



NYSCAA

New York State Community Action Association
Helping People. Changing Lives.

June 2020

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CEO's Letter

Dear Friend,

In some ways it's hard to believe it's been over three months since the Governor issued NY Pause, requiring all non-essential businesses to close, but in other ways, it seems like it's been much more than 14 weeks given the amount of change in such a short period of time. Over the past several weeks, Community Action Agencies have continued to provide essential services to community members and have had to make immediate decisions on how these services could be delivered in a way that was safe for both customers and staff. One CAA staff person said "We didn't have weeks or even days to figure out how we were going to continue to provide services, we had hours." And CAAs did what so what they do best – they figured out how to meet the needs of their communities in a responsive and compassionate way. One of the biggest challenges was, and continues to be, how to work remotely with individuals where face-to-face and human contact and connection is vital.

As communities and businesses are reopening across the state and CAAs are expanding their hours and bringing remote staff back to office spaces, there are continued challenges such as redesigning office spaces and learning how to work and connect with individuals given social

distancing and physical barriers. We are confident that Community Action will adapt, grow and be even stronger.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT

Monthly Myth Series

"Homosexuality is a choice." - False!

FACT: Homosexuality is caused by factors such as genetics and the biology of brain development.



Parenting, peer pressure, and religious struggles are not causes of homosexuality or heterosexuality.

Homosexuality is no more a choice or decision than being straight. Asking a gay person, "When did you decide to be gay?" is similar to asking a heterosexual person, "When did you decide to be attracted to people of the opposite sex?"

Scientific data indicate that sexual orientation (homosexuality or heterosexuality, i.e. gay or straight) is biologically based. While there is more to learn, studies suggest that what leads to a person being gay or straight lies within our genetics (i.e. DNA), epigenetics (i.e. how factors affect our genes), and what occurs in the developing brain before birth.

Love is love. Do your part to promote equality. [Click here](#) to read more about commonly misrepresented LGBTQ+ myths.

NYSCAA News

Community Action Agencies Shine Light During Dark Times

As we all continue to work through the COVID-19 Pandemic and respond to community needs, we at NYSCAA would like to recognize the effort and hard work of Community Action Agencies across the state. We have compiled stories and accounts of the support Community Action Agencies are providing for their communities in these uncertain times. To read more

about the work being done across the state, visit our [Community Action Agencies Shine Light During Dark Times](#) webpage.

2020 Regional Meetings Update

The NYS Department of State and NYSCAA have concluded the 2020 Regional Meetings. If you were unable to attend the meetings, don't worry! All of the 2020 presentations and slides are available on the NYSCAA website and can be found [here](#).

Reconnect and Recharge: NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference Update



Due to COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus), NYSCAA and NYSWDA have tentatively rescheduled the 2020 Reconnect and Recharge Conference to **September 23-25, 2020**. Registration for the conference is temporarily closed and is expected to reopen shortly.

However, in an effort to plan for every contingency, NYSCAA is researching available options for a possible virtual conference. We hope to meet in person to discuss best practices and promote resources, but are aware that there may be travel and gathering restrictions in place. We will be watching this closely.

Whether the conference will be held in-person or virtually, NYSCAA is still looking for session ideas. The Call for Proposals for the conference has been extended until July 24, 2020. Please visit the Call for Proposals [webpage](#) to submit a proposal for the conference.

There are still sponsor and exhibitor opportunities available for the conference. Visit the conference sponsor and exhibitor [webpage](#) for more information on levels and packages.

NYSCAA Resources on COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have developed an online listing of resources to support you and your agency's important work. NYSCAA has compiled a number of [state and federal resources](#), as well as [tech resources](#) to help you during this challenging time.

Please visit the [NYSCAA website](#) as we continue to update and add to the resources listings.

Highlights from our Agencies

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency

Utica Committee to Stop Gun Violence Presents a Plan

With the help of many partners, the City of Utica formed a committee earlier this year with the goal of trying to find ways to help stop gun violence and strengthen relations with the police. Now, several months later, they have a plan.

Utica's Access and Inclusion Committee held a Solutions Summit in the winter, their new Action Plan is a result of that meeting and further discussions and outreach.

The plan includes developing a Police Athletic League so children and police can play and learn together, creating easier access to local activities, services, and educational opportunities through a newly-designed website, and promoting programs to involve kids in public safety careers.

[Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency](#) members appreciate the focus on youth. [Click here](#) for more on the plan to stop gun violence in Utica.



Albany Community Action Partnership

The teachers and staff of [Albany Community Action Partnership](#)'s Olivia Rorie Head Start in Albany, NY, created a memorable party for their students. It has been a long and difficult Spring, and the staff from Olivia Rorie Head Start wanted to bring some celebration to their students. Each student received an amazing gift basket as a part of this end of the year celebration. The staff, caregivers, and parents all played a part in making the day such a success for the children!



Census 2020

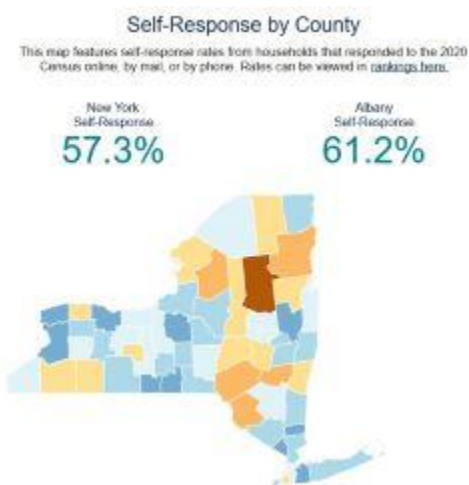
2020 Census Response Rate Map

The U.S. Census Bureau's [online map](#) shows the 2020 Census Response Rate Challenge — where state, local, and community leaders work together to promote a complete and accurate count by increasing the self-response rate in their community. The map currently displays 2010 Census self-response rates as a reference point for states, counties, cities, and census tracts around the country. Users will be able to use the map to track their community's progress in responding to the 2020 Census.

As people respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail, the Census Bureau will update the map daily to reflect the percentage of households that self-respond online, by phone or by mail after being invited to do so. (The rate will be provided for the three modes combined and for online alone.)

[Click here](#) to read more.

Take the 2020 Census Now!



Everyone in your community can still complete the Census [online, by phone, or by mail](#) during the coronavirus pandemic!

To help reduce the coronavirus risk, the Census Bureau is providing resources and guidance for your local census efforts. [Click here](#) to learn how to promote Census engagement while managing risks related to the coronavirus.



Your response matters! The Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states, and your response can shape many different aspects of your community. [See how your answers can shape the future!](#)

Community Action Counts!

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.

[Click here](#) for additional Census resources from the Community Action Partnership.



CSBG National Partner Resources

National Partner Resources on COVID-19

In light of increasing concerns about a broader coronavirus outbreak and the impacts on normal business operations, the National Partners have compiled resources that are available to the Community Action network.

- [CAP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [CAPLAW's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [NASCSP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)

Community Action Partnership - Taking a Stand Against Structural Racism

In May, the [National Community Action Partnership](#) released a [statement](#) about the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other members of the Black community. In light of these events, and in keeping with our continual push for justice and racial equity, the Partnership has drafted a [short list of initial steps](#) for taking action against structural racism in our country. It is certainly not exhaustive, however, they believe these are important steps to take, both for ourselves as individuals and for your Community Action Agency. Additionally, they've compiled a [bibliography of resources](#) for Community Action to understand, communicate, strategize and take action to eliminate structural racism.



Community Action Partnership - Annual Convention Moving Virtual

The Community Action Partnership is moving full speed ahead with the 2020 Annual Convention. Attendee safety is of the utmost of importance. As such, the event will now be virtual only.

The Partnership will be reaching out to all those currently registered to assist in transferring on-site registrations to virtual ones and to provide refunds as requested.



[Click here](#) for more information on registration, pricing, and the cancellation policy. A [preliminary schedule of events](#) is also available.

Community Action Partnership Releases Customizable Commercial for Television Broadcast & Social Media

The National Community Action Partnership is pleased to announce that we have produced a customizable commercial that Community Action Agencies can use to raise visibility within their local communities during the COVID-19 national health crisis, so that customers and other community members know your agency is open and providing services. The Partnership has created a 15-second and 30-second version of the video in both English and Spanish. Each version includes a subtitled cut of the video and one without subtitles. **They have intentionally left space at the end for you to include the name of your agency, its contact information, and/or logo – it's completely up to you.**



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

These videos can be broadcast on local television stations or promoted via social media. If you decide to promote via social media, we encourage you to upload your video directly to Facebook or Twitter, rather than sharing a YouTube or Vimeo link, as it will draw much more engagement.

Additional Resources

Community Commons - Black Lives Matter

Community Commons is dedicated to lifting up and amplifying community voices and advancing an equitable approach to improving well-being through sharing resources and tools to incite action. They will continue to draw attention to long-standing inequities and root causes of systemic racism and violence, and to seek out and amplify voices of BIPOC (black indigenous people of color) and stories from communities of color -- to listen and to learn.



Community Commons is committed to sharing where and how systemic racism shows up in our communities and neighborhoods nationwide, and the corresponding negative implications on the well-being of our Black neighbors. Importantly, they aim to bring to light what has been successful in combating racism and advancing well-being among communities of color, [including policies, strategies, resources, and stories of change](#). The hope is that the network of Commons change-makers can continue to come together for the common good and to stand in solidarity with the Black community. Black Lives Matter, and collectively, we need to do better.

[Click here](#) to see more from Community Commons

Annie E. Casey Foundation - Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well-Being

The 31st edition of the [Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Book](#) describes how children across the United States were faring before the coronavirus pandemic began.

This year's publication continues to deliver the Foundation's latest available data on child well-being. It also identifies multi-year trends — comparing statistics from 2010 to 2018. As always, policymakers, researchers and advocates can continue using this information to help shape their work and build a stronger future for children, families and communities.



The Foundation derives a composite index of overall child well-being for each state by combining data across four domains: (1) Economic Well-Being, (2) Education, (3) Health and (4) Family and Community. These composite scores are then translated into a state ranking for child well-being.

How to Build a Better Child Care System

This opinion piece offers concrete steps that can be taken on both the state and federal level to help improve America's childcare system in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You can't reopen the economy without child care!" It's a widespread concern because it's obviously correct. Millions of Americans have been flailing since mid-March, juggling work and kids against a backdrop of growing exhaustion and anxiety.



[Click here](#) to read more.

Low Income Forum on Energy (L.I.F.E.) Webinar Series

Energy Justice - Research at the Intersection of Energy and Equity: Join the [LIFE Webinar Series](#) for this presentation about how energy-related topics are being studied through a justice lens. The emerging field of energy justice, which investigates fair and equitable access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy technology, can provide the foundational research necessary to create informed policy in response to climate change.



- Thursday, July 16th - 1:30PM EST
- [Register here](#)

21st Annual Wipfli National Training Conference and NEW Virtual Training Experience

October 11-16 | Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino | Las Vegas, NV
July 14 - October 13 | NEW Virtual Training Experience.

You have the option to attend The Wipfli National Training Conference at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino, joining your peers for a week of outstanding learning, or learn from our best trainers in a virtual setting. Both options amplify your impact by getting the training experience and networking you need to serve your community.

[The 21st annual Wipfli National Training Conference](#) includes several detailed, yet, easy to understand sessions that you can apply now to help navigate today's unique challenges such as:

- Hiring and retaining top talent
- Increasing your efficiency
- Streamlining your expenses
- Building a strong technology foundation
- Managing change
- Strategic planning
- And so much more!

The Virtual Training Experience includes access to 40 sessions over three months, delivered live online, but also available on-demand if you are not able to attend the scheduled session.

Those who register to attend the National Training Conference in Las Vegas will also have access to the full Virtual Training Experience, in addition to the sessions they attend in person.

The [21st annual Wipfli National Training Conference sessions are online](#) and ready for you to select your top picks.

National Professional Development Opportunities

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

2020 Annual Convention - Virtual Registration Only - August 26-28, 2020

[Click here](#) for more information.

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

2020 Annual Conference

November 15th, 2020 - Washington D.C.

Are you a staff or board member of a NY Community Action Agency? Check out [NYSCAA Learn](#) – free online learning for New York’s Community Action Agencies!



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 Program 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.

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