



**THE AGRICULTURAL AND LABOR PROGRAM, INC.
BOARD/ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete and submit to the Board/Advisory Secretary after reporting to the board.

Government Affairs
Board Committee/ Advisory Committee

4/13/2023
Date of report

Members Present	Members Present	Members Absent
1. Josephine Howard, Chair	8.	David Rucker
2. Commissioner Emma Byrd	9.	Berniece Taylor
3. Cheryl Burnham Staff Liaison	10.	
4. Arlene Dobison, CEO	11.	
5. Al Miller, Zoom facilitator	12.	
6.	13.	
7.		

Type of Report

- Reporting / Updating
- Recommending Board Action
- Recommending Policy Changes

Brief Statement of committee's issues / Area of Reporting

- **Call to Order (via ZOOM) at 10:35 am..... Josephine Howard, Chair**
- **ALPI's Mission Statement: *Read in unison***

Items for Discussion

- ✓ **Capital Connection (Recap): Upcoming bills on the floor.** The upcoming bills were reviewed and discussed. Currently, we are on the lookout for possible cuts to the discretionary budget of 20%. This is a substantial cut, to programs, that will require layoff.
- ✓ **CAPBrief:** On March 28th, the "Weatherization Improvements Act" was introduced by Senators Jack Redd and Susan Collins, along with co-sponsors Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Chris Coons. This is the same as the bill that was introduced last Congress that was unfortunately dropped from the package of bills considered in December, 2022. The legislation lifts weatherization assistance program's average cost per unit to \$12,000. Mrs. Howard stated her local utility company has been assisting with installation needs, such as: siding for doors and providing energy efficient light bulbs. Commissioner Byrd shared that in her area the utility company has provided assistance to families in need of window repairs.
- ✓ **Community Action eNews:** Mrs. Howard highlighted the eNews by sharing topics for information and further review by the committee.
- ✓ **David Bradley's WAR ON POVERTY Workshop Handout:** Mrs. Howard highlighted topics of the handout, for information and further review by the committee.
- **Ms. Arlene Dobison, CEO** shared with the Government Affairs Committee the current notification received that the State has reached its ceiling as it relates to 'budget authority'. The current situation should be addressed with the legislators, with a request to increase budget authority within the coming weeks as this affects the agency's LIHEAP, LIHWAP and CSBG programs. Ms. Dobison is requesting the Government Affairs committee to have a conversation with their local utility vendors and legislators informing them of the dire concern with the State exceeding their 'budget authority' and the affect it will have on the low income families we serve, who are in need of our service delivery programs.
- **Brief Background information and possible impact of issues: il.e. Why is it an issue? Will funding, staff utilization, services, and/or facility changes be necessary?) N/A**

Recommendation for Board Action, if any (state in form of a motion(s), to be acted upon by the full Board).

Attach brief summary of Request.

- N/A

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 AM