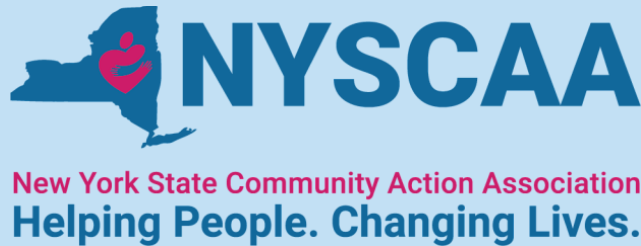


September 2023 NYSCAA News



A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

I would like to thank everyone who attended and assisted in making our Annual Professional Development Conference a great success. We were delighted to connect with our colleagues from around the state and engage in meaningful conversations about poverty, strategies for moving families toward greater economic security, and approaches to building agency capacity.

We are especially pleased Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez was able to join us for the conference, welcoming all attendees and spending time with the Community Action Executive Directors in a dialogue about the vital role of Community Action Agencies in local communities and across the state in helping vulnerable families achieve economic security.

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 Community Action Awards! You can find this year's winners below in the newsletter.

I am pleased to announce that NYSCAA was recently chosen as a recipient of the third Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot (DDDRP) grant cohort. This program, also known as the Diaper Distribution Pilot, is administered by OCS' Division of Community Discretionary and Demonstration Programs and funds the expansion of existing diaper distribution services through a robust network of community partners that provide anti-poverty services. NYSCAA will partner with four Community Action Agencies, Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca, Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc.(CAPCO), Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.(MVCAA), and Community Action for Wyoming County, as well as with the Central New York Diaper Bank and Every Bottom Covered in Western NY.

I am also proud to share that NYSCAA's Board Vice-President and Executive Director of Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc., Diane Hewitt-Johnson, was selected to the CAPLAW Board of Directors. The application process for CAPLAW's board is competitive. Congratulations, Diane; we are proud to have you represent New York State Community Action Agencies on this prestigious board.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Orr, CEO

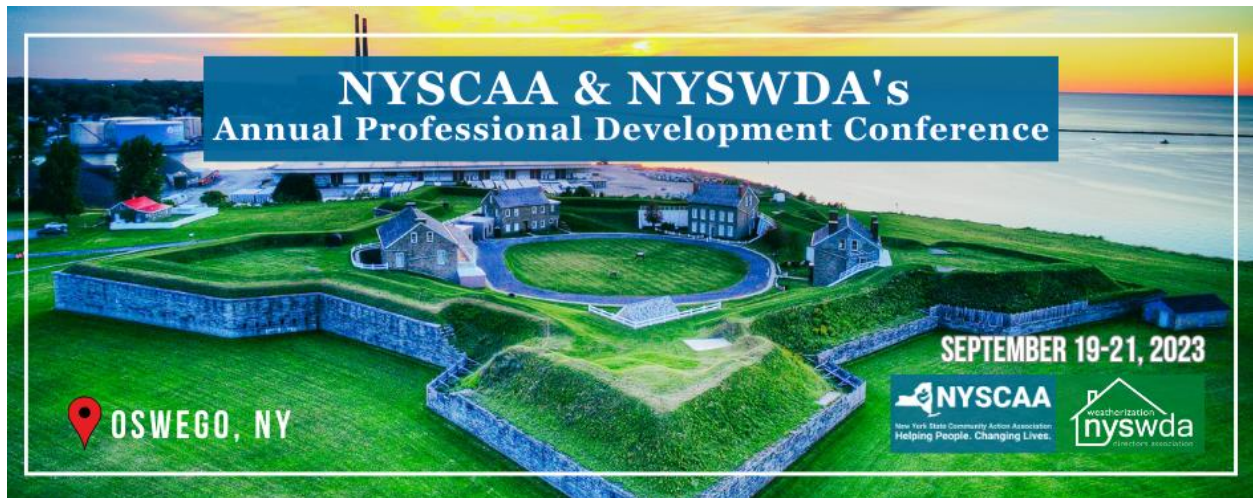
Table of Contents:

- [NYSCAA News](#)
- [Highlights from New York's CAAs](#)
- [Monthly Myth Series](#)
- [National Partner News & Resources](#)
- [National Professional Development Opportunities](#)
- [Tips, Tools, & Resources](#)
- [Contact NYSCAA](#)

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.

NYSCAA News:



Last week, we hosted our [Annual Professional Development Conference: Building Capacity, Impacting Communities](#), in Oswego, NY. We thank our distinguished speakers, sponsoring organizations, and guests who attended to learn and be inspired. We especially thank Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. for supporting the event. We look forward to another great conference in 2024!

Some Moments from the 2023 Annual Conference!



Congratulations to our 2023 Community Action Awards Recipients!



Community Action Innovation Award: Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc. (CAPCO)

Pictured: Brandy Strauf (left) & Greg Richards (right), CAPCO



Community Action Leadership Award: Tina Zerbian, Connecting Communities in Action.

Pictured: Denise Bartoszek accepting the award on Tina Zerbian's behalf - Connecting Communities in Action



Community Action Leadership Award: Sandy Sheridan, Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

Pictured: Diane Hewitt-Johnson (left), Sandy Sheridan (center), & Bill Vogt (right) - Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.



Community Action Service Award: Loriann Spatola-Davis, Tioga Opportunities, Inc.

Pictured: Christine Shaver (left), Loriann Spatola-Davis (center), & Maureen Abbott (right) - Tioga Opportunities, Inc.



Community Action Service Award: Wayne Snyder, Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

Pictured: Diane Hewitt-Johnson (left) & Wayne Snyder (right) - Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.



Community Action Vision and Values Award: Jessica Lowell, NYS Department of State, Division of Community Services

Pictured: Jessica Lowell - NYS Department of State, Division of Community Services



Community Action Social Justice Award: Brianna Milon, Action for a Better Community, Inc.

Pictured: Brianna Milon - Action for a Better Community, Inc.



Community Action Personal Achievement Award: Michael Lockett, Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

Pictured: Michael Lockett (left) & Diane Hewitt-Johnson (right) - Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

Thank you to our 2023 Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

Many thanks to [Wipfli](#), [Mutual of America](#), [CAP Systems, Inc.](#), and [Community Software Group](#) for

sponsoring our 2023 Annual Conference. We would also like to thank [Council Services Plus](#), [NYS Department of Public Service](#), [NYS Homes & Community Renewal \(HCR\)](#), [SWA Connect](#), and [Retrotec](#) for participating as exhibitors at the conference! We look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.

Highlights from New York's CAAs:



Community Action of Orleans and Genesee Renames Community Store and Adds Services

[Community Action of Orleans and Genesee](#) renamed the community store to reflect the new services being offered. The “Main Street Corner Thrift, Gifts and More Store” now provides a Telehealth pod for veterans to connect to the VA Western New York Healthcare System. In addition to the traditional Thrift store offerings, the shop runs a credit recovery program for graduating students, a job development program, the veterans’ pod, and a prom dress giveaway program. The store also hosts a Young Entrepreneur’s Corner and party rentals. The Young Entrepreneur’s Corner is designed to support young people with the ambition to run their own business, allowing them to run a cash register, develop customer service skills, and sell their unique products. Executive Director Renee Hungerford says there are more additions still to come.

You can read the full story [here](#).



CEO Foster Grandparent Teaches the Power of Giving through Knitting

Judy Dupois, a Foster Grandparent at [CEO](#), began teaching first graders at Cambridge Elementary how to knit after a math problem related to casting on stitches. Students who became interested in knitting worked with Judy to make more than 35 hats and blankets for babies in the NICU at Albany Medical Center. Judy notes that Albany Med needs ten to seventeen monthly hats and blankets, and she hopes to continue the project this year.

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

CSBG National Partner News & Resources:



CAPLAW Releases Guidance in Preparation for Potential Federal Shutdown

This alert prepared by NCAF and CAPLAW is intended to help the Community Action network understand what to expect if a shutdown occurs and what actions may be taken to minimize the effects of a shutdown.

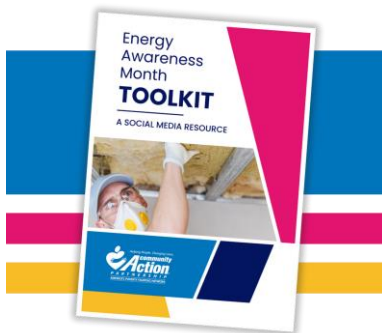
[Click here](#) to read the complete CAPLAW Newsflash.

NCAP's Community Action Head Start Survey



Do you run a Head Start, Early Head Start, or Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program? Are you experiencing enrollment and/or workforce challenges? Change in scope application issues? [Let NCAP know!](#) While a change in scope may be a solution for an individual program, NCAP is concerned that the widespread reduction in slots will have negative ramifications for Head Start's future success and sustainability. They've designed [this short survey](#) to gather additional information about how Community Action Agencies are addressing these unique challenges, so that we may continue to strengthen, promote, represent, and serve the Community Action Network.

NCAP Releases Energy Awareness Month Toolkit



October is almost here, and that means Energy Awareness Month is coming! Now more than ever it is critical that funders and policymakers learn about the important work you are doing to help make the energy sector more equitable. To that end, [NCAP's 2023 Energy Awareness Month Toolkit](#) is designed to assist you in your social media communications efforts all throughout October.

This is a great resource to use in conjunction with NASCSP's [Weatherization Day Outreach Toolkit](#), which includes factsheets and infographics, site demonstration how-to, guidance on state and local Weatherization Day proclamations, and additional resources for energy awareness outreach.

National Professional Development Opportunities:

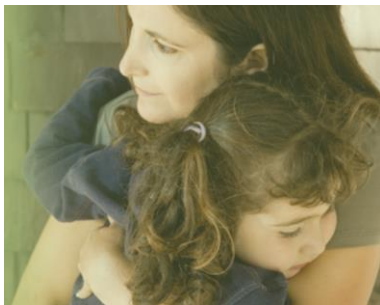
National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

- [2024 Annual Community Action Washington Conference](#), March 12-15, 2024.

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

- [New Executive Director Institute](#), October 31 - November 1, 2023
- [Executive Director and Board Chair Symposium](#), November 2-3, 2023.

Tips, Tools, & Resources:



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October was first declared as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989. Since then, October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and be a voice for its victims. Domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. Physical violence is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior as part of a much larger, systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. The devastating consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

The [National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(NCTSN\)](#) has [compiled a list of helpful resources](#) for parents and caregivers, children and teens, mental health providers, child welfare workers, law enforcement professionals, educators and school staff, and policy makers.



National Head Start Association: October is Head Start Awareness Month

Head Start Awareness Month is an opportunity to draw attention to the work Head Start does. Every year, we focus on the challenges, the opportunities, and the high-quality services that make Head Start and Early Head Start a leader in early childhood education. Our collective efforts remind the world what Head Start does and, more importantly, what Head Start needs.

[Click here](#) for resources and to learn more about the importance of Head Start.



U.S. Census Releases 2022 Poverty Data

The US Census Bureau released several reports related to poverty and income. The reports find the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which includes government assistance, increased to 12.4% in 2022 from 7.8% in 2021, according to U.S. Census Bureau data released today. The 2022 poverty rate was also 0.6 percentage points higher than the pre-pandemic rate of 11.8% in 2019.

The Census Bureau also released data related to healthcare coverage and child poverty rates, which more than doubled from 2021 with the expiration of the expanded child tax credits.

The newest Census reports can be found [here](#).



U.S. Census Bureau: 2022 Income Inequality Decreased for First Time Since 2007

Income inequality declined in 2022 for the first time since 2007, due primarily to declines in real median household income at middle and top income brackets, according to the Income in the United States: 2022 report released in September.

U.S. Census Bureau data from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) show that the declines in real income at the middle and top of the income distribution resulted in lower income inequality as measured by the Gini index — a common measure of income inequality. Income inequality refers to how evenly income or income growth is distributed across the population. Higher income inequality represents less equal income distribution or growth.

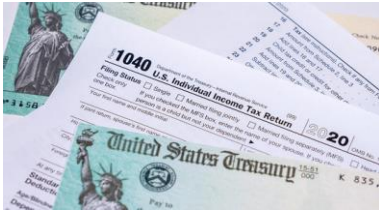
[Click here](#) to read more.



U.S. Census Bureau: Median Household Income After Taxes Fell 8.8% in 2022

Real median household income after taxes fell 8.8% to \$64,240 from 2021 to 2022 and the poverty rate after taxes as measured by the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) increased 59% to 12.4%. These significant changes in after-tax income and poverty rates of U.S. households were much larger than the annual changes in before-tax income and poverty, according to U.S. Census Bureau data released in September.

[Click here](#) to read more.



U.S. Census Bureau: Supplemental Poverty Measure in 2022 Higher Than Pre-Pandemic Level

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which includes government assistance, increased to 12.4% in 2022 from 7.8% in 2021, according to U.S. Census Bureau data released today. The 2022 poverty rate was also 0.6 percentage points higher than the pre-pandemic rate of 11.8% in 2019.

This was the first increase in the overall SPM rate since 2010. The increase was largely the result of the end of stimulus payments and tax credits in effect during the COVID-19 pandemic that had lowered the SPM rate to its lowest level ever in 2021. The changes had a particularly pronounced impact on the poverty rates of children.

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



Contact Info:

New York State Community Action
Association (NYSCAA)
2 Charles Blvd, Guilderland, NY 12084
(518) 690 - 0491
www.nyscommunityaction.org

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

Connect with Us:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)