



## Press Release

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### **Conference brings local and national experts to Crested Butte to discuss poverty**

**Crested Butte, Colorado** - The 2017 Colorado Conference on Poverty, being held August 7-11<sup>th</sup> in Crested Butte, is a week-long event engaging Colorado policy makers, government employees, social service agencies, nonprofits, advocates, volunteers, and people with low-income in intensive networking, learning, training and planning around community poverty and economic development issues. "Healthy individuals, families and communities are critical for our State. This conference is vital and timely as we consider poverty and the challenges in our communities across Colorado. It's important to share insights and resources to gain better opportunities and programs across our State to support" says Joni Reynolds, Director of Gunnison County Health and Human Services.

This year's theme is *Measuring Success Through Data*, emphasizing the need for Colorado communities to systematically measure and address poverty through local community-based systems and networks. "We have hard-working folks who have lost their jobs, and thousands of Colorado families working but unable to regularly put food on their table or keep their utilities on", says Josiah Masingale, Executive Director of the Colorado Community Action Association, "we are talking about programs for retired people who have worked their entire lives, paid into Social Security and Medicare, but still need assistance, we are talking about the services provided to working families proven to help them move up the income ladder, and we are talking about community-wide strategies that help create thriving Colorado communities."

This year's conference features, among many speakers and events, a full-day *Bridges Out of Poverty* workshop led by nationally recognized speaker Jodi Pfarr; a case manager certification course; a poverty simulation geared towards elected officials; and keynote addresses from local experts such as Reggie Bicha, Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Elizabeth Garner, the Colorado State Demographer, and Dr. Donald Burnes of the Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness. The conference will also bring together key partners around housing, energy, workforce and labor, food, education, and transportation to discuss key findings on barriers to economic development in Colorado communities, and the proper strategies to implement locally to achieve a Colorado where all can thrive.

The biennial Conference on Poverty, otherwise known as the Community Action Conference, is partially funded through conference sponsorship (Verdeam, LLC is the Private Sector Champion Sponsor in 2017), registration fees, and partially through Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Discretionary Funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. The conference is coordinated by the Colorado Community Action Association, a statewide membership nonprofit that assists Colorado's 31 CSBG Grantees and their local partners to be innovative and evidence-based when addressing poverty, to leverage other dollars and resources towards coordinating strategies locally, and to be results-oriented in their approach.

For more information on the 2017 Colorado Conference on Poverty visit <http://coloradocommunityaction.org/copreg.html>.

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### **CCAA's Mission**

Partner with other private and public organizations, including CSBG Grantees, serving low-income people, through advocating, communicating and providing educational and training resources. For more information about the CCAA, please visit [www.coloradocommunityaction.org](http://www.coloradocommunityaction.org).