



 MARYLAND COMMUNITY
ACTION
PARTNERSHIP
A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY ACTION
AGENCIES SERVING MD, DC & DE

**COMMUNITY
ACTION IS
ESSENTIAL**

**Community
Action Month
Symposium**

May 26th-27th | 2021

www.maryland-cap.org



Schedule of Events

Wednesday, May 26, 2021—Day One

10:00am-11:00am

Opening Session
Healing Centered Engagement

11:15am -12:15pm

Breakout Sessions

Creating a Collaborative Response to Rising Food Insecurity in Montgomery County, Maryland, through Partnerships and Leveraging Community Strengths

Presenter: Susan Kornacki, Food Security Programs Manager

Description: This presentation will tell the story of how the Montgomery County Food Council (MCFC) led three strategies to collaborate with hundreds over 200 partners, in a proactive response to rising food insecurity in Montgomery County, Maryland. We will also describe how these efforts are all deeply rooted in the recommendations of the Montgomery County Food Security Plan, to provide context and history. Following the presentation, there will be time for questions and dialogue.

Implicit Bias

Presenter: Kyla Liggett-Creel, Ph.D., LCSW-C, Clinical Assistant Professor; University of Maryland School of Social Work

Description: Implicit bias is a form of bias that occurs automatically and unintentionally, that nevertheless affects judgments, decisions, and behaviors. This session will introduce you to insights about how our minds operate and help you understand the origins of implicit associations. You will also uncover some of your own biases and learn strategies for addressing them.

Risk Management in a New World

Presenter: Angela Gustus, CEO / Co-Owner

Description: Risk Management is not a new topic, but the world we live in is. How do we as leaders Pivot, Plan, and be Present to the current needs of our community while still thinking about the big picture?

Wednesday, May 26, 2021—Day One

12:45pm—1:45pm

Breakout Sessions

Avoiding the "Eviction Cliff": Maximizing the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program to Keep Our Neighbors Housed

Presenter: Danielle Meister, Senior Policy Officer Homelessness Initiatives; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Description: This session will review the key components of Maryland's new Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which provides rental and utility assistance to households facing eviction or those who are homeless and have secured new housing. Participants will learn how they can help residents avoid the anticipated eviction "cliff" from COVID-19, legal protections for renters from eviction, and how the program is rooted in an equity-based framework.

Fight Poverty, Hunger, and Health Care Needs by Removing Barriers to Program Access

Presenters: Elizabeth Lower-Basch Director, Income and Work Supports; Parker L. Gilkesson Policy Analyst, Income and Work Supports & Alice Nzioki and Tamika Moore, who are members of CLASP's Community Partnership Group.

Description: Since the start of the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, government programs have provided critical supports to help people pay rent, mortgages, and other bills, feed themselves and their children, and access health care. These include both the new programs created in response to the pandemic and programs such as SNAP and Medicaid that have long helped people with low incomes meet their basic needs. However, even before the stimulus payments ran out and the boosted unemployment benefits expired, too many people were left out.

Join this session with experts from CLASP, to address poverty, hunger, and health care by removing barriers, promoting cross-program enrollment. This will include a discussion on action priorities for the Biden-Harris Administration to achieve these goals.

Tenant and Landlord Strategies

Presenters: Carolina Paul & Gabriela Dickson La Rotta, Paralegal: Public Justice Center

Description: Join experts from the Public Justice Center for a session to provide a perspective from the legal side about how and when community-based organizations can effectively partner and refer to legal organizations.

Wednesday, May 26, 2021—Day One

2:00pm—3:00pm

Breakout Sessions

Broadband and Digital Inclusion

Presenter: Charlotte Davis, Executive Director; Rural Maryland Council

Description: The Governor and Legislature recently approved legislation and appropriations that should close the digital divide. Funding included addresses connectivity, devices, adoption, affordability and inclusion. This workshop will review the different federal and state funding opportunities available to address broadband issues.

Leveraging Data Locally: Utilizing data and data visualizations to empower community action work

Presenter: Lil Dupree, Launch and Training Manager

Description: Community Action staff's ability to collect, use and understand data may be the single most effective way to better and more quickly address ever shifting funding and operating environments.

Harnessing the power of the information already collected--whether it is to report to funders and donors or to better tell our story to the public--is no longer just a "big data" capacity; it is an essential part of the adaptive capacity of successful nonprofit organizations and governmental entities. Agencies collect client data, in this session we will review examples of USING that data to improve service coordination, and tell the story of the agency.

Racial Wealth Gap

Presenter: Minerva Delgado, Director, Coalitions & Advocacy; Alliance to End Hunger

Description: The workshop will explore why African American communities are disproportionately impacted by hunger in the U.S. Participants will participate in the virtual Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation. The simulation is an activity that helps people understand the connections among hunger, poverty, and wealth by providing a deeper understanding of structural racism.

In the simulation, participants learn how federal policies increase hunger and poverty in communities of color. The simulation guides participants to an understanding of why racial equity is important to ending hunger and poverty in the United States.

Thursday, May 27, 2021—Day Two

10:00am – 11:00am

Opening Session
National Partners Update

11:15am-12:15pm

Breakout Sessions

Be The Spark - Ignite The Restart (Challenges in Workspace during COVID19)

Presenter: Robert Lemon, Professional Speaker

Description: What is the greatest challenge you face with your Team Members as you Ignite The Restart. Valuing work culture during the Pandemic is very important to your association and workplace. How is your association addressing well being and mental stability of your members and what are you providing. You have the opportunity to Be The SPARK for your company, customers and Employees. Dr. Lemon helps you find your inner SPARK. It's Time to light the fire, kindle your passion and Be The Spark that creates the change you want to see in yourself, your company and the world.

Resilience & Recovery: Preparing your Organization for Tomorrow

Presenter: Julie Jakopic, CEO

Description: As leaders, we are charged not only with the work of today, but also the longer-term strength of our organizations and communities. Building organizations that are strong, stable and resilient is ever more important in the fluid and turbulent economic climate of today.

In this powerful interactive workshop, you will have an opportunity to consider key drivers of resilience and sustainability with a focus on financial resource development, human resource development, and community development. Then, you will consider effective strategies for strengthening your organization.

Whole Family in Action

Presenter: Kevin Otey, Chief Operating Officer, Hampton Roads Community Action Program.

Description: This webinar will discuss two-generation and whole family approaches, emerging trends, and best practices for providing supportive and comprehensive services for low-income families.

Thursday, May 27, 2021—Day Two

12:45pm-1:45pm

Breakout Sessions

Strategic Marketing and Branding in Community Action

Presenter: Berneitha McNair, Executive Director

Description: This session discusses how to develop a strategic marketing and branding plan, highlighting the content that should be included and a step-by-step process to write the plan. Participants will also learn specific branding strategies that will help community action agencies attract new customers, improve community awareness/visibility, and obtain support from external stakeholders.

The session also teaches agencies how to write effective success stories and how to become more intentional in telling their stories to elevate, electrify, and enhance their programs.

Whole Family Approach Roundtable

Presenter: Barbara Miller, Director of Garrett County Community Action Learning Institute.

Description: Join Barbara for conversations and implementation strategies for Two-Generation Approach. Hear from peers and engage in open dialogue to further the work of serving families holistically.

2:00pm- 3:00pm

Closing Session

MCAP Awards Ceremony

