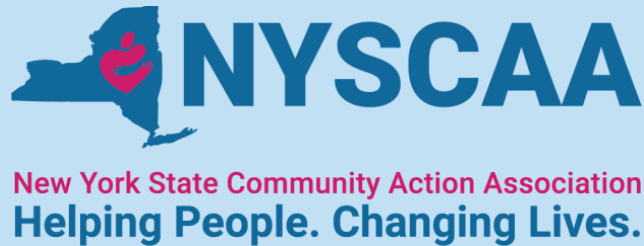


February 2022 NYSCAA News



A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

On behalf of the NYSCAA team, I would like to thank New York's Community Action Agencies for their efforts to celebrate and honor Black History Month. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions, achievements, and legacies of Black Americans.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) designates a new theme for Black History Month each year. This year, Black Health and Wellness is an applicable theme, given the disproportionate number of black people affected by the coronavirus pandemic. [NYSCAA's website](#) has several resources around this year's theme. NYSCAA is proud to be part of a network in New York that values the cherishes celebration of diversity and supports inclusion for all.

Earlier this month, NYSCAA held the Region II Convening, an excellent opportunity to provide an in-depth look at their innovative programs and initiatives throughout the region. I would like to thank our partners in New Jersey and Puerto Rico for their participation and support.

On another note, we at NYSCAA are disappointed to say goodbye to Courtney Schanthal, NYSCAA's Program Director. We will miss Courtney and her dedication and commitment to NYSCAA's growth, but we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Orr

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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.

NYSCAA News:



The Regional Convening brought together representatives from Community Action Agencies in Region II. Participants gathered to learn about Human Capacity & Community Transformation (HCCT) initiatives in Region II. We were excited to come together around these innovative initiatives to connect, learn, collaborate, and identify opportunities for replication and capacity building.

The highlighted initiatives from Region II can be found on the National Community Action Partnership's [showcase webpage](#). This new platform shines a light on Community Action success stories to inspire. Here, you can access resources to strengthen services, build community outcomes, and create family and community change in your local area.

Highlights from New York's CAAs:



Community Action of Orleans and Genesee: Cold Doesn't Stop Community Action!

Staff and volunteers for Community Action of Orleans & Genesee braved the cold weather to put on a pop-up food distribution for the community of Albion. Nutritious food was distributed to about 130 vehicles during the pop-up event. The food distributions will continue until at least June, and Orleans Hub is working to provide a schedule of the upcoming distribution dates.

[Click here to read more.](#)



PEACE, Inc.: Mittens from Foster Grandparents Warm Our Fingers and Hearts!

PEACE, Inc.'s AmeriCorps Senior volunteers collected mittens, hats, and scarves for children in need in Syracuse. Recently a group of foster grandparents assembled individual bags to be distributed to Head Start children. In addition to a new pair of mittens, a hat, and a scarf, each children received a little book about a lost mitten and a special note from a foster grandparent.

[Click here to read more about available services at PEACE.](#)

Monthly Myth Series:



Myth: Poverty only happens to other people and I know I will never be poor.

Fact: Sixty percent of Americans will experience at least one year below the official poverty line between the ages of 20 and 75.

The gulf between reality and the demeaning, divisive stereotypes about American poverty has never been more apparent than during the coronavirus pandemic, an event that has made clear that the vast majority of Americans need help during times of crisis. If you look across peoples' lives, the chances of experiencing poverty is high. Sixty percent of Americans will experience at least one year below the official poverty line between the ages of 20 and 75, and three-quarters will experience either poverty or near-poverty. So this

idea that poverty happens to somebody else doesn't hold water.

[Click here to read more about poverty myths that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)

CSBG National Partner News & Resources:



CAPLAW: CSBG Guide to Client Eligibility

CAPLAW released an updated Q&A and [pandemic supplement](#) are intended to assist state CSBG lead agencies and CAAs in better understanding various issues that arise when CAAs determine income eligibility for CSBG services and benefits.

Click here to download the full resource.



NCAP: Aligning Systems to Advance Community and Family Well-Being: A Partnership Playbook for Community Action and Human Services Agencies Webinar

Wednesday, March 9, at 1:30 PM ET

Come learn about how Community Action Agencies and public human services agencies have worked together during the COVID-19 pandemic response and what opportunities lie ahead to catalyze stronger connections to support the well-being of communities. Drawing on examples from the field, the National Community Action Partnership and American Public Human Services Association have co-created a Partnership Playbook that elevates promising areas of alignment between the two networks that can be deployed to maximize the impact of COVID-relief and other federal investments intended to support a strong and equitable recovery. The Playbook additionally explores where, despite their shared purpose and vision, more work is needed to transform the way human services and Community Action Agencies work together to help communities reach their potential.

[Click here to register.](#)



NCAP: Organizational Self-Assessment: A Strategy to Build Capacity

Wednesday, March 30, at 2 PM ET

Is your organization looking to move to the next level, but unsure where to start? The National Community Action Partnership is excited to launch a new Organizational Self-Assessment tool that is designed in partnership with the Nonprofit Risk Management Center specifically for Community Action Agencies to gain critical insight into key areas of organizational operation and strategy. This insight can help inform and focus agency action to strengthen practice and build capacity. This webinar will discuss the new tool, its use, and how to utilize the results to plan operational improvements to move your CAA towards excellence.

Click here to register.

National Professional Development Opportunities:

CAPLAW:

- [2022 National Training Conference](#): June 28 - 30, 2022 - Chicago, IL

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP):

- [2022 Virtual Winter Training Conference](#): February 28 - March 3, 2022

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP):

- 2022 Annual Convention: August 29 - September 3, 2022 - New York, NY

Tips, Tools, & Resources:



Economic Policy Institute: Manufacturing job losses particularly devastating for Black workers

February is Black History Month and it's a good time to reflect on a jobs sector that was central to the push for better employment opportunities for Black workers.

During the Great Migration, millions of Black Americans left the rural Jim Crow South in search of better jobs in Northern

industrial cities. While Black workers were initially limited to the lowest-wage, often most dangerous factory jobs, the decades-long fight for access to more desirable positions eventually made manufacturing employment a vehicle for the economic mobility of Black workers.

Unfortunately, manufacturing in the United States has been decimated, and with it the good jobs laying a path to the middle class. EPI's new report shows how badly Black, Brown, and other workers of color have been impacted by the decline in manufacturing jobs.

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



Prosperity Now: New Scorecard Data Available

The Prosperity Now Scorecard is a comprehensive resource for data on household financial health, racial economic inequality and policy recommendations to help put everyone in our country on a path to prosperity. The Scorecard ranks states on 52 measures across five issue areas on the financial situation of all residents. The current release features a breadth of policy data on the status of each state's progress towards racial economic justice.

Prosperity Now also shares data by location and. New York's rank is based on the prosperity of a state's residents, but also accounts for the racial disparities in outcomes that result from economic exclusion and structural racism in the US and all states. New York received a Scorecard rank of 39 for its Outcome rank of 27 and Racial Disparity rank of 40.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition: Multilingual videos to promote the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations

[The Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition](#) has produced a series of high-quality animated videos about the COVID-19 vaccine. The videos are available in 30-second, 60-second and 2-minute versions and in a variety of languages spoken by Community Action customers nationwide, including Arabic, Haitian Creole, English, French, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

[Click here to view and share!](#)



SCAANY: State of New York's Children 2022 Data Book Released

For many New York families, 2021 brought critical public supports, including a third federal pandemic stimulus payment and an expanded monthly child tax credit, buffering many from the pandemic's sharpest economic impacts. Yet, New York families and children are not out of jeopardy. In December 2021, both the US Surgeon General and the American Academy of Pediatrics sounded the alarm about an escalating mental health crisis facing the nation's youth. With COVID re-surfing, parents are once again juggling work with remote schooling, childcare closures, and quarantine, and worrying anew about how to keep their children, particularly young children ineligible for vaccines, safe. Despite the challenges, as the data in this book show, there is good reason to believe that with continued strong public health measures; effective, equitable government interventions; and a bold, innovative rebuilding strategy, the future for New York children is bright.

Download the State of New York's Children 2022 Data Book.



United States Census Bureau: New Data - Community Resilience Estimates by Census Tract

Released by the United States Census Bureau in 2021, the Community Resilience Estimates display the number of perceived Risk Factors (RF) that individuals and households are facing within a given geography. Data are available for all census tracts, counties, and states. The data set is the first official data delivery of this indicator and reflects community conditions in 2019.

[View the Community Resilience Estimates.](#)



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): Poverty Guidelines for 2022

The January 2022 poverty guidelines are calculated by taking the 2020 Census Bureau's poverty thresholds and adjusting them for price changes between 2020 and 2021 using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The poverty thresholds used by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes are complex and are not composed of standardized increments between family sizes. Since many program officials prefer to use guidelines with uniform increments across family sizes, the

poverty guidelines include rounding and standardizing adjustments.

[View the HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2022](#) - Please note, NYSCAA members have access to the Census resilience data through the [NYSCAA data hub](#).



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