



## COMMUNITY ACTION CODE OF ETHICS

*We, as community action professionals, dedicate ourselves to eliminating poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training; the opportunity for work; and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity; and with respect for cultural diversity, commit ourselves to:*

- 1. Recognize that the chief function of the community action movement, at all times, is to serve the best interests of the poor, thereby serving the best interests of all people.
- 2. Accept, as a personal duty, the responsibility to keep up to date on emerging issues and to conduct ourselves with professional competence, fairness, impartiality, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- 3. Respect the structure and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, provide them with facts and advice as a basis for their making policy decisions, and uphold and implement policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
- 4. Keep the community informed about issues affecting the poor; facilitate communication by the poor with locally elected public officials and the private sector.
- 5. Conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, and compassion.
- 6. Exercise whatever discretionary authority we have under the law to promote the interests of the poor.
- 7. Lead the community action movement with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the poor is beyond service to oneself.
- 8. Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and fortitude in all our community action activities in order to inspire confidence and trust in the community action movement.
- 9. Serve in such a way that we do not realize undue personal gain from the performance of our professional duties.
- 10. Avoid any interest or activity that is in conflict with the conduct of official duties.
- 11. Respect and protect privileged information to which we have access in the course of official duties.
- 12. Strive for professional excellence and encourage the professional development of our associates, including those seeking to become certified community action professionals.

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Printed Board Member/Employee/Volunteer Name

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Signature

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Date