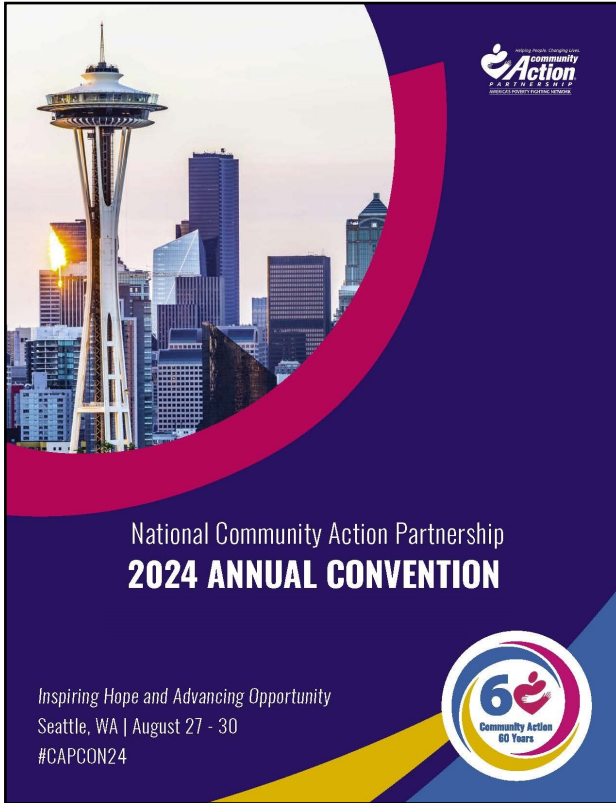


# SEPTEMBER, 2024

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



# KI BOIS NEWS



Each August, the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) hosts its annual convention in cities across America.

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the creation of Community Action Agencies, Seattle, WA was chosen as the host city.

This super event supports the dedicated professionals and advocates creating workable solutions to hopefully eliminate poverty in the Nation.

This year's theme was "Inspiring Hope and Advancing Opportunity." KI BOIS was represented at the convention by Associate Director/COO Larry Hall; Developmental Disabilities Director Kenny Barnhart; Accounting Supervisor Marcy Ross; and KI BOIS Board 1st Vice-Chair Joy Walker. Larry Hall and Kenny Barnhart both received their Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) re-certification, while Marcy Ross received her CCAP credentials, after passing her test earlier in the year.

NCAP Board Chair Dalitso Sulamoyo summed up the event in his welcome letter to attendees. He stated, "Inspiring Hope and Advancing Opportunity," truly embodies the 60-year legacy of Community Action's impact throughout America. For me, part of commemorating this 60-year milestone means reflecting on what work still lies ahead, and recommitting myself to our purpose, our values, and this movement we call Community Action."

The Keynote Speaker was Stephanie Land. She is an American author and activist whose writing focuses on social and economic justice, as well as parenting under the poverty line. Her debut book, *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will To Survive*, was a #2 *New York Times* bestseller and was adapted into a limited series on Netflix.

Attendees were presented break-out sessions that dealt with a myriad of topics that align with the mission and purpose of Community Action.



*From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO*

**R. Carroll Huggins**



I hope each of you enjoyed your three-day Labor Day Holiday week-end! Personally, I am looking forward to football weather. I love the beauty and climate of our Oklahoma Fall Season.

Things are back in full swing after the summer for our staff. We are in the process of our annual agency audit by our independent auditor.

We have received notice of award for the next year of funding for our SSVF (Supportive Service for Veteran’s Families) in 24 counties in Eastern Oklahoma. We are very pleased with our outstanding staff who will meet their goals for this year.

KI BOIS Board 1st Vice-Chair Joy Walker, Larry Hall, Kenny Barnhart, and Marcy Ross attended the National Community Action Partnership Annual Conference in Seattle, WA on August 28-30, 2024. (Amy Fair and Royce Alverson were unable to attend.) Congratulations are in order to Larry Hall, Kenny Barnhart, Amy Fair, and Royce Alverson who received their National CCAP Certification renewal, and to Marcy Ross who received her National CCAP Certification. We now have fifteen Nationally Certified CCAP’s in our agency.

*R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP  
Executive Director / CEO*

**KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Executive Board**

Cecil Williams  
**Board Chairperson**

Joy Walker  
**1st Vice Chair**

Frank Phillips  
**2nd Vice Chair**

Jan Coplen  
**Secretary / Treasurer**

Kodey Toney  
**Parliamentarian**

**Members of the Board**

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- Jeremy Bullard
- Henry Burris
- Rev. Rodger Cutler
- Rosalind Didlott
- Lyndon Emberton
- Lindsey Holloway

- John Jones
- Chuck Regan
- Charlie Rogers
- Bud Smithson
- Janice Williams
- Jonathan Wynn

**Executive Leadership**

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP  
**Executive Director/CEO**

Tom Marlatt, CCAP  
**Associate Director/CFO**

Larry Hall, CCAP  
**Associate Director/COO**

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**WORK READY**

**POTEAU**

Work Ready Oklahoma—Poteau is now open for business. Staff has hosted their first Remote-Work Job Fair and are preparing for the first monthly workshop that will educate and groom job seekers to learn resume and interview skills.

An Open House has been scheduled for September 26, 2024, from 1pm to 3pm at the location of their beautiful new office, located at 213 Kerr Avenue in Poteau.



- September 18-20
- September 24
- September 26
- September 26

- OKACAA Fall Conference — Oklahoma City
- RSVP Banquet — Stigler
- Work Ready Oklahoma Open House — Poteau
- KI BOIS Board Meeting — Poteau Office

#kibois #BeCommunityAction #CommunityActionWorks #HelpingPeopleChangingLives



# U.S. Senator James Lankford Visits Stigler



Pictured L-R: Ron Davis, Carroll Huggins, Bobby Mouser, State Sen. Warren Hamilton, Janice Williams, James Lankford, Charla Sloan, Ron Perry, Samantha McGee, Teresa Huggins, Tom Marlatt, Laramie Cochran, Sara Jane Cocke, and Kelvin Howard .

## In Loving Memory



*Russell Lain Stone*

November 4, 1971 - August 17, 2024

**KI BOIS Community Action**  
AMERICA'S POOREST FIGHTING BACK

Come by and learn how the KI BOIS Community Action Weatherization program can help you reduce heating and cooling costs for **FREE** for low-income individuals and families.

Staff will be on-hand to assist with applications.

Light refreshments will be served.

**WEATHERIZATION INFORMATION FORUM**

**AUGUST 28, 2024**  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**10:00 AM - 12 NOON**

FOR MORE INFORMATION [WWW.KIBOIS.ORG](http://WWW.KIBOIS.ORG)  
800-299-4479 Michael.Knapp@kibois.org

The KI BOIS Weatherization Program held it's first of several Information Forum's in Muskogee on August 28th at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. Our team of experts were on-hand to assist potential clients and navigate the application process.

The KI BOIS Weatherization Assistance Program is a no-cost program that improves the energy efficiency of homes. The event was geared toward reaching out to low-income individuals or families in Muskogee County to inform them about this great program.

Benefits from the services Weatherization perform include:

- Increases energy efficiency for low-income households
- Reduces the total residential energy expenditures / costs / bills
- Improves health and safety

If you have questions, please contact Michael Knapp, KI BOIS Weatherization Director, at 800-299-4479, or Michael.Knapp@kibois.org.



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION



**OKLAHOMA CITY (Aug. 28, 2024)** – The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline is offering a limited-time bonus for Oklahomans ready to quit tobacco. Starting Sept. 1, individuals who sign up for Helpline services will receive at least eight weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy, like patches, gum or lozenges, rather than the normal two weeks. This special offer runs through Sept. 30.

The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline is a program of the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET).

“Quitting tobacco is one of the most impactful steps someone can make to improve their health,” Julie Bisbee, TSET executive director, said. “We know additional nicotine replacement therapy increases the chances of successfully quitting, and this offer is a compelling reason for people to sign up now.”

The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline also provides free, personalized support to help registrants quit, including services like live group sessions, emails, text, phone and Coach support. By building a plan to quit with the Helpline and fighting cravings with nicotine patches, gum and lozenges, Oklahomans can double their chances of successfully overcoming tobacco addiction.

To share news of this offer, the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline is debuting a new stop-motion campaign called “Inside the Box.” The different spots illustrate the journey of quitting by bringing to life the many resources included in the free Quit Kit. This kit embodies hope, offering a path to reclaim health and break free from addiction. This campaign will air statewide on TV and radio stations as well as print and digital ads.

Call 1-800-QUIT NOW (1-800-784-8669), text READY to 34191 or visit [OKhelpline.com](https://www.okhelpline.com) to explore all the free services and resources available. Connect with the Helpline through social media by liking the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OKhelpline) or following @OKhelpline on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/OKhelpline).

## Inflation Reduction Act Affects Rx for Oklahoma Clients

For the first time, beginning in 2025, the drug law, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, requires all Medicare prescription drug plans (Medicare Part D plans) — including both standalone Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans with prescription drug coverage — to offer enrollees the option to pay out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in the form of capped monthly installment payments instead of all at once at the pharmacy.

Go to the website <https://www.cms.gov> and click on the “Part D Improvements” tab. There is some great information regarding this Act and the impact it will have on persons with Medicare Part D.

According to Amy Fair, KI BOIS Rx for Oklahoma Director, “Several of the recent Rx for Oklahoma applications we have received are people with Medicare Part D seeking help with their prescriptions because their plan is not paying for them.

# IN *Action*



Work Ready Oklahoma Director Jarrod Ridenour and his team recently spoke at a Poteau Chamber Lunch & Learn about this new, exciting program, powered by KI BOIS Community Action.



On Thursday, August 29, the Sallisaw Now Coalition hosted a proclamation signing at the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day. Sallisaw Mayor Ernie Martens signed the proclamation declaring Saturday, August 31, 2024, International Overdose Awareness Day for the City of Sallisaw. KI BOIS Sequoyah County was proud to be a part. Melissa Lowe, County Coordinator, represented KI BOIS at the event.



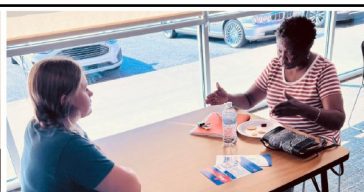
Marcy Ross recently became the 15th CCAP at KI BOIS. She was honored, along with other new CCAP's, at the National Community Action Partnership annual convention in Seattle in August. Marcy's mother, Carol Winkle from Checotah (pictured right), accompanied her to the convention.



# IN *Action*

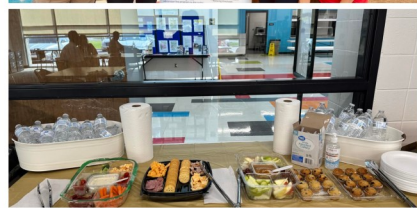
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A great time was had at the LeFlore County office on August 27th! Here's a few of pics of the fun. They are ALL winners!



### Weatherization Information Forum

MLK, Jr. Community Center  
August 28, 2024





1964 - 2024

In every corner of America. Helping people, changing lives — for 60 years and counting.

**RECOGNIZING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ACTION!**

All employment opportunities are posted on our website, [www.kibois.org](http://www.kibois.org). *These positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public.* (ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT

TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING.) Deadline for all openings: Until Filled. Current employees – please submit a letter of interest to Human Resources.



Applications may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. office or printed from the website, [www.kibois.org](http://www.kibois.org). Applications should be returned to:

**KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 727, Stigler, OK 74462**  
**Attention: Human Resources**



## The Promise of Community Action

Community Action *changes* people's lives, *embodies* the *spirit of hope*, *improves* communities, and makes America *a better place to live*. We care about the *entire community*, and we are dedicated to *helping* people *help themselves and each other*.



**KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.**

## Mission Statement

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is a community-based organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty and bettering the economic, mental, physical and social well-being of all people - most importantly the disadvantaged - by utilizing effective coordination and administration of available resources and information.