

Community Action Executive Director Earns National Certification as CCAP

Community Action, Inc. Executive Director Susan Wheatley was one of 69 anti-poverty advocates who recently received the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) credential from the national Community Action Partnership. The CCAP designation is earned



Executive Director
Susan Wheatley

after Community Action managers and leaders successfully complete a detailed assessment of their knowledge of poverty theories, causes, and remedies; ability to help low-income families achieve economic stability; and comprehension of the mission, vision and values of Community Action. To date, there are nearly 400 CCAPs across the country representing rural, urban, and suburban Community Action Agencies.

The CCAP program, established in 1993, provides individuals such as Wheatley with a coordinated method to validate their grasp of an extensive body of knowledge covering poverty and Community Action history, and highlight how they are helping low-income families achieve economic independence. In order to become a CCAP, Wheatley had to prepare a comprehensive record of her leadership and involvement in anti-poverty initiatives and Community Action on the local, state and national levels; develop a portfolio documenting her education and accomplishments, and pass a written exam.

“During these uncertain economic times, I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the causes and conditions of poverty in order to enhance my ability to help my program participants successfully navigate any number of challenges,” said Wheatley. “The CCAP process helped me achieve this by reinforcing Community Action’s history, vision, values and Code of Ethics and how all that has shaped our capacity to help low-income families overcome obstacles and achieve economic stability.”

“Our employees are juggling more responsibilities than ever before due to the economy —there’s been a significant increase in the amount of people needing assistance, but funding and budget issues on the local, state, and national level are creating major challenges and concerns,” said Don Mathis, President and CEO of the Community Action Partnership. “The CCAP process trains our leaders and front line staff in Community Action’s best practices and provides them with a comprehensive



knowledge base that can be immediately applied to some of the most difficult situations they confront.” Wheatley joins Community Action, Inc. staff members Phyllis Marmon and Thea Warren as a CCAP.

The mission of Community Action, Inc. is to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty through the promotion of public policy that helps those in poverty move to greater self-reliance; and by providing services and resources that meet basic needs, promote self-reliance and enhance the quality of life for individuals and families.

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