

Maryland Community Action Partnership LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2022

The Maryland Community Action Partnership (“MCAP”) was established in 1986. The non-profit, multi-regional association advocates on behalf of Community Action Agencies (“CAA’s”) and partnering organizations that serve individuals and families with low incomes who reside in Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia to ensure their voices are heard at the local, state, and federal levels. We continuously monitor for legislation and regulations that affect our members.



Strengthening the Capacity of Community Action Agencies



The Establishment of a Community Action Fund to Increase the Overall Capacity of CAAs to Not Pay Poverty Wages.

Workers of Community Action Agencies are essential and should not qualify for the same services they provide. Maryland Community Action Partnership calls for a **\$4 million** Community Action fund to raise the wages of essential workers to **\$15** and beyond to ensure lower-income workers are paid a decent livable wage. No Community Action Agency should offer poverty level jobs and/or reduce critical services to the community at the expense of paying better wages.



Continuity of Comprehensive Services for Children & Families



A Permanent Source of Funding for the Whole Family Statewide Initiative.

Through the Community Action Network, whole family approaches to moving families toward economic security are being implemented across the state. This holistic approach to serving families (also known as the 2-Generation approach) is helping families develop pathways to achieve their aspirations and goals. The Community Action Network seeks a permanent source of funding in the amount of **\$1 million** to continue the work of moving families out of poverty.



Support for Returning Citizens



Fines, fees and a lack of resources reinforce the cycle of poverty and criminalization. Community Action supports legislation that addresses major barriers to economic success for individuals with a criminal background re-entering into society.



Capital Funding for Building and Improvements



Capital for Building and Improvements.

Communities across Maryland have very different needs. Community Action Agencies response to the needs require custom approaches and strategies. MCAP seeks funding for the Community Action Network to improve safety-related building elements and safety systems to mitigate occupational and environmental hazards related to COVID and new requirements for staff and clients.



Housing Stabilization



MCAP supports legislation and funding that supports the right to counsel for Tenants facing evictions to mitigate the impact of COVID on housing, and promote housing security.



Lifting the Voices of The Community



Engaging and empowering clients to overcome barriers and represent their own interest helps them increase control of their own lives. MCAP supports legislation that lifts the needs and voices of the community on issues such as **homelessness, childcare and EITC.**