

2011 Housing Works! Conference

Community Action Agencies

A Fresh Look at Housing Activities that Stabilize Housing

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Horizontal lines for notes

Topics of Discussion

- Topic I – CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective
- Topic II – CSP Housing Division
- Topic III – CSP Supportive Services Division



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Horizontal lines for notes

Topic I – CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- Identify historical milestones of Community Action
- Understand the focus and purpose of Community Action
- Establish a context for understanding services of Community Action

Source: National ROMA Peer-to-Peer Training Program, Participant Manual, "Introduction to ROMA" Version 4.3, Copyright 2011, F. Richmond and B. Nooney, The Center for Applied Management Practices, Camp Hill, PA 717-730-3705. Curriculum modified, from original material Copyright 1997-2009, The Center for Applied Management Practices, with funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Community Services, under the direction of the Community Action Association of PA.



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Horizontal lines for notes

Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- 1964 –The Beginning
 - Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act establishing and funding Community Action Agencies and Programs
- 1970 – The Mission and the Model
 - The issuance of OEO Instruction 6320-1 established the mission and the model (family, agency and community) of Community Action:



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- “To stimulate a better focusing of all available, local, state, private, and Federal resources upon the goal of enabling low-income families, and low-income individuals of all ages in rural and urban areas, to attain the skills, knowledge, and motivations and secure the opportunities needed for them to become self-sufficient.”



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- “The Act thus gives the CAA a primarily catalytic mission: to make the entire community more responsive to the needs and interests of the poor by mobilizing resources and bringing about greater institutional sensitivity. A CAA’s effectiveness, therefore, is measured not only by the services which it directly provides but, more importantly, by the improvements and changes it achieves in the community’s attitudes and practices toward the poor and in the allocation and focusing of public and private resources for antipoverty purposes.”



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- "In developing its strategy and plans, the CAA shall take into account the area of greatest community need, the availability of resources, and its own strengths and limitations. It should establish realistic, attainable objectives, consistent with the basic mission established in this instruction, and expressed in concrete terms which permit the measurement of results. Given the size of the poverty problem and its own limited resources, the CAA should concentrate its efforts on one or two major objectives where it can have the greatest impact."



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- 1974 – Community Service Act
 - Replaced the Economic Opportunity Act which was terminated in 1973
- 1981 – The Block Grant
 - The Community Service Act was replaced by the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Act of 1981.



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- 1993 – Measurement and Accountability
 - Congress passed the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) in response to a renewed emphasis on accountability.
- 1994 – Six National Goals
 - The 1994 Amendment to the CSBG Act, in response to GPRA, specifically mentioned a requirement for CSBG eligible entities to provide outcome measures to monitor success in three areas: promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization.



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- Six National Goals
 - Goal 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient. (Family)
 - Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income people live are improved. (Community)
 - Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their community. (Community)
 - Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved. (Agency)
 - Goal 5: Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results. (Agency)
 - Goal 6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems. (Family)



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- 1994 – Introduction of ROMA
 - “a performance-based initiative designed to preserve the anti-poverty focus of community action and to promote greater effectiveness among state and local agencies receiving Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds.”
 - “framework for continuous growth and improvement among more than 1000 local community action agencies and a basis for state leadership and assistance toward those ends.”



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- 1996 – ROMA Spreading Throughout Network
- 1998 – Reauthorization of the CSBG Act
 - mandated implementation of a comprehensive performance-based management system across the entire Community Service Network
 - required outcome reporting from all CAAs and CSBG eligible entities beginning October 1, 2001



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- 2001 – Direction from OCS for first Mandatory Report
 - In Information Memo 49, State Offices and CSBG Eligible Entities were provided with guidance regarding the implementation of ROMA and core activities to assist them in preparing for mandatory performance reporting.



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- 2005 – Implementation of National Indicators of Community Action Performance
- 2006 – The ROMA Cycle
 - Assessment
 - Planning
 - Implementation
 - Achievement of Results
 - Evaluation



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Topic I –
CAA History, Purpose, & Perspective

- 2009 – Renewed Focus on Results
 - In January, OMB issued the Performance Progress Reporting Form (PPR)—a standard, government-wide performance progress reporting format which will be used by Federal agencies to collect performance information from recipients of Federal funds awarded under all Federal programs that exceed \$100,000 or more per project/grant period.



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Topic II –
CSP Housing Division

- Mission: to strengthen neighborhoods and improve lives by promoting and preserving homeownership and assisting families to obtain and/or maintain affordable housing.



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Topic II –
CSP Housing Division

- CSP Housing initiatives provide a comprehensive set of homeowner and renter services to low- and moderate-income households throughout a six-county region:
 - Real Estate Development
 - Homeownership Promotion and Preservation
 - Property Management
 - Housing Rehabilitation



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Topic II –
CSP Housing Division

- The mission of Weatherization is to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.



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Topic II –
CSP Housing Division

- Weatherization** is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Pre-Weatherization** is funded by Alabama Power’s Business Charitable Trust.
- Housing Preservation Grant** is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

- Mission: to improve self-sufficiency among vulnerable populations through crisis intervention, while building opportunities and linkages with available services in the community.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

- Supportive Services include:
 - Case Management
 - Homeownership
 - Housing Counseling
 - Meals-on-Wheels
 - Utility Assistance
 - Food Vouchers
 - Job Coaching
 - Juvenile At-Risk



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

□ **Case Management** services are rendered to many clients who need ongoing assistance to reach their goal of self-sufficiency. The services include the development of an individual/family goal plan, linkages to area resources, financial literacy education and counseling.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

□ **Homeownership services** emphasize asset building and retention by encouraging low- and moderate-income households to purchase a home. The Lease/Purchase program allows families with credit issues to lease a CSP-owned house for two years. During the lease phase, families are required to work with a certified housing counselor to clear credit problems and become qualified for a mortgage.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

□ **Housing Counseling** services include pre- and post-purchase counseling, mortgage default and foreclosure prevention, rental counseling, home improvement and rehabilitation and counseling to the homeless. CSP utilizes budget and debt management, energy conservation and home maintenance information in the housing counseling process.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

☐ **Meals on Wheels** delivers a hot midday meal to people who are homebound and/or unable to prepare meals for themselves. Meals on Wheels is a volunteer-based program (partially funded by the City of Tuscaloosa, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, and donations) that provides dignity, companionship and a sense of security for recipients, their families and caregivers.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

☐ **Utility Assistance** services assist families with high energy bills. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Alabama Business Charitable Trust Fund, Emergency Food and Shelter, and Project SHARE assist specifically with utility bill payments. For income eligible clients, payments are made by CSP directly to the utility company on the client's behalf.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

☐ **Food voucher** services help families stretch their food dollars. CSP has partnered with several local agencies and churches to provide families with their food needs. In order to receive a food voucher, picture identification and income verification must be presented at the CSP Office. A household is eligible to receive one voucher per week.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

□ **Job Coaching/Life Skills Training Services** is a comprehensive community-based employment program that provides employment training, recruitment and retention skills to qualifying residents of Tuscaloosa Housing Authority. An additional component of the program increases access to educational training and vocational skill development. By furthering education, clients gain practical skills training that open viable career paths for lasting employment.



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Topic III –
CSP Supportive Services Division

□ **Juvenile At-Risk** services is designed to build skills that enable youth to avoid violence. The skills gained (such as anger management, problem-solving, and decision-making) build resiliency among youth to avoid other risky behaviors that are directly linked to violence.



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