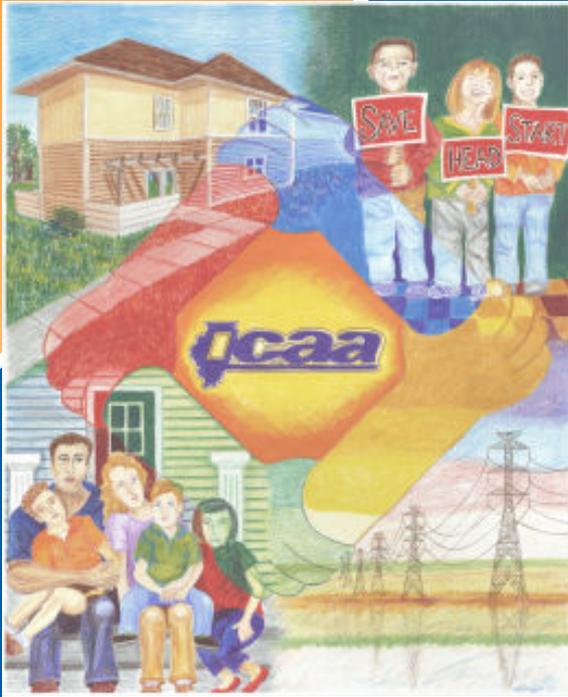


**Illinois
Community
Action
Association**

**2007 Annual
Report**



**BUILDING
Connections**

Building Connections

Connections can be puzzling, with multiple pieces that don't always fit neatly into a defined space. Community Action is like that – serving the unique needs of customers and communities that don't always have a perfect match. By building connections, creating partnerships, forming liaisons, fostering collaborations, Community Action fits the pieces together and creates opportunities for stronger individuals, families and communities. Connections build strength, establish relationships, clear paths and create alliances.

Service, success, results, and outcomes are the hallmarks of Community Action in Illinois. We are able to achieve our results by Building Connections. Let us work together - united in purpose for our common goal: “Helping People. Changing Lives.”

About the Cover

The artwork for the 2007 ICAA Annual Conference, *Building Connections*, was created by Sara Ratcliffe, ICAA Director of Membership Services. The images in the four quadrants represent some of the services that Community Action Agencies provide. The hands represent how all of the services are interconnected and ultimately how all of the agencies are connected to ICAA. By building these connections we are united as the Community Action Network – our strength comes from our unity and our connections to our communities.



Message from the Chair



Board Chair
Dwight A. Lucas, CCAP
East Central Illinois Community
Action Agency
Danville, Illinois

“Building Connections” with community partners is the focal point of local Community Action Agencies’ services to their customers. Through Community Action’s efforts, individuals and families throughout Illinois have experienced one stop access to resources that eliminate barriers and address needs holistically. **“Building Connections”** has shaped successful partnerships that provide a seamless flow of outcome-based services, for a diverse state community. Perfecting the match between customers’ needs and resource development through partnerships is the blueprint to meeting our network’s mission.

“Building Connections” has been extended to the state and national levels. Community Action uses these connections to advocate for the continuance of services, prevention of funding cuts, promotion of diversified funding, and heighten awareness of poverty issues that affect our service areas as Community Action Agencies. State and nationally elected officials are informed of our challenges and have pledged their support in bridging the gap between the needs and opportunities for those whom we serve.

“Building Connections” stimulates self reliance, hope and growth in individuals, families and neighborhoods, and small businesses. It forms a cohesive team that is able to eradicate barriers through the pooling of resources. **“Building Connections”** is the key in assuring that those we serve can potentially enjoy the benefits of the American Dream.

As the Chairman of the Illinois Community Action Association I have overseen the tremendous growth this organization has experienced over the last five years. I have also seen the challenges we have had to overcome as a network of Community Action Agencies under the umbrella and leadership of this organization. Our role as an Association through the connections we have built over the years has transformed us to being truly the voice for Community Action and the poor in Illinois. I have been proud to be a member and an active Chairman working to ensure that the Association is managed strategically and effectively and the network is served effectively.

As this will be my last term as Chairman of the Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Board and the membership for their continued support. I would like to thank all of the partners of Community Action in Illinois because through building connections we have excelled in alleviating poverty in Illinois. Finally, I would like to thank the Association staff for their dedication to the mission of Community Action. Let us continue **“Building Connections”** so long as poverty persists in our country and state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwight A. Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive style.



Message from the President



President/CEO
Dalitso Sulamoyo, CCAP
Illinois Community Action
Association
Springfield, Illinois

In the last four years, Community Action in Illinois challenged itself as it “Renewed the Commitment: on the War on Poverty,” “Defined the Future,” called for “A Time for Change,” and now we challenge ourselves to strategically be involved in “Building Connections.” It is Community Action’s mission to effectively work on combating poverty through partnerships and collaborations. We were founded to function as catalysts of change in local communities by facilitating advocacy and developing resources to address issues affecting low income families and communities.

We need to continue challenging ourselves to reach out to other realms of service or aspects of poverty that are not necessarily dictated by our funding. We need to challenge ourselves to forge partnerships and collaborations with entities or movements that are perhaps diametrically opposed to us to effectively launch this assault on poverty. We are the living legacy of the War on Poverty; we need not be limited or controlled by funding. We need to weigh in on all aspects of poverty in our communities. As Dr. Martin Luther King said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” We need to constantly be cognizant of our changing world. The landscape of poverty is always changing. The faces of poverty are changing. The challenges and barriers that sometimes prevent us from doing our jobs well keep getting tougher. Competition for funding is tighter. Poverty is on the rise and dedicated funding to our cause is shrinking. Our success is going to be dependent on building connections through innovation, creativity, efficiency and strategic management.

This network has demonstrated the willingness to accept the challenge to build connections outside its realm of operation. In May 2006, we exercised our right and mission as Community Action by calling for a statewide Dialogue on Poverty. We were bold to call for an end to poverty. We invited a diverse group of individuals and organizations to discuss solutions and strategies to some critical issues facing our state. Now, this has manifested itself into a statewide campaign to end poverty through the justification that this is a human rights issue.

The patience and resolve this network possesses has led to building better partnerships with our state partners. We need to continue the dialogue with them on how we can maintain and build upon this partnership so we can be effective in what we each have to do.

The unity this network has exemplified over the years has led to us dealing with challenges effectively both at the national and state levels. We need to deal with the challenge of developing a unified brand for our network in Illinois. It will be through that process and unity in identifying a brand for Illinois that our state community will embark on building connections with us as a network.

Community Action Agencies should be commended for the tremendous work they continue to do with shrinking resources. The Association’s Board of Directors should be commended for their leadership and vision in guiding this organization as a leader among many nationally. The Association staff should be commended for their unwavering dedication to the mission of Community Action. We should all be proud of a great organization we continue to build together. Sandra Day O’Connor said “We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one’s life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalitso Sulamoyo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Officers, Directors & Staff

ICAA 2006 - 2008 Officers

Board Chair

Dwight A. Lucas, CCAP

East Central IL Community Action Agency - Danville, IL

Board Vice-Chair

McFarland A. Bragg II

Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity - Peoria, IL

Board Treasurer

Frank Schwab

IL Valley Economic Development Corporation - Gillespie, IL

Board Secretary

Mary Lockhart-White, CCAP

Community Action Partnership of Lake County - Waukegan, IL

Board of Directors

2005 - 2007 Term

Keith Brown

BCMW - Centralia, IL

John Burrill

Mid Central IL Community Action, Inc. - Bloomington, IL

Walter Hunter

Madison County Community Development - Edwardsville, IL

Tracy Parsons

Urban League of Champaign County - Champaign, IL

Kris White

Will County Center for Community Concerns - Joliet, IL

2006 - 2008 Term

George Davis

Rockford Department of Human Services - Rockford, IL

Ken Pettijohn, MPA

Wabash Area Development, Inc. - Enfield, IL

Angela Stoltzenburg

Central Illinois Economic Development Corp.

Robert Wharton

Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County - Chicago, IL

Jane Whitaker

Two Rivers Head Start Agency

Ex-Officio

Dalitso Sulamoyo, CCAP – President & CEO

IL Community Action Association - Springfield, IL



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Christine Westerlund

Training Specialist

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Funding Partners

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Office of Community Services (OCS)
 - Capacity Building
 - Fund Development
 - Individual Development Accounts (IDA)
 - Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - Peer-to-Peer Conferences
 - Housing Training
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)
 - OCS
 - USDA Rural Development
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic
Opportunity (DCEO)
 - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
 - Peer-to-Peer Assistance
 - Community Action Database
 - CDAP Rural Water Systems
- Illinois Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)
 - State LIHEAP and Weatherization Conferences
 - Keep Warm Illinois Call Center
- Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS)
 - Family and Community Development (FCD)
Training
 - Homeless Headlines
- Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA)
 - Energy Conservation Housing Rehabilitation
Program
- Lt. Governor Patrick Quinn's Office
 - Fan Club

Collaborative Partners

- Housing Action Illinois
- National Low Income Housing Coalition
- National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Supportive Housing Providers Association
- Housing Roundtable
- Center for Economic Progress
- University of Illinois at Springfield
- Illinois Head Start Association
- Housing Roundtable
- Illinois Asset Building Group
- National Community Action Foundation
- Advocacy for CSBG, LIHEAP and Weatherization
- National Community Action Partnership
- National Consumer Law Center
- National Low Income Energy Consortium
- Illinois Rural Water
- Rural Partners
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Illinois Facilities Fund
- National RCAP
- RCAP Collaborative



Energy Rally Springfield at the Capitol, March 27, 2007.



Over the past several years, ICAA has been very active in the area of low-income advocacy. ICAA has been active in a range of issues such as nutrition, affordable housing and poverty reduction vs. caseload reductions. However, the most demanding area of concern for the Community Action Network has been the cost of household energy and the pressures these high prices have placed on low-income people. Since 2003, ICAA has been working in coalition with its members and other advocates to reform energy assistance in Illinois.

In 2004, ICAA published the Affordable Energy Plan. The main policy change promoted in the plan is a percentage of income payment plan (PIPP). With record high prices on natural gas, low-income people have needed relief and the PIPP has been viewed as the best way to make energy more affordable for low-income people. ICAA has been very active behind the scenes promoting this idea to policy makers. But this has been difficult and at times frustrating mainly due to a lack of cooperation from the utilities. Then the winter of 2007 hit and record high electricity bills began adding even more economic pressure.

Due to the deregulation of electricity in 1997, the price regulated utilities had been able to charge for electricity was frozen. But in January of 2007

the freeze ended and disaster struck. All over Illinois, the price of electricity went up between 25% - 55%. Families that had taken advantage of price reductions for all electric households were hit the hardest. Some all electric households saw their electric bills go up as much as 300%.

These electricity increases combined with already very high natural gas prices placed low-income families in a crisis. Elected officials began receiving thousands of letters and phone calls. Editorial boards of major newspapers started demanding new policies that would lessen the burden. The General Assembly hit gridlock due to House and Senate leadership differing on the best approach.

ICAA mobilized the Community Action Network. The annual ICAA Advocacy Day was designed to be focused on affordable energy issues. On March 27, 2007, ICAA held a rally at the Statehouse to issue a demand that the General Assembly put its petty squabbling aside and provide relief for low-income rate payers. The central demand that ICAA made was for the PIPP, and this policy idea is starting to gain more credibility.

Approximately 300 people showed up and listened to impassioned speeches from four members of the Illinois General Assembly, the Lt.

Governor Patrick Quinn, Ms. Lillian Drummond and Dalitso Sulamoyo. At the same time the rally was going on in front of the Statehouse, House Speaker Michael Madigan filed a bill to create a publicly owned power authority that would use Illinois coal to generate and sell electricity to state residents at cost.

Previously, the Illinois House had passed a bill that would have frozen electric rates for three more years or until the Illinois Commerce Commission was able to declare that a competitive market for electricity had been created. The Senate has a similar bill that would extend the rate freeze for one year. ICAA's advocacy will continue to put pressure on the General Assembly and the Governor until an adequate solution is reached. ICAA believes that an adequate solution will have to include a PIPP.



Energy Rally Springfield St. Clair County

Individual Development Accounts

September 2006 marked the end of ICAA's second Individual Development Account (IDA) program. The IDA program, an ever-growing national asset building program, provides matching funds to savers who wish to purchase a home, start or expand a small business, or continue education via community college or university or accredited vocational school. The match rate can range from 1:1 up to 8:1, depending on the particular program.

One of the most widely known IDA programs is the Assets For Independence Act program through the U.S. Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services. According to HHS/OCS, there are currently 44,500+ IDA account holders, 400+ AFI IDA projects nationwide, and 1,200+ organizations providing AFI IDAs. Commonly known as the AFI IDA program, this is the program through which ICAA has 2 IDA grants. The first of these two ICAA IDA grants, started in 2000, concluded late last year. From that program alone, graduates saved over \$137,000. ICAA's 2:1 match provided \$270,000, making it possible for savers to purchase 51 homes, start-up or expand 70 small businesses and make 47 continuing education purchases for tuition, books, computers, and other supplies.

The second of these two AFI IDA grants concludes the latter part of 2007. To date, participants have saved nearly \$22,000 and received over \$42,000 in matching funds. By the end of the grant, participants are expected to save an additional \$97,000, and receive nearly \$192,000 in match. Through this grant, ICAA projects a total of 45 homes will be purchased, 2 small businesses will be started or expanded, and 21 post secondary education purchases will be made.



Shawnee Education IDA Graduates.



Rockford IDA home.



Photography business IDA graduate.

UIS & ICAA Forge a Strong Connection

Beginning in 2004, the University of Illinois – Springfield (UIS) and ICAA have worked collaboratively in the development and presentation of the Family and Community Development Specialist Training (FCD). Since then, 122 Community Action and Head Start staff members have been trained in 7 classes.

2006 has proven to be an exciting year for FCD Specialist training with the introduction of online learning as an important development. An overview of the full curriculum determined that four of the twelve units could be converted to an online delivery system, utilizing the Moodle platform at UIS. By switching to a blended curriculum, Community Action Agencies have the ability to minimize costs while providing maximum opportunities for quality training and ongoing education.

These units are a mix of video presentations, lecture and class discussion which easily fit into online learning. The video viewing will be self-directed, with scheduled discussions among all the participants. All classroom materials are posted and homework can be submitted on-line. We believe this blended approach to learning will be successful to future FCD specialist candidates – travel cost and time away



FCD class during a study on advocacy and community development. The group seeks to convince the “mayor” Leroy Jordan of UIS of a proposal for a dog park.

from the office will be minimized, agency networking and idea exchange will continue and new learning concepts will be shared. Future plans for the FCD Specialist Training include Advanced FCD Specialist training, FCD recertification, continuing education credits and marketing the training to like-minded organizations. Since many of the students attracted to FCD training have been Head Start teachers, UIS and ICAA are exploring ways to customize the training to better meet the specific needs of these students.

The FCD trainers are a committed group of UIS faculty and continuing education specialists. Many of the original curriculum developers have stayed involved with the FCD training since the partnership with ICAA began in 2004. They have become especially adept at meeting the needs of agency staff and they enjoy the affiliation with ICAA and the Community Action membership agencies. Christine Westerlund, the training coordinator for ICAA, and Sandy Mills, Associate Professor of Social Work at UIS, share primary responsibility for the FCD training.

The state of Illinois recorded extreme temperatures in both the winter and summer seasons of 2006, resulting in higher utility bills. Low income families and senior citizens were particularly impacted by the high utility bills and weather conditions. In response, Governor Blagojevich launched a Keep Warm Illinois Initiative to help Illinoisans find out about the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and ways to save on energy bills. ICAA partnered with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), the administrating agency of LIHEAP to carry out a statewide Call Center, a key component of the Keep Warm Illinois Initiative. ICAA also collaborated with the Lieutenant Governor's Office and HFS to carry out the second year of the "Fan Club," a summer fan project.

Call Center

On July 1, 2006, the Illinois Community Action Association began a partnership with the HFS and the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA) to create a statewide LIHEAP Call Center. Using the facilities at CEDA, which already had its own call center for Cook County, and state-of-the-art technology through Verizon, the Call Center was expanded to 23 Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) to provide information about the LIHEAP Program.

ICAA hired a liaison to provide communication between Local Agencies and the Call Center. We have been able to provide regular communication to keep the membership informed of changes and updates as well as to be notified of any vital

agency changes that need to be passed along to the Call Center staff. ICAA also designed and distributed marketing material in both English and Spanish for agencies to hand out to clients.

On January 29, 2007, the membership gathered for a Roundtable meeting at ICAA to discuss the progress that had been made and to address any concerns. Clients throughout the state now have the ability to call the toll-free number 24 hours a day and receive status checks on their LIHEAP application, receive information on weatherization and other home heating tips, locate warming/cooling centers in their area, and talk to a CSR who is able to provide up-to-date information about where to apply for LIHEAP funding in their county.



LIHEAP Call Center.

Illinois Fan Club

In 2005, ICAA was approached by Lt. Governor Patrick Quinn with a program that has become known as the Illinois Fan Club. The Lt. Governor's office awards a grant to ICAA, along with a matching grant from IHFS which is equally distributed among the Illinois CAA network.

The individual CAAs then challenge the local community and vendors that sell fans to match donations which is used to purchase fans. The fans are then distributed to elderly people and people who have health conditions that make them vulnerable to hot weather. ICAA has participated in this project for the past two years and will continue the project in 2007. In the summer of 2006, more than 1,600 fans were distributed.



2007 Expo Will County.

Other Activities in 2006: ICAA planned and coordinated the state LIHEAP and Weatherization Conferences which provided training opportunities for community action staff operating these programs.

ICAA participated in the discussions for an Affordable Energy Plan with the HFS and the utility companies. ICAA assisted in developing a Percentage of Income Plan (PIPP) that was included in the debate.

Housing Connections

Since 1999, HUD has been one of ICAA's main partners in housing training and technical assistance. The 2006 iteration of the annual HUD Peer-to-Peer Homeless Provider Conference was the eighth consecutive event produced by the partnership between ICAA and the HUD Chicago Regional Office. The conference consistently attracts 200 to 300 attendees.

In addition to HUD, a network of agencies played a vital role in putting on the 2006 Peer-to-Peer Conference through participation in the Advisory Panel. They included Madison County Community Development, Edwardsville; Homeward Bound, Inc., Decatur; South Suburban PADS, Homewood; the Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless, Marion; the Illinois Department of Human Services, Springfield; and Chestnut Health Systems, Granite City.

Major keynote addresses at the conference were given by Nan Roman, Executive Director of the National Alliance To End Homelessness (NAEH); and Bill Pluta, Manager, Office of Housing Coordination Services, Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA). The developing relationship with NAEH has led to exploration of possible partnerships

addressing rural homelessness in Illinois. Mr. Pluta previewed the release of the request for proposals under IHDA's new Rental Housing Support Program. Mr. Pluta's presentation was the third consecutive year that IHDA had addressed the Conference on the Rental Housing Support Program.

Through the Peer-to-Peer Conference and other HUD sponsored ICAA trainings such as the 2006 Empowerment for Supportive Housing Providers, the HUD-ICAA connection will continue to be strengthened and diversified.

ICAA also has a long-standing connection with the Illinois Department of Human Services that has greatly enriched the Association's network of partners. Every month for over 16 years, homeless service providers and affordable housing developers have received the Homeless Headlines newsletter containing news on local programs serving low-income people, housing and homelessness-related legislation, trainings, and a range of resources. They also get the occasional Homeless Hotline bulletin with important time-sensitive information. The new-gathering process itself helps to enrich ICAA's network of connections. More than 1,000 readers connect to ICAA

through Homeless Headlines and Hotline each month through mail, email, and the ICAA website. A reader survey conducted by the University of Illinois at Springfield demonstrated the high level of reader satisfaction with this ongoing connection and new readers continue to produce new connections.

ICAA also continues to make new connections through advocacy. Through ICAA's representation on the Housing Action Illinois board of directors, the Association has been able to leverage its own advocacy resources through partnership with the growing network of Housing Action's members, allies, and government decision-makers. In 2006 and 2007, these partnerships have resulted in the initiation of a campaign to increase the dedicated funding source for the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and an effort to reverse the decline in funding for the Illinois Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Social Entrepreneurship

In 2006, with the support of the Illinois Community Action Association (ICAA) Board of Directors, ICAA staff obtained funding for a new initiative. The goal of this new initiative was to build the financial sustainability of the Community Action Agency (CAA) network. The strategy to achieve this goal was devised in partnership between the ICAA Board of Directors Development Committee and the ICAA staff. The strategy focuses on activities to facilitate social entrepreneurship through affordable housing development and micro-enterprise development obtaining support to expand the CAA's Family and Community Development Program.

In an effort to promote the social entrepreneurship concept to the CAAs as a means for diversifying their funding and building their financial sustainability, the ICAA hosted several training workshops at the Spring and Winter ICAA conferences of 2006. ICAA also sponsored several CAA staff to attend the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) Community Economic Development training in Texas and the Neighborworks Training in New Orleans

Building ICAA's internal capacity for social entrepreneurship was also a priority in 2006. ICAA staff received training and technical assistance from Richard Male, Community Action Program Legal Services (CapLaw), NCAF, National Community Action Partnership, Community Action Partnership of Lake County, Donors Forum of Chicago and other financial entities. The knowledge gained from these trainings assisted in shaping ICAA's overall strategy for building the financial sustainability of the CAA network.

Additionally, ICAA recognized that capital investments, legal counsel, the formation of a business plan and administrative resources would be needed to support CAAs in their efforts to pursue such strategies. In an effort to proactively address this need, ICAA established relationships with potential funders and a firm that provides free legal council to non-profits as they develop social entrepreneurship ventures.

Grant & Training Opportunities

On a weekly basis, ICAA staff shared information with the Community Action network on training seminars, grant announcements and other opportunities to build their capacity. ICAA staff also provided technical assistance to CAAs in their attempts to become designees for certain funding sources.

RCAP - Mapping the Future

The development of a strategic plan marked a turning point in the administration of the Illinois Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP). The strategic planning process was an opportunity to bring together stakeholders at the staff, state, regional and federal levels to guide ICAA and build better connections with those with vested interests. During the fall of 2006, members of the Illinois Community Action Association (ICAA) staff and Board of Directors, representatives of the Great Lakes Rural Community Assistance Program (GLRCAP) central office, staff from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Illinois EPA met to develop a strategic plan for the Illinois Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) for 2006-2009. During the sessions, the group created an Illinois RCAP

mission statement. The mission statement is:

The Illinois Rural Community Assistance Program assists underserved rural populations in developing and maintaining community infrastructure to improve the quality of life through partnerships with public and private organizations. Illinois RCAP provides technical assistance to address drinking water, wastewater and community development needs.

To assist the group in its planning and further build connections, three focus group sessions were conducted. Participants in these sessions included representatives from higher education research institutions, consulting engineering firms, regional planning agencies, government agencies, and associations that focus on rural water and wastewater issues. As part of this process four major goals were developed to guide program activities and operations during the next three years. These are not in any priority order.



RCAP planning.

Goal One: Strengthen and grow the resource base of Illinois RCAP

This goal was established to emphasize the need to expand the program and service delivery capacity in Illinois.

Goal Two: Strengthen and enhance the visibility and understanding of Illinois RCAP

This goal was developed to address two related areas of needs: (1) the need to make ICAA members and other stakeholders more aware of RCAP services and abilities, and (2) the need to position RCAP as a recognized source for information and support for rural community infrastructure and development needs in Illinois.

Goal Three: Strengthen and expand program capacity and offerings

Goal three was developed to be better prepared to meet the increased performance level expectations and demands (number of projects) and the broadened services demands (nature of projects, e.g., long-term relationships).

Goal Four: Strengthen the RCAP statewide, regional and national network through improved communications

All participants recognized the need to enhance network-wide effectiveness and efficiency over the coming years. A major component of enhanced effectiveness and efficiency is communication among partners and network members.

Progress is being made in regard to these goals. For example, IL RCAP has strengthened and expanded program capacity and offerings with the addition of services for financial rate studies and board training. Enhanced communication has been established with all partners in the Great Lakes RCAP as well as increased coordination with IL EPA. This past winter IL RCAP joined with IL EPA and participated in a series of financial capacity web-casts sponsored by the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. Moreover, the IL RCAP has received over 100 EPA referrals of communities in potential need of assistance to conduct a financial user rate analysis for their wastewater facilities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also continues to support RCAP and assist in building connections with underserved rural communities. This past fall IL RCAP received over 30 USDA referrals of communities in potential need of board training for effective leadership and management.

ICAA Member Agencies in Action



ICAA Membership

The membership of ICAA consists of the 36 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) which serve all 102 counties of the state. Community Action Agencies are designated organizations created and given a federal mandate to coordinate local anti-poverty efforts through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, a predecessor of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). CSBG funds are utilized by CAAs to totally or partially support programs including all or some of the following:

Securing and Maintaining Employment

- Job placement partnering with local businesses
- Employee support program that defrays work related expenses and funding for skill upgrading. Outreach is done to identify workers in danger of losing employment due to unmet employee needs including daycare vouchers
- Transportation programs including drive to success (rehab vehicles for customers), and bus vouchers
- Job preparedness training—Employment business entrepreneurship with a goal of developing business start-up plans that create at least one job
- Employment resource lab that provides access to computers, internet and case management counseling
- Micro enterprise development provides T/TA for business expansions and startups
- Workforce Investment
- CSBG Loan Program



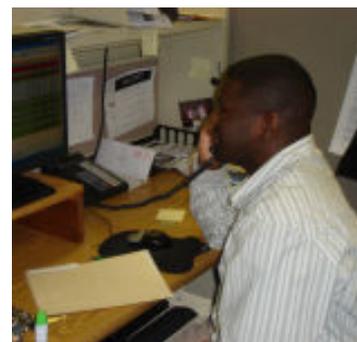
Project Now's developed new core values to compliment their new mission statement: "We strengthen communities by helping people help themselves and one another."

Providing Education Opportunities

- Enrollment in adult literacy education
- GED and ESL classes
- Head Start
- Computer literacy
- Training for childcare providers
- School to work job shadowing initiatives for high school students
- Scholarships to pursue education
- Summer tutoring for youth, consumer and community
- Business
- Summer Leadership Camp for Youth
- Consumer Education—home management life skills, community building
- Public Education and Public Information
- Tutoring for at risk High School Hispanic Students

Ensuring Health

- Medical and Dental assistance
- Assisting with health care insurance applications
- Prescription Drugs
- Immunization for children
- Substance abuse counseling
- Circuit Breaker
- RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Program)



Champaign case worker for court diversion program.



BCMw Senior Meals.



Western Egyptian Energy Rally.



Madison County Back-to-school Project at Venice.



BCMw Executive Director with Head Start child.

Teaching Income Management

- Individual Development Account requires all participants to take 10 hours of general financial literacy and 10 hours of asset specific training.
- Savings incentive program that allows participants to receive a maximum of \$500 to pay for home, car, tuition expenses
- Income management counseling that includes personal budgeting, credit reports, taxes and consumer education
- Counseling assistance for senior citizens and disabled individuals on tax relief applications

Securing Safe and Affordable Housing

- Housing counseling including mediating tenant-landlord disputes and credit counseling
- Establishing and maintaining business relationships with local lending institutions
- Homebuyer program
- Weatherization
- Housing rehabilitation to eliminate health and safety issues
- Rental/mortgage assistance
- Lead abatement
- Transitional housing
- Development of affordable housing including specialized senior housing, single family, and multi family units, rural development
- Continuum of Care
- Court Advocacy

Providing Emergency Services

- Cash Assistance
- Donated goods and services (Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets)
- Food pantries
- Energy assistance
- Domestic Violence
- Elder Abuse

Promoting Nutrition

- Senior meals
- Soup kitchens
- Food Stamp Outreach
- Food vouchers
- Summer Food
- WIC

Supporting Youth and Senior Services

- Foster Grandparent
- Fatherhood involvement
- Summer Camps
- Leadership seminars
- Teen Reach
- Summer Youth Jobs that includes training on job preparedness, interviewing, employer expectations, etc.
- Court Diversion Services for Youth

Stories of Success

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Urbana, Illinois

Robert M's landlord knew he was a hard-working, single father who struggled to make ends meet despite his full time employment, so when he fell behind on his rent, she suggested he call CCRPC for emergency rent assistance. Mr. M applied for and was awarded rental assistance, however it was evident he also could benefit from some of the other programs CCRPC had to offer. Robert was referred to the Family and Community Development (FCD) program and a specialist visited his home to complete an assessment. She learned that, in addition to his employment and caring for his four children, Robert was a full time student. Robert explained that he had gotten behind on his bills, but that with his school grant, he was able to get back on track. He shared that he hoped to someday own a home for his family, so the FCD specialist gave him an application for the IDA program.

Robert opened his IDA in October of 2001. He began depositing \$10 per month in his account. He attended



Madison County home repair before and after.



10 hours of money management classes the following year and worked with the IDA coordinator to repair and rebuild his credit. The coordinator coached Mr. M on the steps towards home purchase and referred him to several lenders. Robert also took the Home Buyer's Seminar offered at Parkland Business Development Center.

Five years later, Robert had saved \$2000 in his IDA account. He used his savings (\$2000) and the IDA match (\$4000) for a down payment to purchase a 4-bedroom home with a garage and back yard, an essential expansion from their previous 2-bedroom apartment. Although Robert experienced an injury at work in addition to being laid off for a time, his determination and perseverance kept him focused on his goal of home ownership. In spite of these



WIRC weatherization.

struggles, he completed the program and now not only has a home for his family, but a legacy to pass on to his children.

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency, Danville, Illinois

Vicki T. learned that she had become a grandparent by one of her children whom she had considered to be a troubled youth. A life style of drugs and alcohol became that youth's priority; therefore, Vicki became the temporary guardian of her granddaughter, Natalie. The process of being a parent for the second time brought

unimaginable challenges. Vicki T, a resident of Ford County, sought help from East Central Illinois Community Action Agency. Vicki stated, "I found myself being a stay at home grandma who lived off public aid and child support and who lived in public housing. I needed help in paying for my utilities and making my home warmer and preparing my granddaughter for school. When I found out that Community Action had a Head Start program, I was the first one there to register my granddaughter because I knew that this was a great program."

While Vicki and her granddaughter were enrolled in the Head Start program, Community Action became her advocate and her support system. Through Family Development Trainings, Community Action staff assessed her family's barriers and introduced goals and steps to overcoming multiple barriers. Vicki stated, "My Family Development Specialist began to ask me questions about goals and ways to make my life better. I first looked at her as if she was crazy; but I thought that I would give it a try." Vicki's first goal involved attaining



Above: WIRC staff.



Right: DuPage County FCD graduates 2006.

employment, so Vicki began with volunteering in the Head Start classroom as a means of attaining work experience. After four months of volunteering, Vicki obtained a job as a bus driver aide. Vicki, now earning money, began to work at her second goal which involved attaining her driver's license that had been suspended for the past 5 years. Vicki stated, "Instead of going to the dollar store to buy small items, I went to the Department of Motor vehicles and paid my fines. My Family Development Specialist called me regularly to make sure that I was paying all my fines." After 4 months of steady bi-weekly payments Vicki's fines were paid in full and she was granted her

driver's license. Vicki thought that she had "made it"; however, Agency staff continued to encourage her to go further with additional goals. Vicki's third goal involved moving out of public housing. Through the assistance of a HUD grant, Vicki bought and moved into her first home. Both Vicki and her granddaughter live in a three-bedroom house and proudly pays her house mortgage.

Vicki and her granddaughter's life have been in an upward spiral. She is still employed and has recently purchased a car. She stated, "I can rely on myself now because when I needed help Community Action was there for me. Life has been better since I got their help."

Agencies

BCMw Community Services, Inc.

909 E. Rexford, P.O. Box 729
Centralia, IL 62801-0729
Keith O. Brown, Executive Director
Phone: (618) 532-7388 Fax: (618) 532-0204
www.bcmw.info
Service Area: Bond, Clinton, Marion,
Washington Counties

Carver Community Action Agency

P.O. Box 28, 235 E. Main St.
Galesburg, IL 61402
Jeannie Shelton, Chief Executive Officer
Phone: (309) 342-0158 Fax: (309) 342-8179
Service Area: Knox County

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation

1805 S. Banker, P.O. Box 928
Effingham, IL 62401-0928
Paul White, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 342-2193
TDD: (217) 342-2212 Fax: (217) 342-4701
Web: www.cefseoc.org
Service Area: Christian, Clay, Effingham,
Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie and
Shelby Counties

Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation

1800 W. Fifth St. Road
Lincoln, IL 62656
Angela Stoltzenburg, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 732-2159 Fax: (217) 735-1753
Service Area: DeWitt, Fulton, Logan,
Mason, Menard and Piatt Counties

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

1776 E. Washington, P.O. Box 17760
Urbana, IL 61803
John Dimit, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 328-3313 Fax: (217) 328-2426
www.ccrpc.org
Service Area: Champaign County

Chicago Department of Human Services

1615 West Chicago Avenue, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60622
Carmelo Vargas, Commissioner
Phone: (312) 746-8545 Fax: (312) 746-8973
www.cityofchicago.org/HumanServices
Service Area: City of Chicago

Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois

300 E. Monroe, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701
Vicky Wilson, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 522-7016 (800) 433-8848
Fax: (217) 522-7024
www.ccdionline.org
Service Area: Statewide

Community Action Partnership of Lake County

Box 9059
Waukegan, IL 60079
Mary Lockhart-White, Executive Director
Phone: (847) 249-4330 Fax: (847) 249-4393
Service Area: Lake County

Community Contacts, Inc.

100 S. Hawthorne St.
Elgin, IL 60123
Susan Wohl, Executive Director
Phone: (847) 697-8800 Fax: (630) 232-1467
Web: www.cci-hci.org
Service Area: DeKalb and Kane counties

Community & Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.

208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60604
Robert L. Wharton, President/CEO
Phone: (312) 795-8844 Fax: (312) 795-1034
Web: www.cedaorg.net
Service Area: Suburban Cook County, City
of Chicago

Crosswalk Community Action Agency

410 W. Main
West Frankfort, IL 62896
Debra Jackanicz, Executive Director
Phone: (618) 937-3581 Fax: (618) 937-3583
Service Area: Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson
& Williamson Counties

Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation

1122 E. Marietta St.
Decatur, IL 62521
Gail Evans, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 428-0155 Fax: (217) 428-0169
Service Area: Macon County

DeKalb County Community Services Department

2550 N. Annie Glidden Road
DeKalb, IL 60115
Mary Olson, Executive Director
Phone: (815) 758-3910 Fax: (815) 758-3407
www.dekalbcounty.org
Service Area: DeKalb County

DuPage County Human Services

421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Philip R. Smith, Administrator
Phone: (630) 682-7000 or (800) 942-9412
Fax: (630) 682-7382
www.dupageco.org
Service Area: DuPage County

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency

56 N. Vermillion
Danville, IL 61834
Dwight A. Lucas, CEO
Phone: (217) 443-2705 Fax: (217) 431-0725
www.comaction.org
Service Area: Ford, Iroquois and Vermillion
Counties

Embarras River Basin Agency

115 S. Kentucky, P.O. Box 307
Greenup, IL 62428-0307
Marsha Roll, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 923-3113 Fax: (217) 923-5155
www.erbainc.org
Service Area: Clark, Coles, Crawford,
Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Jasper,
Lawrence and Richland Counties

Illinois Migrant Council

28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60604
Eloy Salazar, Executive Director
Phone: (312) 663-1522 Fax: (312) 663-1994
www.illinoismigrant.org
Service Area: Statewide

Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation (A Community Action Agency)

223 S. Macoupin St., P.O. Box 88
Gillespie, IL 62033-0088
Frank J. Schwab, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 839-4431 Fax: (217) 839-3647
Service Area: Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, and Macoupin Counties

Kankakee County Community Services, Inc.

657 East Court Street, Suite 207
Kankakee, IL 60901
Vincent Clark, Executive Director
Phone: (815) 933-7883 Fax: (815) 933-0635
www.kccsi-cap.org
Service Area: Kankakee County

Kendall-Grundy Community Action

(A Unit of Kendall County Department of Health and Human Services)

500A Countryside Center
Yorkville, IL 60560
Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director
Phone: (630) 553-9100 Fax: (630) 553-0167
Email: kchhs@co.kendall.il.us
CJohnson@co.kendall.il.us
Service Area: Grundy and Kendall Counties

Madison County Community Development

130 Hillsboro Ave.
Edwardsville, IL 62025
Cheryl Jouett, Executive Director
Phone: (618) 692-6200, ext. 4386
Fax: (618) 692-7022
Service Area: Madison County

McHenry County Housing Authority

1108 N. Seminary Ave., P.O. Box 1109
Woodstock, IL 60098-1109
Ellen Sonntag, Executive Director
Phone: (815) 338-7752 Fax: (815) 338-1217
Service Area: McHenry County

MCS Community Services

345 West State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650
Danny Little, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 243-9404 Fax: (217) 245-4159
www.morgancounty-il.com/mccs.shtm
Service Area: Morgan, Cass and Scott Counties

Mid Central Community Action, Inc.

923 E. Grove
Bloomington, IL 61701
John Burrill, Executive Director
Phone: (309) 829-0691 Fax: (309) 828-8811
www.mccainc.org
Service Area: McLean and Livingston Counties

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency

103-109 N. Chicago Ave.
Freeport, IL 61032
Marcia Derrer, Acting Director
Phone: (815) 232-3141 Fax: (815) 232-3143
Service Area: Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties

Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.

711 W. McBean Street
Peoria, IL 61605
McFarland A. Bragg II, President/CEO
Phone: (309) 671-3900 Fax: (309) 671-3913
www.pccceo.org
Service Area: Peoria County

Project NOW Community Action Agency, Inc.

418 19th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201
Maureen Hart, Executive Director
Phone: (309) 793-6391 Fax: (309) 793-6352
www.projectnow.org
Service Area: Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties

Rockford Human Services Department

612 North Church
Rockford, IL 61103
George Davis, Executive Director
Phone: (815) 987-5782 Fax: (815) 987-5762
<http://ci.rockford.il.us/government/human>
Service Area: Boone and Winnebago Counties

Sangamon County Department of Community Resources

200 S. Ninth St., Room 311
Springfield, IL 62702
Sharmin Doering, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 535-3120 Fax: (217) 535-3119
www.co.sangamon.il.us
Service Area: Sangamon County

Shawnee Development Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 298
Karnak, IL 62956
Cheryl Vanderford, Executive Director
Phone: (618) 634-2201 Fax: (618) 634-9551
Service Area: Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski and Union Counties

St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department/Community Action Agency

No. 19 Public Square, Suite 200
Belleville, IL 62220-1624
Thelma Chalmers, Executive Director
Phone: (618) 277-6790 Fax: (618) 236-1190
Service Area: St. Clair County

Tazewood Community Services, Inc.

2005 S. Main St.
Morton, IL 61550
Cindy Bergstrand, Executive Director
Phone: (309) 266-9941 Fax: (309) 266-9174
Service Area: Tazewell and Woodford Counties

Tri-County Opportunities Council

405 Emmons Ave., Box 610
Rock Falls, IL 61071-0610
Sandra Julifs, President/CEO
Phone: (815) 625-7830 Fax: (815) 625-7302
www.tcohelps.com
Service Area: Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside Counties

Two Rivers Head Start Agency

1661 Landmark Road
Aurora, IL 60506
Jane Whitaker, Executive Director
Phone: (630) 406-1444 Fax: (630) 406-1519
Web: www.trhsa.org
Service Area: Kane County (CSBG and Head Start programs) Kendall, DeKalb, Grundy & Boone (Head Start program only)

Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials

1125 Hampshire, Suite 100
Quincy, IL 62301-3000
Cheryl Esselman, Executive Director
Phone: (217) 224-8171 Fax: (217) 224-9145
Service Area: Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler Counties

Urban League of Champaign County

314 Neil St.
Champaign, IL 61820
Tracy Parsons, President/CEO
Phone: (217) 363-3333 Fax: (217) 356-1310
www.urbanleague.net
Service Area: Champaign County

Wabash Area Development, Inc.

110 Latham St.
Enfield, IL 62835
Ken Pettijohn, Executive Director
Phone: (618) 963-2387 Fax: (618) 963-2525
Service Area: Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Saline, Wabash, Wayne and White Counties

Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council

No. 1 Industrial Park, P.O. Box 7
Steeleville, IL 62288-0007
Paulette Hamlin, Executive Director
Phone: (618) 965-3458 Fax: (618) 965-9733
www.weeoc.org
Service Area: Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph Counties

Western Illinois Regional Council – Community Action Agency

223 S. Randolph
Macomb, IL 61455
Suzan Nash, Executive Director
Phone: (309) 837-2997 Fax: (309) 836-3640
www.wirpc.org/3.html
Service Area: Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren Counties

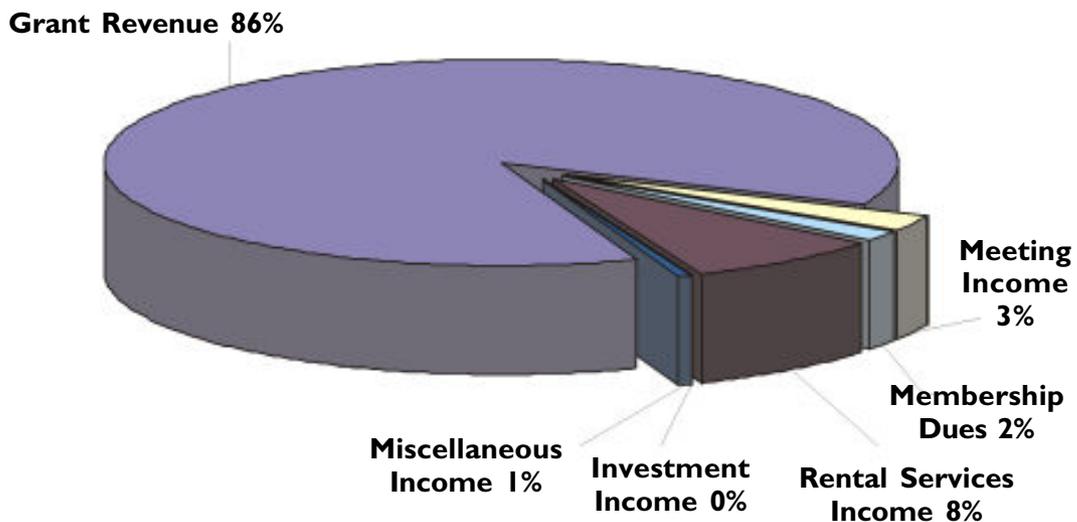
Will County Center for Community Concerns

304 N. Scott St.
Joliet, IL 60432
Kris White, Executive Director
Phone: (815) 722-0722 Fax: (815) 722-6344
www.wcccc.net
Service Area: Will County

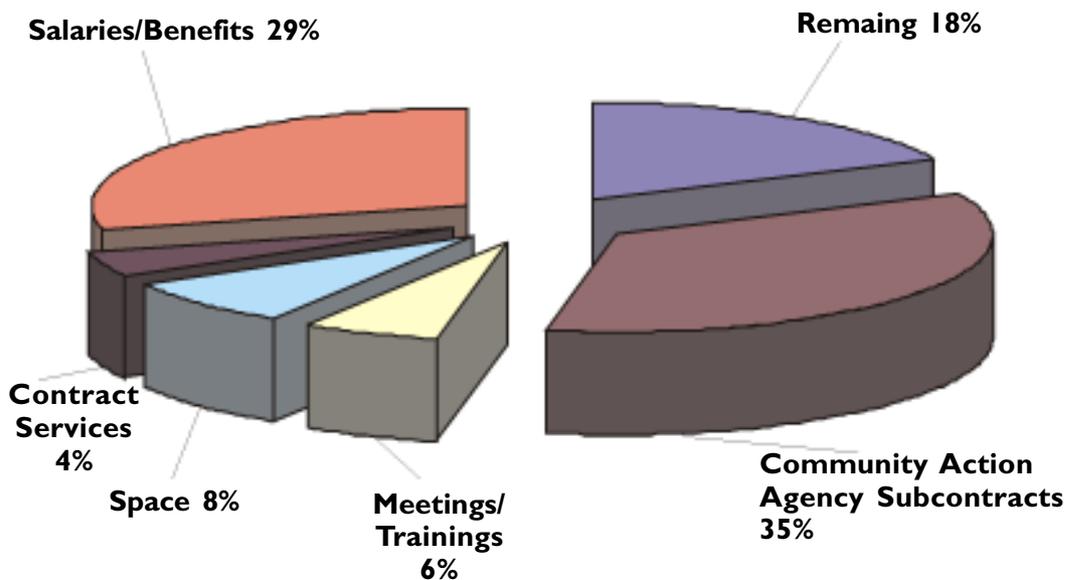


Statement of Accounts

Revenue



Expenses



Year Ended December 31, 2006

(Unaudited)

Revenue and Other Support

Grant Revenue	\$ 2,270,283	
Contributions	-	
Meeting Income, net	69,342	
Membership Dues	43,900	
Rental & Services Income	204,242	
Investment Income	440	
Miscellaneous Income	<u>17,466</u>	
Total Revenue and Other Support		\$2,605,673

Program Service Expenses

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	241,946	
Community Services Block Grant	486,249	
Family & Community Development	76,927	
Community Food & Nutrition Program	75,619	
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development	74,926	
Illinois Department of Human Services	77,906	
Rural Community Assistance Program	202,688	
Illinois Housing Development Authority	980,650	
Safe Drinking Water Program	14,246	
Environmental Protection Program	13,428	
Capacity Building Program	25,700	
Total Program Services	2,270,283	

Support Services

Membership Services	85,442	
Building	233,407	
Total Support Services	318,849	

Total Expenses 2,589,132

Change in Net Assets 16,541

Net Assets, Beginning of Year 1,221,151

Net Assets, End of Year **\$1,237,692**



Illinois Community Action Association

3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone: 217-789-0125 Fax: 217-789-0139
www.icaanet.org