



# NYSCAA

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

April 2020

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## CEO's Letter

Dear Friend,

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.

CAAs are responding to the needs of community members in unique and significant ways while embracing technology. Community Action staff are making wellness calls to program participants and, as a result, developing deeper relationships; creating YouTube Channels and videos to maintain connection with their families; and maintaining essential and meaningful support groups through on-line methods.

As is the case with Community Action, CAAs in NY are connecting and collaborating with community partners to coordinate essential transportation, ensure adequate food distribution especially in the rural areas of the state, and developing new and meaningful relationship to help streamline the provision of services to community members in need.

It is one of our goals at NYSCAA to create pathways for the network to share information and support each other. NYSCAA will continue to work with the National Partners, State Associations, non-profit leaders, and our local CAAs to help respond effectively to the changing environment. As such, we will continue to highlight [resources](#) and [strategies](#) that allow the work of Community Action to continue to thrive.

We are very pleased to welcome Courtney Schanthal to the NYSCAA team! Courtney joins NYSCAA after spending over six years with the Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc. During her time with SCAP, Courtney worked to support and empower people by assisting in building resources with the goal of becoming self-supporting through both the Employment Services and Housing and Community Services Departments. Courtney will be the point person on our RPIC Region II grant along with other NYSCAA projects and initiatives!

I would also like to extend congratulations to Alex Castro, who has been appointed as the new Executive Director of PathStone in Rochester! I look forward to working with Alex as he assumes his new role.

Despite the uncertainty of the times ahead, I know Community Action will come out of this stronger and more unified than ever.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT

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## April's Poverty Myth

### ***"Poverty is overly complicated" - False!***

The causes of poverty are hardly opaque. The main forces at work are <sup>SEP</sup>simple and obvious: The economy isn't delivering the jobs we need, and workers aren't receiving the education they need.

However simple and obvious the causes are, poverty is nonetheless treated as some complex matter that will remain with us until hard-working scholars or practitioners discover that elusive magic bullet. This disease model of poverty, which treats it like a rare and incurable form of cancer, is an immensely destructive rhetoric. It wrongly suggests that we don't know what causes poverty and that we don't



know how to end it. It leads to an unending cycle of flavor-of-the-day fixes that are band-aid solutions to structural problems that would be better solved at the source.

[Click here](#) to read more about commonly misrepresented poverty myths.

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## **NYSCAA News**

### ***2020 Regional Meetings Update***

Due to COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus), the NYS Department of State and NYSCAA have rescheduled the 2020 Regional Meetings, and moved them to a webinar format.

There may be changes to the date of the meeting for your region. Please take a look at the new schedule of 2020 Regional Meetings below.

1. [Central and North Country Regional Meeting](#): May 20, 2020 at 10AM
2. [Western Regional Meeting](#): June 9, 2020 at 10AM
3. [Capital District and NYC/LI Regional Meeting](#): June 25, 2020 at 10AM

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



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

The conference will remain at the Hyatt Regency, in Rochester, NY. We will provide information on overnight room rates for the September dates once it becomes available.

The Community Action Awards dinner is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2020. NYSCAA has extended the deadline for [nominations](#) for the 2020 Community Action Awards to August 3, 2020.

NYSCAA has also extended its Call for Proposals for the conference 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 is also pleased to announce the 2020 Meeting of the Minds will be held in Rochester, NY, beginning on September 22nd! More information will be coming soon.

## **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.

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## **Highlights from our Agencies**

### ***Pro Action of Steuben and Yates***

Every day, Pro Action's [Senior Nutrition Program](#) in Steuben and Yates Counties provides over 525 dietician-created and approved meals to vulnerable senior citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the closure of congregate sites, eliminating a daily meal opportunity for many seniors. The Governors PAUSE order to stay home keeps seniors from getting to the grocery store or food pantries as usual, and even then, they are experiencing shortages of essential items.



Home-delivered meals are critical to the community and are more than just a meal. Delivering meals is a great opportunity to provide a daily check-in, from a safe distance to reduce the spread of the virus, for seniors. Family members are provided a great deal of comfort knowing their loved ones are being cared for and checked-in on.

[Pro Action](#) is asking for assistance so that they can continue to provide this important service. The food cost to create one meal is just over \$5, a \$25 donation will provide a senior with an entire week's worth of meals! [Click here](#) to donate today!

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## **Census 2020**

### ***2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19***

**April 13, 2020:** The 2020 Census is underway and more households across America are responding every day. Over 70 million households have responded to date, representing over 48%

of all households in America. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau is adjusting [2020 Census operations](#) in order to:

- Protect the health and safety of the American Public and Census Bureau employees.
- Implement guidance from federal, state, and local authorities.
- Ensure a complete and accurate count for all communities.

[Click here](#) to read more.

### ***The 2020 Census is Live!***

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 Partnership - Complete Count Committee***

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.

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## **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 - Community Action Month (CAM) Toolkit Release and April 29th Introductory Webinar**

The Partnership is excited to announce that the [2020 Community Action Month Toolkit](#) is now available! This year's toolkit includes all-new social media graphics and sample tweets, new daily themes and hashtags, updated meme creators, 2020 Census content, and more.

The Partnership has an array of exciting activities this year, which are outlined in the [Community Action Month Calendar](#). Be sure to print it out and follow along, as it includes daily themes and hashtags as well as guidance for sharing more than a dozen sample memes along with several pages of sample social media messages. Additionally, the Partnership suggests the use of the hashtag **#CommunityActionResponds** when promoting any efforts to support your community through the coronavirus pandemic.



## **CAPLAW - Policies in Practice Webinar Series**

Effectively governed Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have policies and systems in place that encourage accountability, transparency and efficiency of operations. Dive into this governance checkup to review some key policies your CAA is required to have under the CSBG Organizational Standards — a whistleblower policy, conflict of interest policy, procurement policy, and record retention policy. Each 60-minute webinar is intended for Executive Directors, management staff, board members, and attorneys of CAAs. See below for more information and to register.



1. [Procurement Policy](#) - Thursday, April 30, 2020
2. [Record Retention Policy](#) - Thursday, June 4, 2020

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## **Additional Resources**

### ***New York State of Health is Here to Help***

As a member of the New York State Community Action Association, you may have clients or know some individuals who have recently lost their job, lost health coverage, or are currently uninsured. They may be eligible for quality health insurance at little or no cost.



[NY State of Health](#), New York's Official Health Plan Marketplace, is committed to ensuring access to affordable, quality health insurance for all New Yorkers so they can get the care they need during this state of emergency.

With the recent closure of businesses across the state, many New Yorkers are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage as a result of COVID-19. Many are likely to be eligible for health coverage with financial assistance through NY State of Health due to their loss of coverage and income. Learn more about [available coverage options](#) and the [Special Enrollment and Grace Period](#) for Qualified Health Plans.

To help clients find the right health care plan, you may refer them to [NY State of Health](#) or to a local [enrollment assistor](#).

### ***CARES Engagement Network - COVID-19 Tools and Resources***

As many aspects of normal life grind to a halt with closings and cancellations to slow the spread of COVID-19, [CARES](#) will continue to provide online services, including day-to-day technical support for all projects, sites, and Hubs. CARES has already taken several measures to ensure continued support for our projects, and is committed to maintaining quality information, tools, and resources as well as support for our partners during these challenging times.



[Click here](#) to get started with resources that use real-time and national secondary source data to highlight the impact of COVID-19.

### ***Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) - 2020 Statewide Conference Update and Upcoming Webinars***

Acting on guidance regarding COVID-19 provided by the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the [New York State Public Service Commission](#) and the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority \(NYSERDA\)](#), in cooperation with the LIFE Steering Committee, have postponed the LIFE 2020 Statewide Conference until September 9-10, 2020.



Registration for the conference, scholarship application submissions, and LIFE Achievement Award nominations have been temporarily suspended. These activities will resume in accordance with a revised planning schedule. Updates will be provided in the LIFE Newsletter and through electronic notifications.

#### **Upcoming LIFE 2020 Webinars:**

- **Wednesday, June 17th:** [Extending the Benefits of Nonresidential Energy Efficiency to Low-Income Communities](#)

## **Community Commons - Coronavirus Response: Peer-to-Peer Resource Sharing Library**

Community Commons gratefully acknowledges the work that continues across the country and the world to control the spread of Coronavirus. With your help, The Commons has been gathering resources into their [Coronavirus Response: Peer-to Peer Resource Sharing library](#) to help your community continue this work and, as always, their [Community of Support](#) is available for you to share your hopes, fears, and experiences with others throughout this pandemic.



Additional Resources from Community Commons:

- [Coping and Staying Emotionally Well During COVID-19-related School Closures](#)
- [Health Leads Roadmap](#)
- [The intersection Between Poverty and Health Care: A Resource Collection](#)
- [New! - Commons Good Podcast with Monte Roulier](#)

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## **National Professional Development Opportunities**

### **National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)**

2020 Annual Convention

August 26th-28th, 2020 - Seattle, Washington

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)**

2020 Annual Conference

November 15th, 2020 - Washington D.C.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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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.*



## **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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