ROMA*: AN ORIGIN STORY

*RESULTS-ORIENTED MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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The struggle against poverty and the true story of the toll it takes on people's lives and communities must be told. Poverty robs families and individuals of their futures and endangers all of us.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced the Economic Opportunity Act, which received strong bipartisan support.

This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America.

But this attack to be effective must also be organized at the state and local level.

A major consequence of this act was the development of local Community Action Programs (CAPS), which sought to combat poverty within communities and make issues of poverty more visible on a national level.

Unlike previous efforts, CAPS gave working-class and minority citizens the power to change their own communities for the better.

Nobody in the government is listening to our community's needs!

My elderly father can't feed himself since my mom died.

Our kids need more chances to succeed!

My husband and I both work and we still don't have enough money to keep our house heated and kids fed.
This page quickly turned to action and the poverty rate fell from 22.4 percent in 1959 to 13 percent in 1973.

With the Community Services Block Grant of 1965, even as relationships around the program evolved, anti-poverty efforts remained focused on...

Education/Head Start

Employment and Good Wages

Head Start

Community Strategies

Emergency Services, Nutrition, and Health

We just don’t know what we would have done without you, Aisha. These home-delivered meals and your company make all the difference.

Welcome, I’ll be your new supervisor.

I’m so happy that I’m certified for this job!
But poverty is a many-headed monster, and to defeat it community action agencies (CAAs) nationwide needed to continually evolve their thinking and methods.

As anti-poverty programs grew across the country, so did the need to measure results for individuals and families and their impact on communities, thus ensuring program accountability and transparency.

We need more community support! As anti-poverty programs grew across the country, so did the need to measure results for individuals and families and their impact on communities, thus ensuring program accountability and transparency.

The government performance and results act of 2001 (GPRA) shifted government focus and funding from program activities to program results.

Meanwhile, a collection of federal, state, and local officials—known then as the monitoring and assessment task force (MATT)—began to develop the community action response to this increased emphasis on outcomes.

Together, MATT created the term “results oriented management and accountability” (ROMA) and identified six national goals all CAAs should address.

A performance-based initiative, ROMA was designed to preserve the anti-poverty focus of CAAs and emphasize measuring results in the community. At first, it was used by only a handful of CAAs until...

Let’s standardize ROMA for all CAAs in Pennsylvania!

I’m telling you, this new curriculum is really helping us standardize understanding of ROMA across Pennsylvania.

Let’s build the understanding on well-respected management theory adapted to community actions focused on family, agency, and community level results.

I bet we can use this curriculum to train CAAs all across the country!

That would help us implement standardized national performance measures and support the national goals too!

John Wilson, CAAP
Dennis Darling, PA CDE
Fred Richmond, CAAP
Margaret Washnitzer, OCS
Julie Jakopic, NASSP

ROMA empowered CAAs nationwide to identify local needs and craft specific responses to bring about positive changes for individuals, families, and communities. The management system to spur new action for those experiencing poverty.

The ROMA process helps us tell stories about the changes we’re making, rather than just about the services we’re providing. By identifying results and analyzing why we can improve our services and strategies across the country.

Roma training

In 2013, President Barack Obama signed the GPRA Modernization Act to ensure that CAAs could identify and strengthen the use of existing resources.

Sustaining the American Dream has required each generation to sacrifice, and struggle, and meet the demands of a new age.

And now we must improve the outcomes that results from federal funding or face losing those resources.
BY APPLYING ROMA PRINCIPLES AND UTILIZING CSBG FUNDING AND SUPPORT FROM STATE OFFICES, TODAY OVER 1,000 COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ARE WORKING TO END POVERTY AND PROVIDE SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

EACH LOCAL CAA ACTS AS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR LOW-INCOME AND STRUGGLING FAMILIES.

PLEASE, I DON’T WANT TO LOSE MY HOUSE. WE HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

DON’T WORRY, I’M HERE TO HELP.

USING ROMA, AGENCIES CAN ADDRESS DEFINED SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES THAT WILL AID FAMILIES RIGHT AWAY.

ROMA ALSO USES ROMA TO ADDRESS SYSTEMATIC CAUSES OF POVERTY AND DEVELOP LONG-TERM STRATEGIES THAT PRODUCE LASTING CHANGE, HELP BREAK DOWN BARRIERS IMPOSED BY POVERTY CONDITIONS AND ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY.

ROMA’S EMphasis ON STRATEGIC THINKING ALSO ENCOURAGES THE CREATION OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES THAT ADDRESS MULTIPLE ISSUES.

BY UTILIZING THIS FOCUS ON FAMILY, AGENCY AND COMMUNITY RESULTS, THE NETWORK’S ULTIMATE GOALS ARE TO HELP LOW-INCOME FAMILIES MOVE TOWARDS ECONOMIC SECURITY, CREATE SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS, IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS AND ULTIMATELY TAKE PRIDE IN COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY
ALL ARE WELCOME!

FAMILIES LIKE MINE NEED REAL, PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN OUR COMMUNITY.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING STATISTICS

AS OUR ANTI-POVERTY WORK CONTINUES THANKS TO OUR APPLICATION OF ROMA PRACTICES AND PRINCIPLES, WE ARE READY TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AGENCIES WHO CAN INSPIRE CHANGE FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

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