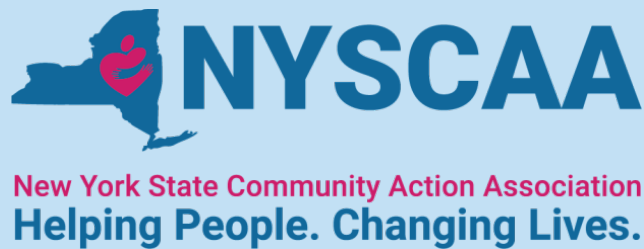


# January 2024 NYSCAA News



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

Dear friend,

I hope you all had a joyous New Year. Thank you for all of the work you do every day to ensure a better tomorrow for your clients and communities.

I am happy to announce that Ray Catchen has joined the NYSCAA team as our new Diaper Demonstration Distribution Research Pilot (DDDRP) Program Coordinator. Ray brings a wealth of experience to the role and will be an asset to the network. Welcome, Ray!

Last month, we said goodbye to NYSCAA Board Member and CEO of Schenectady Community Action Program, Deb Schimpf. Deb was a long-standing member of NYSCAA's Board of Directors and a leader of Community Action in New York State. We thank Deb for her many years of service to the network and wish her all the best in her retirement.

The [2024 Community Action Awards](#) nomination period is officially open. We have revised the awards and are excited about the new categories. Help us recognize community partners, staff, and customers for their outstanding accomplishments by submitting nominations for one (or more!) of our awards. More information on the new award categories and submission deadlines can be found below in the newsletter.

We are also excited that preparation for our annual conference has begun. We are developing the agenda and securing the location. Keep an eye out for a save-the-date coming soon!

***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:



## The 2024 Community Action Awards Nomination Period is Now Open!

Do you know any outstanding volunteers, employees, program participants or other individuals who have advanced the work of Community Action, achieved significant personal accomplishments, fought poverty in their communities, and enabled low-income families to achieve self-sufficiency? These individuals should be honored and recognized for their successful and exemplary efforts! We invite you to submit a nomination for [NYSCAA's 2024 Community Action Awards!](#)

We have made some changes to the award categories and descriptions. The following awards will be presented in 2024:

- Community Action Impact Award
- Community Action Personal Achievement Award
- Community Action Promise Award
- Community Action Rising Star Award

- Community Action Social Justice Award

Visit the [Community Action Awards webpage](#) for the award descriptions, nominations instructions, and additional information about this year's awards and the 2024 Community Action Awards Gala.

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## **New York Diaper Distribution Demonstration Research Pilot (DDDRP) -**

NYSCAA, in partnership with regional diaper banks, participating Community Action Agencies in New York, and the [Office of Community Services with the Department of Health and Human Services - Administration for Children and Families](#) coordinates the Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Project (DDDRP) in NY. The DDDRPP is an opportunity to demonstrate the health and economic impact of having enough diapers on a consistent basis. It also will reinforce the power of bundled services. This is not just about giving out diapers, but looking at diaper needs as part of a whole-family approach. Community Action Agencies in New York are tasked in their mission to think outside of siloed programs about the multiple needs of households and individuals. They bundle services across programs and make warm referrals to partners and resources to help households stabilize, become more economically secure, and work towards their dreams.

[Click here](#) to learn more about New York's participation in the third cohort of the DDDRPP and connect with one of New York's diaper distribution partners.

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## 60th Anniversary Logo

2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act. Over the next 12 months NYSCAA and New York's Community Action Agencies (CAAs) will commemorate the 60th anniversary with state-wide and local events and activities.

As part of the celebration, with the help of the National Community Action Partnership, we created a 60th anniversary logo to increase awareness of the milestone year. The logo is available to all of New York's CAAs. We encourage using the logo on social media and in celebration activities to commemorate the Economic Opportunity Act that created the National Community Action Network.

[Click here](#) to download the logo.



## NYSCAA Learn is Your Resource for Training and Recorded Webinars

NYSCAA members can watch recordings of our webinars, download slide presentations and other resources, and receive a certificate upon completion, all in NYSCAA Learn. Check out these trending trainings:

- Economic Opportunity Act
- NYS MWBE Overview Training
- The Art of Writing Good Case Notes
- Frontline Track

NYSCAA Learn is an online learning hub that houses eLearning interactive courses and other resources designed specifically for Community Action. NYSCAA Learn has you covered with free training of over 75 courses and resources covering topics from Community Action, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, HR, data, poverty, and frontline staff topics and technology! All courses are free and open to all New York CAA board members, staff, and volunteers.

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



### Action for a Better Community, Inc.

This month, [Action for a Better Community, Inc. \(ABC\)](#) hosted their Signature Conference: Beyond Trauma... A Journey to Wellness. The virtual event partnered with distinguished speakers who offered practical remedies from diverse points of view regarding what is required for community wellness in various segments of our society. The conference focused on identifying strategies for stakeholders to collectively take action to make Rochester a better community.



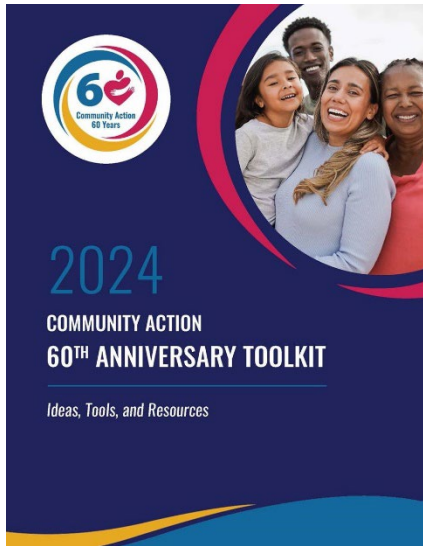
### PEACE, Inc.

"Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." ~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In honor of Martin Luther King Day of Service, [PEACE, Inc.'s](#) Americorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program collected school supplies and delivered them to schools. The Seniors Foster Grandparent Program was especially grateful to Abundant Life Church for their significant donations to this project. Foster grandparents can bridge divides and create lasting change that will benefit children's lives for years to come.

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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's 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 provides 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.



## Community Action and Financial Empowerment at Tax Time Webinar

Millions of consumers can keep more of their money at tax time by using free tax preparation services provided by IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers. Produced jointly with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), this webinar will help community action agencies connect more community members to those free filing options. As a result of this webinar, CAAs and individual CAA staff members will be able to:



- Describe the value to consumers of claiming tax credits and using free IRS-certified tax assistance options
- Connect LMI households to IRS-certified tax assistance options using existing resources
- Adopt field-tested strategies used by CAAs to help consumers protect their money and improve their financial well-being at tax time

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar.



## **NCAP's 2024 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) Learning Cohort**

NCAP is accepting applications for their [2024 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training \(SNAP E&T\) Learning Cohort](#). This 9-month opportunity, presented in collaboration with the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) and American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services (USDA FNS).

Scheduled to run from March to November 2024, this cohort provides Community Action Agencies with a unique chance to explore the potential fit of SNAP E&T within their organizations. Participants will benefit from tailored services, including technical assistance from SNAP E&T experts and peers, customized training and materials, and application assistance for those interested in becoming SNAP E&T Third-Party Partners.

The application deadline is January 31st, 2024, and a flyer with more information can be found [here](#). For any inquiries or to express your interest, reach out to Hayleigh Rockenback, SNAP E&T Senior Associate, at [hrockenback@communitypartnership.com](mailto:hrockenback@communitypartnership.com).

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## **National Professional Development Opportunities:**

**National Association for State Community Action Programs (NASCSAP)**

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

## National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

- [2024 Management & Leadership Training Conference](#) - February 14-16, 2024

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## Resources for New York State:



Department  
of Health

### Self-Reported Food Insecurity Among New York State Adults by County

Food insecurity is characterized by limited or uncertain access to adequate food due to limited economic resources. [In this report](#), food insecurity is estimated by the percentage of adults who report that they were always, usually, or sometimes worried or stressed about having enough money to buy nutritious meals in the past 12 months. Adults experiencing food insecurity have a higher probability of several chronic diseases, including hypertension, coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke, cancer, asthma, arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and kidney disease. 2 Approximately one in four adults (24.9%) in New York State (NYS) experience food insecurity.

### Apply for Heating and Cooling Assistance (HEAP)

#### What is HEAP?

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes.

#### How does it work?

Eligible parties may receive one regular HEAP benefit per season and could also be eligible for an emergency HEAP benefit if they are in impending danger of running out of fuel or having the utility service shut off.

#### Are HEAP benefits available year-round?

No, the application period normally begins in early to mid-November and continues into the winter, until funding for the program runs out.

[Learn more about eligibility requirements and to apply for HEAP.](#)





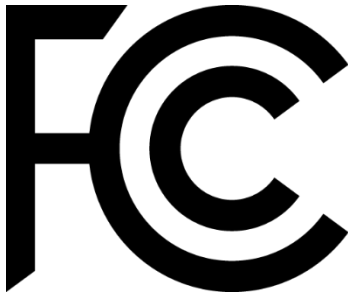
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## National News & Resources:



### 2024 Poverty Guidelines

The [2024 Poverty Guidelines](#) for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia, Alaska, and Hawaii are now available. The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes — for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. The poverty guidelines are derived from the Census Bureau's current official poverty thresholds; they are not derived from the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).



### The FCC Is Taking Steps to Wind Down the Affordable Connectivity Program

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) expects the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to end this spring unless Congress appropriates additional funding. As a result, the FCC has begun taking steps to wind down the ACP. The FCC projects that households enrolled in the ACP will continue to receive the benefit on their internet service through April 2024. This date is an estimate and may change.

Read this [factsheet](#) for more information.



### Brookings: Black Wealth is Increasing, but so is the Racial Wealth Gap

New [Federal Reserve data](#) show that, despite wealth increases across the board during the COVID-19 pandemic, America's racial wealth gap widened. Between 2019 and 2022, median wealth increased by \$51,800, but the racial wealth gap increased by \$49,950—contributing to a difference of \$240,120 in wealth between the median white household and the median Black household.

While housing equity increased for Black households, other key wealth-building components like corporate and business equity did not. The United States still hasn't overcome centuries of discrimination in public policy, financial practices, and societal norms that limited Black wealth accumulation.

A [new report](#) sheds light on the nation's persistent racial wealth gap and call for structural changes to close it.



## National Poverty in America Awareness Month

Hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, disabilities, restricted access to participation in the democratic process. These are just some of the many manifestations of poverty. More than 40 million Americans live in poverty. In recognition of National Poverty in America Awareness Month this month, the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) has identified key stats and trends related to poverty.



## Nonprofits: A Look at National Trends in Establishment Size and Employment

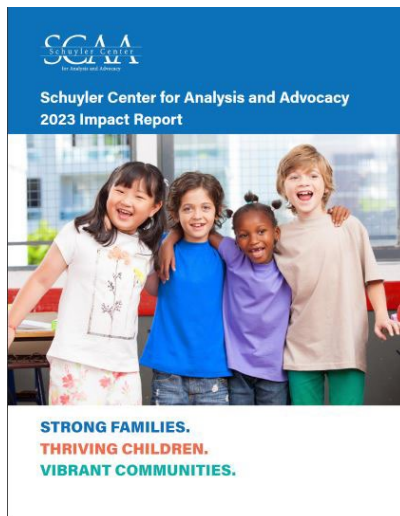
Nonprofit organizations are an integral part of the U.S. economy. These organizations—from museums and social advocacy groups to healthcare providers and universities—can be found across all segments of the economy. To gauge the impact of this sector, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses its business register, which relies on data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, to produce employment, wage, and establishment estimates for nonprofit organizations on a 5-year cycle.

[Click here](#) to read the full analysis.

## Schuyler Center for Analysis & Advocacy's 2023 Impact Report

Strong families. Thriving children. Vibrant communities. That is the Schuyler Center's vision for New York's future: a future in which every child has the opportunity to thrive, and where well-being is accessible to every family, in every region of the state. The Schuyler Center is leading the fight, advocating for policies that benefit children and families impacted by poverty.

[Click here](#) to access the 2023 Impact Report.





## 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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