

# Overview of Community Action Agencies

## 5 Decades of Service

Minnesota Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)  
Joelle Hoeft & Jessica Rochester

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# What are Community Action Agencies

## Community Action Agencies (CAA) - or - Community Action Partnerships (CAP)

- CAAs are
  - non-profit or public organizations that receive federal and state funds to combat poverty
  - Established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight the War on Poverty
- CAAs use a comprehensive approach to ending poverty in their local areas

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# The War on Poverty Begins

“Let us carry forward the plans and programs of John F Kennedy, not because of our sorrow or sympathy, but because they are right...This administration today, here and now, declares an unconditional War on Poverty in America... Our joint Federal-local effort must pursue poverty, pursue it wherever it exists.”

*LBJ, January 8, 1964*

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## CAA History & Perspectives

### In the Beginning:

#### 1964 The Great Society

- Enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act, creating Community Action Agencies
- Enactment of the Civil Rights Act and Head Start
- Community Action Agencies – agents of **change** at the grassroots level
- Maximum Feasible Participation of the poor

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## CAA History & Perspectives

- 1981 – CSBG Block Grant
  - Enacting of the Community Services Block Grant changes the regulatory and funding basis of Community Action Agencies
- 1994 Results Oriented Management & Accountability (ROMA)
  - 6 national goals
  - Started as voluntary, mandated in 2001
- 2005 National Performance Indicators (NPI)
  - 14 national indicators, based on 6 ROMA goals
- FY16 New Community Action performance management & measurement
  - Local, state and federal

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## The CAA Network

- The service areas of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) cover 96% of the nation's counties – over 1,000 local CAAs.
- These agencies are connected by a national network that includes local CAAs, States, state & national associations, a national lobbying organization, a national association of Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) administrators, and a national legal organization.

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## Purpose and Mission

- In order to reduce poverty in its community, a Community Action Agency works to build partnerships and better focus available local, state, private and federal resources to assist low-income individuals and families to acquire useful skills and knowledge, gain access to new opportunities and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

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## Community Action Tripartite Board

- Tripartite Boards exist in Community Action Agencies because it is a mandatory requirement of CSBG.
  - The Statutory Authority is found in Public Law 105-285, Section 676B.
- The Board must fully participate in the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of the programs.

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## CAAs have adopted the principle, *“maximum feasible participation”*

- CAAs are governed by a tripartite board
  - **1/3 people experiencing poverty**
    - The voice
  - **1/3 public officials, and**
    - The power
  - **1/3 at-large local citizens**
    - The resources
- Local Community Action Agencies are constantly changing to provide fast, flexible, local solution for the increasingly diverse mix of Minnesotans experiencing poverty

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## Community Action in Minnesota

- 36 CSBG/MN Community Action Grant Grantees
  - 25 Community Action grantees
  - 11 Indian Reservation Governments
- All 87 Counties Served, “Capped”
- 11 Indian Reservations served
- All grantees conduct community needs assessments and design local solutions to poverty
- All grantees complete an annual audit

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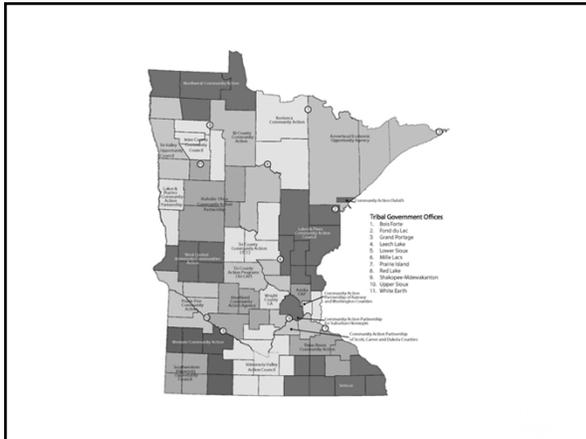
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## Each CAP....

- Assesses community needs and strengths,
- Establishes priorities,
- Determines strategies to respond to local poverty issues,
- Leverages resources, and
- Delivers a range of services and activities, including advocacy, to strengthen self-sufficiency and community.

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Head Start	Employment Supports & Services
Energy Assistance	Emergency Shelter
Weatherization	Transitional Housing
Food Shelves	Programs
SNAP Outreach	Youth Development
Community & Economic Development	Transportation
Congregate Meals	Tax Assistance and Outreach
Family Assets for Independence in MN (FAIM)	
And many more. . .	

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<h3>Partnerships are Critical</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships are central to Community Action's work to fight poverty.</li> <li>Locally, MN Community Action Agencies maintain nearly 9,000 collaborative relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonprofits (1,542)</li> <li>Faith Based (576)</li> <li>Federal, State and Local Governments (1,023)</li> <li>For-Profit (3,444)</li> <li>Consortiums (including housing) (195)</li> <li>School Districts (635)</li> <li>Post Secondary Education Institutions (181)</li> <li>Finance / Banking Institutions (255)</li> <li>Health Services (337)</li> <li>Statewide associations / collaborations (197)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<h3>Power to Leverage Resources</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2015, \$7.35 million in federal CSBG funding and \$3.9 million in MN Community Action Grant funding leveraged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Over \$500 million in other program funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Volunteers provided 2 million hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valued at only federal minimum wage (\$7.25), volunteers' time was worth more than \$14.7 million.</li> <li>Approximately 1 million hours were volunteered by low-income individuals</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## **Community Action Performance Management & Measurement**

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## **Results Oriented Management & Accountability (ROMA)**

- ROMA Cycle
- 6 national goals - family, agency and community level
- National Performance Indicators (NPIs)
- Annual reporting – Community Services Block Grant - Information System (CSBG-IS)
- ROMA Next Generation – FY2017

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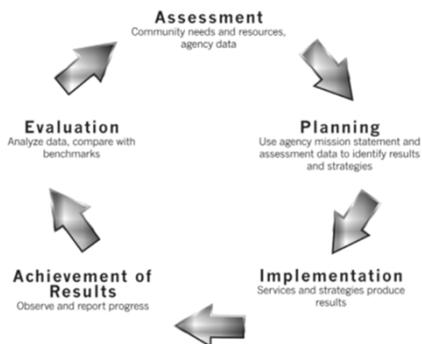
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### **The Results Oriented Management and Accountability Cycle**



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### ROMA Family Goals

- **Goal 1.** Low-income people become more self-sufficient. **(Family)**
- **Goal 6.** Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems. **(Family)**

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### ROMA Community Goals

- **Goal 2.** The conditions in which low-income people live are improved. **(Community)**
- **Goal 3.** Low-income people own a stake in their community. **(Community)**

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### ROMA Agency Goals

- **Goal 4.** Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved. **(Agency)**
- **Goal 5.** Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results. **(Agency)**

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## NEW: Local, State & Federal Accountability Measures

- Organizational Standards for local CAAs
  - 58 standards across 9 categories
    - Consumer Input & Involvement
    - Community Engagement
    - Community Assessment
    - Organizational Leadership
    - Board Governance
    - Strategic Planning
    - Human Resource Management
    - Financial Operations and Oversight
    - Data and Analysis

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## NEW: Local, State & Federal Accountability Measures (cont'd)

- Local Organizational Standards:  
[http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/storage/cap/documents/OSCOE/Feb%202015/oscoe\\_developed\\_standards\\_combined.pdf](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/storage/cap/documents/OSCOE/Feb%202015/oscoe_developed_standards_combined.pdf)
- State Accountability Measures – articulated in the FY16-17 Model State Plan
- Federal Accountability Measures
- Implementation begins Federal Fiscal Year - October 1, 2015

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## Community Action Funding

### **MN Community Action Grant (State)**

- MCAG
- Created in 1976
- Annual work plan
- Annual contract
- State Fiscal Year
  - 7/1/xx - 6/30/xx

### **Community Services Block Grant (Federal)**

- CSBG
- Created in 1981
- Annual work plan
- Annual contract
- Federal Fiscal Year
  - 10/1/xx - 9/30/xx

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### City of Minneapolis Projected Funding

- Projected funding amount for the City of Minneapolis in FY2016-17 (30 month contract period) = \$2,726,266
  - FY16 CSBG (federal) = \$907,320
  - FY16 Minnesota Community Action Grant (state) = \$455,813
  - FY17 CSBG (federal) = \$907,320
  - FY17 Minnesota Community Action Grant (state) = \$455,813

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### Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

- The MN Department of Human Services (DHS) Administers funding for:
  - Community Action
  - Asset Building/Financial Capability
  - Homeless Programs
  - Emergency Food and Nutrition

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### Questions?

Tikki Brown, OEO Director  
(651) 431-3822  
[tikki.brown@state.mn.us](mailto:tikki.brown@state.mn.us)

Joelle Hoeft  
(651) 431-3813  
[joelle.hoeft@state.mn.us](mailto:joelle.hoeft@state.mn.us)

Jessica Rochester  
(651) 431-3819  
[jessica.rochester@state.mn.us](mailto:jessica.rochester@state.mn.us)

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