

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### Economic Mobility For Maryland's Most Vulnerable

Serving the best interest of the poor serves the best interest of all people. The Family Prosperity Act puts this premise into action by offering the permanence of one of the most effective strategies for addressing poverty, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). Permanently extending the state's EITC and expanding the CTC puts money into the pockets of those needing it most and helps set them on a path toward success. As Maryland's federally-designated antipoverty network, Community Action Agencies know well what it takes to fight against poverty across the state.

The *Baltimore Banner* article, [Gov. Moore's first step to ending poverty: Tax credits for low-income families](#), by [Pamela Wood](#), provides a variety of perspectives from organizations and legislators supporting The Family Prosperity Act. We agree. The Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) also sees this act as a viable solution that helps get to the root of child poverty and the extended family. MCAP's Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have [served 2,634,585 lower-income individuals](#) between 2018 and 2021, and partner with organizations, like MD CASH Campaign, local Social Service Agencies, and MD Hunger Solutions. MCAP works specifically with Maryland CASH to provide VITA sites that offer free tax prep to low-income individuals and families. We see the positive impacts when benefits, like EITC and CTC, are applied. They help build long-term stability for the whole family.

An effective strategy being implemented across the state by our network of CAAs is the 2-Generation (2Gen) Approach. 2Gen Approach is a holistic approach that focuses on moving families out of poverty by combining parent and child support programs. Our network of CAAs is developing pathways to move families from crisis to economic mobility. The Family Prosperity Act will strengthen 2Gen efforts by allowing families the cushion needed to comfortably make investments in their futures. CAAs help families with budgeting, housing counseling and provide a range of services. The EITC and CTC help bridge the gap to move families toward economic mobility.

We are excited and pleased to see The Family Prosperity Act as one of the Governor's priorities. It speaks to his commitment to leaving no one behind. MCAP serves as the unified voice for CAAs across the state and supports the bill to ensure the well-being of those most vulnerable. Expanding the state's CTC to cover taxpayers with children five and under and a federally adjusted gross income of \$15,000 or less. This directly helps the families we serve.

Services and programs provided by MCAP CAAs include children, seniors, affordable housing, homelessness, emergency assistance, food provision, employment, education, health, transportation, tax, and financial planning.

"We've seen an 84% increase in the number of persons needing services since the pandemic years. Real solutions to the post-pandemic reality are needed. We see the path forward toward greater economic mobility through the Family Prosperity Act," states Angela Martin, Executive Director, MCAP.

## **About MCAP**

The Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) is a statewide non-profit organization comprised of Maryland's 17 Community Action Agencies, which collectively serve every Maryland county. Together, we work toward eradicating homelessness and poverty to realize our vision of ensuring that all Maryland individuals and families are stable, economically secure, and live in safe and thriving communities. For more information, go to [www.maryland-cap.org](http://www.maryland-cap.org). Visit our [Impact Dashboard](#) for data related to programs and number of people served. MCAP media inquiries should be directed to [info@maryland-cap.org](mailto:info@maryland-cap.org).