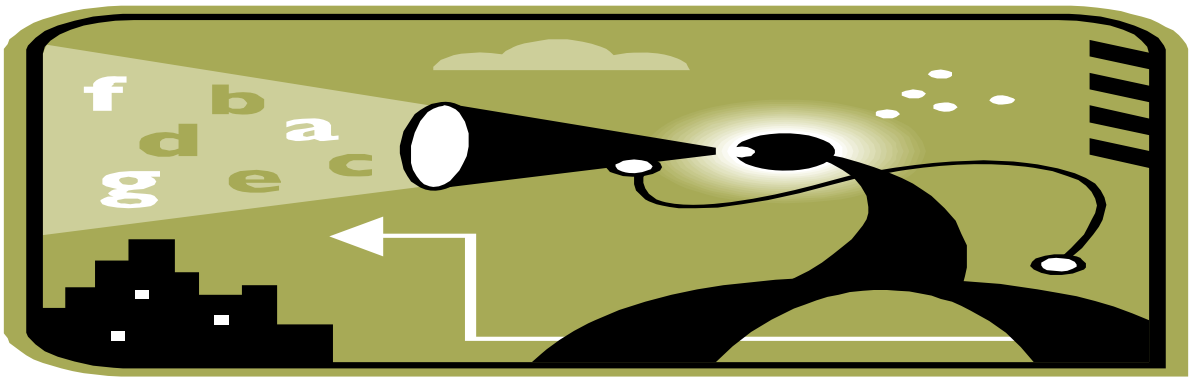


# Tell Me What's Happening!!

## Helping People, Changing Lives
## Iowa Community Action Association (ICAA) Newsletter
## For staff, board members and friends of ICAA
## October 31, 2008

### *Director's Comments*

Greetings to Staff, Board Members and Friends of Community Action,

It has been a very busy start to fall. Between the ICAA Board of Directors Retreat, candidate forums, the First Lady's Solutions to Poverty Conference, voter registrations events and the usual work of operating an association, ICAA has been full of activity.

This newsletter is full of opportunities and information. Please take a few moments to learn more about "What's Happening" with ICAA.

With the election being only days away, please allow me to take this moment to encourage each

of you to participate in democracy and to remind you to **vote on or before November 4, 2008**. No matter the outcome of the election, the community action network in Iowa and across the country will continue to be advocates for improving the lives of low income children and families. The issues many families have faced this past year will not go away because of the election. The barriers that have prevented them from reaching their fullest potential will continue to be at the forefront of our educational and advocacy efforts at the local, state and national levels.

Thanks,

Lana Ross

Executive Director
Iowa Community Action Association

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# SAVE The Date for …

*ICAA's 2009*
*Training Conference*
***Advocates for Today & Tomorrow***
*July 13th-15th, 2009*
*West Des Moines Marriott*

July 13 – 15, 2009 are the dates for the Annual ICAA Training Conference, *Advocates for Today and Tomorrow.* The planning committee has been working on securing workshop presenters and keynote speakers that will increase the skills and knowledge of staff members from within the community action network. Pull out those calendars and Blackberries and write it down: **JULY 13 – 15, 2009, ICAA Training Conference.**

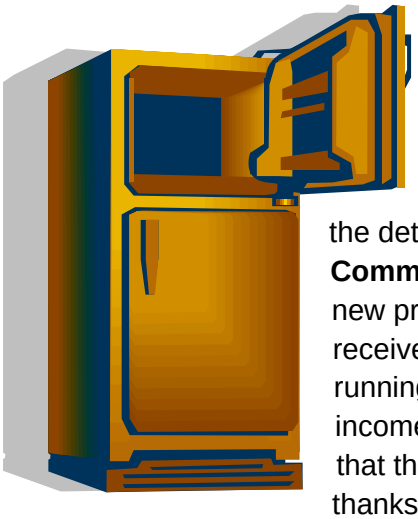
## EARLY CHILDHOOD HAPPENINGS:

Iowa Head Start Association is planning the fall training for Parent Leadership on November 7 – 9, 2008 at the West Des Moines Marriott. ICAA staff will be facilitating a training on advocacy and gathering information from Head Start parents about effective messaging.

## FADSS HAPPENINGS:

*Celebrating Twenty Years of Success! FaDSS and Families: The Winning Team Against Poverty* is the theme for this year's FaDSS Day on The Hill. January 13, 2009 is the date and the committee has a full schedule planned to celebrate twenty years of working with families. We have invited some special guests who were with FaDSS in the beginning to come and speak at the rally in the Capitol Rotunda that will be held immediately following Governor Culver's State of the State Address. All agencies will be asked to have a display table and invite current or past FaDSS families to come and share about the program. The day will end with cake in the cafeteria. You won't want to miss this very special celebration, so get out your calendars and mark **January 13, 2009, FaDSS Day on The Hill.** More information to come. See you there.

**The FaDSS Council** is scheduled to meet November 20, 2008 from 11:00 – 1:00 at the Johnston Public Library.



## *Energy happenings:*

Staff members from North Iowa Community Action Organization, Operation Threshold and HACAP have been working to complete the details for the **Interstate Power and Light, Alliant Energy and Iowa Community Action Flood Relief Energy Efficiency Program.** This is a new program designed to assist Alliant Energy electric customers to receive energy efficient appliances. The program should be up and running by November 1, 2008 and will serve any Alliant customer with an income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level with documentation that they have been affected by the flooding from this summer. A special thanks to Barb Grant, Dick Goerdt, Barb Kellogg and Mitch Finn for their help in getting the program going.

**LIHEAP season is here!** Local agencies have been working to prepare for what many expect to be a record breaking LIHEAP year. With energy costs being high and LIHEAP customers being more than $4.1 million behind in their utility bills, which is a 45% increase over last September, it is likely to be a busy.

A big **thank you** goes out to our own Senator Tom Harkin who supported language in the continuing resolution to increase Weatherization and LIHEAP funding. In Iowa, LIHEAP recipients will see an average annual payment of approximately $550 on their utility bills, which is an increase over last year's average, which was $307. Thank you Senator Harkin!

Staff, board members and supporters of Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Operation Threshold, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, and ICAA with Senator Tom Harkin during the National Community Action Foundation's Advocacy Training in March 2008. Our visit included conversations with Senator Harkin and staff about LIHEAP and Weatherization.

## What's Been Happening at ICAA?

- ICAA's executive director has been working with the First Lady's staff to develop a plan for the continued follow up from the Solutions to Poverty Conference.

- ICAA's executive director attended the National Community Action Foundation Energy Leveraging Conference in Florida. This conference was jammed packed with excellent workshops and speakers relating to Green Jobs to Improve the Economy, What to Expect Regarding Increased Weatherization Funding, How to Advocate at A Regulatory Commission and much more.

- Meetings with DHS staff and collaborators on the changes with the Wrap Around Grants

- Board meetings for Friends of Legal Services, Friends of Civil Rights, Iowa Credit Union Foundation, and Institute for Community Alliance

## What's Going to Happen at ICAA?

| | |
|---|---|
| November 3, 2008 | ICAA Board Meeting Conference Call |
| November 4, 2008 | Election Day |
| November 5 – 7, 2008 | Region VII Training with David Bradley |
| November 7 – 8, 2008 | Iowa Head Start Parent Leadership Conference |
| November 13, 2008 | Iowa Legislature Energy Efficiency Study Committee |
| November 17, 2008 | FaDSS Day on The Hill Planning Committee Meeting |
| November 18, 2008 | Legislative Event, Community Action Agency of Siouxland |
| November 20, 2008 | ICAA Executive Committee Conference Call |
| November 20, 2008 | FaDSS Council Meeting |
| November 21, 2008 | Division Community Action Agencies Commission Meeting |

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Iowa Community Action Association
602 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Phone: 515-283-4525
Fax: 515-237-1687