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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Community Action Agencies Receive CHEFA COVID-19 Grant**

**(Middletown)**—Connecticut’s Community Action Agency Network was recently awarded a grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) as part of the newly established FY 2021 CHEFA COVID-19 Grant Program.

Each Community Action Agency (CAA) will receive \$11,000 to purchase necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials, such as gloves, masks, thermometers, plexiglass, and signage to promote social distancing. There are nine CAAs in Connecticut:

- *Access* Community Action Agency, Inc. (*Access*)
- Alliance for Community Empowerment, Inc. (formerly ABCD, Inc.)
- Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)
- Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut, Inc. (CAAWC)
- Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)
- Human Resources Agency, Inc. (HRA)
- New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)
- TEAM, Inc.
- Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)

CAFCA Executive Director Deb Polun stated: “Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, CAAs have remained committed to ensuring those facing financial hardship continue to receive essential programs and services – all while taking the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of staff and customers. We are grateful to CHEFA for this funding, which will further enhance these efforts, and help protect against the spread and transmission of germs while making sure services remain uninterrupted.”

“As one of only a few statewide philanthropic entities, CHEFA is extremely proud to award a grant to the Connecticut Association for Community Action and we applaud them for stepping up to support so many Connecticut families and individuals during this challenging time. We know that our grant will have a meaningful impact on their lives as we all experience this unprecedented time” stated Jeanette W. Weldon, CHEFA’s Executive Director.

As the largest statewide safety net service provider, Connecticut’s Community Action Agency Network connects neighbors in need with resources that stabilize and improve lives and communities. By working with low- and moderate-income people in every city and town, CAAs

provide programs and services like energy assistance, job training, food and nutrition, housing support, and early child care and education. Last year, they helped over 259,000 customers move towards economic self-sufficiency through referrals, direct services, and comprehensive case-management.

The Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA) is a quasi-public organization that provides access to tax-exempt financing, grants and other financial assistance to educational institutions, healthcare providers, childcare providers and other qualifying 501(c)(3) organizations. CHEFA has issued over \$21.3B in bonds since 1965 and awarded more than \$38M in grants since 2002. CHEFA is a self-supporting entity; receiving no state funds or taxpayer dollars.

If you or someone you know needs help, visit [www.cafca.org](http://www.cafca.org) to find your local CAA.

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