



COMING IN DECEMBER...AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY – JOIN US FOR PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

Pathways to Excellence in Community Action focuses on getting organizations started on their own unique journey toward excellence using the Self-Study and Comprehensive Feedback Process as diagnostic tools for setting agency improvement priorities. Cal/Neva member organizations are invited to participate in the statewide initiative to build the capacity of CAAs through learning and continuous improvement.

We are starting with a two-day training for those who have committed to the process - Wednesday, December 1 and Thursday, December 2, 2010 to be held at the Argonaut Hotel in San Francisco calneva.camp7.org. There is no cost for this training, however each agency is responsible for their own travel, hotel and per diem costs. This exciting opportunity to be on the cutting edge of capacity building organizational excellence is open to all. **Contact Lynn Grogan lynn@cal-neva.org if you would like to participate or for more information go to cal-neva.org and click on Pathways to Excellence for a Fact Sheet.**



What are the benefits of Pathways enrollment? The Standards set out a critical set of benchmarks of excellence and the self-study serves as a comprehensive diagnostic tool for identifying what strengths to build on, and what areas within your organization are most critical to improve. If your goal is to move toward CAA excellence, this is the way to secure a road map and, more importantly, the impetus to start your journey.

Provided at the two-day Pathways to Excellence orientation, sessions will cover the standards, and the methodology for conducting your internal Organizational Self-Study. You have up to nine months to complete an agency-wide Self-Study. The peer-expert review and feedback report will be provided within three months of submission of your self-study. The feedback report will guide your "next steps" improvement process, and provide a pathway to achieving excellence.

Through Pathways, you can set your own pace, and assess your readiness for the Award for Excellence or simply conduct the self-study to assess where you are along the continuum of excellence. What you do with the feedback results will be up to you. The Standards and the Self-Study are powerful tools - they offer the power to take positive action to improve your agency and

the services you offer. The process includes a third-party peer expert review and comprehensive feedback report.

For the orientation, the need to have a "team" from your organization is critical. Up to five people (including the Executive Director and a Board member), can participate in this comprehensive training, so that all are fully prepared for the process of performing and writing the self-study. **Book your schedules now for this important opportunity.**

BUILDING A STATEWIDE COALITION -- HARNESSING TAX CREDITS FOR CALIFORNIA WORKING FAMILIES WELCOMES A SPECIAL GUEST

On Monday, September 27, 2010 in Los Angeles, a record was set. And we don't mean (just) the temperature: California's first statewide conference on [Harnessing Tax Credits for California Working Families](#) was kicked off. The daylong symposium co-hosted by Cal/Neva and CSD, partnering with WE Connect, California Department of Social Services, Catholic Charities of California, County Welfare Directors Association, New America Foundation, SingleStop USA and Western Center on Law and Poverty, began with a call to action by California First Lady Maria Shriver. The event was filled with informative sessions on the nuts and bolts of claiming tax credits, policies that promote saving at tax time, and concluded with a stirring consensus: participants from all parts of the state and the field voted to formally create a statewide Asset Building and EITC Coalition!



Cal/Neva Executive Director Tim Reese and CA First Lady Maria Shriver

We welcome your participation and input. If you are interested in joining the coalition, contact Lynn at Cal/Neva lynn@cal-neva.org Through our combined efforts - sharing resources, ideas, and leveraging media connections - those working in the community, financial and policy arenas can help more Californians claim their tax credits, save, and build assets!

SUSTAINING ARRA PROGRAMS WEBINARS WILL WRAP UP IN DECEMBER

The training and technical assistance program in the form of a no cost webinar series has been available to Cal/Neva members since March 2010. The webinars, funded by OCS, were developed in response to requests for information on how to sustain ARRA programs long after September. Now Cal/Neva and the national Community Action Partnership, Community Economic Development project have formed a joint venture to bring the educational series, enhancing knowledge of funding sources, development plans and sustainability.

Be sure to join us for the remainder of the series --
Building a Fundraising Board – 11/17 @ 10am
Sustainability Toolkit – 12/8 @ 10am

Register now! Click on the following link: <http://cap.peachnewmedia.com> Peach New Media will email all necessary information upon registration. And, for more information, contact Lynn Grogan

lynn@cal-neva.org or Stacy Flowers nCAP sflowers@communityactionpartnership.com with any questions.

CNP3 / SKILLS BANK— A NO COST EXCELLENT RESOURCE FOR CAL/NEVA MEMBERS!

Cal/Neva's **CNP3 (Cal/Neva Peer to Peer Project)** training is an innovative tool for agencies to learn best practices and productive strategies from their peers throughout California. It is designed to extend your network of helpful colleagues at community action agencies throughout the state – without the expense in time or money of traveling or hiring an outside consultant.

Here's how CNP3 works:

CNP3 uses a skills bank of peers with expertise to assist any CSBG Network Executive Director who requests assistance for a challenging situation and/or to train management/staff on a variety of subjects. Areas of assistance may include: CSBG ARRA, Fiscal, Asset Building, Board Support, Community Development, History and Purpose of the CAA, Governance/Program Administration, Community Outreach, Evaluation, Human Resources, Strategic Planning, Program Development, among others.

CNP3 activities include:

- One-to-one exchanges, where staff from one agency may visit staff at another agency, to share information, best practices, etc.
- Knowledgeable **CNP3** Peer Trainers facilitate and support certain types of trainings, technical assistance and peer exchange.

CNP3 activities are based upon your unique needs. Best of all, this peer volunteer program is at no cost to you. For more information on how to request training assistance or to become a peer trainer go to CNP3 Skills Bank at <http://www.cal-neva.org/network/skillsBank.cfm>

CONGRATUALIONS NEW CSD ACTING DIRECTOR ANDREW SIGNEY



Tim Reese, Cal/Neva; Andrew Signey, CSD; Maria Caudill, CSD

Andrew Signey has been named Acting Director for the California Department of Community Services and Development. In May 2007, he was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to Assistant Secretary of the California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Agency. During his three years at CHHS, Andrew managed the portfolios of the California Department of Social Services, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the Department of Mental Health, and the California Office of Strategic Implementation. Andrew served as key staff to Associate California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno and CHHS Secretary Kim Belshe for the California Child Welfare Council, which was charged with defining key problems and implementing solutions for California's foster care system.

Prior to his Gubernatorial appointment, Andrew served as the Executive Director of Northern California's largest provider of HIV/AIDS services, the Center for AIDS Research and Services (CARES) in Sacramento, and was the Director of the CARE Program and Clinics at CHW-St. Mary Medical Center, located in Long Beach. During Andrew's 13 years at CARE, he developed a federally recognized "model" program of integrated medical and social services for persons both infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Most recently, Andrew served as the Chief Deputy Director for the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) until named Acting Director of CSD. Congratulations to Andrew!

TAKIN' IT ON THE ROAD - FULFILLING THE PROMISE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROJECT

People seeking the assistance of Community Action Agencies (fulfilling the promise of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - ARRA), tell their unique and emotional stories on the website www.fulfillingthepromise-us.org Since this project began two years ago, 109 video clips, 10 montages, 1 highlights, a new logo (see below), 1 blooper reel, and 60-second PSAs have been created and posted (there are more coming), and there have been more than 25,000 "hits" to the website. The individualized media kits are completed and Cal/Neva is looking forward to the next steps of promoting beyond ARRA.



Community Action

FULFILLING *the* PROMISE

Our New Logo – Specs are available from lynn@cal-neva.org

Our goal has always been to tell the story of community action ARRA funded programs and raise awareness of the impact of community action ARRA projects with prospective consumers of services, the private sector and the public sector. The clips bring the human element and real stories to the numbers. They are of real people, with real problems and how ARRA has brought them help and hope. They can be used for local, statewide and national media promotion, with local legislators, presentations to local business leaders, and more. For more information on how you can customize and use the clips in your local area, contact Lynn at lynn@cal-neva.org

It is exciting to note that the State of Florida is implementing their own version of Fulfilling The Promise following the California model!

Extra, Extra...

Flash bulbs, photos, balloons, and a red carpet runway greeted those who attended the special luncheon at the October Fall Conference where *Fulfilling The Promise* Education and Outreach project participants were honored. Many hours were spent in the studio, filming the vignettes and all of those who were interviewed, planned and crewed were acknowledged with an Oscar replica.

See photos of the festivities below!!



See more photos on Cal/Neva's Facebook page.

Thank you for your participation in this very successful, nationally recognized project!

BENEFITS OF CAL/NEVA MEMBERSHIP

Cal/Neva offers a variety of support services to assist our member agencies in providing innovative programs and services to low-income individuals and families in the midst of a constantly changing political, social and economic environment. Membership benefits include:

- CNP3 Peer to Peer Training
- Training and technical assistance workshops
- Cal/Neva serves as liaison and coalition builder with allied statewide and national organizations
- Educating Federal, State and Local representatives about the Community Action Network
- Informing the network about funding opportunities and other important information via newsletters, emails and e-news updates
- Resource development
- Discounts at Meetings and Conferences

- Opportunities to network and build skills
 - CAPLAW membership – a significant savings and value to members
- Become a member today! Go to <http://www.cal-neva.org/join/becomeMember.cfm>

FALL CONFERENCE - A VARIETY OF INTERESTING WORKSHOPS

Long Beach, California was the beautiful setting for the Cal/Neva Fall Conference - the October 19 – 22, 2010 conference offered many valuable trainings and workshops including:

- *EITC Practitioner Seminar* - benefited those new to EITC programming and those with some experience. It was structured as a facilitated "peer-led training."
- *Seasoned & Emerging Leaders Institute* - board members, executive directors, managers and supervisors were offered three tracks: Governance, Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) *for more on CCAP see below*, and Emerging Leaders.
- *Business Academy* – workshops included: *10 Steps to Maintaining Your Community Health Improvements*, *State Representatives Provide "Technical Assistance"*; *Demystifying the Social Media Maze*; *The Role of Membership Associations in Public Policy*; *Building an Asset Development Coalition*; *A sharing of the best and brightest marketing campaigns*; and *Effective Advocacy & Public Policy Engagement*.



A special event that warmed all of our hearts...

attendees of the conference were invited to Long Beach CAP for an evening of fantastic entertainment by their Leadership Academy Mentoring Program (LAMP) participants. Long Beach CAP has developed a model youth program and created personal and career development programs that educate and encourage youth to overcome personal barriers and become positive contributors to their families and communities. The evening included presentation of a certificate from the City of Long Beach to Tim Reese, Cal/Neva Executive Director (in appreciation of all the services Cal/Neva agencies provide to building and sustaining an enriched strength-based community), a yummy potato bar, a tour of the facility featuring their many departments – Music,

Art, Garden, Photography, Video, and Magazine, and a musical extravaganza by extraordinarily talented youths. Thank you to the staff and youth for sharing their talent and friendship with all of us from the Cal/Neva network.



CATCH UP ON THE LATEST CAL/NEVA ACTIVITIES

Monday, November 15 -- Special Membership Meeting

Members of Cal/Neva! We'd love for you to join us for great food and networking on November 15th at the Hilton Garden Inn Sacramento. Dinner will begin at 6pm, and the special membership meeting to **vote**** on the proposed bylaw amendments will commence at 7pm.

Hilton Garden Inn Sacramento*

6pm - Dinner ~ 7pm - Meeting

No fee to attend - but register by November 10 to save your seat! You won't want to miss this meeting!

**Per Article IX of the current bylaws, Voting: each regular member agency shall have 2 votes - 1 from ED and 1 from board chair or designees from agency; associate members receive 1 vote which may be cast by the designated reps from said agency; sustaining and individual members are non-voting.

Tuesday, November 16 -- CSD CSBG CAC meeting

Hilton Garden Inn Sacramento*

10am - 2pm – Meeting (Lunch will be \$10 – cash or checks accepted)

*NEED TO STAY OVERNIGHT? The [Hilton Garden Inn](http://www.hilton.com) is offering our guests overnight accommodations at a fantastic rate of \$84.00 per night plus taxes, single/double. Please contact the Hilton Garden Inn at 916.568.5400 and mention you are with the Cal/Neva and CSD group.

Monday - Wednesday, April 4 - 6, 2011 -- Cal/Neva & Region IX 2011 Annual Conference

Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa Hollywood, CA

<http://www.renaissancehollywood.com/>

If members would like to join the conference planning team, please have them contact Koleen at kclary@cal-neva.org email.

Special Note to 2010-2011 **Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP)** Participants:

Certification is designed for current and emerging managers or leaders in the Community Action Profession.

This is a professional credential respected by your peers.

Friday, November 19, 2010 - Bi-weekly Conference Call @ 9am begins (Conference Call Number 1-866-309-7390 Passcode 4310744)

January 19, 2011 - Candidate Data Form must be received by Partnership

February 16, 2011 - Executive Skills Portfolio must be received by Partnership

June 15, 2011 - Examination

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Cal/Neva website - www.cal-neva.org

Cal/Neva Events website – <http://www.calneva.camp7.org/>