

# 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:

- ☞ 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.
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ Keep the community informed about issues affecting the poor; facilitate communication by the poor with locally elected public officials and the private sector.
- ☞ Conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, and compassion.
- ☞ Exercise whatever discretionary authority we have under the law to promote the interests of the poor.
- ☞ Lead the Community Action movement with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the poor is beyond service to oneself.
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ Serve in such a way that we do not realize undue personal gain from the performance of our professional duties.
- ☞ Avoid any interest or activity that is in conflict with the conduct of official duties.
- ☞ Respect and protect privileged information to which we have access in the course of official duties.
- ☞ Strive for professional excellence and encourage the professional development of our associates, including those seeking to become certified Community Action professionals.