



## Arizona Community Action Association

Advocating, Educating and Partnering to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty

August 2012

# Arizona Community Action Association Newsletter

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Our mission of preventing and alleviating poverty throughout Arizona is

Dear Members and Friends,

Already tight budgets at both the state and federal levels have created significant difficulties for many agencies and organizations serving families who are struggling to make ends meet and maintain self-sufficiency or return to self-sufficiency. Under the Budget Control Act, most Federal programs face an across-the-board cut in January 2013 if Congress does not enact a plan before then to reduce the national debt by \$1.2 trillion.

On the horizon is the possibility for the Sequestration of federal funds due to an inability of elected officials to develop and agree on a reasonable federal budget. Though all of you have likely heard about the pending "fiscal cliff" the country could be facing, you may not know of the impact here in Arizona.

Senator Tom Harkin has issued a report that provides a comprehensive view of the serious and deleterious effect sequestration will have on all States. His report has been relied on for the data provided. Here, for a few of the funding sources we know Community Action is concerned about, are some details about funding impact locally.

**Head Start** funding in Arizona for FFY 2012 is \$122,132,816. If a budget deal is not reached, FFY 2013 funding for Head Start in Arizona is anticipated to be \$9,526,360, which translates into 1,517 fewer children receiving services and the loss of 316 jobs.

**Child Care and Development Block Grant** funding in Arizona is currently \$56,867,397. FFY 2013 sequestration funding is slated to be \$4,435,657, which means that 1,412 fewer children will be served, with implications

perhaps more relevant now than ever before in our history. We cannot do the work we do without our Board, members, and partners and your financial support. Please consider donating to ACAA at the link below.

[Donate here.](#)

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for families looking to maintain jobs or obtain jobs.

**LIHEAP** funding may see a total national drop in funding of \$270,790,425. 39% of LIHEAP households are seniors, age 60 or above; 44% are disabled and 45% of households contain at least one child. In Arizona, FFY 2012 funding is currently \$21,904,148. Under the sequestration plan, that funding would drop to \$1,068,442, essentially putting an end to bill assistance and weatherization in Arizona. Today in Arizona we are able to serve approximate 5% of the eligible households.

**CSBG** funding in Arizona for FFY 2012 is \$3,504,936. If no budget is approved, that level may drop to \$429,385, which means that Community Action Agencies in Arizona may no longer be able to serve families at all, and that if they are able to maintain services, 16,598 fewer individuals will be served.

Programs that are exempt from Sequestration include: social security, SSI, Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, Child Nutrition funding, veterans' benefits and the federal retirement program.

While we trust that those we've elected to office will begin to work together to ensure that vulnerable families throughout the US don't suffer further, there is no guarantee a reasonable solution exists or will be created.

Please reach out to your elected officials and let them know how important the various federal programs are to your communities, and please let them know what the impact will be without their support and without these funds. It's up to each of us to stand up and to speak out about the importance of these programs and the impact we make in our communities and the successes we see every day.

Thank you!

Cynthia Zwick  
Executive Director

## September is National Hunger Action Month

- **One in four children in Arizona will go to bed hungry tonight.**
- **One in five adults in Arizona is food insecure.**
- **1.1 million individuals in Arizona qualify for and receive SNAP benefits.**

- **In the first 6 months of 2012, Arizona's food banks distributed 68,794,195 pounds of food and 623,461 food boxes to individuals and families in need.**

September is National Hunger Action Month, and ACAA joins other agencies across Arizona and the U.S. in working to share information and resources that will help our members and friends take action against hunger.

One way to get involved in Hunger Action Month is to participate in the ACAA SNAP Experience. The SNAP Experience is an opportunity for you and your household to experience living and eating for 7 days on the average SNAP benefit in Arizona. More information on this year's SNAP Experience is coming soon, so please be sure to mark your calendars and save the date for September 15-21 to participate!

If you are looking for additional ideas of how you, your family, your agency, your workplace, or your faith community can get involved in Hunger Action Month, we recommend checking out the Hunger Action month calendars created by our friends at [United Food Bank](#), [Feeding America](#), and [St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance](#). And be on the lookout for more calendars and updates as September draws more near!

For regular updates, please follow ACAA on Facebook.

Please also take a few moments to [watch this video](#) from our friends in California.

If you or someone you know is facing hunger right now, there are resources out there that may be able to help.

**To determine whether you may qualify** for SNAP (formerly food stamps), please visit our free and confidential website [www.arizonaselfhelp.org](http://www.arizonaselfhelp.org).

**To apply online** for SNAP and/or TANF Cash Assistance and AHCCCS (Medicaid), visit <https://www.healthearizona.org>.

To find an emergency food provider, contact the Association of Arizona Food Banks at 602-525-3434.

**EPCOR Water Low Income Program**

We have a new utility partner! EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc. has partnered with ACAA to administer their Low Income Program Tariff. Maricopa County Humans Services Department and Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) will be administering the program. Maricopa County Human Services Department will be administering the program for the Aqua Fria district, and WAGOG will be administering the program for the Havasu and Mohave districts. Eligible applicants must be EPCOR Water customers and their household income must be at or below 150% of the current federal poverty guidelines. For additional information you may contact Arizona Community Action Association at (602)604-0640.

### **Voter Registration Drives Continue!**

Please mark your calendar and plan to join the Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO), ACAA, and other non-profits from throughout Arizona at the September 7th Non-Profit Voter Conference! This event is an opportunity to network with other non-profits and discuss practical and effective strategies for voter registration and engagement for the 2012 election cycle and beyond! Registration is [available online now at this link.](#)

### **Save the Date: Board Training**

Please mark your calendars for ACAA's annual board training which will be held on Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm. The location is still being determined but will be in downtown Phoenix. This year we are pleased that both CAPLAW and the Community Action Partnership will be conducting the training to provide legal and programmatic information. The training will be provided at no cost to ACAA Board Members and Community Action Board/Commission members. Board fiduciary roles and responsibilities and boards and program evaluation are just 2 of the topics that will be discussed throughout the training.

Please look for additional registration e-mails soon and we hope to see you in September!

### **Arizona Assets Alliance Hits the Web!**

The Arizona Assets Alliance website is now available ([www.assetsforaz.org](http://www.assetsforaz.org))

The website provides information on:

- Latest news in the asset building arena

- How to get involved in the Alliance and/or public policy initiatives
- Resources for asset building professionals
- Asset building services in your community

Call to ACTION!

- Sign up to become a member and get access to the "members only" intranet site. You can access information on professional development opportunities, contact other members and engage in discussions and share information about asset building programs and initiatives.
- Inform working families and individuals about the website and the "Find Services" page to research asset building programs that can help them in finding asset building resources in their communities to support their transition to financial independence.

**ACAA is Hiring!**

ACAA is seeking a full time Office Manager. Responsibilities include: answering phones, greeting visitors, maintaining office supplies and equipment inventory, assisting Executive Director and other staff as appropriate, managing equipment and vendor contracts, preparing correspondence, setting up meetings, maintaining organization files and membership database, coordinating newsletter, and making updates to website.

To learn more about this position, please visit us online at <http://www.azcaa.org/about-us/job-openings>.

(Please no calls. ACAA will review all applications as they are received and contact you directly if we wish to set up an interview.)

**Arizona Foundation for Behavioral Health Accepting Applications for Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute**

The Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute is designed for service recipients/consumers, family members, Board members, and individuals concerned about quality behavioral health in Arizona. The Institute accepts 15 participants each fall for a 6-Saturday training held in Phoenix.

Participants in the Institute will receive a brunch, lunch and reimbursement for travel outside of Maricopa County. The training

will cover a variety of topics to enable the participant to be an advocate for him/herself and for others. It is focused on the public behavioral health system in Arizona covering the roles and responsibilities of various state agencies, role of media, budget, coalition building, etc.

Training dates are September 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more information or to apply, please call the Arizona Foundation for Behavioral Health at 602-712-9200.