Message from Executive Director Faith Pullen

As 2021 draws to a close, I would like to take time to wish each of our members, partners and friends a Happy Holiday Season.

This year has certainly had its share of challenges, but a spirit of optimism and hope has guided us through. I am grateful to the Network for never giving up and for being ever ready to serve our clients and one another. I am personally grateful for my family, my health, and the grace that has been so generously bestowed on my life.

As you all prepare to celebrate with your family and friends, I pray that you will remain safe and vigilant in the wake of the COVID rise. I also pray that your holidays are filled with love.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and best wishes for a prosperous and healthy New Year!

42nd Annual Training Conference

Save the date for the 42nd Annual Training Conference! We’re back in person next year in the beautiful city of Fort Lauderdale. Be sure to watch this space for updates, including when registration opens.
Effective immediately for Home Energy Professional Renewals

All Certified Professionals that have a HEP certification coming due in 2021 through March 30, 2022 will be granted an extension. The new expiration date will be March 31, 2022, allowing additional time to arrange certification testing. No additional extensions will be granted after March 31, 2022. This includes the Energy Auditor, Quality Control Inspector, Retrofit Installer Technician, and Crew Leader certifications.

As a reminder, the Energy Auditor certification was updated (February 2019) and everyone must reapply under the new scheme. We recommend that HEP Certified Professionals apply now, regardless of when they choose to renew, as
we may have an influx of applicants in the first quarter of 2022 and must allow time for processing applications.

For BPI Energy Auditors whose expiration dates fall between now and 3/31/2022, please submit this renewal application with proof of Energy Modeling experience to BPI prior to scheduling your field exam to renew your certification. They will need to submit this application regardless of whether or not they are using CEUs to bypass the online exam.

Please reach out to BPI Client Relations Representative team at 877-274-1274 x292 or bloy@bpi.org. BPI staff are working remotely and remain available to assist you and answer any questions.

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**A CONVERSATION WITH CHARLES HARRIS**

After nearly 30 decades of dedicated service in Community Action, Charles Harris is retiring! In this conversation, Charles shares his most rewarding moments as executive director of the Central Florida Community Action Agency, how his connection to Community Action precedes his career, and his special message to the Community Action network.

**WATCH**

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**COVID-19 INFORMATION**

COVID-19 continues to be a global health emergency. As coronavirus cases continue to increase, it’s important to stay informed.

Visit the Centers for Disease Control's website for more information on preventing and preparing against COVID-19.

**LEARN MORE**
Bookmark the Florida Department of Health’s COVID-19 Response website to retrieve coronavirus information and resources specific to the state of Florida.

**Omicron Variant Detected in Florida**

On November 24, 2021, a new variant of COVID-19 was reported to the World Health Organization. This new variant was first detected last month in specimens collected in Botswana and South Africa, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

On November 26, the World Health Organization WHO named omicron and classified it as a variant of concern. On November 30, the United States designated omicron as a variant of concern, and on December 1, the first confirmed U.S. case of omicron was identified.

Officials in Florida confirmed on Dec. 7 a case of the variant in the state.

Officials at the CDC are unsure how easily omicron spreads, the severity of illness it causes, or how well available vaccines and medications work against it.

Despite the increased attention of omicron, delta continues to be the main variant circulating in the United States.

*Sources: Centers for Disease Control, Yahoo! News*

**COVID-19 RESOURCES**

**TREATMENT**

Monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, are made in a laboratory to fight a particular infection—in this case, SARS-CoV-2—and are given to patients directly with an infusion. That’s why mAb treatment may help patients who are at high risk for serious symptoms or having to stay in the hospital.

**TESTING**

Free testing for COVID-19 is available statewide at designated locations. Testing also is available at CVS, Quest Diagnostics, and Walgreens.

For additional assistance, reach out to your local County Health Department.

**VACCINATION**

Florida has many sites that are providing COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, highly effective, and free.

Appointments may be required, and specific vaccine types and brands may not be available at all sites.
Evictions are underway in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down the Biden Administration's eviction moratorium.

There is help for renters facing eviction. OURFlorida.com is Florida's federally-funded emergency rental assistance relief program to support residents and businesses as they continue to recover and rebuild.

More information, including a tenant checklist and documentation needed to apply, is available on the OurFlorida website.

Continuums of Care (CoC) are organizations composed of representatives of nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, etc.

The Florida Department of Children and Family Services has compiled a list of CoC contacts. Follow the link to contact a local lead agency.

According to the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, landlords must notify a tenant in writing of any perceived noncompliance except for the failure to pay rent.

Each eviction case is unique, so be sure to obtain legal advice. A landlord MAY NOT evict solely in retaliation for the tenant complaining to a governmental agency about code violations or asserting other tenant rights.

Visit the FLDACS website for more information about evictions and tenant's rights.

FACA is now on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter! Follow us today for news and updates about organization events, people, and partners.