

IMACA Providing Food and Energy Services, Announces New Executive Director

Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) has wide doors open and continues to serve low-income families in the Eastern Sierra with the food bank and the LIHEAP (energy bill assistance) program. They are also excited to announce that Kelly Barceloux will be the new Executive Director starting in September 2022.

“The IMACA food bank serves over 400 households across Inyo and Mono counties each month” said Food Program Manager Jeanne Thomas. “Lately, with food prices so high, we’re seeing lots of new for enrollment for our monthly distribution, and families needing to visit the food bank for the first time for emergency food.” Regular monthly food distribution takes place the 3rd and 4th week of each month, though that schedule sometimes changes due to holidays or weather conditions. Check the IMACA website for a monthly delivery schedule or call (760) 873-8557 to learn how to sign up for food distribution. IMACA plans to start utilizing a text message system to remind people about distribution days, so sign up if you would like to get alerts. IMACA always welcomes volunteers to help with food distribution, and is particularly in need of hands to help with the Mammoth Lakes distribution for a few hours once a month.

IMACA is accepting energy assistance applications through their LIHEAP program for low-income households. “If you need help paying your electric, propane, or kerosene bill, or need assistance purchasing pellets or firewood during the winter months, we are here to help you through the application process,” said Anna Huston, Energy Assistance Manager. IMACA is also happy to announce that we initiated a water bill assistance program. If you have overdue water bills, reach out to see if you are eligible for assistance.

IMACA’s BOD is proud to announce that Kelly Barceloux will step into the role of Executive Director next month. Kelly has many years of experience working at IMACA as the Community Connection for Children (CCC) and Facilities Director, served as Vice Chair of the local Child Abuse Prevention Council, and is a Trauma Informed Care Trainer. “I am grateful that the IMACA BOD has placed their confidence in me, and very much look forward to my new role” said Kelly. “IMACA is on a strong path right now, and I look forward to the organization continuing to provide quality services to our low-income neighbors.”

IMACA downsized significantly earlier this year. “We are so thankful that community partners were able and willing to step in and support programs that IMACA no longer had the capacity to run” said current Executive Director Kate Morley. “Funds provided to IMACA by Inyo and Mono County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and the City of Bishop earlier this year were a lifeline to the organization and allowed it to continue providing vital community services during a time of staff turnover that led to billing delays. IMACA has a bright future ahead now that the organization is once again fiscally stable and focused on providing core services. The last 12 months have been challenging, but I am confident that IMACA’s future is bright, and am thrilled that Kelly is taking the reigns as I step down. She is experienced, energetic, and the right person to lead IMACA in the years to come.”

During the past 2 years, IMACA has seen a very large increase in demand for services. They always welcome donations, which are tax-deductible because IMACA is a 501c(3) organization.