

**CAB Advocacy Accomplishments in FY24**  
**July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

Head Start

- Dr. Johnson sent a letter to DHHS Director Dr. James Bridgers on behalf of the CAB requesting that he assist the agency in obtaining required information from MCPS to comply with the requirements of the **Head Start federal monitoring visit**.
- Dr. Johnson testified on behalf of the CAB at the **Board of Education budget hearing**. The CAB's testimony focused on expanding part-day Head Start/PreK classes to full-day, the need for a mixed delivery system in implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future with regard to PreK, information sharing between the agency and MCPS, and added efficiency within the MCPS.

CAB and MCAP Priorities

- Dr. Johnson testified at the annual **County Council HHS Committee Worksession** for Boards, Committees, and Commissions. The CAB's testimony focused on CAA staffing needs and returning the WFIS to a 100% match of the state EITC.
- Dr. Johnson testified at the annual **Joint House and Senate Priorities Hearing**. The CAB's testimony focused on the Community Action Anti-Poverty Fund, 2Gen/Whole Family Approach funding, the Maryland EITC and CTC, early childhood education, and the Self-Sufficiency Standard.
- Dr. Johnson participated in the **MCAP Advocacy Day in Annapolis**, meeting with members of the Montgomery County Delegation to advocate for MCAP's key state-level priorities. As part of the event, Board leaders and staff participated in a virtual meeting with Delegate Kaiser to discuss MCAP's state-level priorities.
- CAB submitted testimony in support of **HB860 - Housing and Community Development - Community Action Boards**
- Dr. Johnson testified on behalf of the CAB at the **County Council budget hearing for FY25**. The board's testimony requested funding to support two broker positions the agency would lose at the end of the fiscal year and one that would be reduced from full-time to part-time. The testimony also requested full funding for the WFIS so that it would return to a 100% match of the state EITC. Equity between PreK and HS classes and the need for full-day classes, along with the ongoing issue of affordable housing were also addressed.
- CAB joined a **sign-on letter developed by MCAP requesting additional funding for the CSBG budget and allowing agencies to continue to serve people at 200% of the federal poverty level**.

Food Security

- CAB submitted testimony in support of **HB183/SB213 - Human Services – Food Supplement Program - Human Services Careers Scholarships – Alterations**.
- CAB submitted testimony in support of **SB579/HB696 - Primary and Secondary Education - Breakfast and Lunch Programs - Universal Expansion Report**.

Tax Credits and VITA

- CAB submitted testimony in support of **HB451/SB676 - Tax Assistance for Low-Income Marylanders – Funding**.
- CAB submitted testimony in support of **HB608 - Earned Income Tax Credit - Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Eligibility**.

- CAB submitted testimony in support of **HB 1304 - Maryland Department of Health and Department of Human Services - Earned Income Tax Credit - Distribution of Information.**
- CAB led a **sign-on letter requesting that the County Council add funding to the WFIS budget so that it would return to a 100% match of the state EITC.** Twenty local, state, and federal level organizations joined the letter.

#### Renters Rights/Affordable Housing

- CAB submitted testimony in support of **SB 689/HB823 - Fire Protection and Prevention – Residential Rental Property – Requirements (Melanie Nicholle Diaz Fire Safety Act).**
- CAB submitted testimony to the County Council in support of **County Council Bill 7 - 24: Landlord-Tenant Relations – Tenant Protection and Notification.**

#### Addressing generational poverty

- CAB submitted testimony in support of **SB 0482/HB694 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)** \*Dr. Johnson testified in person in support of the Senate bill.
- Dr. Johnson testified on behalf of the CAB at the County Council hearing for **Bill 5-24 - Child Investment Fund.**

#### Health

- CAB member Lisette Orellana Engel testified on behalf of the CAB in support of **County Council Bill 42-23: Health and Sanitation - Menstrual Products in Public Restrooms – Required.** The bill would require all public restrooms to provide menstrual products. Lisette also spoke at a press conference for the bill.
- CAB submitted testimony in support of **SB705/HB728 - Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act).**