



February 2020

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CEO's Letter

Dear Friend,

It has been a busy start to 2020 here at NYSCAA; we have been working to put together relevant and meaningful events in the upcoming months. We are looking forward to connecting with each of you and providing useful resources at all of our events in 2020.

We are very excited to announce Reconnect and Recharge: NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference! The conference will be held June 16-18 at the [Hyatt Regency](#) in Rochester, NY. Early-Bird registration rates are currently available and can be found on the [conference webpage](#). NYSCAA is also currently accepting proposals for workshop sessions for the conference. If you are interested in submitting a proposal you can do so by [clicking here](#).

NYSCAA will continue to host the 2020 Community Action Awards as a part of this year's annual conference. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize staff and members of the community for their support and accomplishments. Please consider staff, volunteers, participants, and community supporters that make a difference every day in your agency/community. [Click here](#) to submit an award nomination today.

We have begun planning for the 2020 Regional Meetings in coordination with the Department of State (DOS). The meetings will begin this spring, in May, with our Western Regional Meeting, hosted by Cattaraugus Community Action, and will continue through early summer.

We will be opening registration for the meetings in the coming weeks.

We look forward to seeing you at our future events! It is our goal to always provide you an opportunity to connect, learn, and share with your Community Action colleagues.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT

February's Poverty Myth

***"Compared to other developed nations, the United States has relatively low poverty rates among children."
- False!***

In reality, the United States has the 2nd highest child poverty rate among developed nations at 23.1%. A report released by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reveals alarming child poverty rates within affluent, or 'developed', nations. The United States ranks second highest among all measured countries, only behind Romania's 25.6 per cent.



[Click here](#) to read more.

NYSCAA News

***Early-Bird Registration is Now Open for Reconnect and Recharge:
NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference***



NYSCAA will be hosting a three day conference in partnership with the New York State Weatherization Directors Association (NYSWDA), June 16-18, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency in Rochester, NY. The conference will include a first day focusing on issues related to poverty and will provide an opportunity to engage in a dialogue about poverty and potential strategies for moving families toward greater economic security. There will also be an additional 1.5 days of concurrent workshops focusing on providing professional development to Community Action Agency staff in all levels and departments.

Early-Bird registration rates are currently available! Save \$40 on the price of your conference registration when you register for the entire 3 day conference! Don't wait, early-bird rates are only available until March 31st! Visit NYSCAA's [conference webpage](#) for more information on registration rates, sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, and over-night room rates. We are looking forward to seeing you in June!

Save the Dates! 2020 NYSCAA and DOS Regional Meetings

Five Regional Meetings will be held around New York State and will be coordinated with the Department of State.

1. **Western:** Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. - May 6, 2020
2. **Central:** Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc. (CAPCO) - May 13, 2020
3. **North Country:** Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc. - May 20, 2020
4. **Capital District:** Saratoga County EOC - June 9, 2020
5. **NYC/LI:** New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) - June 25, 2020

More information including meeting times, locations, and registration will be available soon.

Highlights From our Agencies

Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP)

[Albany Community Action Partnership \(ACAP\)](#) loves when people visit their Early Education classrooms! Recently, officers from the Albany Police Department visited one of their Head Start locations. The officers spent some time talking safety and were happy to begin to create positive relationships for the little ones with the Albany Police. Meeting community members is an important part of learning!



Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca

Governor Cuomo announced the finalists of the second round of [Alliance for Economic Inclusion](#) funding and [Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca](#) was one of two Cayuga County non-profits funded in the amount of \$235,754!



This funding will compliment CAP's Employment Pathways Program, funded through AEI's Round 1, as well as provide non-Medicaid volunteer transportation to and from health and safety appointments and private sector jobs!

Census 2020

Mark Your Calendar: Important 2020 Census Dates

- March 12-20: Initial invitations to respond online and by phone will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with the invitation to respond online or over the phone.
- March 16-24: Reminder letters will be delivered.
- March 26-April 3: Reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not responded.
- April 8-16: Reminder letters and paper questionnaires will be delivered to remaining households that have not been responded.
- April 20-27: Final reminder postcards will be delivered to households that not have yet responded before census takers follow up in person.
- May 13-July 31: If a household does not respond to any of the invitations, a census taker will follow up in person.

[Click here](#) for additional important Census dates.

How Do I Respond to the 2020 Census and What Does it Ask Me?

The 2020 Census will count all people who live in the U.S. The census is a short questionnaire that asks basic information about your household and the people who live in it. Your personal responses are confidential and cannot be shared with other government agencies, including immigration enforcement, police, or housing authorities. The government uses the population count to divide up political representation and to determine where to spend resources.



In March 2020, the Census Bureau will mail information to households inviting them to respond to the census. There are three ways to participate: online, by phone, or by paper. [Click here](#) to read more.

U.S. Census Bureau - Putting 2020 Census Rumors to Rest

Every decade, technology plays a greater role in the way the census is conducted. But in 2020, the first time anyone who wants to respond to the census online has that option, the greatest change may come from the way all of us use technology.



For the first time during a decennial census, the majority of people in the United States are using digital and social media in their everyday lives. To prevent the spread of fake, false and inaccurate information, that can negatively influence 2020 Census participation and response, the Census Bureau has established the government's first ever Trust & Safety Team to protect the count.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Community Action Partnership - Complete Count Committee

Make sure to visit the Community Action Partnership's (CAP) [Census 2020 webpage](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest news and information about the upcoming 2020 Census. This once in a decade event is critical for Community Action and the families and communities we serve across the country, and it is essential that all people are counted.



Please nominate one staff member from your agency to serve on the Community Action Partnership's Complete Count Committee. This person will be your key contact on Census news, outreach, and information. CAP will be offering a range of free training tools to make your participation easy and effective. To nominate, fill out this [2 minute form](#), or email your agency's nominee name and email address to lmarsh@communityactionpartnership.com.

CSBG National Partner Resources

The Community Action Partnership & NASCSP's Joint Statement on FY 2021 Budget Proposal

The Trump Administration released its [FY 2021 Budget Proposal](#), once again calling for the elimination of programs and services that are critical to raising families out of poverty, including the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

The Partnership and NASCSP have released a Joint Statement on the effects that these proposals will have on the Community Action Network.

[Click here](#) to read the Joint Statement.

CAPLAW - Policies in Practice Webinar Series

Effectively governed Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have policies and systems in place that encourage accountability, transparency and efficiency of operations. Dive into this governance checkup to review some key policies your CAA is required to have under the CSBG Organizational Standards — a whistleblower policy, conflict of interest policy, procurement policy, and record retention policy. Each 60-minute webinar is intended for Executive Directors, management staff, board members, and attorneys of CAAs. See below for more information and to register.



1. [Conflict of Interest Policy](#) - Thursday, March 19, 2020
2. [Procurement Policy](#) - Thursday, April 30, 2020
3. [Record Retention Policy](#) - Thursday, June 4, 2020

Additional Resources

The White House - New Tool Empowers Local Leaders to Take Action Against Rural Drug Addiction

The Trump Administration released a new tool to assist rural community leaders in building an effective local response to the crisis of addiction. The [Rural Community Action Guide](#) includes background information, recommended action steps, and promising practices for a range of issues related to drug addiction in rural America.

The Action Guide complements both the [Community Assessment Tool](#), which gives county specific data about deaths and factors which may make a community more vulnerable to addiction, and the [Federal Rural Resources Guide](#), which includes comprehensive information

about different federal funds for rural communities impacted by addiction. For more information and the full article, [click here](#).

Prosperity Now - Understanding the Impact of Debt on Communities of Color

Join Prosperity Now, on February 26 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST, for a webinar on debt in communities of color. This webinar, supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is the first in a series that will explore how communities of color can overcome a legacy of toxic debt to take advantage of economic opportunity and achieve financial security.



During this webinar, you'll hear from experts on the issue of debt in communities of color, understand what the data and research tell us about this problem, and explore policy and program solutions that alleviate the effects of debt on the most vulnerable Americans.

[Click here](#) to register today!

Prosperity Now - Communicating on Race and Racial Economic Equity Guide

Prosperity Now's [Racial Wealth Divide Initiative \(RWDI\)](#) has developed the Communicating on Race and Racial Economic Equity guide. This document is a compilation of best practices and recommendations from a wide range of resources from Prosperity Now's RWDI and Communications teams that are helpful for naming, framing, defining and understanding the issue. Also provided, are design guidelines on visually depicting diverse communities and definitions of important terms and concepts for understanding the nuance and complexity of racial economic equity, the racial wealth divide and racial wealth equity.



[Click here](#) to download the Communicating on Race and Racial Economic Equity guide.

National Professional Development Opportunities

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

2020 Annual Conference
March 17th-20th, 2020 - Washington D.C.

[Click here](#) for more information.

CAPLAW

National Training Conference
June 30th - July 2nd, 2020 - Chicago, Illinois

[Click here](#) for more information.

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

2020 Annual Convention

August 26th-28th, 2020 - Seattle, Washington

[Click here](#) for more information.

The Promise of Community Action:

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



Our Agencies:

Click on Name of Agency to Visit Website: [Action for a Better Community, Inc.](#) * [Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.](#) * [Albany Community Action Partnership](#) * [ACCORD Corporation](#) * [CAPC of Jefferson County](#) * [Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [Chautauqua Opportunities Inc.](#) * [Columbia Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Capital District Region, Inc.](#) * [Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc.](#) * [Community Action of Greene County, Inc.](#) * [Community Action of Orleans & Genesee](#) * [Community Action Partnership for Madison County, Inc.](#) * [Cortland Community Action Program, Inc. \(CAPCO\)](#) * [Delaware Opportunities](#) * [Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [Economic Opportunity Program Inc. of Chemung County](#) * [EOC of Nassau County - Hempstead](#) * [EOC of Suffolk - Patchogue](#) * [Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties](#) * [Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Livingston County Planning Department](#) * [Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [NYC Department of Youth and Community Development](#) * [Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Broome, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Chenango, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.](#) * [Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Path Stone PEACE, Inc.](#) * [Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.](#) * [RECAP](#) * [Saratoga County EOC, Inc.](#) * [Schenectady Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.](#) * [St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc.](#) * [Tioga Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Tompkins Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc.](#) * [Warren/Hamilton Counties ACEO, Inc.](#) * [L.E.A.P.](#) * [WestCOP](#) * [Wayne County Community Action Program, Inc.](#) * [Wyoming County Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.](#)

[New York State Community Action Association, Inc.](#)

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