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PEOPLE ARE TRULY HURTING:

MYCAP received CARES funding for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance in the amount of \$1,300,000 in November and it was fully expended within about 30 days. That is not only a testament to the need in the community; but it's also a testament to the dedication of the MYCAP staff to serve the clients in need of assistance in a timely manner due to the economic impact of COVID-19. Funds were distributed as follows:

- 42 Families received mortgage assistance.
- 407 Families received rental assistance.
- 378 Families received assistance with water bills
- 7 Families were helped with security deposits and first month rent.



We're Grateful for Community Support and Recognition

As Ohioans continue to struggle with the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic; Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Ohio is lending a hand to the Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership (MYCAP) as it helps Youngstown families pay their rent, mortgage and energy bills during the coronavirus pandemic. Anthem has given the partnership a \$25,000 grant to bolster efforts to fight housing insecurity.

Threat of eviction and mounting unpaid bills are bad for mental health and can sometimes affect physical health as well. This grant will give 18 families in the Mahoning Valley the time they need to stabilize their finances while they recover from economic impacts of COVID. The nearly year-long economic distress of the pandemic left many local nonprofits with limited resources, making Anthem's contribution even more valuable to families in the Youngstown area.

Jamael Tito Brown, Mayor of Youngstown commented that "Housing is crucial for good health," "The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on housing security for thousands of Ohioans, and this grant from Anthem will go a long way in helping area families who need it most."

The grant is part of a more than \$2 million commitment that Anthem and its Foundation have made to support Ohio communities and nonprofit organizations on the front lines of the pandemic, including grants to the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Community Shelter Board, CHN Housing Network, and Star House Foundation.

"Addressing housing insecurity remains an ongoing focus for all of us at Anthem, and we are deeply committed to helping families in Youngstown and beyond recover from the pandemic," said Dr. Bradley Jackson, Medicaid Medical Director for Anthem in Ohio. "These are challenging times for everyone, including Black, Hispanic, and younger Ohioans, which the pandemic has had an especially harsh impact. It's up to all of us to get through this crisis together."

February is Black History Month

Dr. Carter Woodson, known as the Father of Black History, started the first Negro History Week in 1926 to ensure students would learn Black History. In his words "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history"

Children need to know where they come from in order to figure out where they're going.
 Celebrate, Observe and Teach Black History



OAACA WINTER CONFERENCE

The staff at MYCAP attended the Virtual Winter Conference, 2021 the week of January 25th through the 29th.

They presented timely and relevant information for the current environment. There is rightfully lots of emphasis on Mental Health and Emotional Health in view of all that has transpired in this country in the last few months. The pandemic did not cause some of these problems; but it has certainly exacerbated the problems.

Just a few of the sessions included were:

Worn Out: Supporting Those with Change Fatigue by Kristi deVries talked about the affects of stress and some tools for coping.

Domestic Violence Survivors, presented by Denise Kontas, Training Coordinator of Ohio Domestic Violence Network, who pointed out the rise in incidents of domestic violence due to increased tension as are victime are being locked down with their abusers due to the pandemic and where help is available.

Another very interesting session was Constitutional Law Review by Shawn Trende. This session focused on constitutional law as it relates to the incident at the Capital building; and the impeachment of Donald Trump. This session was very enlightening to those of us who think we know the Constitution.

What's Happening at MYCAP



The HEAP 2020-2021 Winter Crisis Program will end March 31, 2021. This program assists with a disconnection notice with your gas or electric or if you need to get service turned on or transferred. Assistance is also provided for Bulk Fuel customers who have a 25% or less supply of fuel oil, propane, wood or coal. To schedule an appointment please call 330-778-2992 and leave all requested information.

Senior Services will hold its monthly Healthy Huddle session on Wednesday, February 24th at 1:00 p.m. For more information call Crystal at 330 747-7921 ext. 1766.

Senior Services has also resumed transportation services and will be providing transportation for seniors who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

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KUDOS to all MYCAP staff who worked so diligently on making sure all customers were counted in the 2020 Census. MYCAP was recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau as an "invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program".



Please pass on the following information:

MYCAP has received additional funds for assistance with rent and mortgage and utility payments. Please call 330 747-7921 ext. 1177 for more information on applying and eligibility guidelines.

A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Mahoning County can take pride in the efforts and outcomes of The Mahoning County Community Action Partnership (MYCAP). As Chairperson of the MYCAP Board of Directors I have had and continue to have the opportunity and privilege to support the vision and mission of the agency. The MYCAP vision is a promise and commitment to the community to affect people's lives in a manner that reflects and demonstrates concern and commitment; while the agency's mission seeks to provide the type of services and supports that improve the quality of life and promotes self-sufficiency among those we serve.

As an example, in many instances, MYCAP has taken the lead in the community to provide food, and rental assistance to those persons in the county who have been most impacted by the economic effects of the pandemic.

One of my major roles as Board chairperson is to work closely with all Board members to create and sustain the conditions and opportunities for the Board to exercise its governance and supervisory functions in an effective, fair, and efficient manner. As a Board we strive to support MYCAP'S administrative leaders and other employees in their efforts to fulfill the vision and mission of the agency.

The Board also strives to educate the community as to the type of training programs and assistive services that MYCAP provides to its constituents. We feel that it is important for the public to know about the services we provide and to feel comfortable and welcome when they seek our assistance.

In closing I would like to thank the Board and the MYCAP employees for their tireless efforts, particularly during these difficult and challenging times. The CEO and her leadership staff in particular have elevated MYCAP'S credibility, stature, and value in the community.

Ben McGee
Board Chairperson