

Community Action 101



Contra Costa County
Employment and Human Services
Community Services Bureau
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL





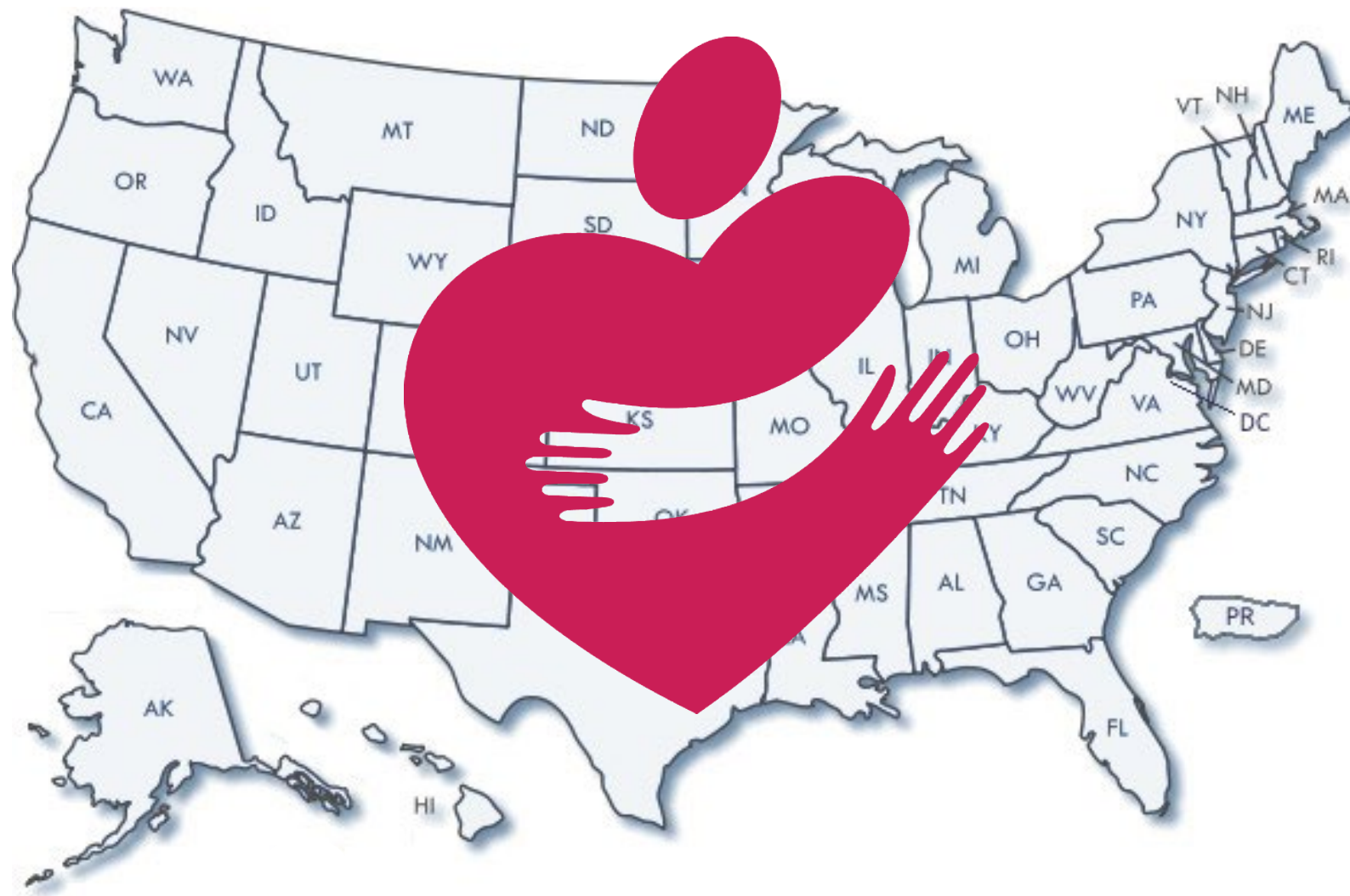
The Promise Of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Community Action Network

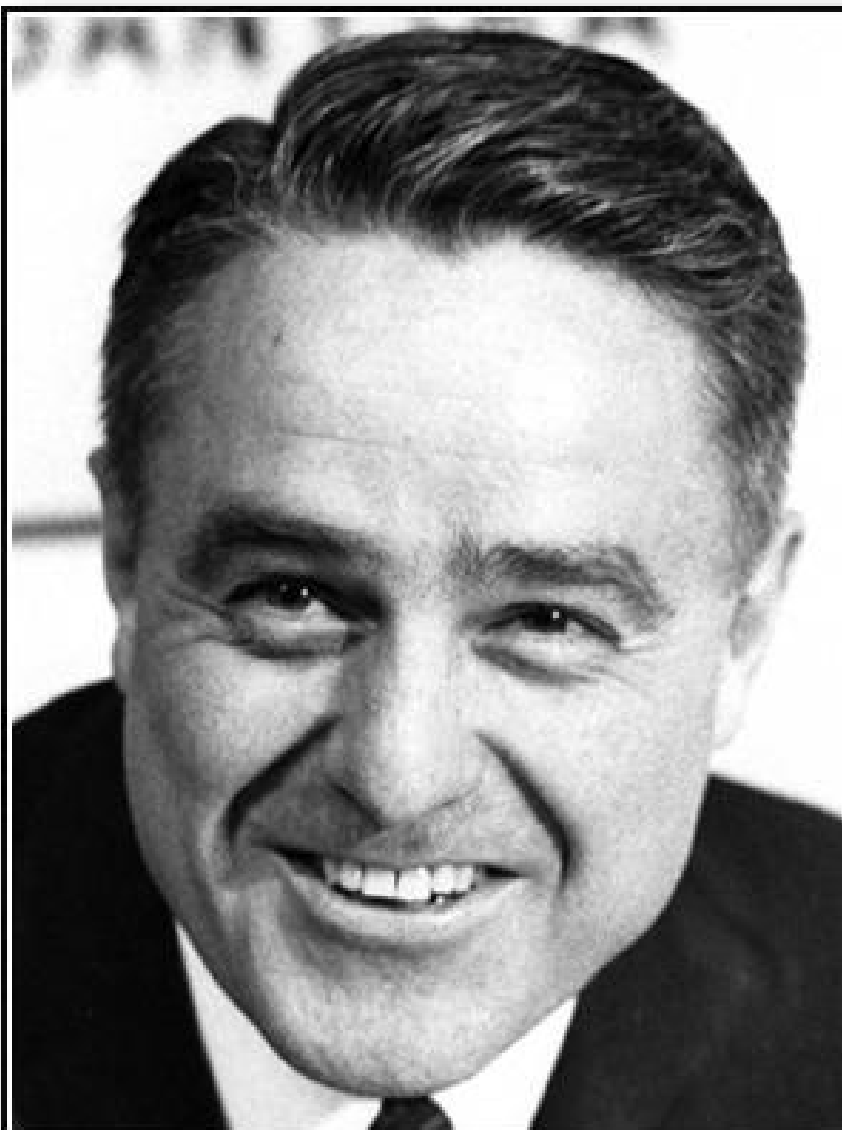
*Red, Blue, Purple
States*

*Board and Staff
on All Sides of
the Aisle*



1000+ Agencies | 44 State Associations | 50+ State CSBG Offices | National Partners
More than 15 million served

We work together to promote workable solutions that connect more families to opportunity



What can change the world today is
the same thing that has changed it
in the past-an idea and the service
of dedicated, committed individuals
to that idea.

— Sargent Shriver —

AZ QUOTES

One Word

Give us one word to describe what you
think about when you hear
Community Action...

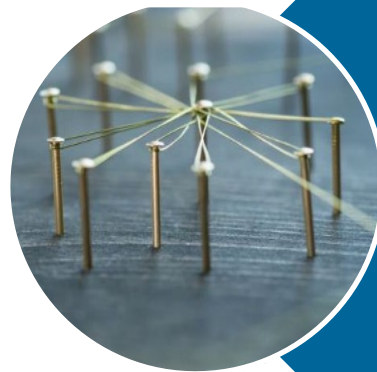
Community Action Agencies



Connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed



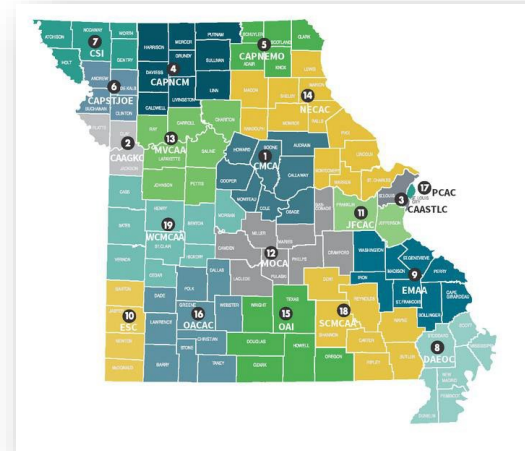
Promote community-wide solutions to seemingly stubborn challenges



Share expertise with national, state, and local leaders looking for evidence on what works

1,000+ Community Action Agencies Nationally

- Local Needs Assessment Every Three Years
- ***Localized Response to Needs***
- Range of Services Provided
- Whole-Family Approach/Two-Generation Approach
- Emergency Assistance (Food, energy, shelter)
- Health Care-FQHC, Dental Clinics, Women's Health, Mobile Health
- Community and Economic Development
- Housing/Shelter
- Early Childhood/Head Start
- Job Training/Community College Connections
- Senior Services
- Weatherization
- Case Management/Family Coaching
- Financial Capability/Asset Development/VITA



**“The opposite of poverty isn’t wealth.
The opposite of poverty is justice”
Bryan Stevenson**



Is Community Action Different?

- Salvation Army
- NeighborWorks
- Red Cross
- Catholic Charities
- Lutheran Social Services
- Other multi-service nonprofits



Are we different?

- **Yes**, while addressing similar community challenges as other nonprofits and governmental agencies, Community Action is different. It has a ***unique history, a federal mandate*** to address poverty, and is a ***national network*** that serves 99% of America's counties engaging local communities to address local challenges.
- **We are the national infrastructure across the US to fight poverty where and how we find it.** We are called to fight poverty, not provide a specific program or service.

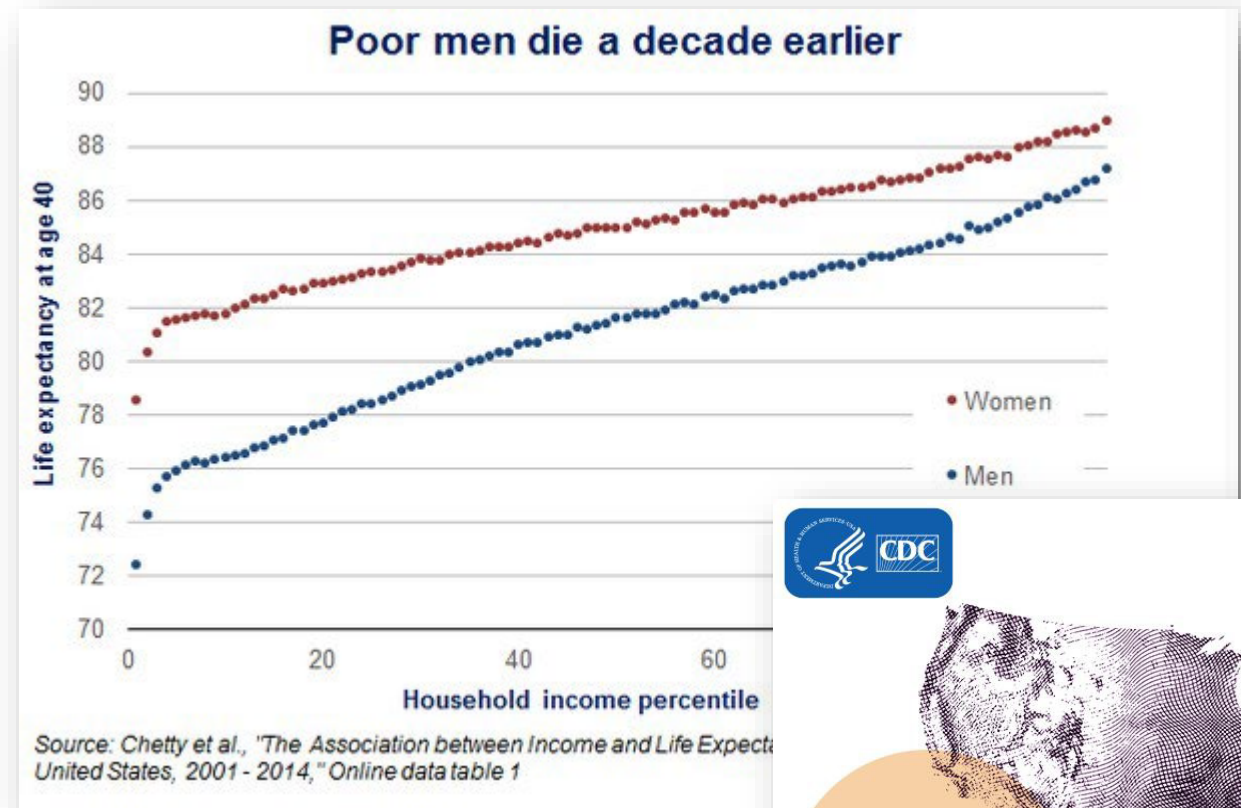
Community Action is Different

- Flexible
- Accountable
- Tripartite Board Structure
 - 1/3 Democratically selected from the low-income community - ***Maximum Feasible Participation***
 - 1/3 Elected Officials
 - 1/3 Private Sector
- Local Needs Assessment

Poverty Today

- Income Disparities
- Wealth Disparities
- Racial Inequality
- Education Disparities
- Health Disparities
- Affordable Housing
- Aging of America
- COVID Pandemic

Source: Equality of Opportunity Project

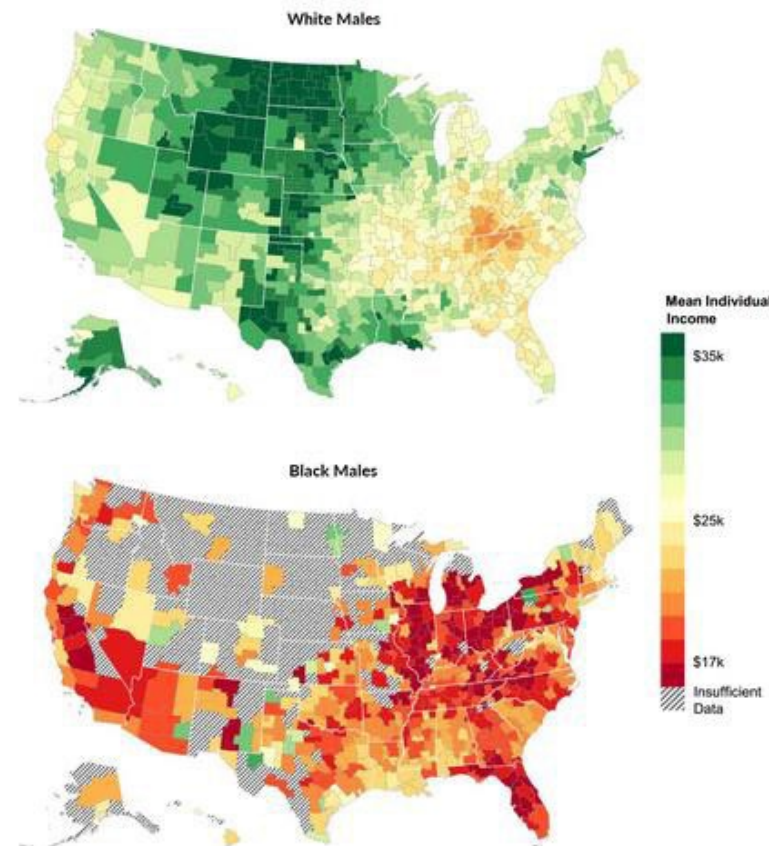


115
AMERICANS

die every day from an
opioid overdose
(including prescription
and illicit opioids.)

Two Americas: Upward Mobility for White vs. Black Children

Average incomes of children growing up in low-income (25th percentile) families



Points in Time Across the Decades

- 1960's
- 1970's
- 1980's
- 1990's
- 2000's
- 2010's
- 2020 and Beyond



Throwback Thursday, May 9

#TBT

January 1964-State of the Union

President Johnson

“Let us carry forward the plans and programs of John F. Kennedy, not because of our sorrow or sympathy, but because they are right....This administration today, here and now, declares an *unconditional War on Poverty in America*....Our joint federal-local effort must pursue poverty, pursue it wherever it exists.”

PUBLIC LAW 452

S. 2642

Eighty-eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Session first held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the seventh day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four

An Act

To establish the Bureau and National Network of the Nation to combat poverty
in the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may
be cited as the "Economic Opportunity Act of 1964".

PURPOSES AND DECLARATION OF POLICY

SEC. 2. Although the economic well-being and prosperity of the
United States have progressed to a level surpassing any achieved in
world history, and although these levels are widely shared throughout
the Nation, poverty continues to be the lot of a substantial number
of our people. The United States can achieve its full economic and
social potential as a nation only if every individual has the opportunity
to contribute to the full extent of his capabilities and to participate
in the wealth of our society. It is, therefore, the policy of the
United States to eliminate the barriers of poverty in the midst of plenty
in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education
and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in
dignity and dignity. It is the purpose of this Act to strengthen, im-
prove, and coordinate efforts in the furtherance of this policy.

TITLE I—YOUTH PROGRAMS

PART A—JUN CORPS

ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM

SEC. 104. The purpose of this part is to prepare for the responsibility
of citizenship and to increase the employability of young men and
young women upon release from military service by providing them
with rural and urban residential centers with education, vocational training,
recreational work experience, including work directed toward the con-
servation of natural resources, and other appropriate activities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF JUN CORPS

SEC. 105. In order to carry out the purposes of this part, there is
hereby established within the Office of Economic Opportunity Com-
missioner referred to as the "Office", established by title VI, a Jun
Corps (hereinafter referred to as the "Corps").

JUN CORPS PROGRAM

SEC. 106. The Director of the Office (hereinafter referred to as the
"Director") is authorized to—

(1) enter into agreements with any Federal, State, or local
agency or private organization for the establishment, operation,
maintenance, and management of conservation camps and training
centers and for the provision of such facilities and services as in
his judgment are needed to carry out the purposes of this part,
including but not limited to agreements with agencies charged
with the responsibility of conserving, developing, and managing
the public natural resources of the Nation and of developing,
managing, and protecting public recreational areas, whereby the
services of the Corps may be utilized by such agencies in carrying
out, under the immediate supervision of such agencies, programs



Foundation of Community Action

Economic Opportunity Act of 1964

“Although the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States have progressed to a level surpassing any achieved in world history, and although these benefits are widely shared throughout the Nation, poverty continues to be the lot of a substantial number of our people. The United States can achieve its full economic and social potential as a nation **only if every individual has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of his capabilities and to participate in the workings of our society.** It is, therefore, the policy of the United States to eliminate the *paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty* in this Nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the Opportunity to live in decency and dignity.

It is the purpose of this Act to
Strengthen, Supplement, and Coordinate efforts in furtherance of that policy.”

Our Catalytic Mission

Title II, Section 201 (a), of the Economic Opportunity Act

The basic purpose of Community Action is:

"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."

Also Created as Part of the EOA

- VISTA
- Job Corps
- Neighborhood Youth Corps
- Head Start
- Adult Basic Education
- Family Planning
- Community Health Centers
- Congregate Meal Preparation
- Economic Development CDCs
- Foster Grandparents
- Legal Services



- RSVP
- Legal Services
- Neighborhood Centers
- Summer Youth Programs

Two Big Ammendments to Address Influence of Communtiy Action

GREEN Amendment

- 1967: stipulated that local elected officials had authority to designate the official CAA for their areas. Most were certified but a few big cities took control and replaced the existing CAA.

QUIE Amendment

- 1967: stipulated that 1/3 of board must be composed of elected officials and 1/3 would be private sector representatives. This limited “maximum feasible participation” of the poor on the boards to 1/3 of the membership

1969

- Nixon appoints Donald Rumsfeld as Director of the OEO. Rumsfeld surprises and is basically supportive of OEO and works to improve its efficiency. Rumsfeld hires Dick Cheney and Christy Todd Whitman as assistants. Rumsfeld publishes CAA mission guidance.



Foundation of Community Action

OEO Instruction 6320-1 (1970)

“The Act this gives the CAA a primary 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 CAAs 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.” (DR)

Nixon Administration

- Attempted to shut down Community Action
- Network responded and sued the Nixon Administration and won
- Charles Braithwaite



1973-1974

- In 1974, during President Gerald Ford's administration, the Economic Opportunity Act was terminated.
- However, Congressional support swelled and funding for Community Action activities was included in the **Community Service Act of 1974**. With this change, the Office of Economic Opportunity (which was a cabinet level office) was terminated and a replacement agency was created under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare: the **Community Services Administration (CSA)**.

1981: The Block Grant Was Born

- Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 created two block grants: Social Services Block Grant, under Title XX of the SSA; and CSBG which included activities administered by the CSA
- States administer block grant
- By 1983, all 50 states assumed administrative responsibility
 - Greater local autonomy
 - Decreased administrative complexity
- States tried to achieve a more equitable geographic distribution of funds
- Political activities and voter registration still restricted

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) was Born

- State offices were now installed as recipients of the Block Grant funding and therefore as intermediaries for local Community Action Agencies.
- 90% of the CSBG funds were to be used at the local level
- Eligible CAAs were the same organizations previously eligible under OEO and CSA determinations. They were “Grandfathered.”
- States had the responsibility for monitoring CAAs and could spend up to 5% of the State’s CSBG allocation for administrative purposes. The remaining 5% was designated for State discretionary anti-poverty funded activities.

1994

The Monitoring and Assessment Task Force (MATF) was created by the Office of Community Services (OCS) to explore the results that had been identified by various CAAs across the country.

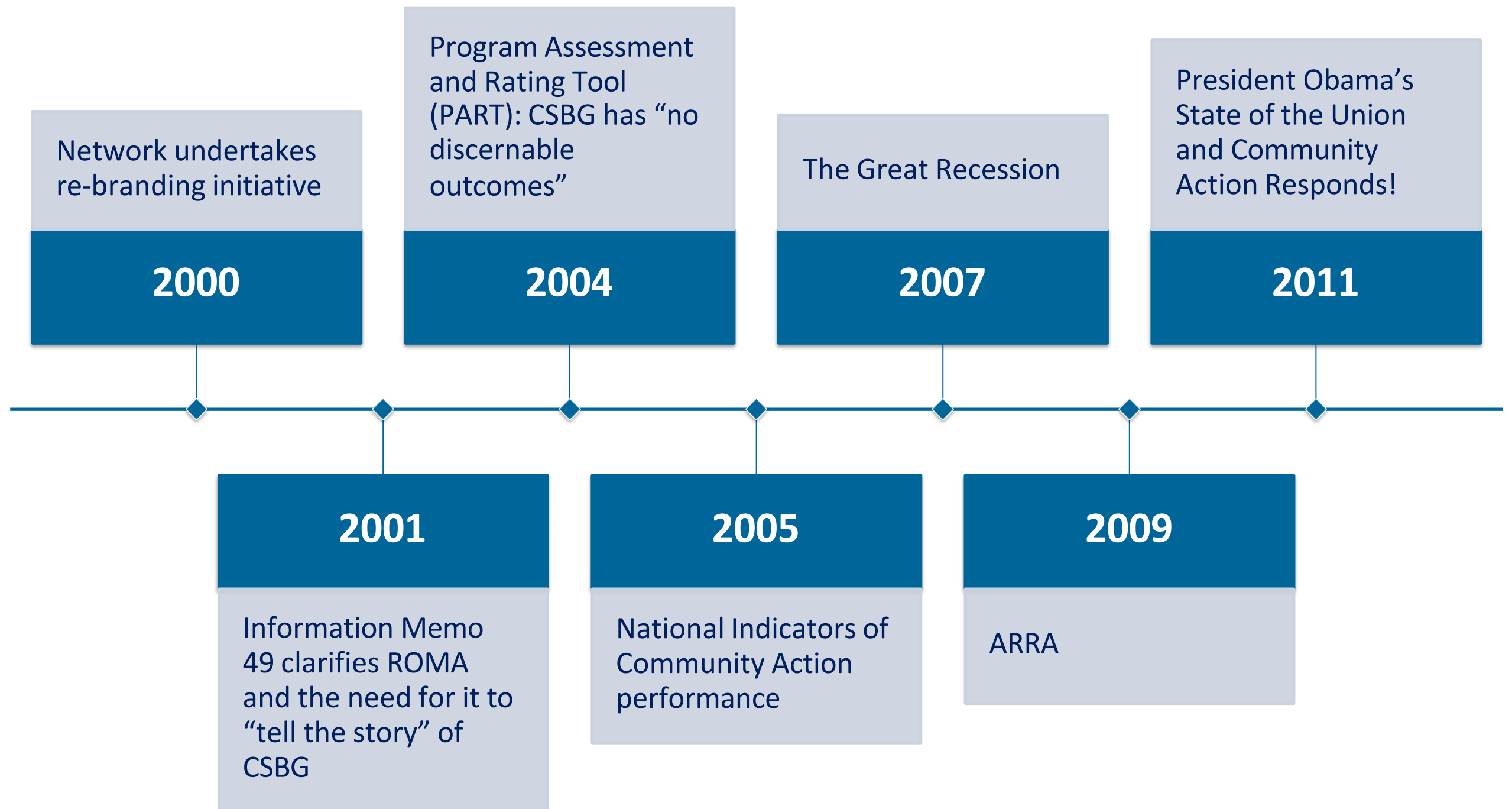
- The MATF included local CAA directors, state office staff, Association staff and others working in the field.
- The purpose of the task force was to find ways to talk about the work of CAAs.
- The MATF produced the Six National Goals

CSBG has been Reauthorized 5 Times

- 1984
- 1986
- 1990
- 1994
- 1998



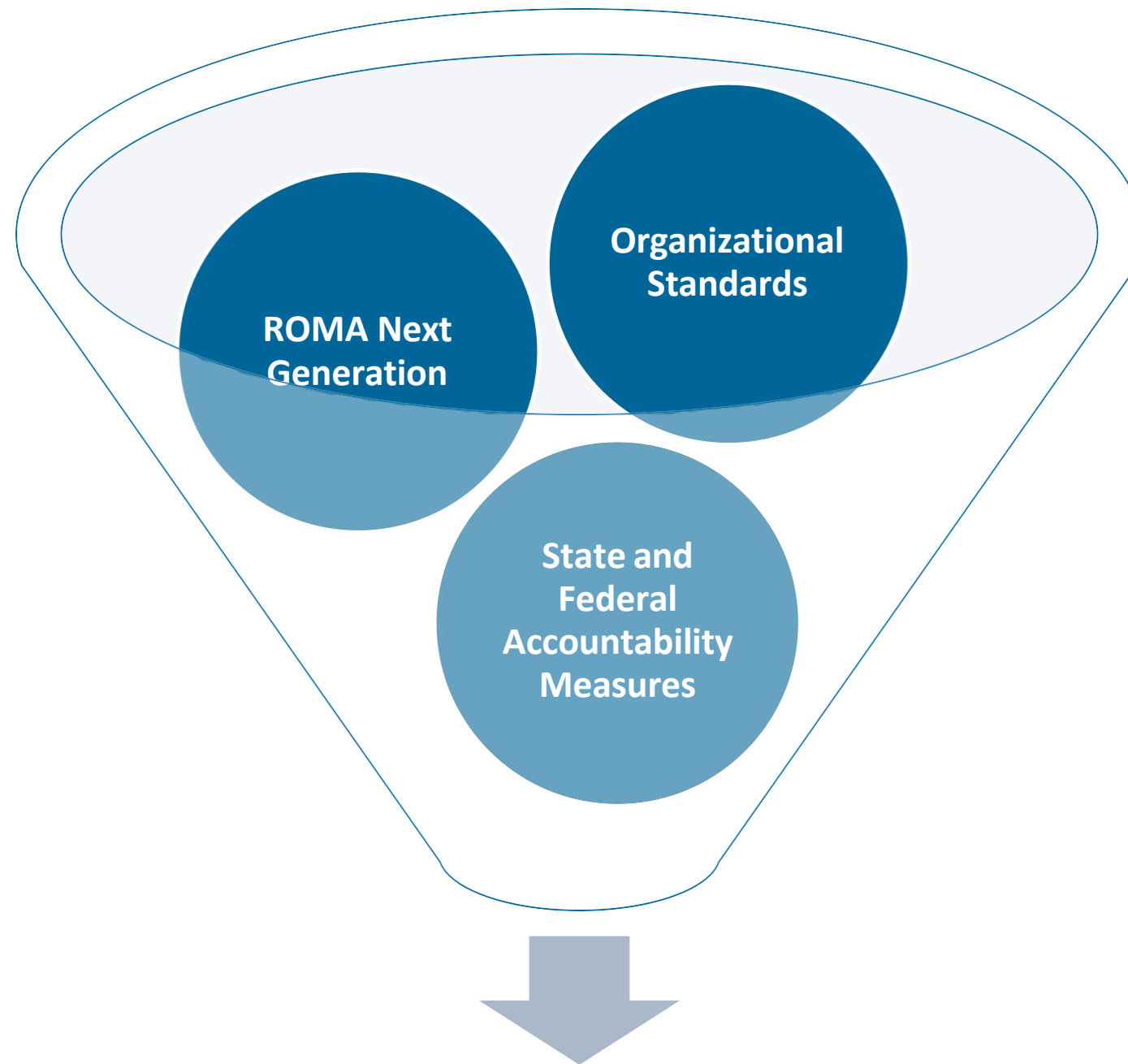
2000-2011



Results Oriented Management & Accountability



2012-2019 Modernized Community Action Performance Management and Measurement System



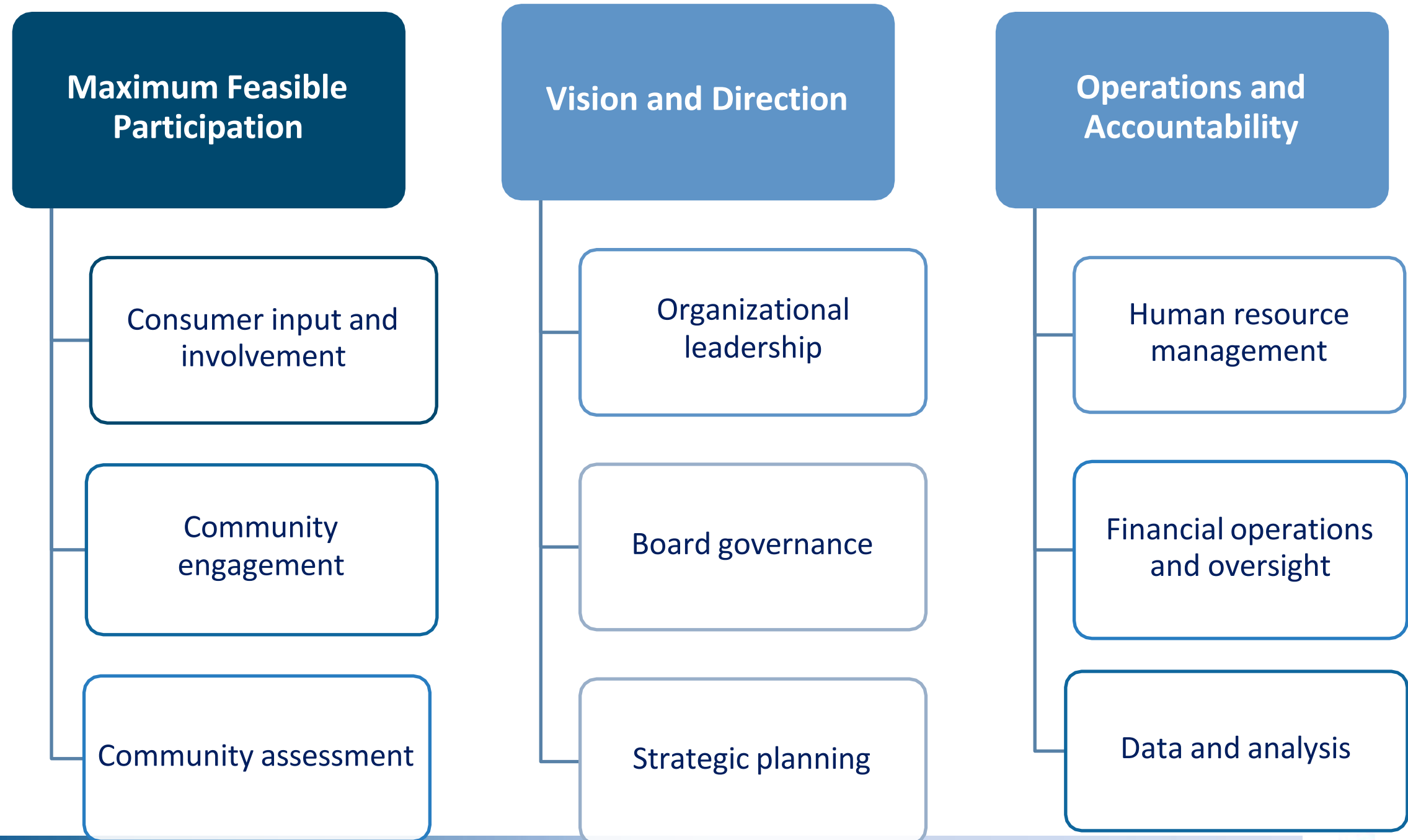
Updated CSBG Performance Management and Measurement Systems

ROMA (Next Generation)

- National Theory of Change and Support for local Theories of Change
- Renewal of necessity to work toward community change as well as individual and family outcomes
- Focus on improved data collection and analysis
 - New Annual Report
 - Increased use of data
 - National Theory of Change
- Integration of all phases of the ROMA Cycle

CSBG Organizational Standards

Organized into three thematic groups



The National Community Action Network Theory of Change

Community Action Goals

Goal 1: Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security.

Goal 2: Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunity.

Goal 3: People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.



Services and Strategies

Employment



Education & Cognitive Development



Income, Infrastructure & Asset Building



Housing

Health/Social Behavioral Development



Civic Engagement & Community Involvement



Core Principles

- Recognize the complexity of the issues of poverty
- Build local solutions specific to local needs
- Support family stability as a foundation for economic security
- Advocate for systemic change
- Pursue positive individual, family, and community level change
- Maximize involvement of people with low incomes
- Engage local community partners and citizens in solutions
- Leverage state, federal, and community resources

Performance Management

How well does the network operate?



- Local Organizational Standards
- State and Federal Accountability Measures
- Results Oriented Management and Accountability System

What difference does the network make?



- Individual and Family National Performance Indicators
- Community National Performance Indicators

A national network of over 1,000 high performing Community Action Agencies, State Associations, State offices, and Federal partners supported by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) to mobilize communities to fight poverty.

2020 – Community Action Responds to the COVID-19 Pandemic

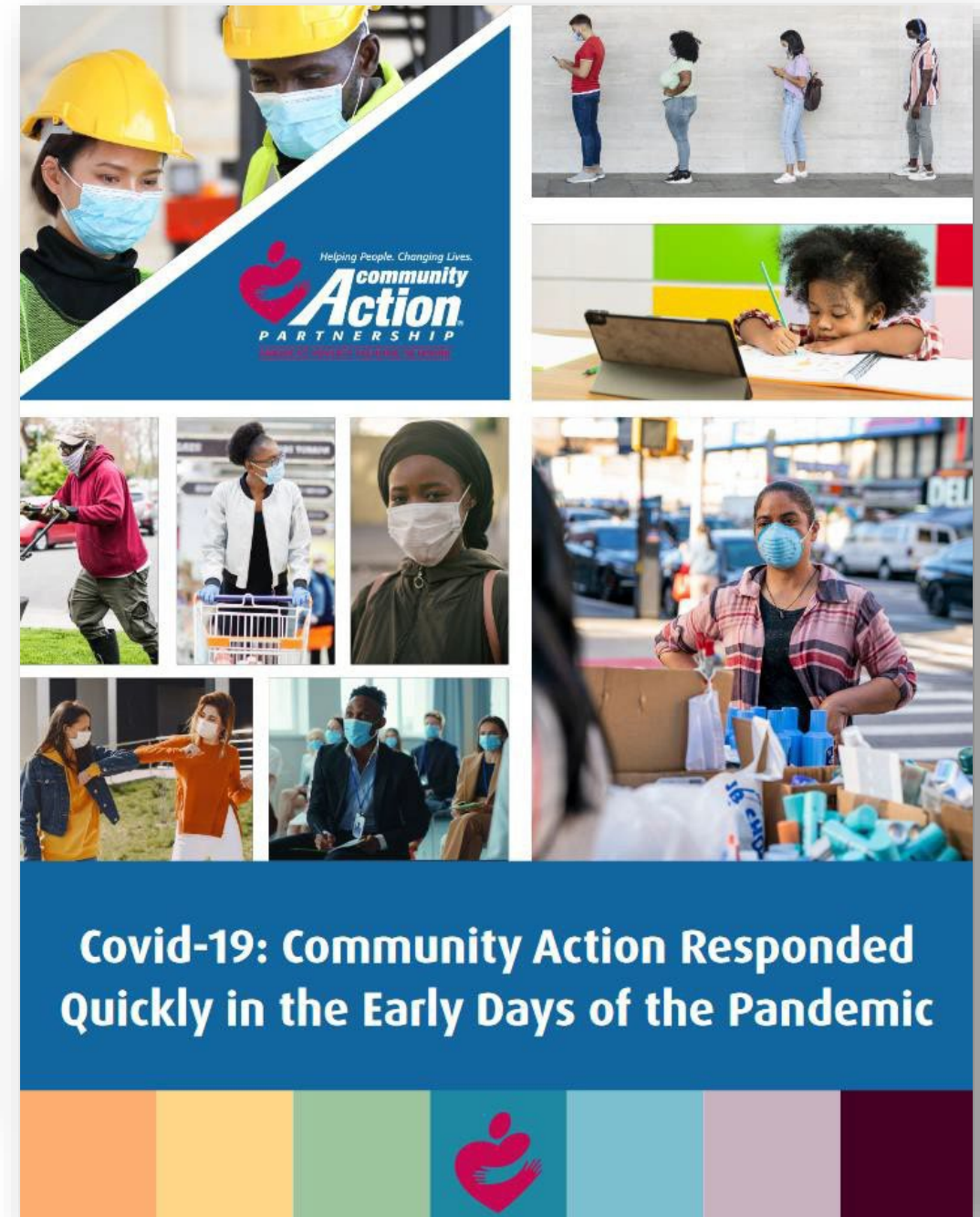


Community Action & COVID-19

RESPONSE	RECOVERY	RESILIENCY
• Safety of staff & customers secured • Needs assessed • Continuity of services arranged • Emergency services expanded • New services created • Coordination with partners enhanced • New funding secured	• Community needs monitored • Workplace safety procedures implemented • Access to emergency services ensured -Food -Housing -Utilities • Staff connected to customers via technology & internet -Virtual applications -Virtual Services -Virtual Case Management	• Individuals return to work • Economic growth • Social & economic mobility accelerated • Health & Well-being Improved • Transformed Systems and Policies • Equity • Apply learning • ??? 

Readiness-Rapid Response-Recovery-Resilience

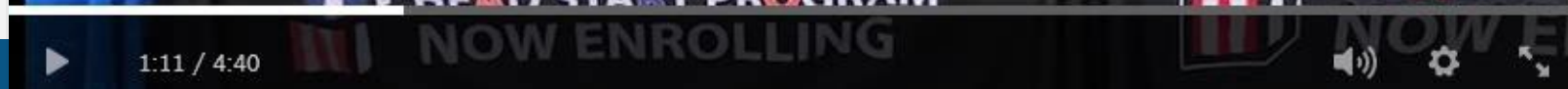
READINESS
RAPID RESPONSE
RECOVERY
RESILIENCE



COMMUNITY ACTION RESPONDS TO COVID-19



Good Job Community Action!



Readiness to Resilience: The Community Action COVID-19 Story

This report from NCAP shares snapshots from over 130 Community Action Agencies across the Network as they responded to COVID-19. Read to learn how your peers tackled the challenges of the pandemic using innovative new approaches.

- [Digital Version](#)
- [Spanish Digital Version](#)
- [Print Version](#)



Local, State, and National Network

Local Community Action Agencies

State Associations

State Offices

National Partners

Federal Funders

State Associations

- State membership organizations
- Many Roles:
 - Training and Technical Assistance
 - Advocacy
 - Communication and Information Dissemination
 - Building / Strengthening the Community Action Network
 - Leadership Development
 - Leveraging Influence and Funding
 - Association Management



State Offices

- State CSBG Office
 - Responsible for statewide administration of CSBG
 - CSBG Funding
 - CSBG Policy
 - CSBG Annual Reporting
 - CSBG Monitoring
 - CSBG Organizational Standards

Other State Offices

WAP, LIHEAP, TANF, Child Care, Head Start Collaboration Office

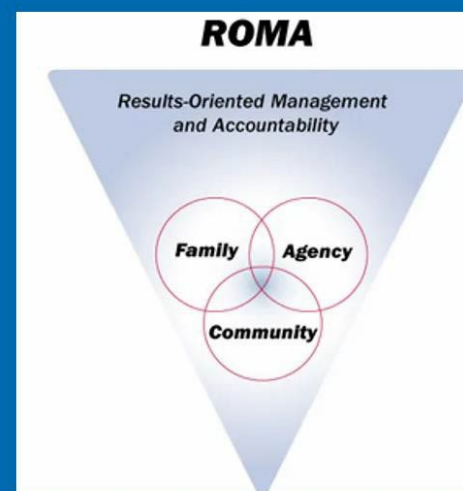


OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



ASSOCIATION OF NATIONALLY CERTIFIED ROMA TRAINERS & IMPLEMENTERS



National Association for State
Community Services Programs

Community Action Program Legal Services

CAPLAW

- Lawyers on Staff
- News Alerts
- Annual Conference (June)
- Webinars
- Toolkits and Resources
- Allison Ma'luf, Esq.
Executive Director



National Community Action Foundation

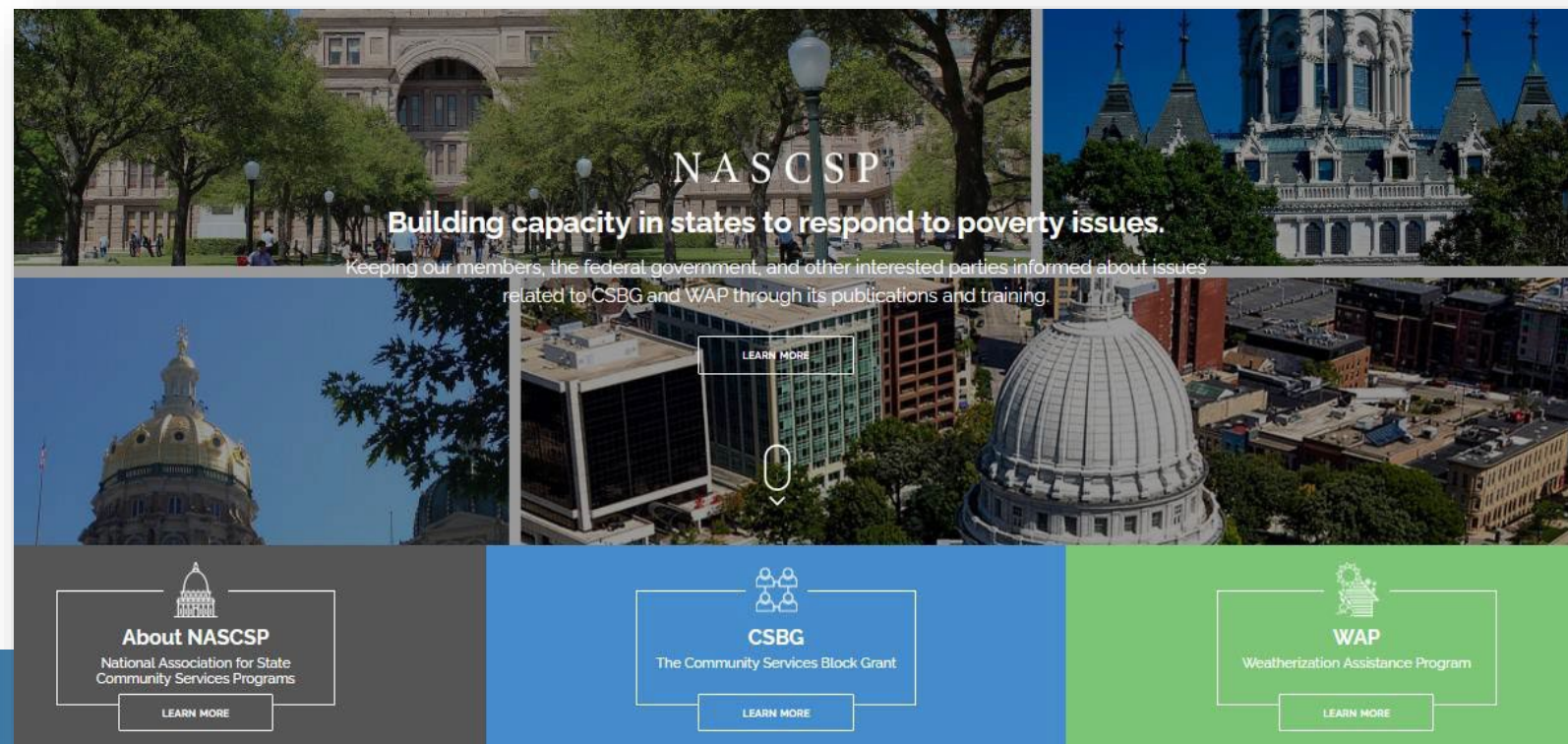
NCAF

- David Bradley, CCAP
- Legislative Action
- Our Lobbyist
- Hill Visits
- CSBG Reauthorization
- Annual Legislative Conference



National Association for State Community Services Programs NASCSP

- State CSBG Offices
- State Weatherization Offices
- CSBG Annual Report
- Conferences
- Webinars
- Cheryl Williams,
Executive Director



Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers and Implementers

- Certification of ROMA Trainers and implementers
- ROMA In-services
- Regional Planning
- Online Modules
- Barbara Mooney, Ed.D.,
Director



Federal Office of Community Services

OCS

- HHS-ACF-OCS
 - CSBG
 - LIHEAP and LIWAP
 - SSBG
 - CED
- CSBG/Community Services Block Grant
 - Flows to state CSBG Offices
- Monitors States, Issues IM/Dear Colleague Letters
- Corine Frank, Interim OCS Director
- Cheryl Zuni, Interim Director, Division of Community Assistance



Role of Other Key Partners

- RPICs/State Associations
- DOE
- Office of Head Start
- HUD
- Lux
- NHSA
- APHSA



National Community Action Partnership

NCAP or Partnership

Connecting, Supporting, and Leveraging the Expertise of the Nation's 1000+ CAAs

- Tools and Resources Specifically for Community Action
- Learning Cohorts/Communities of Practice
- Public Policy Platform
- Weekly eNews
- Weekly Webinars
- Conferences, Convenings, and Events
- Community Action Month
- Custom Training and Technical Assistance

National Community Action Partnership

NCAP or Partnership

- Customized Training & Technical Assistance
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Practice Transformation
- Whole Family Approach
- Public Policy & Advocacy
- Energy/Weatherization
- Leadership Development
- New ED/CEO Training
- Strategic planning
- Board and Staff Training
- Branding Support
- Special Convenings
- CSBG Org Standards
- Performance Management
- Online Tools: Needs Assessment, Risk Assessment, Organizational Resilience, Community Action Academy

Mission Statement

The mission of the Community Action Partnership is to ensure the causes and conditions of poverty are effectively addressed and to strengthen, promote, represent, and serve the Community Action Network.



Vision Statement

The vision of the Community Action Partnership is a nation that creates opportunities for all people to thrive, builds strong, resilient communities, and ensures a more equitable society.

Value Statements



We believe all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender, and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.



We believe that this nation has the capacity and moral obligation to ensure that no one is forced to endure the hardships of poverty.



We believe that with hope, adequate resources and opportunities, everyone can reach their fullest potential, and we are committed to achieving that vision.



We pledge ourselves to creating an environment that pursues innovation and excellence through multi-sector partnership and collaboration.

Equity • Respect • Commitment • Excellence • Hope
Community • Caring • Innovation • Opportunity

National Community Action Partnership's Equity and Economic Mobility Commission



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
EQUITY & ECONOMIC MOBILITY COMMISSION
Approved by the Board of Directors: April 15, 2020

To advise the Community Action Partnership Board of Directors on issues and actions related to equity and advocate on behalf of the Community Action Network in order to promote the role of Community Action in addressing historical and widespread inequity, economic and otherwise, in our communities—especially communities of color. The values of the charter are central to the values and vision of Community Action.



Other NCAP Commissions

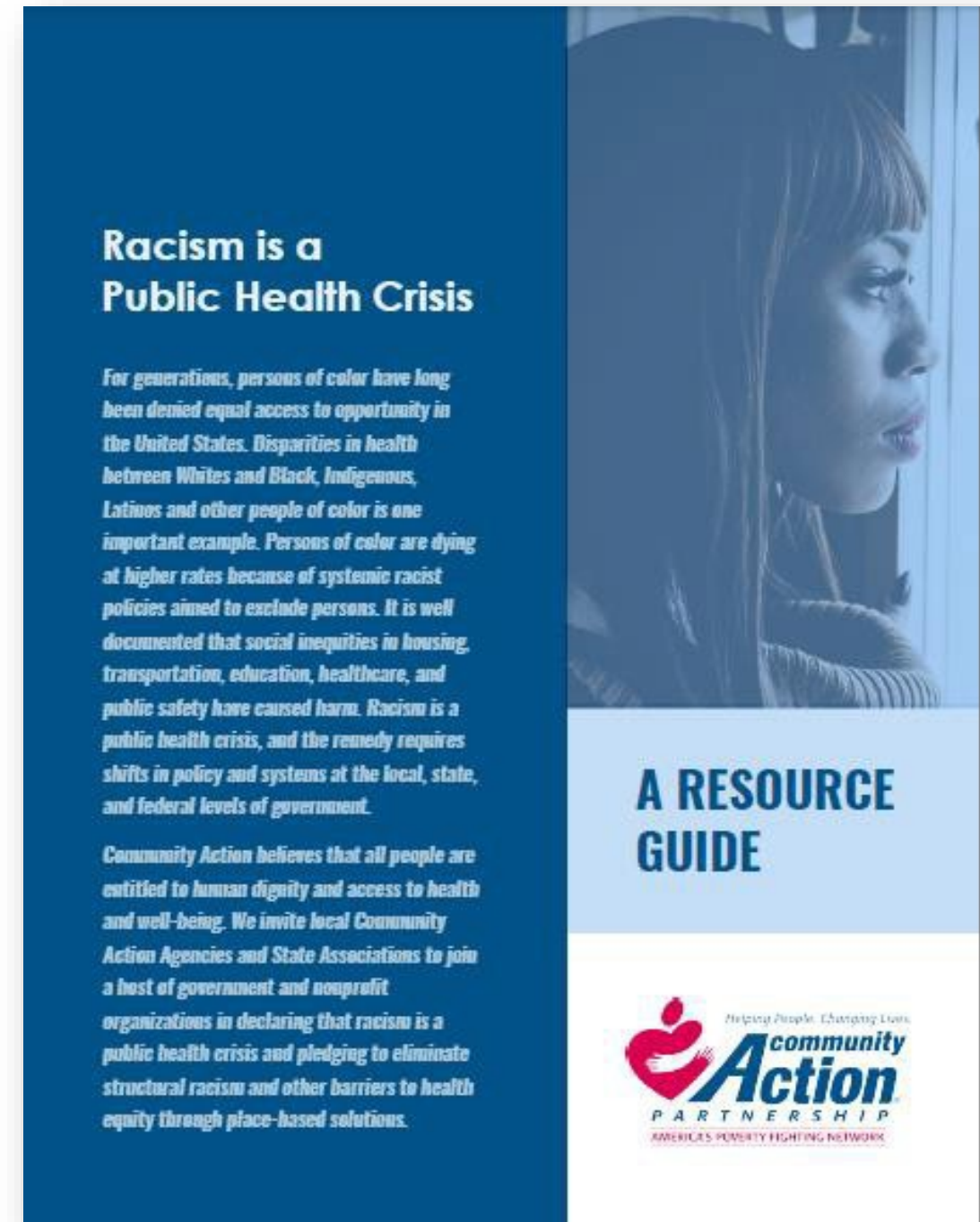
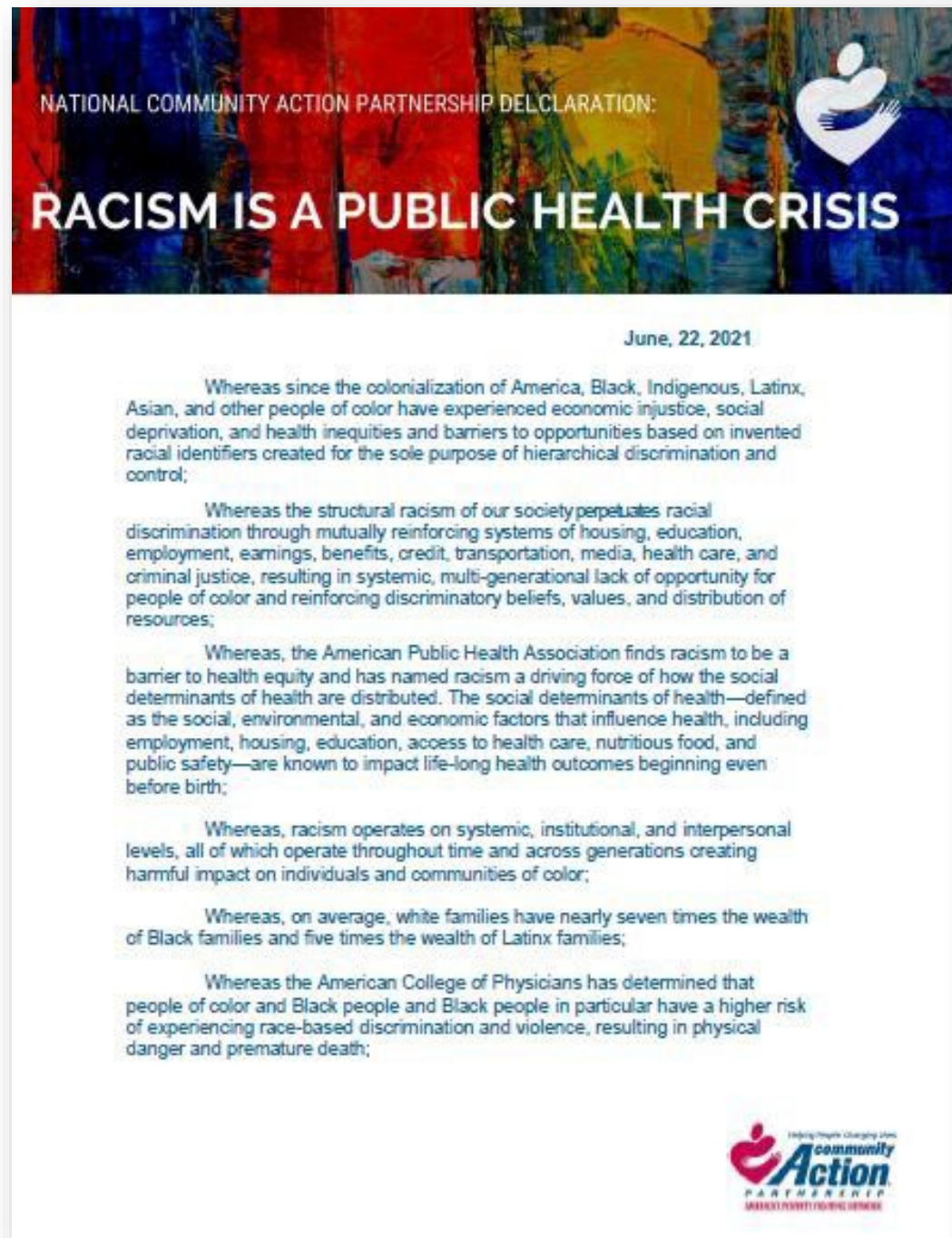
NCAP Head Start
Task Force

Climate Change/
Energy
Partnerships
Task Force

Excellence
Commission

CCAP Commission

NCAP Declaration: Racism is Public Health Crisis



https://communityactionpartnership.com/publication_toolkit/community-action-declares-racism-public-health-crisis/



#WeR1000Strong

#CommunityActionWorks



Community Action Code of Ethics

We, as Community Action professionals, dedicate ourselves to eliminating poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training; the opportunity for work; and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity; and with respect for cultural diversity, commit ourselves to:

Remain Focused on Mission

Recognize the chief function of the Community Action movement at all times is to serve the best interests of people with lower incomes which, in turn, serves the best interests of the entire community. Seek to empower people and revitalize communities. Engage in activities that move us closer to mission achievement and further our positive outcomes.

Be Outspoken Advocates and Educators

Actively inform the community and decision-makers about issues affecting those with lower-incomes. Courageously confront and dismantle myths about social and economic inequality. Participate in promoting policies that support social and economic mobility, which reinforce the values of an equitable society.



Community Action Code of Ethics

Inspire Confidence and Trust in the Community Action Movement

Lead and serve with professional competence and be up to date on emerging issues in our field. Practice the highest standards of personal integrity, confidentiality, respect, honesty, and fortitude in all we say and do. Bravely confront any behavior or practice that could erode public trust in Community Action or disregard the struggle of people living with low incomes.



Practice Service Above Self

Acknowledge service to the mission, vision and collective values of Community Action is beyond service to oneself. Avoid real and perceived conflicts of interest and ensure undue personal gain is not realized from the performance of professional duties.

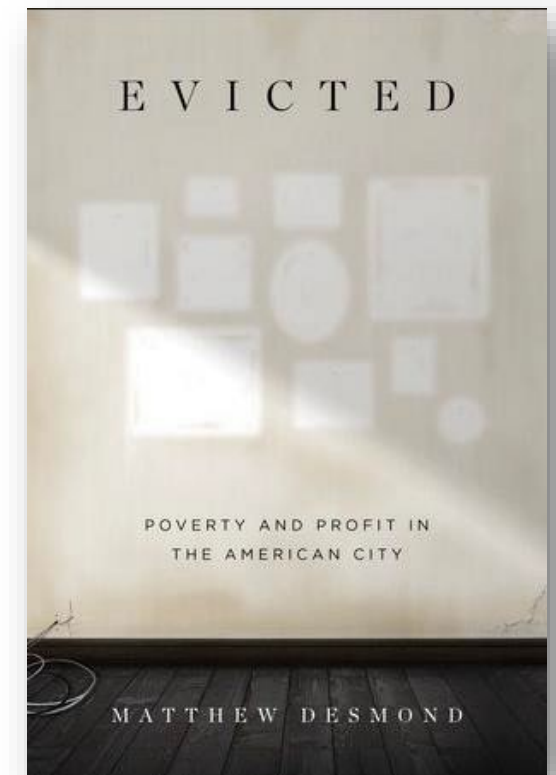
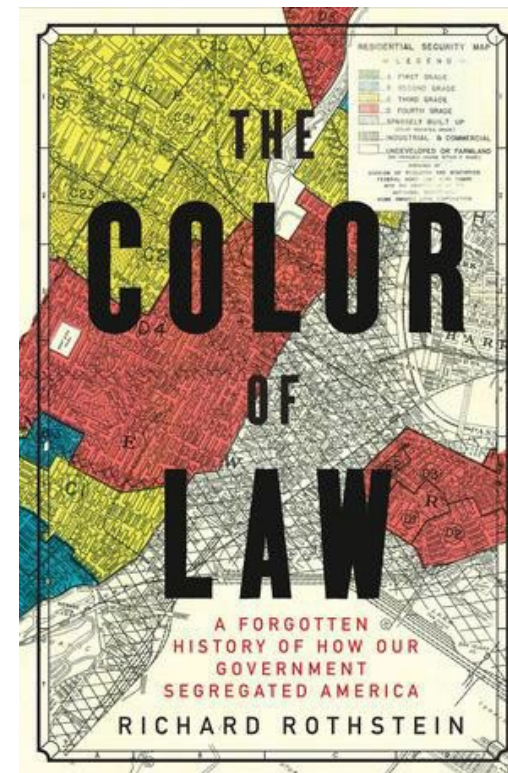
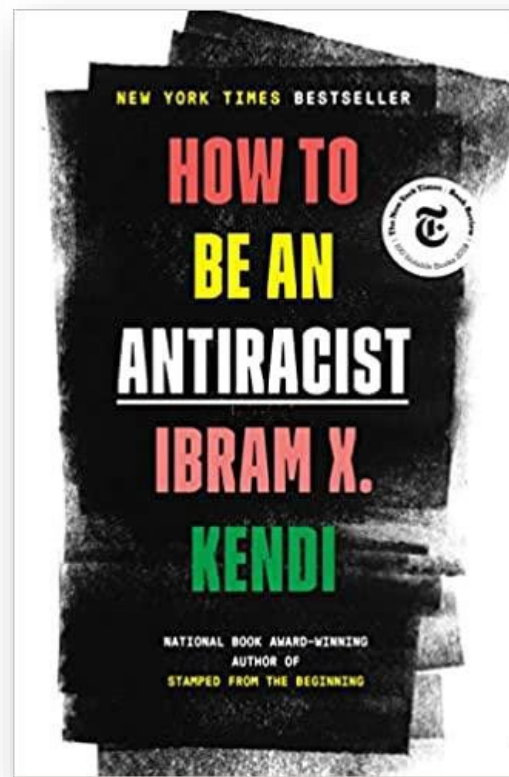
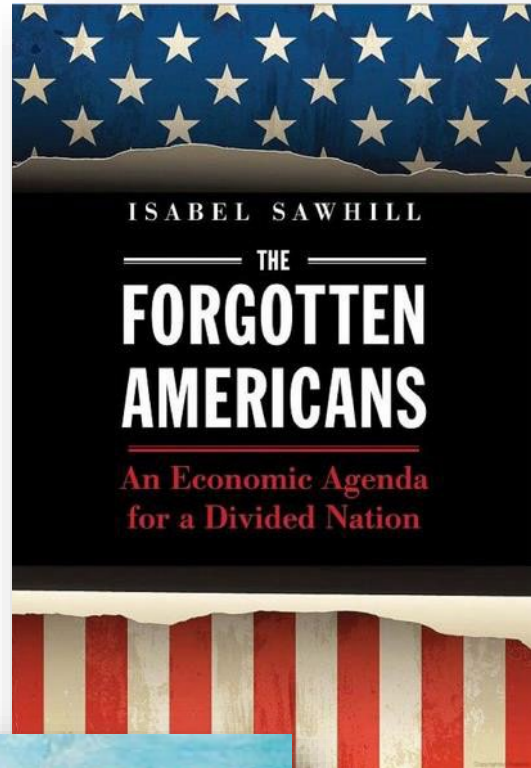
Community Action Code of Ethics

Be Leaders, Support Leaders, and Create Leaders

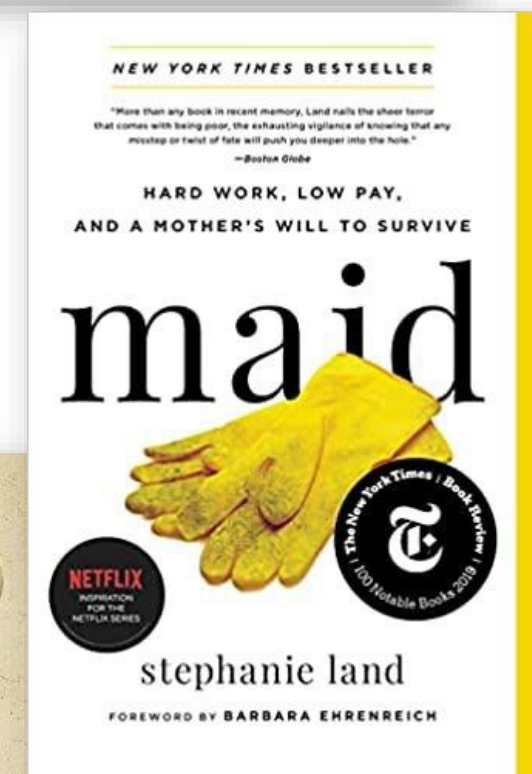
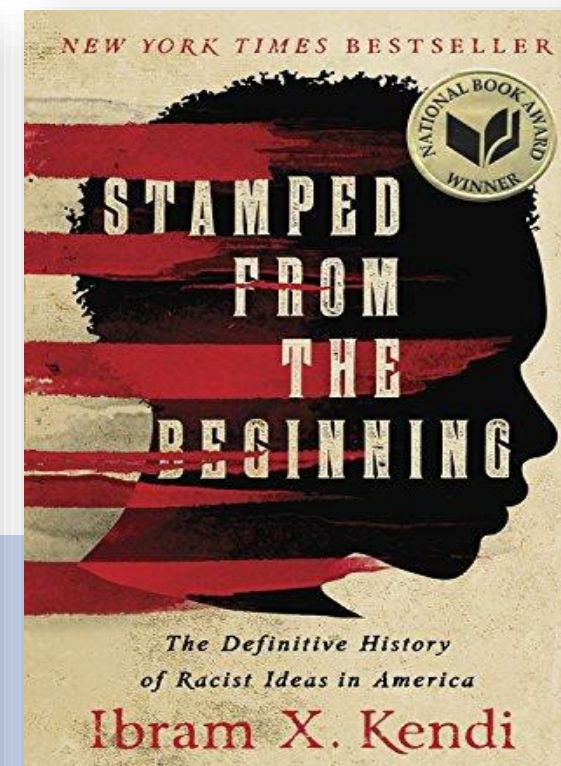
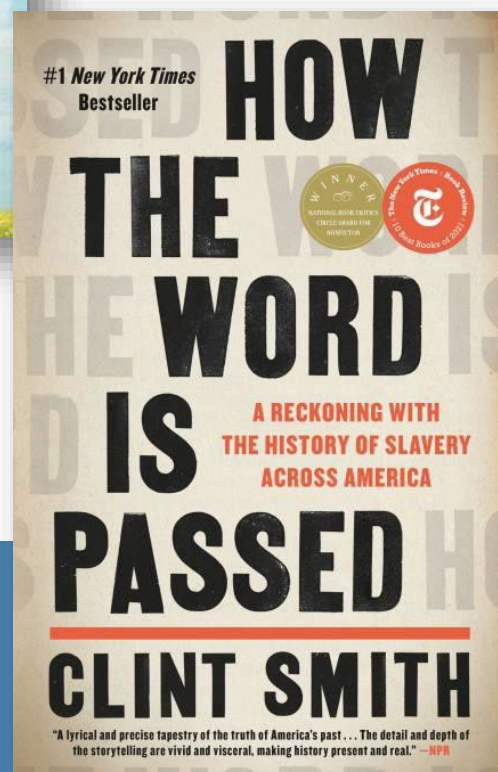
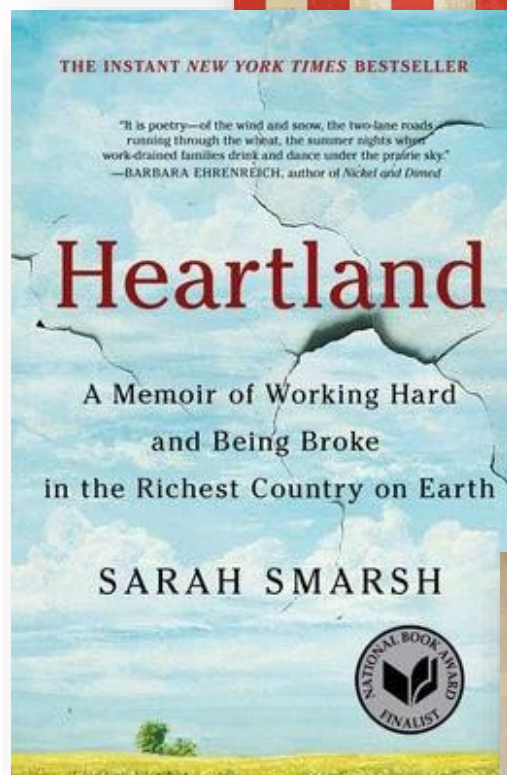
Actively engage people with low incomes in realizing and developing their own leadership skills. Respect and support other leaders, particularly the Community Action board of directors, by providing facts and advice as a basis for policy decisions and upholding and dutifully implementing policies adopted by the board. Personally practice open-mindedness, effective communication, inclusiveness, and self-care. Encourage and facilitate the professional and personal development of associates.

Strive for Performance Excellence

Habitually opt for moving beyond mere compliance. Exercise our influence to inspire excellence through implementation of best practices, maximizing efficiencies, practicing innovation, providing outstanding, trauma-informed customer service, and honestly and robustly evaluating the outcomes of our work.



Books To Build Your Toolbox



The Voting Rights Act and the War on Poverty

- Both initiatives were championed by President Lyndon B. Johnson during the 1960s.
- The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 launched the War on Poverty, creating programs to reduce poverty and expand opportunity.
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 protected the right to vote by eliminating discriminatory barriers such as literacy tests and poll taxes.
- Together, these landmark efforts addressed both economic inequality and political exclusion, recognizing that poverty and lack of representation were closely connected.

How Voting Rights Supported Economic Opportunity

Political Power as a Tool for Economic Change

Civil Rights Inspired Anti-Poverty Action

- Civil rights leaders highlighted the connection between poverty and political exclusion.
- Public demonstrations and advocacy encouraged Congress to invest in anti-poverty programs.

Voting Rights Created Opportunity

- The Voting Rights Act enabled millions of Black Americans to participate fully in elections.
- Greater voter participation increased representation in local, state, and federal government.
- Expanded political participation helped influence policies affecting:
 - Education funding
 - Employment opportunities
 - Public investment in underserved communities

Communities Helping Shape Their Own Future

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 introduced the principle of "Maximum Feasible Participation."

This meant:

- Residents experiencing poverty were expected to help design, guide, and evaluate local anti-poverty programs.
- Community members became active participants rather than passive recipients of services.
- The approach helped develop civic leadership and increased engagement in local government.

Takeaway

The War on Poverty provided resources and opportunities.

The Voting Rights Act strengthened citizens' ability to influence public policy through voting and civic participation.

Together, these landmark laws expanded both economic opportunity and democratic participation, laying the foundation for many Community Action programs that continue today.

Questions?

