



3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
217-789-0125
www.icaanet.org

e-news

October 2007



IACAA Winter Membership Conference

This year the IACAA Winter Membership Conference will be held December 3-4 at the Embassy Suites Lakefront in downtown Chicago. Please call 312-836-5900 to make your reservations (\$139/ single or double). The room block expires on November 2, 2007. This venue offers many amenities including made to order breakfast and a manager's reception every evening. This time registration for the conference is completely online. Please go to www.peopleware.net/2873 to complete your registration. A full conference brochure is attached to the end of this newsletter.

In addition to the regular business meetings there are workshops and focus groups scheduled. Workshops will include updates from the Utility Companies, Adsystem, ROMA, Social Entrepreneurship and Head Start 2008 Protocols. There will be a session dedicated to the Regional Roundtable Wrap-up and there will be a presentation on Virtual CAP, a Community Action Best Practices resource.

This year IACAA is honoring John Dimit who is retiring at a reception the evening of Monday, December 3rd. Be sure to stop by and wish him the best.

We are asking the Membership's input on what topics should be covered in the Focus Group discussions. The following Focus Groups are being convened: LIHEAP, Weatherization, Head Start, Housing and Executive Directors. If you would like to suggest a topic to be discussed please forward your suggestions to sratcliffe@icaanet.org. If you have any questions feel free to contact the IACAA office. See you in Chicago!

Mark Your Calendar for FCD Specialist Trainings

Trainings for FCD Specialist recertification and the all new Advanced FCD training are upcoming, which will focus on Motivational Interviewing, Working with Families in Crisis and A Framework for Understanding Poverty.

Please note the recertification training is targeted for FCD Specialists who were certified prior to 2002. The Advanced training is targeted for the FCD Specialist who seeks to enhance and improve their current skills. Class enrollment will be limited to 25 students, with a minimum of 18 students. Fees include all materials, snacks and a talented cadre of trainers from the University of Illinois Springfield and IACAA.

Recertification Training – one training day - \$150.00

December 6

Please note this training will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m. and end at 4:15 p.m.

Advanced Training – three training days - \$375.00

November 28, 29 and 30

If you have any questions, please contact Christine at cwesterlund@icaanet.org.

IACAA Proposes Administration of Rural RHSP

The Illinois Housing development Authority (IHDA) has issued the request for proposals under their new Rental Housing Support Program. The program is designed to provide subsidies to reduce the cost of renting for eligible households. Eligible households under the program are those with incomes at or below 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) with at least 50 percent of the assistance going to benefit households at or below 15 percent of the AMI.

There will be four geographic areas where \$26 million in RHS resources will be distributed over three years: 1) Chicago; 2) Collar Counties; 3) Downstate Urban Cities; and 4) Rural Areas. IACAA is submitting to IHDA an application for the entire \$2.7 million rural portion of the funding and serving as an umbrella entity for a number of organizations. The due date for the application is November 30, 2007.

In July, the Association held a meeting to educate members about the program. Six agencies were selected from those who responded to a subsequent request for letters of intent from the IACAA Rental Housing Support Program Advisory board. The Board is composed of IACAA Board members, Directors of agencies not seeking to participate in the application and representatives from state and federal agencies. The participating agencies are:

- Rockford Human Services Department, Rockford
- Project NOW, Rock Island
- CIEDC, Lincoln
- Two Rivers Regional Council, Quincy
- Western Egyptian, Steeleville
- WADI, Enfield

IACAA staff, and the Advisory Board will work closely with the six participating agencies to produce a very competitive application.

IACAA estimates that if the full amount requested is granted, the Association will receive enough to provide subsidies for 140 rental units or an average of 23 units per agency. The subsidies will pay the difference between the tenant's contribution of approximately 30 percent of their monthly income and the full rent.

IHDA intends to have made awards by April 1, 2008.

RCAP

Located due west of Springfield, Illinois's Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport is an unincorporated area of Springfield Township, where approximately 110 households have relied on private wells for years. Water quality problems became more apparent around 2002 as wells tested high for nitrates and bacteria, in addition to wells frequently running dry. Some concerned residents started a grassroots effort called We Want Water to bring attention to the need for safe drinking water in the area. Curran Gardner Townships Public Water District's boundaries extend to cover this unserved area, so in 2005 the Township applied for a Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) construction grant for waterline extension under the plan that Curran Gardner would provide potable water.

In preparation for the 2005 application round, RCAP mapped the area, conducted an income survey, and conducted public meetings. It was determined that the low-to-moderate income rate was 61%, so RCAP proceeded with and submitted an application.

The first CDAP grant application was not funded, so RCAP worked with the community to strengthen the document and reapply in 2006. That application was fully funded for \$350,000 in August 2006. Since then RCAP has been assisting with the administration of the grant and to obtain easements needed for construction of the water main on private property. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 17, 2007, and construction began the following week. Now the water main has been installed, and the Curran Gardner Townships Public Water District is now working with a contractor to complete under-the-street boring for individual houses.



Completion of this project will ultimately improve the quality of life for these residents of unincorporated Springfield Township. Not only will water quantity issues be solved, but a major threat to health and safety will all but disappear, as water quality will no longer be a concern.

What is Social Entrepreneurship and Why Should We Care?

Social Entrepreneurship is:

- Discovery of new opportunities to benefit or enhance a community
- Unorthodox ways of addressing social needs
- Inventing new approaches and creating solutions to change society for the better

More radically defined, social entrepreneurship is a conceptual mindset that forges social change “by any means necessary.” Not everyone will drive a vehicle of social change in the historical and global way of Ghandi or Nelson Mandela but everyone has an ability to affect change.

CAA's were created to be agents of change in their communities. The question then becomes, “can CAAs continue in doing this without federal funding?” The harsh truth and reality of dwindling federal funds necessitates a challenge to CAA to keep their hand on the pulse of their communities' needs and to be prepared for future change. By incorporating and principles of social entrepreneurship, CAA can be better prepared for future funding changes and evolving community needs.

While most research on social entrepreneurship highlights larger social ills, the goal of IACAA is to break the concept down into manageable and digestible pieces that are relevant to each CAAs specific community. We have developed a plan to educate, train, and assist CAAs in this journey. Through greater achievement of diversified funding, development capacity, collaborations, and entrepreneurial activities a pathway will be laid to enable CAAs to continue be the innovators of social change in their communities.

All that is required from CAA is a willingness to think “outside the box.”

To begin engaging this new idea consider:

Social Entrepreneurs of the past

(More information available at http://www.ashoka.org/fellows/social_entrepreneur.cfm)

- Susan B. Anthony: Fought for Women's Rights in the United States, including the right to control property and helped spearhead adoption of the 19th amendment
- Florence Nightingale: Founder of modern nursing, she established the first school for nurses and fought to improve hospital conditions.
- Vinoba Bhave (India): Founder and leader of the Land Gift Movement, he caused the redistribution of more than 7,000,000 acres of land to aid India's untouchables and landless.
- Dr. Maria Montessori (Italy): Developed the Montessori approach to early childhood education.



Present Social Entrepreneurs-

(More information available at <http://www.pbs.org/opb/thenewheroes/> and www.echoinggreen.org)

- Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh): Applied the concept of micro-credit to generate economic and social development of thousands of poor. He was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006
- Maria Teresa Leal (Brazil): Created a sewing co-operative which provides employment opportunities for low-income women, particularly single mothers
- Taz Tagore and Adam Bucko (New York): Created a program that works with homeless young adults in launching meaningful careers and permanently exit shelter systems in New York
- Victor Hale: Created the first non-profit drug company to develop dugs to fight malaria, black fever and other diseases of the developing countries.



Stay tuned.....

ROMA Matters

Results Oriented Management and Accountability is relevant to the success of Community Action Agencies. In a recent information memorandum, OCS has identified five training, technical assistance and capacity building funding priorities:

- Leadership Enhancement
- Family Economic Security
- Community Mobilization and Revitalization
- Oversight, Financial Management and Integrity and Risk Management
- Data Collection and Accountability

These funding priorities adopted by OCS are crosscutting and support the six national community action goals. For the full text of the memorandum and more information about ROMA, go to www.roma-nptp.org. If you need a ROMA refresher and would like some assistance in the discernment and implementation of ROMA, please call Christine for assistance!

HUD Peer to Peer Conference



IACAA's own Christine Westerlund delivers the Framework for Understanding Poverty to the Peer to Peer attendees.

The Springfield Hilton was the site of the Ninth Annual HUD Peer-to-Peer Homeless Provider conference on September 20 and 21. HUD and IACAA hosted approximately 230 providers of emergency, transitional and permanent housing, and supportive services in one of the best events since the conferences began in 1999. Peer-to-Peer is funded by the HUD Regional Office in Chicago.

IACAA's Dalitso Sulamoyo and HUD Community Planning and Development Director Ray Willis, welcomed the enthusiastic crowd. Doug Schenkelberg from the Heartland Alliance delivered the opening address "*From Poverty to Opportunity*".

Linda Couch, Deputy Director of the National Low Income Housing Coalition in Washington D.C. gave the afternoon keynote address on the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. That same afternoon April Lasker, Manager of IHDA's Rental Housing

Support Program gave conferees an overview of her program.



HUD and Community Action folks mix and mingle at the HUD Peer to Peer Reception

This year in addition to the ever-popular Consumer Panel a Youth Consumer Panel was added. Other popular workshops included: Crisis Intervention Approaches, Framework for Understanding Poverty, Rural Housing Development Resources, Mainstream Benefits, Harm Reduction Approaches in Permanent Supportive Housing, and Organizing Providers around Employment and Training.

Agency tours took conferees to visit eight local sites in Springfield. The tour to PORA, a 6 bed shelter for women who were formerly involved in prostitution, and MERCY House, a 10 unit apartment building that is transitional housing for women and children, was the most popular.

Planning for the Tenth Annual HUD Peer to Peer Conference will begin in January.

Fan Club



Community Action Agencies distributed over 1,800 fans this summer as a part of the Lieutenant Governor's Fan Club. Each year Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's Rural Affairs Council provides a grant of \$10,000 to distribute fans to provide relief for seniors and people with disabilities. The grant was matched by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. The money that is provided is meant as "seed" money that the Lt. Governor hopes will spur people and businesses to get behind the effort and donate money and/or fans to local agencies.

This plan was worked to perfection at Crosswalk Community Action Agency where a local radio station got behind the effort to promote the program. This led to businesses and generous local citizens to donate 420 fans that were quickly distributed. With the help of large donations from Ameren and People's Bank, as well as the efforts of Ace Hardware, who distributed the fans to Crosswalk's door, Crosswalk was able to provide much needed cooling during the hot days of the summer.

Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies Winter Membership Conference December 3-4, 2007

Conference Schedule

Monday, December 3

8:30 am - 9:15 am	Opening Session
9:15 am - 10:00 am	Legislative Committee of the Whole
10:00 am - 10:45 am	IACAA Business Meeting
10:45 am - 11:30 am	ICADC Business Meeting
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm	Adsystem General Session
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Workshops
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	ICAF Board Meeting
2:15 pm - 3:45 pm	IACAA Board Meeting
3:45 pm - 5:15 pm	ICADC Board Meeting
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Reception honoring John Dimit

Tuesday, December 4

9:00 am - 10:00 am	ComEd and Ameren Sessions
10:15 am - 11:45 am	Focus Groups
11:45 am - 12:30 am	Lunch and Focus Group Wrap-up

Registration

Registration will be online only. Visit www.peopleware.net/2873 to register. Registration fees are as follows:

Whole Conference:	\$240.00
Monday Only:	\$170.00
Tuesday Only:	\$170.00

Hotel Information

Embassy Suites Lakefront
511 N. Columbus Dr.
Chicago, Illinois
312-836-5900

A room block is being held under IACAA until **November 2, 2007**.
Rooms are \$139/single or double.

Conference Content and Highlights

- *Opening Session will highlight the results from the regional roundtables.*
- *Hear what the Association has been up to and vote for the new IACAA logo at the IACAA Business Meeting.*
- *Meet our new Housing VP at the ICADC Business Meeting.*
- *Ken Ackerman will give a presentation on Virtual CAP, a Community Action best practices resource, at lunch on Monday.*
- **Adsystem General Session** - *Learn more about the plans and timelines for implementing the new database system. This session will also update the Membership on the progress that has occurred since the CSBG Workshop in September. Agencies interested in being part of the first phase of the software deployment are highly encouraged to attend.*
- **Workshops**
 - All Roads Lead to ROMA - *ROMA is the required road, always well-traveled, for all Community Action Agencies to robustly report outcomes and increase accountability to all stakeholders. This session will provide a ROMA update and increase our collective capacities to achieve results.*
 - Social Entrepreneurship Workshop - *This workshop features a panel of practitioners that have successfully implemented a social entrepreneurship venture at their non-profit agency. The exploration and initiation of successful social entrepreneurship will be discussed. Tax and legal implications for non-profits in expanding diversifying revenue streams will also be presented.*
 - Head Start 2008 Protocols - *Head Start 2008 protocols are changing. Be in the vanguard and proactively envision and implement these new changes for program improvement. Be prepared for your next review and stay ahead of the curve.*
- *Come join in celebrating John Dimit's distinguished Community Action career and wish him the best in retirement at the reception on Monday evening.*
- *Both ComEd and Ameren will provide updates on the utilities.*
- **Focus Groups** - *A time to network with colleagues about the challenges facing Community Action Professionals. The following focus groups will be offered: LIHEAP, Weatherization, Head Start, Housing and Executive Directors.*

Questions

If you have any questions please contact Sara Ratcliffe at 217-789-0125 or sratcliffe@icaa.net.

