

Welcome to the world of Community Action! Like many sectors of our society, Community Action has a lingo and acronyms to go with it. CAPLAW (Community Action Program Legal Services) has compiled a list that briefly defines the acronyms that those in Community Action may regularly encounter. The list is not exhaustive and you can find more at [www.capl原因.org](http://www.capl原因.org).

## A

**ACF**-“Administration for Children and Families” is a division of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). ACF’s mission is to promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, individuals and communities with leadership and resources for compassionate, effective delivery of human services. ACF administers numerous federal grant programs common to CAAs, such as Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Head Start, Community Economic Development (CED), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Social Services Block Grant Program (SSBG)

## C

**CAA**-“Community Action Agencies” are tax-exempt, nonprofit corporations or public entities funded by the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) via subgrants they receive from a state department designated by the state’s governor to facilitate the funding. To receive CSBG funding, an organization must maintain a specified board composition and be capable of providing a broad range of services designed to eliminate poverty and foster self-sufficiency.

**CAP**-Another term for Community Action Agency (CAA). The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 authorized the creation of and funding for the nationwide Community Action Program, which was composed of local Community Action Programs (CAPs) across the country. The Economic Opportunity Act also referred to the local CAPs as Community Action Agencies.

**CAPLAW**-“Community Action Program Legal Services” a tax-exempt, nonprofit membership corporation dedicated to providing the legal, governance, and management resources necessary to sustain and strength the national Community Action Agency (CAA) network.

**CDBG**-“Community Development Block Grant” program aims to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG is one of the longest-running programs administered by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**CFR**- “Code of Federal Regulations” is the codification of rules of the executive departments and agencies of the federal government.

**CNCS**- “Corporation for National and Community Service” is a federal agency that focuses on improving the lives of the American people through programs that foster volunteer opportunities and service by fellow Americans. CNCS administers multiple federal programs such as AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund and the Volunteer Fund.

**COI**- “Conflict of Interest” is a situation in which there is a personal or financial interest that compromises or could compromise a person’s independence of judgment in exercising his or her responsibilities.

**CSBG**- “Community Services Block Grant” is a federal block grant administered by Office of Community Services (OCS) located within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). CSBG funds the operations of a state-administered network of tax-exempt nonprofit corporations and public entities designated as Community Action Agencies (CAA) to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. CSBG funding supports projects that provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health.

## D

**DEI-** Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP) understands that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are critical to the work of Community Action Agencies to effectively address the issues of poverty.

**DHCD-** State agency in Maryland that offers programs and financing solutions to our network to help families, businesses and communities throughout Maryland. They are the funder for CSBG in the state of Maryland.

**DOE-** “U.S. Department of Energy” is a federal agency that addresses energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. DOE administers several federal grant programs, including the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

**DOL-** “U.S. Department of Labor” is a federal agency responsible for enforcing a variety of federal labor and employment laws such as the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), Davis-Bacon Act, and Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act). DOL also administers several grant programs including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS).

## **E**

**EEOC-** “U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission” is the federal agency responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person’s race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information.

**EOA-** “Economic Opportunity Act of 1964” initially authorized the federal funding of Community Action Agencies (CAA) as a part of Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty. The Act was repealed in 1981 and replaced by the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act.

## **G**

**GPRA-** The Government Performance and Results Act mandated that all federally funded programs be able to establish performance goals and measure results.

## **H**

**HHS-** “U. S. Department of Health and Human Services” is federal agency that administers programs aimed at protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services through grant programs such as the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Head Start, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

**HUD-** “U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development” is a federal agency that administers programs aimed at creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) which funds Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO).

## **I**

**IM-** Information Memorandum provides guidance to assist in implementing the CSBG legislation, program instruction and policy clarification, in addition to disseminating information and program practices to stakeholders.

## **L**

**LIHEAP-** “Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program” is a federal block grant program administered by the federal Office of Community Services (OCS). LIHEAP assists eligible low-income households with heating and cooling energy costs, bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance, weatherization and energy-related home repairs.

## M

**MATF-** 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, consultants 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, and other materials including the framework for family, agency and community scales.

## N

**NASCSP-** “National Association for State Community Services Programs” is a national membership association that advocates and enhances the leadership role of states in preventing and reducing poverty through its publications and training. NASCSP members mainly consist of state offices that facilitate Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding.

**NCAF-**“National Community Action Foundation” is a non-profit organization that represents the funding and policy interests of Community Action Agencies (CAA) before Congress and the federal Executive Branch. NCAF is funded solely by private contributions.

**NPIs-**National Performance Indicators are a set of outcome statements that are to be quantified by each agency that is reporting. The NPIs produce data regarding the number of individuals served and the number achieving outcomes. The time frame is the program year. Therefore, the NPIs use the same formula as identified for the creation of an agency’s own indicators

## O

**OCS-**“Office of Community Services” is located within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OCS administers a number of social service and community development federal grant programs, including the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).

**OHS-**“Office of Head Start” is located within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OHS administers funding authorized by the Head Start Act, oversees entities that provide Head Start services, issues federal policy direction, and provides a training and technical assistance (T/TA) system to assist Head Start recipients in providing comprehensive services to eligible young children and their families. Head Start funding is used to support preschool programs, which primarily serve 3- and 4-year old children, and Early Head Start programs for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.

**OMB-**“Office of Management and Budget” is a federal Executive Office that oversees the performance of federal agencies and administers the federal budget. In particular, OMB establishes government-wide grant management policies and guidelines which are typically adopted by each federal agency via regulations issued by that agency. In 2013, OMB finalized its comprehensive overhaul of federal grant administrative, cost accounting and audit policies guidance, titled the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

## P

**Partnership-**“National Community Action Partnership” is a national, tax-exempt, nonprofit membership corporation that provides technical assistance, training and other resources to the Community Action network. The resources provided by the Partnership enable the Community Action network to stay up-to-date on the latest best practices to fight poverty and empower low-income individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency.

## R

**ROMA**-“Results Oriented Management and Accountability” is 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.

**RPIC**-RPIC stands for Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium. This project is a collaboration of the State Associations within each region and is funded by the Office of Community Services (OCS) with funds to support T/TA efforts throughout the CSBG network.

## **T**

**TOC**- Theory of Change- The National Community Action Theory of Change is meant to articulate the beliefs and assumptions that guide the service delivery strategy of the national Community Action Network. It also provides a framework for the development of more agency and community specific local theories of change. The National Community Action TOC captures the essence of many conversations with people throughout the Network.

**T/TA**-“Training and Technical Assistance” is the planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of resources and activities designed to achieve specific learning objectives, resolve problems, and foster the application of innovative approaches.

## **U**

**UGG or UG**- “Uniform Grant Guidance” or “Uniform Guidance” is Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) comprehensive grant guidance titled the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards that establishes a government-wide grants management framework. The UG is generally codified at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and has been adopted by all federal agencies. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the one federal agency that recodified the UG in its entirety at 45 C.F.R. Part 75. The UG is intended to ease administrative burden and strengthen oversight over federal funds. In particular, the UG addresses topics relating to protecting and using federal funds such as procurement, property standards, financial management, monitoring, allowable costs (i.e., costs which may be paid for with federal funds) and audit requirements.

## **W**

**WAP**- “Weatherization Assistance Program” is a federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and aims to reduce energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety.

**WIOA**-“Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act” establishes a publicly funded workforce system, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS). WIOA aims to align workforce development, education, and economic development programs with regional economic development strategies to meet the needs of local and regional employers.