

HDN 9/14/10  
HILLSDALE

# CAA job can help pay back student loans

Duties include helping local homeless find a place to live

By **AMY BELL**  
amy.bell@hillsdale.net

The Hillsdale Community Action Agency is offering the chance to not only help the community but receive assistance with student loan debt.

CAA, in conjunction with the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, is now accepting applications for a part-time, one-year Americorp service position. In return for their service, the individual will receive a \$6,245 annual living allowance, a \$2,675 education award and child care, if applicable.

CAA Executive Director Maxine Vanlerberg said she applied for the grant but was only able to get funding for a part-time position.

"It's really a great opportunity for Community Action Agency and for Hillsdale County because we pay a matching grant and the majority of it is paid for by the Michigan Coalition Against Home-

SEE CAA, 5

## CAA

Continued from page 1

lessness," she said.

The employee will be working with those who are homeless or at risk of losing their homes to help them find housing as well as become successful and self-sufficient.

The position requires the individual to have a bachelor's degree from a four-year college/university; or one to two years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Core responsibilities will include outreach, housing assistance and follow-up support.

Vanlerberg said she is hopeful the position will help combat the growing problem of homelessness within the county.

Vanlerberg said the agency is seeing more than twice the amount of

HDN 9/14/10

### For more information

Contact Maxine Vanlerberg at 517-437-3346 or by visiting [www.caa-jlh.org](http://www.caa-jlh.org).

Applications may be picked up at:  
Community Action Agency  
55 Barnard St.  
Hillsdale

homeless or at-risk individuals than what it saw at this time last year.

Many individuals that come to the agency have run out of unemployment funding or are not making enough at their current employer to make ends meet, she said.

Vanlerberg said the agency is seeing more families as well. She said many have doubled up with friends or other family members in an effort to maintain shelter.