition 2011

## 2011 Indiana CCAP Class

The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) certification is designed for current and emerging managers or leaders in the Community Action Profession. To achieve certification, employment in either a CAA, a delegate agency or sub-grantee of a CAA, a CSBG eligible entity, a state or regional association office, or a state community services program office is required. The certification benefits the individual and agency as it:

- Gives you visible recognition for your accomplishments in the field. Tells others, you have achieved a nationally recognized standard.
- Enhances the credentials of Community Action staff.
- Provides an edge in competing for public and private grant funds.
- Improves your professional marketability when competing for higher positions in your own agency or another CAA.
- Establishes standards that encourage future community action leaders to carry on the quality work of the movement's founders. Future generations will benefit from your commitment to excellence today.

The Indiana Community Action Association is proud to announce that the state had eight Indiana Community Action Agency staff members who completed the requirements for the CCAP. These CAA staff members include: Donna Collier and Justine Currie with Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Action Programs; Deb DeBord with Human Services; Cindy Donnelly with JobSource; Joyce Fleck with TRI-CAP; Ed Gerardot with IN-CAA; Anna Schoon with Northwest Indiana Community Action Corporation; and Lisa Travis with IN-CAA. These new Indiana CCAPS were formally recognized of their achievement at 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.

2011 Community Action Partnership Annual Convention awards gala at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel on August 25, 2011. A special thanks to our mentor and teacher for CCAP Charles McCann.



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 are also proud to announce that we have enough interest in the CCAP that we will have a 2012 class. The first CCAP class will be at IN-CAA on October 13, 2011.** This training will serve as the first of several meetings that will be held to prepare Community Action professional for the 2012 Certified Community Action Professional Process. To register, please visit:

[http://reg.abcsignup.com/view/view\\_month.aspx?as=22&aid=ICAA&wp=51](http://reg.abcsignup.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=22&aid=ICAA&wp=51).

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.

## Nearly One in Five Americans Report Inability to Afford Enough Food

**FRAC Releases New Analysis of Gallup Data on Food Hardship through 2010, with Rates for the Nation, Regions, States, 100 Large Metropolitan Areas, and Every Congressional District**

Nearly one in five Americans struggled to afford enough food for themselves and their families in 2010, according to a released by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). The report also reveals the extent of this struggle through 2010 in every congressional district and 100 of the country's largest metropolitan areas (MSA), providing a unique up-to-date

To find your local CAA or to learn more about the Indiana Community Action Network

examination of how millions of American households in every part of the country continue to face a struggle with hunger.

or State Association, please visit [www.incap.org](http://www.incap.org).

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The report analyzes data that were collected by Gallup and provided to FRAC. The data were gathered as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index project, which has been interviewing almost 1,000 households daily since January 2008. FRAC has analyzed responses to the question: "Have there been times in the past twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?"

Gallup's data reveal pervasive food hardship at every level:

- The annual rate of food hardship in 2010 was 18 percent, down slightly from the 2009 level of 18.3 percent. The rate peaked in 2008, increasing from 16.3 percent in the first quarter of 2008 to 19.5 percent in the fourth quarter.
- In the last few months of 2010, some of the highest rates in the three year period were reached-the October 2010 rate of 19.3 percent had been exceeded only in November-December 2008.
- The variations in food hardship by region in 2010 were substantial. In the starkest difference, the rate in the Southeast (21.1 percent) and Southwest (20.8 percent) is one-third higher than in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.
- In 21 states in 2010, one in five or more respondents answered the food hardship question in the affirmative; in 45 states, 15 percent or more answered the question "yes." The states with the highest rates of food hardship were overwhelmingly from the Southeast, Southwest and West.
- Eighty-five of the 100 largest MSAs had 15 percent or more of households affirmatively answering this question. In only three MSAs was it below 12.5 percent (one in eight respondents). Most of the MSAs with the highest rates of food insecurity were in the Southeast and Southwest, and in California.
- In 177 of the 436 congressional districts (including the District of Columbia), one-fifth or more of all respondent households reported food hardship in the 2009-2010 period. 324 districts had a rate 15 percent or higher. Only 17 had fewer than one in ten respondents reporting food

hardship.

"The data in this report show that food hardship - running out of money to buy the food that families need - is a substantial challenge in every corner of this country," said Jim Weill, FRAC President. "While the nation's Great Recession may have technically ended in mid-2009, it has not yet ended for many of the nation's households. For them, 2010 was the third year of a terrible recession that is widely damaging the ability to meet basic needs."

To view the report, please visit: [http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/food\\_hardship\\_report\\_mar2011.pdf](http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/food_hardship_report_mar2011.pdf).

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## Community Action of Greater Indianapolis Partners with Fifth Third Bank to Bring Financial Assistance to the Community



Unique eBus initiative brings free financial literacy, homeowner assistance, foreclosure prevention and access to banking products and services directly to Indianapolis residents.

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis has partnered with Fifth Third Bank to bring financial empowerment to Indianapolis residents through the eBus. The eBus is a 40-foot bus that doubles as a mobile classroom to provide credit counseling, financial literacy, homeownership assistance, foreclosure prevention and access to banking products and services directly to where people live and work.

This is the seventh year the eBus visited Indianapolis. In 2010, 1,900 Indianapolis residents stepped aboard the eBus to receive financial literacy and assistance.

## A Mobile Classroom

A self-contained mobile classroom on wheels, the eBus is Internet-equipped with 14 computer terminals for instructor-led or self-directed homeownership and credit counseling programs, and access to comprehensive financial services information. Fifth Third community development officers, mortgage professionals and retail banking staff will be on board the eBus along with community partners to promote financial literacy, homeownership assistance and foreclosure prevention in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

### On the eBus, visitors are able to:

- Request a free credit report and review it onboard.
- Receive a free consultation on loss mitigation and foreclosure prevention.
- Receive a free personalized evaluation of finances.
- Speak with non-profit organizations that provide housing, money management and business advice.
- Browse free multi-lingual, self-directed programs on homeownership and credit counseling.
- Obtain money management and budgeting information.
- Get access to a wide range of banking products and services.

To learn more, visit: <http://www.cagi-in.org>.



## Client Spotlight: Family Served by Community Action of Northeast Indiana Feels Warmth of Weatherization

Life changed drastically almost overnight for one Fort Wayne family, thanks to Community Action of Northeast Indiana (CANI) Weatherization Program.

The Smith\* family's journey started a few years ago when they downsized to save on housing costs. Although smaller in size, the new home consumed far more energy than the previous one. As a single mother trying to raise three boys on a humble income, the high energy bills were a significant source of

stress. Who wants to have to make the choice between providing a warm home for your children, or saving money?

It was in the winter of 2010 when she first became aware of the Weatherization program. A team came to her home in October to complete the necessary work. The "to do list" included a furnace tune-up and new insulation. Elizabeth said the workers were "very efficient and hardworking." All in all, it was a great experience.

She especially appreciates CANI Inspector Tim Dykehouse for going the extra mile. He was kind, followed through on the project and provided her family with some educational materials on energy saving.

Elizabeth said the house is a comfortable temperature now and the furnace seems to be working more efficiently.

"Every night it's so toasty. It makes a huge difference...night and day," she said.

Elizabeth works two part-time jobs to make ends meet. She said there is no shame in asking for help if need be:

"If you are working hard to attain your goals, there is no reason to be embarrassed. Sometimes things happen beyond our control."

The CANI Weatherization program improves about 200 low-income homes each year in Northeast Indiana. The program operates in Allen, DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties.

\*The family's name was changed for personal reasons.

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## **New Indiana Head Start Association Web Site**

The Indiana Head Start Association (IHSA) is pleased to let you know that they have a "new" IHSA web site. Please take a minute to check it out at: [www.indianaheadstart.org](http://www.indianaheadstart.org). Please note that work is still being done, so bear with them. But they hope you like what you see so far!

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## **Indiana Institute for Working Families Hires a**

## New Policy Analyst



The Indiana Institute for Working Families is happy to welcome **Derek Thomas as a Policy Analyst.**

Before joining the Institute, Mr. Thomas served as a legislative assistant to Hays and Associates, LLC for the 2011 session of the Indiana General Assembly. He has also served as legislative intern to State Senator John E. Broden (D-South Bend) for the 2010 session of the Indiana General Assembly. These experiences-combined with those relating to his education-have given Mr. Thomas familiarity with the Indiana Statehouse and the skills to research and analyze public policy for low-income working families. Mr. Thomas obtained his BS in Policy Studies from Indiana University/Purdue University of Indianapolis' (IUPUI) School of Public & Environmental Affairs (SPEA) and is currently an MPA candidate-with focus on Policy Analysis-in IUPUI's SPEA program.

Please add him to list serves and as a contact. His contact information is:

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