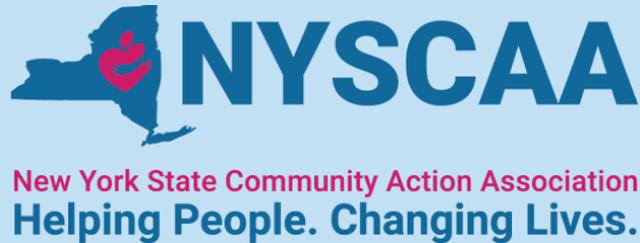


# February 2024 NYSCAA News



## **A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:**

Dear friend,

Save the Date! Our 2024 annual professional development conference will be held at the stunning Lake Placid Conference Center on September 17-20. This year's conference will include inspiring keynote speakers and breakout workshops, pre-conference learning opportunities for CAA Fiscal and Human Resources staff, the 2024 Community Action Awards Gala, 60th-anniversary commemoration activities, and more! We are developing the agenda, and our call for session proposals will be available soon. We cannot wait to reconnect with all of you in the Adirondacks!

On another note, we welcome the appointment of Schenectady Community Action Program's (SCAP) new Chief Executive Officer, Adelaide Haberbusch. Having worked at SCAP for several years, Adelaide brings first-hand knowledge into her new role and is excited to lead the agency into the future.

**Jacqueline Orr, CEO**

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## **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.*

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## **NYSCAA News:**



### **Save the Date for NYSCAA & NYSWDA's 2024 Annual Conference!**

We are excited to announce we will be returning to Lake Placid for this year's annual conference. We are hard at work planning for an even more successful event in 2024. Keep an eye out for more information about the Call for Session Proposals, Community Action Award announcements, hotel and lodging, registration and more!

## **AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM**



### **New York CAAs Participate in the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program**

In June 2023, NYSCAA was awarded a \$500,000 Affordable Connectivity Program grant from The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to work with three Community Action Agencies (CAAs)

NYSCAA is proud to work with [Community Action Partnership for Madison County, Inc., Connecting Communities in Action](#), and [Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc. \(CAPCO\)](#) to support families receiving a monthly benefit to make internet affordable in their homes.

Unfortunately, The [FCC Affordable Connectivity Program](#) will not be funded by Congress after April 2024, bringing the program to a premature close. However, during the grant, the three participating agencies held over 140 in-person events to raise awareness of the program, reaching over 11,000 eligible community members in six counties and enrolling 89 people during those events.

Community members who took advantage of the program saved \$30 monthly on their internet or phone bills. Although the Affordable Connectivity Program is winding down, NYSCAA is proud to have partnered with and supported the three CAAs in connecting people with valuable internet services at an affordable cost.



## Expand Your Knowledge with NYSCAA Learn

NYSCAA Learn is an invaluable online learning resource for NYSCAA members. Through this platform, you can access a robust catalog of educational content to build your capacity in serving communities. Access includes:

- Interactive online courses on timely topics
- Recordings of informative NYSCAA webinars
- Downloadable slide decks and other useful materials
- Certificates of completion

Whether you want to watch an archived webinar or take a self-paced course, NYSCAA Learn has the flexible training and development opportunities you need. Grow your expertise and continue making an impact by signing into your NYSCAA Learn account today. Check out the latest offerings:

- The Art of Writing Good Case Notes
- NYS WMBE Overview Training

- Frontline Track - an online course series covering essential topics for frontline workers

If you have an account already, access available NYSCAA Learn Courses [here!](#) Logging on for your first time? Visit our [NYSCAA Learn FAQs page](#) for helpful tips!

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## Highlights from New York's CAAs



### Cortland County Community Action Program (CAPCO)

[CAPCO](#) shared the love this Valentines Day! They partnered with Royal Subaru and the Subaru Loves to Help program in collaboration with Project Warm to provide coats and other winter essentials to over ninety children in their community. Partnerships like this make all the difference when it comes to making sure essential resources and services are available to all low-income families in need.

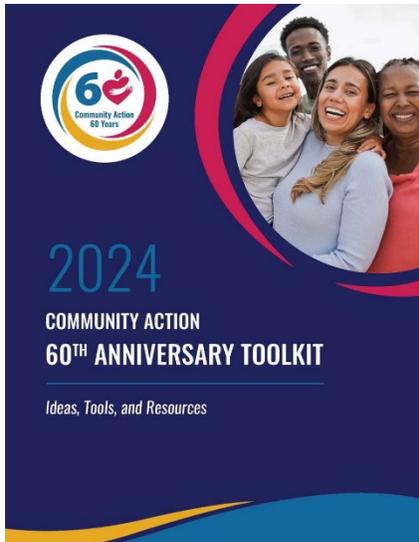


### Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency (MVCAA)

[MVCAA's](#) Executive Director, Amy Turner, was honored as part of YWCA Mohawk Valley and Herkimer County Child Advocacy Center's 35th Anniversary Salute to Outstanding Women. The event honors local women for their invaluable contributions in assisting low-income individuals and families and their unwavering dedication and compassion. Through their tireless efforts, these remarkable women have provided vital support, empowering those in need to overcome adversity and build brighter futures. Whether through advocacy, community outreach, or direct service provision, they have demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination in the face of challenges. Congratulations, Amy!

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## CSBG National Partner News:



## Community Action 60th Anniversary Toolkit

Over the next 12 months and into 2025, the Community Action Network will commemorate its 60th anniversary with national, state, and local events and activities. NCAP has released the Community Action 60th Anniversary Toolkit to help CAAs and State Associations plan and to provide resources for agencies to use and adapt. The toolkit includes a planning guide, a starter-pack list of over 60 commemoration activity ideas, a 60th anniversary coloring page, and more.

[Click here](#) to access the toolkit.



## 2024 Community Action Month Toolkit

The purpose of the 2024 Community Action Month Toolkit is to provide resources to promote your Community Action Agency and to raise awareness of Community Action Month this May. The toolkit includes sample social media graphics and messaging, resources for commemorating Community Action's 60th anniversary, press release and government proclamation templates, fundraising ideas, video production tips, and event and activity information that your agency can use to increase your visibility!

[Click here](#) to access the toolkit.



## 2024 CCAP Candidates: Proctored Exam Webinar

The 2024 CCAP Proctored Examination will be administered on Wednesday, April 17. Candidates planning to sit for the Proctored Exam are invited to join CCAP program staff for this informational tour covering what to expect before, during and after Exam Day. Trainers will reinforce important dates, steps CCAP Candidates are expected to take, and rules for Exam Day. Participants will receive a first-hand look at the online, Community Action Academy platform through which the Proctored Exam will be administered, and we will leave as

much time as needed to answer Candidate questions. Participation in this session is voluntary and there is no charge to participate. If you have questions before registering, please let us know at [CCAP@CommunityActionPartnership.com](mailto:CCAP@CommunityActionPartnership.com).

**When:** Wednesday, March 6th at 2 PM

Register through [NCAP's Member Portal](#), under the EVENTS tab.



## NCAP Launches Snap E&T Community of Practice

Join the 2024 SNAP E&T Community of Practice, launched by the National Community Action Partnership. This community offers peer-to-peer learning opportunities designed for current SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) providers. With quarterly meetings starting on March 27th, participants will gain insights from SNAP E&T specialists at the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) and fellow peer-experts. Submit your profile [here](#) by March 8th for this opportunity to enhance your SNAP Employment and Training Program.

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## National Professional Development Opportunities:

### National Association for State Community Action Programs (NASCSPP)

- [Winter Training Conference](#) - March 11-15, 2024

### CAPLAW

- [2024 National Training Conference](#) - June 4-6, 2024

### National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

- [2024 Annual Convention](#) - August 26-30, 2024

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## Resources for New York State:



## New Yorkers in Need: The Housing Insecurity Crisis

For almost 3 million New Yorkers, housing costs constitute more than 30 percent of household income, the most commonly used threshold of affordability. In New York, cost burdens are among the most severe in the nation, with one in five households experiencing a severe cost burden, meaning more than 50 percent of income is for housing costs. While low-income renters are the most cost-burdened, these financial pressures are increasingly felt by middle class households.

[This report](#) is the third and final report in the “New Yorkers in Need” series. It examines housing insecurity in New York, including high-cost burdens, inadequate housing conditions and quality and other housing stress that may lead to evictions, foreclosures and homelessness.



## Senator Gillibrand Calls for Expanded Child Tax Credit in New York

“The Child Tax Credit is a lifeline for working families and one of the best tools we have for fighting child poverty,” said Senator Gillibrand. “The Child Tax Credit expansion expired at the end of 2021, and since then, child poverty has more than doubled nationwide. That’s unacceptable. This credit would benefit nearly 900,000 New York kids and save the average family nearly 700 dollars per year. I am calling on my colleagues to pass the expanded CTC to provide additional support to kids most in need.”

Expanded CTC is expected to provide a larger CTC for families with more than two children and allow taxpayers to use their income from current or prior year calculations. It is also anticipated that CTC will be adjusted annually for inflation in 2024 and 2025 and that the overall limit on the [Refundable Child Tax Credit](#) will be modified.

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## National News & Resources:



### Community Action Celebrates Black History Month

Nearly a century ago, scholar Carter G. Woodson began an annual celebration of Black history, announcing, “We are going back to that beautiful history and it is going to inspire us to greater achievements.” While Woodson initially conceived of a weeklong event that coincided with the February birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass (already celebrated in African American communities), his true vision was a celebration of African American history, art, and culture that was not contained to prominent individuals and designated weeks, but one that recognized the breadth of individuals within the African American community and their varied triumphs and struggles.

The contributions and experiences of the African American community are not relics of history – they are the living bedrock of what we know of this country today, including its culture, economic growth, and development throughout history and across time.

More resources and information to celebrate and honor Black History Month can be found [here](#).



### Urban Institute: Housing First Is Still the Best Approach to Ending Homelessness

As the number of people experiencing homelessness has increased, some have criticized Housing First, a model for addressing homelessness whose strategy is to quickly move people into housing and then provide them with voluntary, individually tailored services. Urban Institute experts share evidence on the outcomes of Housing First interventions and argue that, despite misconceptions, it is still the best strategy to help people exit homelessness.

[Click here](#) for the full report.





## U.S. Federal and State Poverty-Reduction Policy: Divergence in Discretion

State and federal policies designed to reduce or eliminate poverty tend to divide populations into categories to determine eligibility for financial assistance. These “categorical eligibility structures” sort people and households into groups—such as children, workers, or senior citizens—who may be eligible for certain safety-net benefits based on income, age, location, or other demographic characteristics. Anti-poverty policies also delegate elements of program design and administration to states and localities, where variations can be substantial and opportunities for discrimination are multiplied. Fragmenting populations into categories undermines the universal application of social policy, while jurisdictional fragmentation undermines policy’s capacity for equity.

[Click here](#) to read more.



### Contact Info:

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**Looking for more information about New York's Community Action Agencies? Visit [The NY Network](#) portion of our website!**

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