



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Julie Ackerman of Community Renewal Team Earns National Certification** *CRT's Director of Planning Receives Certified Community Action Professional Credential*



HARTFORD– The national office of the Community Action Partnership has announced that Julie Ackerman, director of planning, research and communications at the Community Renewal Team, was one of 59 first-rate human services professionals to receive the organization's Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) credential this year. The new CCAPs will be honored Tuesday, August 21 at the Awards Gala during the Partnership's Annual Convention in New York.

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“Becoming a CCAP has provided me with a solid foundation and understanding of the complex hardships faced by people living in poverty and middle class people who are experiencing it for the first time due to the troubled economy,” said Ackerman. “This knowledge has further enhanced my ability to help individuals and families facing difficult personal and financial obstacles navigate their way towards self-sufficiency despite the immense challenges they face.”

Community Action managers and leaders from across the country that work with low-income individuals and communities earn the CCAP designation after demonstrating their Community Action expertise by completing a detailed assessment of their knowledge of poverty theories, causes, and remedies; ability to help low-income people achieve economic stability; and comprehension of the mission, vision and values of Community Action. To date, there are 442 CCAPs across the country representing rural, urban, and suburban Community Action Agencies.

Ackerman has anchored the CRT planning department since 2006 and is a member of the agency’s Executive Cabinet. Her leadership is directly responsible for securing funding resources for CRT’s 50+ programs that operate in more than 60 Connecticut towns. Her 25 years’ experience in nonprofits and community action agencies started in the 80s when she was a program assistant in the Elder Nutrition Program for TEAM, Inc. based in Derby. Throughout her career she has acquired and mastered skills in community-based needs assessments, program development, budgeting, grant writing, reporting and nonprofit management.

The CCAP program, established in 1993, provides a structured and focused procedure for Community Action leaders and managers to prove their mastery of a wide-ranging body of knowledge covering theories on the causes and remedies of poverty and to assess how they are helping vulnerable people achieve economic security. Their understanding and comprehension of Community Action’s history, vision, and values are also measured. In order to successfully complete the process, individuals are required to provide an extensive record of their management and leadership skills and involvement in anti-poverty initiatives on the local, state, and national levels; develop a portfolio highlighting their education, training, and accomplishments, and pass a written exam.

CRT is Connecticut’s largest human service agency, and one of the oldest continuously-operating Community Action Agencies in the country. It helps individuals, families, and entire communities take steps toward a healthy and economically stable future. Since 1963, CRT has worked closely with local officials, providers, private funders and the public to address challenges such as hunger, homelessness and unemployment. The agency offers a broad-based network of innovative, high quality programs and services designed to strengthen communities and help people of all ages overcome life’s challenges.

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**About Community Renewal Team:**

*Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families become self-sufficient while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. [www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org)*

**About Community Action Partnership:**

*Based in Washington, DC, the Community Action Partnership provides training and other services to more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies across America that are helping low-income people and families improve their lives, strengthen their communities and embody the spirit of hope. For more information, visit [www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com) or follow the organization on Twitter, <http://twitter.com/CAPartnership>.*