



3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
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www.icaanet.org

e-news

March 2006



Tornado Hits ICAA Office

On March 12, 2006 two tornadoes ripped through Springfield leaving destruction in their wakes. Both the ICAA buildings on Liberty Drive and Constitution Drive suffered some roof and water damage and were without power for a week. However, ICAA was extremely lucky compared to some of its neighbors. Two businesses less than a block to the west were flattened. The movie theater and Huck's Convenience store just down the street from ICAA suffered extensive damage and have yet to reopen. Thankfully, no one in the Springfield area was killed or even injured. Aside from some home property damage and the



Everyone pitched in to clear ICAA's property

inconvenience of living without power the ICAA staff members weathered the storm pretty well.

During the week without power the staff worked diligently to clear debris from the ICAA property. We filled two large dumpsters with



Roof damage and debris

roofing shingles, insulation, scrap metal and various unidentified items. When we had finished clearing our property, we volunteered to help clean up property in one of the more heavily damaged areas of Springfield. Outfitted with rakes, shovels, work gloves and goggles we removed a fallen tree off of an elderly woman's car and cleared countless branches from strangers' yards.

The ICAA staff is still in the process of catching up with business because of the lost week. We would like to thank the Community Action Network for their continued support and patience.



Time for a new sign!

FCD Specialist Training

The current session of the FCD Specialist Training, interrupted by the Springfield March tornados, has been rescheduled for the following dates: April 17 through 21 (Monday through Friday) and May 8 through 10 (Monday through Wednesday).

Recertification training for previously certified specialists will be held on May 19 and June 6 here at ICAA. There are openings in each session and FCD specialists certified prior to 2001 are strongly encouraged to attend. The cost is \$125 and lunch will be provided. Training hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The summer session for FCD specialist certification will be held June 12 – June 15, August 1 – 4 and August 28-31. The cost is \$950 per student and all sessions will be held in Springfield at the ICAA Training Center.

Advocacy Day

This year, nearly 100 people attended ICAA's annual Advocacy Day on February 28. Ramsey Alwin from NASCSP addressed federal CSBG issues and Laurie Morrison-Frichtl of IHSA spoke about Head Start. Mike Mannion and John Colgan presented state and energy issues. Holly Copeland demonstrated how the membership can use CAP WIZ, an important grassroots tool.

Nicole Ferrier of the Jefferson Parish Community Action Agency in Louisiana updated the attendees on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She highlighted how Community Action has played a role in helping those affected by the storm.

After the presentations at the ICAA office, members went to the State Capitol to meet with their Representatives. In the evening, a Legislative Reception was held at the historic Pasfield House across from the Capitol. It was a Mardi Gras theme complete with Dixieland jazz, beads and gumbo. Ten members of the General Assembly were in attendance and a good time was had by all



Eloy Salazar, IL Migrant Council, states how he has been an advocate this year



Ramsey Alwin of NASCSP



Frank Schwab and Sen. Deanna Demuzio



Rep. Bill Black and Dwight Lucas

RCAP

Sarah Mueth, RCAP Rural Development Specialist, recently attended the annual Great Lakes RCAP In-service training conference. The training sessions focused on several current issues and needs facing rural water and wastewater systems. Sessions included; asset management, water board training, GIS resources and cross cultural communications. Sarah looks forward to using this information as she helps rural communities find solutions to their water and wastewater problems.

During the past month IL RCAP has been meeting and working with USDA-RD and the IL Rural Water Association (IRWA) regarding Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency Response Plans. With the enactment of the U.S. Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Bioterrorism Act – PL 107-188), certain rural communities including those that have received, and will be seeking, funding from the USDA-RD and EPA must comply with the Act.

The Vulnerability Assessment is an analysis of water and wastewater systems that is designed to identify potential threats and weaknesses. The Emergency Response Plan is designed to provide communities with a method for responding to emergencies, disasters and other unforeseen threats to their systems.

RCAP will continue to work closely with the USDA- RD, IRWA and the EPA to assure rural communities comply.

Agency Corner

If you have something you would like to report to the Membership please submit it to Sara Ratcliffe via email, sratcliffe@icaanet.org, or fax, 217-789-0139 by the 15th of each month for inclusion in the ICAA E-News.

Community Food & Nutrition Program Funding Eliminated

The ICAA is disappointed and concerned about Congress' recent decision to eliminate funding for the Community Food and Nutrition Program (CFNP) in FY 2006. The CFNP, which is the only designated source of federal resources that can be used for anti-hunger outreach and advocacy, has been used by ICAA and its member Community Action Agencies and other community based organizations throughout the nation to help ensure that children and families have access to adequate food.

Since 2002, the ICAA has used a portion of the CFNP to fund a Food Stamp Outreach Project. To date this Project has connected 1,143 hungry families with food. As a consequence of Congress' decision to eliminate funding for the CFNP, the ICAA will no longer be able to work with Community Action Agencies to facilitate the participation of low-income families in the Food Stamp Program.

The ICAA has also used the CFNP to provide outreach to schools across Illinois in an effort to increase sponsorship of the School Breakfast Program, thereby increasing the accessibility of breakfast to hungry children. Ten new Summer Food Service Program feeding sites, feeding thousands of children, have also been initiated as a consequence of start-up grants funded through CFNP.

When the number of children living in poverty is increasing in America and Illinois, ICAA had hoped there would be an increase in funding, not an elimination of funding. Poverty data from the U.S. Census Bureau points to an increase in child poverty to 17.8 million in 2004, up from 16.7 million in 2002.

The ability to obtain enough food for an active, healthy life is the most basic of human needs. Households that lack sufficient resources to provide food cannot achieve this fundamental element of well-being. Oftentimes, the mere presence of the Child Nutrition Programs does not ensure that those eligible are participating or even aware of its existence. The CFNP resources helped to bridge that gap between nonparticipating eligible families and food.



ICAA Annual Conference Essential Information

- The Hilton Hotel block expires April 15 - call 217-789-1530 to make reservations
- Please send in registrations to ICAA by April 21
- Only those registered for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum tour will be able to go - limited to 50 participants
- Don't forget to register for the State Poverty Dialogue
- Ads for the conference book are due April 12

This year's workshops can benefit many Agency staff members.

The following are some suggestions:

Benefiting Head Start Staff:

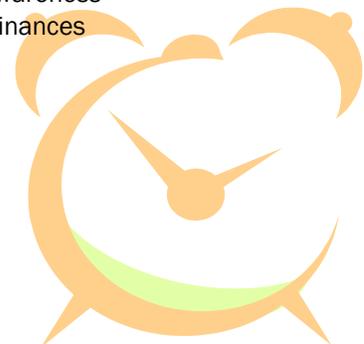
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Meth-Amphetamine Awareness
- Coping with Stress
- Good Nutrition Equals Good Health
- Mental Health Awareness
- Identifying Behavioral Disorders in Children

Benefiting Front Line Staff:

- Coping with Stress
- Meth-Amphetamine Awareness
- Customer Service
- Interviewing skills
- Mental Health Awareness
- Budgeting and Finances

Benefiting FCD Specialists and Middle Managers:

- Grant Writing
- Interviewing Skills
- Customer Service
- Budgeting and Finances
- Rental Housing Support Program
- Internal Controls for NFPs



Illinois Community Action Association

2006 Annual Conference

April 30-May 3, 2006 - Springfield Hilton



Renew the Commitment
Defining the Future
Time for Change

Illinois Community Action Association 35th Anniversary



2006 Annual Conference Agenda

Tracks: ED - Executive Director, BD - Board Training, HW - Health and Wellness,
SD - Skill Development, PR - Program

Sunday – April 30

2:00pm ICAA Board Meeting
4:00pm ICADC Board Meeting
6:00pm Families of Distinction
9:00pm Hospitality room

Monday – May 1

8:00am Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:30am Welcome/Opening Session
9:00am Legislative Committee of the Whole
9:45am ICAA Business Meeting
10:30am Break
10:45am Breakout Sessions - *choose which session you will attend*

- ED - Pathways to Excellence - Presented by Jim Boyd and Mary Lockhart-White - Pathways to Excellence is the Community Action Partnership's initiative to build the capacity of CAAs through learning and continuous improvement.
- BD - Board Member 101 - Presented by Michael Ayers - Equip your new and veteran Board Members with essential information to meet the demands of our changing environment
- HW - Coping with Stress- Presented by Vince Flammini and Cindy Tubbs - De-stress yourself so you can help others de-stress
- SD - Grant Writing - Tips and techniques for effective grant writing utilizing a hands on approach
- PR - Meth-Amphetamine Awareness - Presented by Trina Stremsterfer and Tom McNamara - Update on this growing problem and how to respond effectively

12:00pm Lunch - Speaker Richard Male
1:00pm Breakout Sessions- *choose which session you will attend*

- ED - Development - Presented by Richard Male - create new funding streams to support your agency's programs
- BD - Board Member 101 (continued)
- HW - Coping with Stress (continued)
- SD - Grant Writing (continued)
- PR - Meth-Amphetamine Awareness (continued)

2:15pm ICAF Board Meeting
2:30pm Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum tour
(limited to 50 participants - pre-registration required)

5:00pm Community Action Barbeque - Join us at Lincoln Park (located on the north end of Springfield) for food, games and fun - a great chance to network in a relaxed setting

Tuesday – May 2

8:00am Networking breakfast
Executive Director's breakfast
9:15am ICADC Business Meeting
10:00am ICAF Business Meeting



Tuesday – May 2 continued

- 10:30am Breakouts- *choose which session you will attend*
- ED - Health Insurance for Non-Profits - Escalating Health insurance costs are impacting Community Action Agencies, learn tips on how to maintain coverage in uncertain times
 - BD - Development - Presented by Richard Male - How does a Community Action Agency Board fit in to the Development puzzle?
 - HW - Good Nutrition Equals Good Health - Presented by Jananne Fink - Many Americans are overweight and subsequently face chronic health conditions like Diabetes
 - SD - Interviewing Skills - Presented by Karen Hunter Anderson - Interactive session that will help you improve your interviewing skills
 - PR - Rental Housing Support Program - Presented by Jane Bilger - IHDA will present its new rental subsidy program and how Community Action Agencies can participate
- 11:45am Lunch - Speaker Rich Miller, Capitol Fax
- 1:00pm Breakouts- *choose which session you will attend*
- ED - Budgeting in Times of Financial Constraint - Roundtable discussion facilitated by Dwight Lucas sharing budgeting best practices
 - BD - Development (continued)
 - HW - Identifying Behavioral Disorders in Children - Presented by Cindy Tubbs - Learn basic indicators of behavioral problems
 - SD - Customer Service - Presented by Christine Westerlund - Excellent customer service counts!
 - PR - Internal Controls for NFPs - Presented by Amy Sherwood of Sikich Group LLP - Overview of Internal Controls for NFPs including OMB Circulars and how they should be applied
- 2:15pm Break
- 2:30pm Breakouts- *choose which session you will attend*
- ED - Budgeting in Times of Financial Constraint (continued)
 - HW - Mental Health Awareness - Presented by Stephanie Zoellner - Explore the many ways mental illness impacts society
 - SD - Budgeting and Finances - Demystify the complex process of budgeting and finance. Be an expert at money management
 - PR - Internal Controls for NFPs (continued)
 - PR - Fatherhood Initiative - Presented by Lois Rakov, Booze Alan Hamilton Contractor for Region V Head Start
- 3:45pm Free time
- 6:00pm Networking reception
- 6:30pm Awards Gala - Governor Blagojevich is invited to speak at this new Community Action event. The Legislative and Community Action Awards will be presented, the FCD Classes will graduate, IDA Awards will be given and the new Board will be Commissioned

Wednesday – May 3

- 8:00am Continental Breakfast
- 8:30am State Poverty Dialogue - Experts from the top four areas of identified need will help the Association and its members establish short term and long term strategies to combat poverty. All who participated in the local dialogues are invited as well as elected officials.
- 12:00pm Lunch

Hotel Information:

- Springfield Hilton - 700 East Adams, Springfield, IL 62701 - 217-789-1530
- Room block under "ICAA"
- Rooms are \$85.00/single and \$85.00/double + 10% tax





Illinois Community Action Association
35th Anniversary
April 30-May 3, 2006 - Springfield Hilton

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please Complete one entire form for each person attending. **Register for the breakout sessions on the previous pages.** Return the entire form to ICAA - 3435 Liberty Drive - Springfield, IL 62704 or fax to 217-789-0139

Registration Information: Please print and complete clearly one form for each person attending

Name _____ Title _____

Agency _____

Phone _____ Email _____

FCD Graduate: yes no Year of Graduation _____

Special Accommodations: Vegetarian meals Other (explain) _____

Registration Packages: select one

- Full Conference:** includes Families of Distinction, Community Action Barbeque, Awards Gala, April 30-May 2 - FoD Meal Choices beef chicken vegetarian \$320
- FCD Graduate Full Conference:** Special price available to 2006 FCD Graduates April 30-May 2 \$300
- Full Conference Volume Discount:** 10 or more attendees from one Agency April 30-May 2 \$270
- Monday/Tuesday Only:** Includes Community Action Barbeque and Awards Gala May 1-2 \$290
- One Day Only:** Please indicate which day attending May 1 May 2 \$220
- State Poverty Dialogue:** Strategy session with experts free

 **Don't forget to register for your breakout sessions on the previous pages!**

Event Only:

- Families of Distinction Only (adult):** beef chicken vegetarian \$ 45
- Families of Distinction Only (child)** \$ 25
- FCD Graduation/Awards Gala Guest:** Must be pre-registered, will not be admitted without registration \$ 40
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Tour:** Limited to the first 50 registrants free
Check the box if you would like to go on the tour

Total Payment Enclosed

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations made before April 20, 2006 will be refunded fully. Cancellations made after April 20, 2006 cannot be refunded due to the cost of meals and materials ordered.