Financial skills are important tools that allow each of us to adapt and thrive in today’s modern society. For the residents of the M Street Navigation Center, who have experienced homelessness, rebuilding those personal economic skills is a crucial step in their path toward independence.

That's why we're excited about a new partnership that comes to M Street this week.

Chase Bank community manager, Shontay Smith-Sweeney, began a series of financial health classes at the M Street Center on Wednesday as part of the JP Morgan Chase corporation’s $30 billion commitment to advance racial equity. The initiative provides tools and resources to help people manage their financial lives and get on the path to fiscal health and resilience.

Through these four, one-hour courses Shontay will teach residents to learn how to save, budget, and invest, helping to set them up for financial success. Community partners like Chase are a vital part of the M Street Navigation Center's mission to support individuals and families transitioning from homelessness to self-sufficiency.
Street wrap-around services that provide our residents with assistance with medical evaluations, mental health assistance, substance abuse treatment, job training, and more.

Community Action National Convention

CAPK is part of a national network of more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies created in the 1960's to lead President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty.

This week that national network is meeting for our annual Convention "Advancing Equity, Building Resilience, Sustaining Hope" in Boston, Massachusetts. The goal is to learn, share ideas, discuss challenges and celebrate the successes our network has achieved in serving our nation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CAPK CEO Jeremy Tobias and other key agency leaders joined members of the CAPK Governing Board at the conference, building our capacity to improve the way we serve all our CAPK communities from our home in Kern County to our other service areas in California that stretch from Needles to Lodi.

Among the core topics at the convention are using research to create community action, effective administration, innovation in anti-poverty practices, how to reach entire communities of need and the mission of promoting equity for those we serve.
Community Action Partnership of Kern wants to extend our sincere thanks to California State Senator Melissa Hurtado for authoring SB393 - Migrant Childcare and Development Programs.

We also want to congratulate her on the bill's passage September 1 in the California Assembly. We want to also thank Assemblyman Rudy Salas for captaining the bill through the Assembly process.

Next: a quick update before the California Senate - which has already passed the bill - and then on to the Governor's desk for a signature.

This legislation will support the Migrant Childcare Alternative Payment program which helps migrant agricultural working families quickly connect with and pay for high-quality childcare in any county in California. It will ensure those families have the full support of their CAPK case managers as they seek and secure childcare. These families need this assistance to be able to plant, tend, harvest and process the food we eat every day.
Assemblyman Rudy Salas, D-Bakersfield, presents SB393 on the Assembly Floor.