CAI Head Start Parents Participate in Learn-to-Earn Program

CAI Head Start/Early Head Start parents participated in the Learn-to-Earn program this summer in partnership with the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board. This program provides advanced manufacturing training for low-income parents of preschoolers in order to improve their income and economic stability.

CAI will continue to partner with the MV Workforce Investment Board in the fall to offer an evening training course for parents.

CAI congratulates participants and thanks the MV Workforce Investment Board, Greater Lawrence Technical School and Commonwealth Corporation for their continued partnership.

NOTICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Community Action Inc.’s all-volunteer Board of Directors will hold meetings on **Wednesday, September 26 and Wednesday, October 31** at the CAI Fox Center, 75 Elm St. in Haverhill. Committees meet at 5:45pm - Board Meeting at 6:45pm. Please contact CAI’s AA/EO Mgr. in advance for information on physical accessibility and sign language interpreters, 978-373-1971.

HOLIDAY NOTICE
CAI offices will be closed on **Monday, October 8**, in observance of Columbus Day.

Community Action Offers Help with Heating Bills

Community Action Inc. (CAI) is expected to receive a LIHEAP grant for FY2019 to assist low income families with their heating bills this winter.

The CAI LIHEAP Program assists low-income residents with heating bills incurred November 1st through April 30th. Communities served include Haverhill, Amesbury, Newburyport, Groveland, Merrimac, Boxford, Georgetown, West Newbury, Newbury, Salisbury and Rowley.

For the FY2019 LIHEAP Program the income guidelines have been set to 60% of the state’s median income, based on total gross household income. The maximum annual gross income for a single person is $35,510.00, a household of two $46,437.00, a household of four $68,289.00 (add $10,926.00 for each additional household member).

- Continued on Page 2
Help with Heating Bills
- Continued from Page 1

All income eligible households receive up to a 29% discount on their National Grid gas and/or electric monthly bills. These discounts renew each year if you are determined eligible for the LIHEAP Program.

Community Action’s LIHEAP Program last winter served over 3,447 households with payments made towards their winter heating bills. This season the maximum household grant will probably be set at about $1050. Residents who have their heat included in their rent may qualify for up to a 30 percent payment of their monthly rent November through April or up to their benefit amount.

The City of Haverhill has awarded CAI a grant from its Community Development Block Grant. These funds offer additional support to qualifying residents facing termination of utilities or needing an oil delivery prior to the start of the LIHEAP Program or if they have exhausted their benefit.

Community Action’s LIHEAP Program also receives grants and donations from many different civic and philanthropic organizations in our service area. The Haverhill Breakfast Exchange Club donates so that elderly households in Haverhill can receive additional assistance. Leeward Charitable Foundation provides a grant to assist eligible households in the seacoast area and the Newburyport Society for the Relief of Aged Women provides a grant to assist households of senior women in Newburyport, Newbury and Salisbury.

Eligible households that heat with oil can also purchase oil through our Oil CO-OP at the discounted price offered by Community Action’s low bid vendor. The Oil CO-OP can be used at any point during the year.

Community Action’s Energy Programs also receive a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide assistance with heating system repairs and/or system replacements for eligible homeowners. National Grid Gas and Electric also provide grants to be used in conjunction with the DHCD funds when replacement or upgrades are needed for customers of National Grid. Weatherization assistance is also available for eligible homes and apartments that have not received this service in prior years.

Interested households can visit our website www.communityactioninc.org and click the Fuel and Energy link; this will bring you to the Energy Programs page. From this page, click LIHEAP Appointments Link and this will bring you through some prequalifying questions. Once you have answered the questions you can schedule an appointment to meet with a LIHEAP representative at our main office. You will receive a confirmation by email along with a list of required documents based on how you answered the prequalifying questions. Appointments can also be scheduled at our outreach sites and main office by calling CAI’s LIHEAP office at 978-373-1971 ext.218. The LIHEAP Program has intake locations in Haverhill, Amesbury and Newburyport.

Children & Families

Family & Community Connection (FCC) offers playgroups and early learning activities for families with children 0-8 years old. Most activities are held at FCC, 346 Broadway in Haverhill (unless otherwise indicated). There is no cost to participate. To register your child, please call: 978-914-7893.

Babibies & Babble Playgroup (0–3)
Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Busy Bees Playgroup (3–6)
Wednesdays, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Kindergarten Ready
Fridays, 10:30 a.m. at Moody School
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. at FCC

Learn & Move
Thursdays, 1–2 p.m., at Perley School in Georgetown.

Early Literacy Yoga
Tuesday, September 11, 11 a.m.–Noon

Donuts with Dad
Sacred Hearts Parish in Bradford,
Saturday, Sept. 15 & Oct. 20, 9–10 a.m.

STEAM
Monday, Sept.17 & Oct. 15, 10–11 a.m.

Messy Monday
Monday, Sept. 24 & Oct. 22, 10–11 a.m.

Music Creations

Library Story Times
(Fridays at 10:30 am at local libraries!)
September 7 - West Newbury Library
September 14 - Amesbury Library
September 21 - Groveland Library
September 28 - Merrimac Library & Georgetown Library
October 5 - West Newbury Library
October 12 - Amesbury Library
October 19 - Groveland Library
October 26 - Merrimac Library & Georgetown Library

Haverhill Library
Monday, October 1, 10 a.m.
CAI Presents Goldman Memorial Memorial Scholarships to Four Local Students

The CAI Board of Directors presented 2018 Goldman Memorial Scholarships to four, local students at the end of May this year.

The following recipients each received $1,000 for education expenses: High School Graduate/Graduating Senior, May Ganzenmuller (Graduate of Triton High School and attending UMASS Amherst in the fall); HiSET Recipient, Deirdre Downs (will be attending Northern Essex Community College (NECC); HiSET Recipient, Melissa Sullivan (attending NECC) and Post-Secondary Student, Jesse Infante (attending NECC). CAI wishes all recipients the best of luck this fall.

The Goldman Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually and named after Gerald Goldman, the former Executive Director of Community Action, who passed away in 1995. Community Action presents these scholarships in his honor.

High School Equivalency Preparation Classes

The CAI Adult Learning Center will hold a waitlist registration session for High School Equivalency (HiSET/GED) Preparation classes in September. Registration will be held on Tuesday, September 18 at 10 a.m., 3 Washington Square, 3rd floor in Haverhill.

Please arrive on time for registration, late arrivals are not permitted. You will receive more information, a placement test and an interview. Please plan to stay until noon. For questions and more information, please contact: Alisa Povenmire, Career and Education Advisor, apovenmire@communityactioninc.org or (978) 373-1971 ext 216.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Classes

The CAI Adult Learning Center will hold a waitlist registration session for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes in September. Registration will be held on Wednesday, September 19 at 10 a.m., 3 Washington Square, 3rd floor in Haverhill.

Please arrive on time for registration, late arrivals are not permitted. You will receive more information, a placement test and an interview. Please plan to stay until noon. For questions and more information, please contact: Alisa Povenmire, Career and Education Advisor, apovenmire@communityactioninc.org or (978) 373-1971 ext 216.
First Time Home Buyer Training Offered

The CAI First Time Homebuyer Education Program will offer first time homebuyer education classes for area residents beginning Tuesday, September 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Presidential Gardens Community Room, 140 Evergreen Drive in Bradford. Participants receive:

A Massachusetts Homeownership Collaborative approved certificate is awarded after completion of the three-night course. The program is also approved by MassHousing.

The dates for the course are: Tuesday, September 25; Thursday, September 27 and Tuesday, October 2. The cost is $60 per household. There are no income requirements to take the training. For more information, please contact: Richard Lynch at 978-373-1971 or Susan Collins at 978-317-8998.

To register online, please visit: https://www.communityactioninc.org/programs/housing/development

Participants Receive:

- Comprehensive information offered by housing professionals including bank lenders, buyer/seller real estate brokers, housing attorneys, insurance agents, home inspectors and credit counselors;
- Individual household mortgage pre-qualification;
- Information regarding foreclosure sales;
- Information regarding area affordable housing lotteries and services of a buyer broker;
- and more...

CAI Main Office
Administration, Adult Education, Community Services, Consumer Services, Energy Programs, Housing Development, Northern Essex WIC
3 Washington Square
Haverhill, MA 01830
Main: (978) 373-1971

CAI Fox Center
Family Day Care, Head Start, Early Head Start
75 Elm Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
FDC: (978) 373-1971
Head Start: (978) 372-5052

CAI Goldman Family Ctr.
Early Head Start
230 Hilldale Avenue
Haverhill, MA 01832
(978) 241-4261

CAI Seacoast Center
Head Start/Early Head Start
447 Merrimac Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 499-8357

CAI Drop-in Center
Drop-in day shelter, breakfast/bagged lunch, referrals and resources
16 Ashland Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
(978) 914-7423

CAI Amesbury Center
Food pantry, clothing bank, referrals & resources, Northern Essex WIC, Energy Programs
44 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913
Main: (978) 388-2570
WIC: (978) 388-2575

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING NOTICE

Community Action, Inc.’s all-volunteer Board of Directors will hold meetings on Wednesday, September 26 and October 31 at the CAI Fox Center, 75 Elm St. in Haverhill. Committees meet at 5:45pm - Board Meeting at 6:45pm. Please contact CAI’s AA/EO Mgr. in advance for information on physical accessibility and sign language interpreters, 978-373-1971.

Board of Directors

Community Representatives
Danissa Abreu, Marie Artman, Jessica Cleveland, Tabatha Colon, Donna Ducharme, Reggie King and Roger LeMire, Sr.

Private Representatives
Claire Koffman, Harry Korslund (Treasurer), Harold Lloyd, Lucinda Nolet (Chairperson) and Kathleen Shaw

Public Representatives
Doug Dawes, Nancy Doyle (Clerk-Secretary), Patti Gleason (Vice Chairperson), Alison Lindstrom, Michael Nesson, and Lum-Bih Tashi

President/CEO
John Cuneo

Newsletter Writers & Editors:
Richard Lynch & Katrina Heisler