

# CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN

MAYOR JOHN A. McNALLY



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL • 26 S. PHELPS STREET • YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44503  
PHONE: (330) 742-8701 • FAX: (330) 743-1335

March 6, 2017

Ms. Omarosa Manigault  
Director of Communications  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Manigault:

I am seeking your assistance regarding the Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership ("MYCAP").

As a Youngstown native, you may be familiar with MYCAP. MYCAP is a 501c (3) non-profit organization serving families and residents of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Ohio since 1965. MYCAP was established for the express purpose of mobilizing and utilizing resources to increase the quality of life for low income residents of Mahoning County. Specifically, MYCAP provides antipoverty assistance to low income individuals through government grant programs.

As demonstrated through the statistics blow, MYCAP's impact on our Youngstown area community is immense.

### Number of individuals who received Assistance form MYCAP in Program Year 2016

#### **Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)**

- 77 families received assistance with furnace and insulation work in order to lower energy use.

#### **Electric Partnership Program (EPP)**

- 198 families received assistance with compact fluorescent light bulbs, refrigerators and freezer replacement in order to lower electric consumption.

#### **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**

- 7,102 families received assistance with their heating bills (January 2016-December 2016).

#### **Home Energy Assistance Program Percentage of Income Payment Plan (HEAP PIPP)**

- 8,303 families received assistance through income based payments to utility companies (January 2016-November 2016).



**Home energy Assistance Program-Summer Crisis Program (HEAP SCP)**

- 626 families received assistance with a payment to the electric company or the purchase of a fan or air conditioner.

**Community Connections 2016**

- 178 families received assistance with compact florescent light bulbs, refrigerator and freezer replacement, roof replacement/repair, or electrical work.

**Planned and Emergency Assistance**

- 510 families received assistance by removing barriers to help improve living conditions, which includes assistance with first month's rent, security deposits, mortgage assistance to prevent foreclosure, and water bill payment.

**Workforce Development Program**

- 55 enrolled and 37 completed a six-week job and training program.

**Computer Literacy 2016**

- 125 enrolled and 35 completed a program to learn basic computer skills.

**Financial Literacy (August 2016)**

- 55 enrolled and 16 completed a program on financial literacy.

**Senior Transportation (August 2016)**

- 2,225 seniors transported to medical appointments, food banks, and social agencies.

**Senior Services (July 2016-December 2016) planned events**

- 301 seniors attended various activities; 160 attended senior meetings to discuss community issues and involvement, plan for wellness activities and guest speakers.

Moreover, MYCAP employs twenty-five (25) full time employees.

Unfortunately, MYCAP's existence is at risk for two reason: (1) an approximately \$1 million disallowance owed to the federal government and (20) a recent judgment entered against MYCAP in state court.

**(1.) Disallowance**

In February 2011, a hearing officer ruled that MYCAP owed the Ohio Department of Education approximately \$800,000 in funds from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) from 2008-2010 due to deficiencies it found in MYCAP's CACFP fiscal management and accounting policies and procedures.

It is extremely important to note that the deficiencies in MYCAP's CACFP fiscal management and accounting policies and procedures arose under an administration that is so longer in place. Of equal importance is that the government never alleged that MYCAP fraudulently or criminally obtained CACFP funds. The overpayment determination was based solely upon MYCAP's deficient fiscal management and accounting policies and procedures. Moreover, MYCAP has taken full responsibility for these errors and has corrected all deficiencies.

Although MYCAP owes the Ohio Department of Education these funds, the debt is ultimately a federal debt. Funding for the CACFP program originates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Education serves as the state pass through agency. Accordingly, the State of Ohio has an obligation to recoup the money from MYCAP on behalf of the federal government.

MYCAP has had numerous meetings and has turned over numerous confidential documents demonstrating its inability to pay the debt. Yet, the Ohio Department of Education has been unable to get guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding options to reduce or forgive the debt despite federal regulations allowing for such a remedy. See 7 CFR 226.14.

The impact of this debt puts MYCAP at risk of shutting its doors because it is unable to secure new grants. Moreover, the debt makes it difficult for MYCAP to operate because the State of Ohio has placed MYCAP on reimbursement funding creating cash flow issues for the agency.

## **(2.) Judgment**

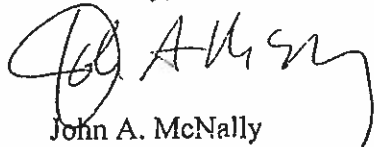
Former MYCAP employees sued the agency over unused paid time off that they alleged they were entitled to upon separation from MYCAP. A judgment was rendered against MYCAP, which MYCAP has appealed. In the meantime, the former employees can collect on their judgment which could force MYCAP's closure.

I understand that you are likely unable to assist with the pending legal judgement described above, but I am hopeful that you can assist MYCAP with respect to the CACFP disallowance. Specifically, I am looking for your assistance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and respectfully request you assist MYCAP by coordinating a meeting with relevant U.S. Department of Agriculture officials so that MYCAP can reach a resolution to the outstanding disallowance.

MYCAP is a local institution with a rich history in the community and overwhelming community support across the spectrum. We hope that with your added assistance MYCAP can be restored to its full potential and grow to serve Youngstown and Mahoning County for decades to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If I can be of further service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John A. McNally  
Mayor, City of Youngstown