



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

August 2020

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CEO's Letter

Dear Friend,

On August 3, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that both self-response and field data collection will end by September 30, a month earlier than scheduled.

This abbreviated Non-Response Follow Up period will only compound the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has already had on Census 2020.

As of August 19th, the response rate in New York was at 59.9% which is 4% less than the National self-response rate of 64.1%, leaving enumerators to complete in-person visits at over 7.9 million homes from August 19 through September 30. An under-count of this size will have major consequences on our communities for the next 10 years. Each person counted in the Census helps to determine each state's share of congressional seats, Electoral College votes and how over \$675 billion in federal funding is allocated to communities each year to more than 100 programs such as Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health

services, and more. Results of the 2020 Census will show what communities are in need of clinics, roads and more services for families, older adults, and children.

A rushed and incomplete Census count also increases the risk of excluding groups who are historically under-counted and vulnerable, such as low-income communities, people of color, homeless, college students, and children under five. Misrepresentation paints communities across the state as less diverse than they are, with smaller numbers, and will prevent resources from being allocated to areas that need it.

Complete the 2020 Census today! Responses may be submitted online at www.my2020census.gov or 844.330.2020. Multiple language options are available online and by phone.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Demetra Alberti, Deputy Director at Delaware Opportunities Inc., on earning her CCAP certification!

Monthly Poverty Myth

"If You Live Above the Poverty Line You're Doing Great." - False!

When too much emphasis is put on the poverty line, one of the biggest misconceptions that arises, is the illusion of stability for the families and individuals who live above it. It's easy to believe these people have safely made it into the "green-zone," or what is more commonly understood as comfortable living. Sadly, this is rarely the case.

For example, a three-person household operating on \$30,000 annually would struggle to make ends meet, yet their income is \$8,280 above the poverty line.



As of December 31, 2019 the minimum wage in New York State, is \$11.80 per hour. For a forty hour work week, that's \$472 a week, or \$24,544 a year. As a single person, this income places you above the poverty line, but it's still not nearly enough money to live a stable lifestyle. What's more, those calculations don't consider any time off, nor does it account for unforeseen circumstances, such as an accident or an illness.

In 2018, the poverty rate was 13.6% - a relatively low percentage. Many people may see this percentage as a good thing, and while it is, it still doesn't account for the households that fall within the low-income bracket. This issue has not been given sufficient credence; too many families and individuals that live above the poverty line struggle, and do not receive the assistance they need.

[Click here](#) to read more about common U.S. poverty myths.



Your local Community Action Agency (CAA) is a lifeline providing food assistance, child care, senior services, employment assistance and weatherization among many other programs and services. During COVID19, we--the state's network of Community Action Agencies--have done our best. We continue to value the vulnerable by stepping up and serving those in need.

Now the programs and services provided by Community Action Agencies are in danger of not being able to serve the number of people who need assistance.

Click [here](#) to read more.
Follow [@valuethevulnerable](#) on Facebook!

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, NYSCAA would like to highlight the contributions and hard work of Community Action Agencies throughout the state. We have compiled stories and accounts of the support that 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.

We have also created a short video showcasing the incredible work that Community Action Agencies in New York have been doing for their communities since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check out the video below!



NYSCAA Sponsors a Three Day Training for CAA staff who are interested in becoming an educator/facilitator using ACE Interface Master Trainer Program materials



August 19, 2020 marked the first day members from NYSCAA and CAA staff convened via zoom for ACEs training. Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). ACEs can have lasting, negative effects on health, well-being, and opportunity. These experiences can increase the risks of injury, maternal and child health problems, teen pregnancy, involvement in sex trafficking, and a wide range of chronic diseases and leading causes of death such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and suicide.

The ACE Interface Train the Master Trainer Program is designed to support rapid dissemination of ACE and resilience science, and promote understanding and application of the science to improve health and well-being across the lifespan. The Master Trainer Program enables the delivery of ACE information to diverse communities--with fidelity to science and concepts--to thousands of people.

The three-day training is provided by Dr. Robert Anda (one of the original co-principal investigators

of the Kaiser Permanente Study), Kathy Adams and Laura Porter (National Trainers) using licensed materials. The materials include education about the ACE Study findings, the biology of adversity including neuroscience and epigenetics that explain why ACEs are so powerful. The training addresses what participants can do to promote resilience, recovery, and self-healing communities.

Reconnect and Recharge: NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference New Dates in Early December To be Announced Soon!

Dates in early December, 2020, for NYSCAA and NYSWDA's Annual 2020 conference will be announced soon! Registration for the conference is temporarily closed, but will open shortly. We will keep you updated on more details as they arise.

NYSCAA has extended our Call for Proposals for workshop sessions. Please visit the Call for Proposals [webpage](#) to submit a proposal for the conference.

Click [here](#) to read more about the sponsorship opportunities available for the conference.

13th Annual "Virtual" Meeting of the Minds: Community Action Angels New York - Save The Date!

Community Action Angels New York announced their three day annual Meeting of the Minds!

The goal of the three days is for you to leave feeling more knowledgeable, inspired, encouraged and especially appreciated no matter the venue.

- *Critical Leadership Behaviors Necessary for High Performance & New York State Office for New Americans and Community Action Collaboration and Updates* on September 24th at 10:30 AM
- *#CommunityBuilders4Children* on September 29th at 10AM
- *Project Sharing - Drive Thru Community Baby Shower & Fatherhood Connection Session* on September 30th at 10AM



Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the upcoming webinar sessions.

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

Albany Community Action Partnership & Schenectady Community Action Program

The Albany Community Action Partnership and the Schenectady Community Action Program each received \$50k donation from Hannaford - A fund to help organizations assist more people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

August 12, 2020 - Two Capitol Region CAAs received \$50,000 each from Hannaford to help Albany and Schenectady families hit hard by the pandemic.

Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP) will use their \$50,000 grant to buy a van to bring food and resources to families, Executive Director Neenah Bland said.



“We realized that especially curing COVID, a lot of families were in fear of coming to get services,” said Bland, “and we were unable to go to different organizations like the Regional Food Bank to get more donations and get more fresh produce.”

The Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) has been serving low-income families since the 1960s and are very grateful they've been given the donation, especially now more than ever. It seems to have come just in time. Debra Schimpf, CEO of SCAP, said "just since the beginning of the pandemic, we have had over 3,000 additional calls from families who have been affected."

Schimpf noted that within only four or five months, SCAP has spent roughly \$80,000 helping families with things such as telephone bills, co-pays, and rent costs for families. With this additional funding, SCAP will continue serving the community by providing secure and affordable housing, access to quality education, helping people find employment, and providing food and shelter for those in need.

Read more about how the agencies will use the donations to serve their communities [here!](#)

Cattaraugus Community Action

Connecting Communities in Action, formerly known as Cattaraugus Community Action, celebrates 55th birthday and unveils a new logo.

August 4, 2020 - In a socially-distanced ceremony, Cattaraugus Community Action (CCA) celebrated their 55th birthday and renewed their pledge to serve low-income families.

The Community Action Agency will now be known as ***Connecting Communities in Action***. The new logo and tagline read "Building Resilient Communities," and an updated mission statement now reads "CCA builds resilient communities by helping people achieve economic, physical, and emotional security."



“Over the next 55 years, like all vibrant living things, this agency has grown. We’ve expanded both the breadth of our services and our reach, and today, CCA offers some level of programming across the five-county area of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Wyoming and Livingston Counties. It was for this reason that we decided to give our agency a new look, and a new brand that is relevant and representative of our broad influence.” said Tina Zerbian, Community Action Executive Director, as she warmly thanked attendees, including employees, volunteers, CCA board members, community partners, and elected local and state officials.

Check out Connecting Communities in Action's new website [here!](#)

Census 2020

Door-to-Door Visits Begin Nationwide for 2020 Census

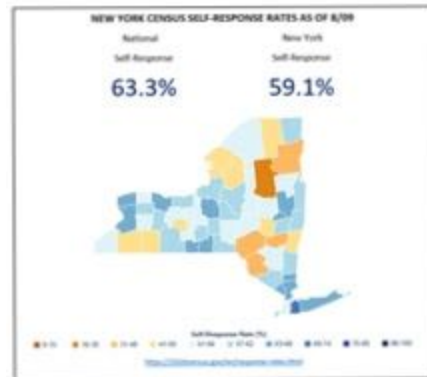
August 11, 2020 - The U.S. Census Bureau has begun following up with households nationwide that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census.

Based on the current self-response rate of 63.3%, the Census Bureau estimates it will need to visit about 56 million addresses to collect responses in person. Up to 500,000 census takers across the country will go door to door to assist people in responding to the 2020 Census.

Updates on the Census are provided weekly. [Click here](#) to keep updated.

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 Information

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 Action Against Structural Racism

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 their 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. CAP believe these are important steps to take, both for us as individuals and for your Community Action Agency. Additionally, the partnership has compiled a [bibliography of resources](#) for Community Action to understand, communicate, strategize and take action to eliminate structural racism.



Community Action Partnership - #MyVoiceMatters Webinar Series

On July 6th The National Community Action Partnership announced a new Webinar Series called #MyVoiceMatters.

The Webinar Series covers topics on voter registration, public policy, advocacy, redistricting, and more. Upcoming Webinars include:

- Census & Redistricting on September 24th at 3pm
- The Right to Vote: A Short History & Issues for 2020 on October 22nd at 3pm



Click [here](#) for more information and to register for upcoming webinars.

NASCSP Ready And Resilient 2020 Annual Training Conference - Save the Date!

This year, in light of COVID-19, NASCSP will be hosting their conference virtually. The 2020 Ready and Resilient Annual Training Conference will be held from **September 28th through October 2nd.**



The conference offers valuable opportunities for professionals from around the country to come together and discuss strategies for meeting new challenges in improved performance, innovation, and accountability in the fight to change the face of poverty across the nation.

For more information about the conferences agenda, exhibitors, sponsors, and more click [here!](#)

CAPLAW Introducing All a-Board! The Purpose, People, and Process of CAA Boards

CAPLAW has introduced a video series, "All a-Board! The Purpose, People, and Process of CAA Boards". CAPLAW developed these 8-10 minute animated shorts to boost the capacity of community action agency (CAA) boards to recruit, engage, and fulfill their responsibilities.



Whether you're a new CAA board member eager to orient yourself to the work of community action, an existing board member looking for clarity on your role and responsibilities, or a board chair planning to facilitate a training at the next board meeting, the All a-Board! series can serve as a starting point or a refresher.

For more information about the free video series, click [here!](#)

Additional Resources

NY State of Health - Special Enrollment Period Extended through 9/15

During these challenging times, NY State of Health, New York's official health plan Marketplace, remains committed to ensuring access to affordable, quality



health insurance for all New Yorker's, so they can get the care they need.

NY State of Health is here to help New Yorker's who may have lost their health insurance coverage as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to find and enroll in affordable, comprehensive coverage. Many New Yorker's will qualify for Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan due to loss of income/employment or reduced wages. Those qualifying for these programs can enroll year-round. Individuals who lose job-based health insurance should apply within 60 days of losing that coverage.

To help New Yorker's access health coverage during this time, NY State of Health has extended the Special Enrollment Period through September 15, 2020. Find out more about this Special Enrollment Period for Qualified Health Plans and updates on insurance options during the Coronavirus pandemic [here](#).

Thousands of assistors throughout the state are available to help consumers enroll by phone. Find a free enrollment assistor [here](#).

For more information, visit us at www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov, or call the NY State of Health customer service center at 1-855-355-5777. Let us help you find a health care plan that works for you.

August Awareness

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the importance of getting recommended vaccines throughout your life. You have the power to protect yourself and your family against serious diseases like whooping cough, cancers caused by HPV, and pneumonia through on-time vaccination.



During NIAM, NYSCAA encourages you talk to your doctor, nurse, or other healthcare professional to ensure that you, your child, your family are up to date on recommended vaccines.

You can use CDC's [adult vaccine assessment tool](#) to see which vaccines might be right for you. We also encourage you to visit CDC's [Interactive Vaccine Guide](#), which provides information on the vaccines recommended during pregnancy and throughout your child's life.

Click [here](#) for more information about National Immunization Awareness Month.

No More Status Quo: A Community-Led Action Plan for Addressing Structural Inequity during COVID-19 Recovery

Brookings Metro provides a COVID-19 Analysis discovering steps to advance community-led economic recovery in places confronting structural inequities. Authors Hanna Love, Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, and Jennifer S. Vey argue that without economic recovery in communities facing disproportionate structural harm, there can be no real recovery at all.



It's no secret that the environment and area you live in have the ability to influence your access to opportunities, and upward mobility. Location even has the power to frame your lifestyle choices. More evidence of systemic racism continues to present itself in the midst of today's public health, economic, and police violence crisis. In the article, the authors outline specific steps to advance community-led economic recovery in places confronting structural inequities. [Click here](#) to read more.

Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) - Save the Date!

Please save the date for the inaugural LIFE 2020 Virtual Event, **Tuesday, October 27th through Friday, October 30th, 2020!**



Though the network is unable to meet in person this year, the LIFE Steering Committee is looking forward to providing the same high-quality knowledge sharing and discussion opportunities that have become synonymous with LIFE events.

The 2020 LIFE Virtual Event will include:

- Live-online panel presentations with Q&A opportunities - Learn about the New York State energy, climate change, and equity policy environment
- Live-online interactive workshops - Talk with others in the field who want to take a deeper dive into new energy frontiers
- On-demand pre-recorded presentations - At-your-own-pace learning opportunities related to the evolving low-income energy landscape
- Continuing legal education training hosted by Public Utility Law Project of NY and the NYS Department of Public Service - New York State Shared Meter Law and the New York State Public Service Commission Complaints and Appeals Process
- Resource repository - Information about programs and services to assist communities and individuals

Join in the live-online component of the LIFE 2020 Virtual Event. Mark the dates on your calendar so that you can learn, share, and connect about low-income energy. More details about the agenda and registration will be available soon. [Join the LIFE mailing list](#) to stay up-to-date.

The 100 Million Healthier Lives Change Library Has a New Permanent Home on Community Commons



100 Million Healthier Lives (100MLives) has partnered with Community Commons to create a permanent home for the [Change Library](#). As of July 2020, pre-existing Change Library content was migrated, and [new bright spots, tools, and stories](#) are now be submitted directly to Community Commons.

The 100MLives Change Library is a practical, searchable, peer-reviewed implementation library that helps change-makers by sharing things that work--and things that don't work--to improve health, well-being, and equity for people and communities. It comprises bright-spots, stories, and tools shared by 100MLives members from across the world.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Support for All Families with Newborns

A coordinated system of home visitation in the era of Coronavirus

Voluntary home visiting programs provide support, education, and referrals to families of young children in their homes. Research shows that home visiting decreases child abuse and neglect, increases school readiness, and improves health outcomes.



In Spring 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way New Yorkers live day-to-day. Home visiting became more important than ever, especially to families in the highest risk communities and to essential workers raising young children. The experiences of families of young children during the pandemic make the adoption of universal prenatal home visiting in New York more critical than ever.

For more information [click here](#).

National Professional Development Opportunities

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

2020 Annual Convention - Virtual Registration Only

August 24-28, 2020

[Click here](#) for more information.

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)

2020 Annual Training Conference - Virtual Registration Only

September 28 - October 2, 2020

[Click here](#) for more information.

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

2020 Annual Conference - Virtual Registration Only

October 29-30 & November 5, 16-19, 2020

[Click here](#) for more information.

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.

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

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