



ARKANSAS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

June 20, 2024

Dr. Lanikque Howard
Office of Community Services
Administration for Children & Families
US Department of Health & Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Proposed Information Collection Activity
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Annual Progress Report
Office of Management & Budget No. 0970-0492

Dear Dr. Howard:

Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association, Inc. (ACAAA) appreciates the work that the Office of Community Services (OCS) is doing to support Community Action across the nation. We value the spirit of partnership embedded in our interactions with OCS and other partners that help us maximize resources on every front, moving families from crisis to thriving. ACAAA further appreciates the opportunity to submit comments targeting proposed changes to the CSBG Annual Report that will bear tremendous impact on The Network.

ACAAA functions as the resource hub for 14-member agencies across Arkansas, providing opportunities in the domains of Education and Advocacy while cultivating a unified voice for Community Action across the state. These tools aid Arkansas agencies in a well-structured quest to promote social and economic mobility within their communities. By pairing comprehensive services with results-driven, evidence-based practices, the agencies are fostering spaces in which underserved communities flourish and resilience takes shape.

While we appreciate OCS for considering the challenges of intensive reporting, we find the thoroughness thereof to be extremely necessary. Over the years, Community Action has successfully demonstrated who we are – down to mission, purpose, and vision – by allowing the data to speak for us. Communicating our story through accurate pieces of data while capturing the needs of communities has proven to be an effective means of securing and maintaining support at the federal, state, and local levels. Reducing reporting measures may result in reprehensible damage to The Network and the very communities that we strive to serve.

ACAAA is especially concerned with the removal of **Services Supporting Multiple Domains**. This omission would eliminate The Network's ability to report on comprehensive services characterized by Case Management and Whole Family Services. These items are deeply rooted in The Network's capacity to place individuals and families on a path to self-sufficiency. Eliminating these services fails to illustrate Community Action's scope of provision and disregards its holistic nature.

In Arkansas, Community Action has been a bridge to hope and empowerment for the individuals and families who need us most. We look forward to continuing to serve our state in a way that leads to positive outcomes while illustrating the whole picture of Community Action. It is our hope that you

will give great consideration to the concerns outlined in this correspondence. The effectiveness of our mission depends on it.

Again, thank you for allowing us to submit comments and for giving value to our concerns. ACAA looks forward to furthering the good work that we have been able to do across the state as a result of OCS. Should you need additional information concerning any of our concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tomekia Moore".

Tomekia Moore, MPS, NCRT
Executive Director
Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association