

COMMUNITY ACTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of Community Services (OCS) - Organizational Standards

Last month OCS released [Information Memorandum 138](#) (IM 138) on organizational standards for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) eligible entities. The Community Action Partnership (CAP) held a webinar January 30, 2015, to discuss IM 138 and provide some resources. If you missed it, the [webinar](#) is posted online.

CAP Hires Director of Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA)

Welcome [Jarle Crocker](#), Ph.D., Director of T&TA. He has over 12 years of experience managing T&TA to public agencies and nonprofits and has worked with Community Action Agencies in a consultative role. His expertise includes strategic planning, performance measurement, community involvement, systems reform, financing strategies, and the design of public policy consensus-building processes.

CAP Convention: Call for Presentations

The 2015 Annual Convention will be August 25-28 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. CAP is looking for best practices or innovative program models for presentations to share with the network. [Submit your proposal](#) by April 10, 2015.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - Report

The LIHEAP Clearinghouse issued a report, [Renewable Energy and LIHEAP: Solar Projects Target Energy Burdens](#). The report covers two examples of how LIHEAP is integrated with renewable energy.

Report on Head Start Grantees School Readiness Goals

The report, [How Head Start Grantees Set and Use School Readiness Goals](#), shows how grantees are responding to the requirements of setting school readiness goals, collecting and analyzing data to track progress, and using data in program planning and improvement.

Visit the TACAA website for [State and Regional Resources \(NEW!\)](#), [National Resources](#), other [calendar items](#) and [employment opportunities](#).

COMMUNITY ACTION EVENTS

CAPLAW Webinar Series: *Ins and Outs of Indirect Costs under the Super Circular*

CAPLAW hosts a 4-part webinar series providing an in-depth review of how Community Action Agencies (CAAs) handle indirect costs. This series is for financial directors and managers, executive directors and programs directors experienced in working with and applying the current federal grant requirements governing indirect costs.

Will the 10% De Minimis Indirect Cost Rate Work for Our CAA?

February 18, 2015, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time

Learn which organizations may receive the 10% de minimis rate and what “indirect costs” will be covered with this rate. This webinar discusses how to calculate an actual indirect cost rate using the Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) method and explores strategies for addressing actual indirect costs that are higher or lower than the 10% de minimis rate. Register [online](#).

What is the Best Option for Calculating Our CAA’s Indirect Cost Rate?

February 25, 2015, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time

The Uniform Guidance continues the options for submitting proposals for federal indirect cost rates previously included in OMB Circular A-122. Learn how indirect cost rates are computed using the Simplified Allocation Method, Multiple Allocation Base Method, and Direct Allocation Methods and understand the pros and cons of utilizing the permissible choices for bases (total direct cost, salaries and wages, and total personnel costs). Register [online](#).

Mark your calendar for the last webinar. [Registration](#) should open shortly.

March 4: *Does Our CAA Effectively Estimate and Reconcile Indirect Costs?*

TACAA Board Meeting

February 19-20, 2015

The TACAA board of directors will meet at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin, TX. Visit the [TACAA website](#) for details. ***Agency memberships received by the beginning of the meeting will establish the 2015 TACAA Board of Directors.*** [The Austin City Council approved an ordinance banning hand-held cell phone use while driving inside city limits; fines of up to \\$500 will be assessed.](#)

NASCSP - 2015 Mid-Winter Training Conference

February 25-27, 2015, Arlington, VA

NASCSP will host its mid-winter [Training Conference](#) in Arlington, VA. Make your room reservation at the [Marriott Renaissance Arlington Capital View](#). [Register](#) for the conference by **February 20, 2015**.

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) - Legislative Conference

March 24-27, 2015, Washington, DC

NCAF has posted a [tentative schedule](#). [Reserve](#) your room at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. Register [online](#).

2015 TACAA Conference

May 6-8, 2015, Austin, TX

TACAA will hold its annual conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin, TX. Visit the [TACAA website](#) for details. For an additional fee (~\$200), weatherization staff will have the opportunity to take the Lead Safe Refresher Course either Tuesday, May 5, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., or Wednesday, May 6, from 8:00 a.m.-noon; details to be announced. Make your [room reservation](#) by April 14, 2015, to get the group rate of \$108 for a single or double room.

CAPLAW National Training Conference

June 10-12, 2015, Portland, OR

Mark your calendar to attend CAPLAW's 2015 National Training Conference. Check the conference [webpage](#) for details as they become available.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (TDHCA) ANNOUNCEMENTS

The TDHCA Board will meet in Austin on **February 19, 2015**. [Agenda](#) items of interest:

Consent Agenda:

1:j) – Pages 131-134 – Presentation, discussion and possible action relating to PY 2015 CSBG, LIHEAP and WAP awards made to Cameron and Willacy Counties Community Projects, Inc.

1:k) – Pages 136-137 – Presentation, discussion and possible action on the award of PY 2014 CSBG Administrative and Discretionary funds.

1:l) – Pages 139-143 – Presentation, discussion and possible action relating to the use of PY 2015 CSBG Discretionary funds.

1:m) – Pages 145-147 – Presentation, discussion and possible authorization on the use of funds for the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless.

1:n) – Pages 149-151 – Presentation, discussion and possible authorization to identify a provider of CEAP and WAP in Cameron and Willacy counties.

Report Items:

5. – Pages 211-212 – Implementation of 2 CFR Part 200 (“the Omni Circular” or “Super Circular”) relating to Single Audits.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) - New Case Management Rules

TDHCA revised the [Subrecipient performance rules](#), which includes new requirements related to Case Management. TDHCA has produced [training videos](#) and new [forms](#) to meet the requirements. Subrecipients can use these forms or create their own as long as all of the information is included. Subrecipient staff should complete the entire video series by February 27, 2015. Submit questions on the training or materials through [Wufoo](#). TDHCA conducted an initial conference call with the network on February 9, 2015. A follow up call will be held March 3, 2015, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Central Time, to answer questions and get feedback. Contact [Laura Saintey](#) at (512) 475-3854 or [Rita Gonzales-Garza](#) at (512) 475-3905 with questions.

TEXAS AND FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

From the [Texas Register](#) 02/13/2015

TWC adopts amendments to TAC Title 40, Social Services and Assistance, Part 20, TWC, Chapter 809, Child Care Services, Subchapters A, General Provisions, Subchapter B, General Management and Subchapter G, Texas Rising Star Program. Effective date: February 16, 2015.

Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)

From the [Texas Register](#) 02/13/2015

The PUC will hold a workshop regarding the status of the System Benefit Fund on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. (CST) in the Commissioners Hearing Room, 7th floor, William B. Travis Building, 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Project 21187, *System Benefit Fund Administration*, has been established for the proceeding. The purpose of the workshop is to clarify the PUC's Legislative Appropriation Request.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS) - Head Start and Early Head Start

From the [Federal Register](#) 02/04/2015

OHS is proposing to renew without changes authority to collect information pursuant to 45 CFR part 1301. The provisions specify the requirements for grantee agencies for insurance and bonding, the submission of audits, matching of federal funds, accounting systems certifications and other provisions applicable to personnel management. Submit comments by April 5, 2015.

U.S. Postal Service (USPS) - New Standards for Domestic Mail

From the [Federal Register](#) 02/05/2015

This proposed rule contains revisions to Mailing Standards to implement price adjustments. Submit comments by March 9, 2015.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - Section 8 Tenant-Based and Project Based Voucher Programs

From the [Federal Register](#) 02/09/2015

HUD announces Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Adjustment Factors for adjustment of contract rents on assistance contract anniversaries. The effective date is February 9, 2015.

HHS, ACF - Head Start

From the [Federal Register](#) 02/10/2015

This rule will ensure the neediest children and families in our country benefit from Head Start services first. These changes clarify Head Start's eligibility procedures and enrollment requirements, and reinforce Head Start's overall mission to support low-income families and early learning. This final rule becomes effective March 12, 2015.

HUD - Section 8 Rental Assistance Certificate Program

From the [Federal Register](#) 02/17/2015

This final rule removes from regulations obsolete references to the Section 8 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Certificate program (Certificate Program) because that program has been consolidated into the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. The effective date is March 19, 2015.

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

Under the SSVF program, VA awards grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives, who will coordinate or provide supportive services to very low-income Veteran families. More information is available [online](#).

Deadline: 3:00 p.m. Central Time, March 17, 2015.

TDHCA - Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program

TDHCA released the 2015 ESG NOFA and Application, available [online](#). An application webinar will be held **February 25, 2015**, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Central Time (details forthcoming). Submit questions through TDHCA's [website](#).

Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Central Time, March 26, 2015.

Home Depot Foundation - Community Impact Grants Program

This program supports nonprofit organizations using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their communities with grants of up to \$5,000. Priority is given to projects for veterans, including housing repairs, modifications, and weatherization work. View the full announcement [online](#).

Deadline: September 1, 2015.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phone Forum: *Good Governance Makes Sense for Exempt Organizations*

February 19, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time

This Internal Revenue Service (IRS) phone forum covers employment taxes for exempt organizations. Register [online](#).

Free Webinars: *Affordable Care Act 101 for Small Employers, Including Nonprofits*

February 19, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time (*English*)

February 24, 2015, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Central Time (*Spanish*)

February 26, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time (*English*)

March 5, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time (*English*)

March 10, 2015, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Central Time (*Spanish*)

The Small Business Administration and Small Business Majority will host a free Affordable Care Act 101 webinar so small business owners can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and how they can enroll in health insurance marketplaces. Select date above to register (note some are conducted in Spanish).

Conference Call: *Afterschool Meals Matter*

February 19, 2015, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time

Learn about strategies to make the transition from afterschool to summer meals as seamless as possible from sponsors who participate in both programs. Register [online](#).

Free Webinar: *Texas Financial Education Endowment (TFEE)*

February 19, 2015, 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Central Time

The Texas Department of Banking hosts this webinar about TFEE's Grant Program, which supports innovative consumer credit building activities and programs for youth and adults. Register [online](#).

Free WAP Webinar: *Zone Pressure Diagnostics*
February 20, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Central Time

This presentation will address the techniques, usefulness and real examples of this powerful building science method. Registration is limited. Participants are eligible to receive up to 1.5 BPI CEUs. Register [online](#).

Free Webinar: *SFSP 101 and How to Be a Summer Meals Champion*
February 24, 2015, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Central Time

This session will provide you with the latest resources, funding information, policy updates, technical guidance, best practices, highlights and success stories, best practices, and many other great tools. Register [online](#).

Free Webinar: *Advancing Career Pathways with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA)*
February 25, 2015, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Central Time

WIOA is the first update to the nation's core workforce training programs since the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Learn strategies for promoting individual prosperity and economic development through career pathway partnerships. Register [online](#).

Free Webinar: *Federal Income Taxes and Health Coverage 101*
February 25, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time

The 2015 tax season is the first time individuals and families will be asked for some basic information regarding their health coverage on their tax returns. Learn what consumers need to know when filing their taxes, the importance of Form 1095-A and the penalty for not having health insurance. To join by phone only, call (480) 297-0021 and enter Access Code 362-066-915. The pin number is the # key. Register [online](#).

Free Webinar: *Help Your Clients with Medicare to Stay Healthy*
February 26, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time

Medicare pays for a variety of preventive services, but many beneficiaries don't know which services are free and when they might have to pay. Understand what's covered and how to connect with chronic disease programs to help your clients manage their conditions. Register [online](#).

Free Webinar: *Avoiding Performance Perversity: When Incentives Lead to Deteriorating Services*
March 3, 2015, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Central Time

Systems are put in place to encourage high performance and meet organizational goals, but occasionally the opposite happens. Discuss how to support the development

of organizational systems that encourage desired behaviors and minimize the risk of unintended, negative behaviors. Register [online](#).

Management Development Program

[March 3-5, 2015](#), 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time, Arlington, TX

[March 9-11, 2015](#), 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time, Austin, TX

The Governor's Center's 3-day [program](#) is for managers at all levels who want to develop and/or enhance their understanding and practice of fundamental management principles. Tuition includes materials and refreshments and does not include lodging or meals. Register by selecting dates above.

Free Webinar: *WIOA: Expanding Opportunities for Low-Income and Out-of-School Youth*

March 5, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time

WIOA offers new opportunities to focus on the most vulnerable workers—low-income adults and youth who have limited skills, lack work experience, and face other barriers to economic success. Learn how you can maximize opportunities for low-income and out-of-school youth. Register [online](#).

Free Webinar: *Before You Hire an Architect: Reduce Costs and Risks, Produce Better Results*

March 11, 2015, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time

Before launching a facility project, boards and CEOs should have a clear sense of the entire process to maximize value while minimizing costs, risks and stress. This session will cover roles and responsibilities, strategy, planning, programming, budgeting, architect and contractor selection, and client-favorable contracts. Register [online](#).

Free Webinar: *Special Enrollment Periods and Resources for the Uninsured*

March 12, 2015, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time

The health care law has special enrollment periods under special circumstances such as graduating from college and losing health insurance, getting married and needing coverage for a spouse, losing employer insurance or turning 26. Learn more about special enrollment periods and how to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. To join by phone only, call (562) 247-8321 and enter Access Code 172-763-629. The pin number is the # key. Register [online](#).

Insights into the Financial Needs of Very Low-Income Consumers

The [National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions](#) released a report, [From Distrust to Inclusion: Insights into the Financial Lives of Very Low Income Consumers](#), highlighting research into the financial needs of households with less than \$20,000 in annual income.

IRS Releases the “Dirty Dozen” Tax Scams for 2015

This [annual list of tax scams](#) reminds taxpayers to use caution during tax season to protect themselves against a wide range of schemes ranging from identity theft to return preparer fraud.

Opportunities and Challenges in Evidence-based Social Policy

In this [article](#), the [Society for Research in Child Development](#) explores challenges facing the high-quality implementation of national evidence-based social programs and how can they be addressed.

Wipfli - 2015 Payroll Update

Wipfli provided this list of [updates and reminders](#) regarding payroll and a [2015 Tax Reference Guide](#).

Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers

If your agency does not have a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program, refer clients to the nearest site (by zip code) through the Internal Revenue Service’s (IRS) [directory](#) and inform clients [what to bring](#) with them.

New Data Expose Income Inequality, Overall Financial Insecurity

The [2015 Assets and Opportunity Scorecard](#) paints a picture of how residents are doing in their quest to achieve financial security and what states are doing to help get them there. The scorecard offers the most comprehensive look available at Americans’ ability to save and build wealth, stay out of poverty and create a more prosperous future.

TechSoup’s 5 Basic Things to Protect Privacy

With identity theft a rampant problem, TechSoup provides some basic ideas to protect online privacy in this [blog post](#).

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