



EQUITABLE PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

CEO REPORT

September 25, 2023

Reimagining the Future: Advancing Equity and Sustaining Innovation

INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

National Community Action Partnership – IMPACT Community of Practice

CEO French participated as workshop panelist, at NCAP Annual Conference in Atlanta. The workshop is entitled: ***"Reimagining the Human Services Ecosystem: Centering Equity in Community Transformation."*** During this session, each Impact COP Team presented an overview of their team's Theory of Change, Logic Model, and Key Milestones / Lessons Learned.

National Community Action Partnership

TCA's Tight Ship (agency social enterprise) successfully supported the NCAP Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA held August 21-25, 2023. TCA President/CEO French co-chairs the NCAP Head Start Task Force; is a member of the NCAP Equity & Economic Mobility Commission; and member of NCAP National Peer Expert Corp.

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN)

NOEEN Steering Committee continues serve as the policy and oversight body for the stated mandated early education-coordinating network, i.e. New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN). CEO currently serves as NOEEN Steering Committee Chairperson. One of the primary focuses of the network is the enrollment coordination. With the OHS, Underenrollment enforcement, access to grantee's waiting list and open enrollment is essential to our success. CEO French and members of the Head Start program leadership team are steadfast in our advocacy for equity and accessibility in the processes that either jeopardize our ability to meet Head Start standards or limit our access to public funding.

Over the past year, TCA centers have accessed supplemental funding through NOEEN ECHO grant programs, these grants have provided b bonus payments for teachers whose CLASS scores met or exceed national average, outdoor play equipment and supplies. Additionally TEAM TCA participated in a NEOEN sponsored workforce pitch competition; an won the second place award of \$30,000.00 in support of program efforts to recruit retired educators to work part-time in the centers,,

NOLA C. A. R. E S.

TCA's first cohort of 26 NOLA C.A.R.E.S. Earn and Learn participants completed their instructional component of the Child Development Ancillary certificate, and have been hired as substitute teachers in TCA and partner centers., as they complete 480 hours of work experience.

Additionally, 19 members of TCA evening CDA class have completed their coursework, and 18 have completed their work experience, and are securing their CDA credential. Hat's off to TCA Education Manager Kisha Davis for her fortitude and leadership in these workforce development initiatives.

LEAD SERVICE LINES REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Team TCA continues its partnership with national partners WE ACT for Environmental Justice, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Blue Conduit; and local partners the New Orleans Water Collaborative, Civic Design Studio, and the Sewerage, and Water Board of New Orleans to comprehensively map where lead lines are, and to develop policies and procedures to support equitable removal of the LSL. Total Community Action, is committed to lifting up and advancing practices and policies that foster equitable and SAFE water access for all New Orleanians; We commit our resources and community connections to educating our children, youth and families about the harmful effects of lead, and empowering them to utilize all resources available to ensure equitable access to safe water. Water must be a common good.

McArthur Foundation: Safety and Justice Challenge – Blue Print for Safety & Justice

The New Orleans McArthur SJC #4 Team, has made significant progress in our goal to empower a cohort of fourteen Safety & Justice Change Agents. Utilizing a *New Orleans Safety and Justice Challenge Step Up to Leadership* curriculum. The first cohort is now preparing to convene a Civic Design Studio as their first step to securing community input to into a New Orleans Blueprint for Safety and Justice.

The New Orleans SJC design team has been actively engaged with Mac Arthur Foundation technical assistants and evaluators including the Kirwan Institute of Ohio state University, and Government Alliance for Race and Equity. The NOLA SJC #4 design team will participate with GARE sponsored Learning Exchange Retreat in San Antonio, Texas, September 26-29, 2023.

GORDON PLAZA RELOCATION

TCA, through the Opportunity Center has provided over 20 Gordon Plaza residents with relocation assistance..

TCA AND CITY OF NEW ORLEANS COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENTS ARPA UTILITY ARRAERAGES

TCA has entered into CEA with City Council Utility Committee to assist residents of New Orleans with utility arrearages incurred during the pandemic. The City Council has allocated \$3, 200, 000. 00. In American Rescue Plan funds for this purpose. The CEA awards TCA 10% of the funding t for administrative purposes. At this time, **It is anticipated that ARPA Utility Assistance Program will begin providing financial assistance to eligible Orleans Parish residents the week of October 2, 2023.**

National Head Start Association (NHSA)

Team TCA has solicited by NHSA to support the NHSA Parent and Family Engagement Conference which will convene in New Orleans, LA December 4-7, 2023. Team TCA has been requested to serve as local host. Tight Ship is working closely with NHSA staff to ensure that the conference will be successful and empowering.

CEO French just returned on Thursday, September 21, 2023 from NHSA Fall Leadership Conference, where she met with each member(and/or their staff) of the LA delegation, requesting their support for the Head Start budget, and restoring the proposed cuts to the program. **CEO French was recognized by NHSA with 2023 Advocacy Award.**

New Partnerships

Kresge Foundation

TCA was invited to submit an application to The Kresge Foundation, for the **New Orleans 2GEN One Year Learning & Action Institute**. This opportunity builds upon TCA Whole Family approach, and supports a cohort of four New Orleans organizations: Clover, Urban League of Louisiana, Covenant House of New Orleans and Total Community Action, Inc. The Learning institute will require a 3-member team including CEO and will include in-person meetings, trips to Aspen Ascend conferences, peer exchanges, virtual learnings, technical assistance and \$150,000 operational grant. **The TCA application has been approved, and our first session is scheduled for October 23, 2023.**

Urban Institute

TCA submitted an application to Urban Institute for a technical assistance opportunity: the [Mobility Action Learning Network](#). This is an opportunity for 30 teams of local leaders to receive 12 months (Nov. 23-Nov. 24) of pro bono technical assistance from the Urban Institute in the form of workshops, advisory calls, and peer connections to increase capacity and understanding of how to apply the Upward Mobility Framework to address local challenges. The majority of the engagement will be virtual, with one in-person learning exchange in Washington, DC on January 24 and 25, 2024.

This learning network opportunity is open to teams of local leaders (4-8 people from 3-5 organizations) that have existing upward mobility and racial equity efforts or that will form a new effort in response to this solicitation. Teams must include members from government agencies and nongovernment organizations capable of creating systems change and sustaining local actions.

Presentations/Workshops

Urban League of Louisiana Empowerment Conference

CEO French presented at ULLA 2023 Empowerment Conference, as Early Childhood Education panelist; and was honored as one of the ULLA 85th Gala Honorees.

Education Funder Strategy Group

CEO French also presented at the September 2023 Education Funder Strategy Group meeting in New Orleans. Requested to speak on post-secondary credentialing, CEO French joined a group of local voices uplifting the needs of our community and the individuals we serve.

TCA Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Cohort

Four members of the TCA leadership team have begun the process toward the attainment of the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) credential. They are CEO Thelma French, Vice president Glenis Scott, Opportunity Center Manager Sidney Monroe, and Operations Manager Andrew Sanchez.

The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) credential recognizes individuals who have demonstrated knowledge and application of the core competencies required to effectively carry out the vision, mission, purpose, and values of the Community Action movement.

Equitable Pathways for All



TCA STRATEGIC VISION (TCA IMPACT COP initiative Vision): *New Orleans has viable pathways for all individuals and families to **achieve financial stability, self-sufficiency and ultimately prosperity**. TCA is the **catalyst for generating community wide change** to ensure that pathways provide opportunities for low-income individuals and families.*

GOAL STATEMENT: Total Community Action, Inc. has only one goal, which is our mission statement, reducing poverty in New Orleans. To that end, the TCA Board, leadership and staff are committed to **aligning all services, community engagement, advocacy and resources, and growth opportunities to achieving our mission.**



Total Community Action, Inc.
1420 S. Norman C. Francis Parkway
Phone: 504.872.0336
www.tca-nola.org

