

January 2022 NYSCAA News



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

A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

There continue to be changes in the NY Community Action network. We welcome three new Executive Directors: Greg Richards to Cortland Community Action, Douglas Blancero to Ulster County Community Action Committee, and Eric Poulson to the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County. The network is looking forward to working with them.

NYSCAA also has had staff changes. In December, we bid goodbye to Mia Nilo, the CARES Program Manager, and welcomed Grace Cunningham to assume her responsibilities.

We are optimistic that 2022 will be a fruitful and productive year for Community Action, and we are excited about upcoming opportunities.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Orr

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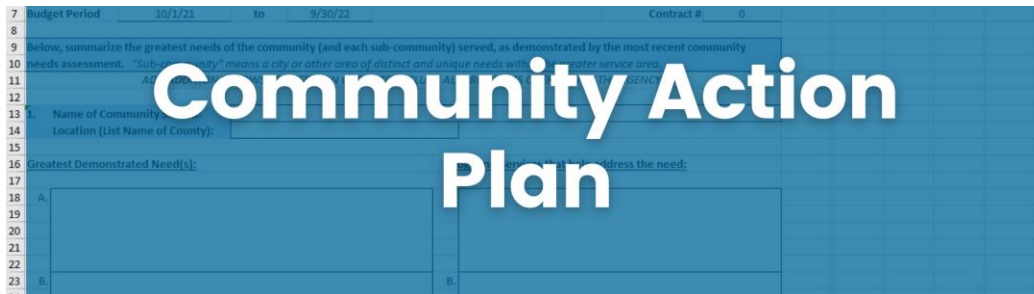
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The Promise of Community Action:

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:



*We are excited to announce that a new course has been added to NYSCAA Learn: **The Community Action Plan.***

This interactive training discusses ROMA concepts in developing of your Community Action Plan. This training features nationally certified ROMA trainers, NYSCAA's CEO Jackie Orr, and Jessica Lowell, Supervising Analyst, NYS Division of Community Services. In the course they review Attachment C, including:

- Identifying how ROMA concepts are incorporated into the Community Action Plan
- Integrating and connecting community needs into a CAA's service plan
- Discussing the funnel concept that is built into the work plan
- Finding services codes and outcome codes for similar programs.

The course provides an opportunity to receive a certificate of completion. As with all NYSCAA Learn courses, it is free for all NY CAA staff, Board members, and volunteers. [Take the course today!](#)

Highlights from New York's CAAs:



Community Action of Greene County: Partnering with State and County Officials

State Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblyman Christ Tague teamed up to deliver 1,000 COVID tests and KN95 masks to a pair of nonprofit organizations in Greene County; Community Action of Greene County included and the Hunter Foundation. The home COVID tests and masks will be distributed to Greene County residents by the Hunter Foundation and sites run by Community Action of Greene County, including the organization's food pantry and Pay It Forward Thrift Store. "These supplies are as needed as they are hard to come by as of late, so I am grateful to have the opportunity to get vita supplies into the hands of organizations

that will be able to get them to the people who need them most," Assemblyman Tague said.

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



Community Action of Orleans and Genesee: Staff Honored with Adult Youth Worker Award

The City of Batavia and Genesee County Youth Boards annually presents an award to an adult involved with youth in their community. The award is given to a professional who goes above and beyond in emulating dedication and service to youth and families. Halee Potter, the recipient of the 2021 Adult Youth Worker Award, is an employee of the Community Action of Orleans and Genesee's (CAOG) ACT Program as a Health Educator. In her role, she plans and implements evidence-based sexual health education programs for groups of youth in Genesee and Orleans Counties. Halee's drive to overcome technical and procedural issues brought on by the pandemic ensured that services continued and were strengthened for her youth participants.

[Learn about other programs and services from CAOG.](#)



PEACE, Inc.: Feeding the Community

To meet the needs of Onondaga County Seniors and large families who have faced pandemic-related barriers, PEACE, Inc.'s nutrition department has been working non-stop to provide healthy and nutritious meals for the communities they serve. In 2021, their nutrition department prepared and delivered over 8300 meals. These vital services help alleviate some of the burden brought on by the pandemic.

[Read more from PEACE, Inc.](#)

Monthly Myth Series:



Myth: The civil rights movement began in the 1950's.

Fact: The fight for civil rights began centuries earlier.

While many have embraced the ideology that the civil rights movement began in the 1950s, scholars assert that moment in time was a part of a “continuum of resistance” in the fight for Black liberation. The movement actually began centuries ago when the enslaved were snatched from their native homes and put on Dutch ships back in 1619.

“There were many people before Dr. King. [He] was chosen as a spokesman because of his affiliation with the church, and the church was the place that we took our sorrows and our dreams. He used his brilliance to inspire the movement and the Black church, which was a power base for him and his community,” oral historian and cultural archivist Nana Camille Yarbrough explains. “But the struggle for human rights began in those horrible dungeons when people were taken from their homes. That’s where civil rights really began. It’s a part of a continuum. Nat Turner, Marcus Garvey, DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Stokely Carmichael...there were so many whose names we don’t even know. The others did not have the television or the Internet.”

Read more common myths about the civil rights movement.

CSBG National Partner News & Resources:



CAPLAW: All a-Board Series - 3 New Training Videos

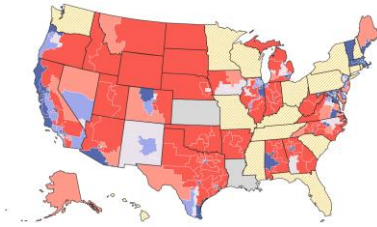
CAPLAW has released three new training videos exploring the fiduciary duty of care, board terms and term limits, and the roles and responsibilities of a CAA board chair.

- **Duty of Care (Purpose):** This video investigates the fiduciary duty of care that CAA board members owe to the organization they serve. It identifies the source of the obligation for public and private CAAs and provides examples of how board members can fulfill that obligation. It also highlights the importance of written minutes and discusses how board committees

can help the board meet its duty of care in an efficient, effective way.

- **Terms and Term Limits (Process):** Like pruning a plant to encourage growth and fruitfulness, a CAA board of directors can implement requirements to facilitate turnover and help keep itself fresh and energized. Establishing terms for board service and a limit on the number of terms a board member may serve are two such requirements. Observe the board's reasons for implementing terms and term limits, relevant sources of law and guidance, and how the transition works practically.
- **Board Chair Role and Responsibilities (People):** This video examines the roles and responsibilities of a CAA board chair. It highlights the vital leadership the board chair provides to the board and emphasizes the importance of the chair/executive director relationship to a vibrant, healthy organization.

[Find more resources from CAPLAW.](#)



Get Involved in Fair Districting!

Local, state, and federal districting is in [full swing across the country](#) and the Community Action Network can help ensure that new districts are fair, equitable, and representative. Your local League of Women Voters (LWV) chapter is a great place to start. Their national website has [general background information](#) with the process for each state, an overview of their [People Powered Fair Maps initiative](#), and how to [find your local chapter by zip code](#) to get involved. For more info or if you have any questions about our Fair Districting Project, please contact Ryan Gelman at the National Partnership (RGelman@communityactionpartnership.com) or Jim Masters (jmasters@cencomfut.com) and Allen Stansbury (allen@stansbury.net) at the Center for Community Futures.

Read more about what redistricting looks like in every state.

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 Management & Leadership Training Conference](#): February 2 - 4, 2022
- 2022 Annual Convention: August 29 - September 3, 2022 - New York, NY

Tips, Tools, & Resources:



Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH): Celebrate Black History

When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the public's attention. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis.

The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well.

Black communities must look to the past to provide the light for our future by embracing the rituals, traditions and healing modalities of our ancestors. These ways of knowing require a decolonization of thought and practice.

[Learn more about ASALH](#)



Federal Communications Commission (FCC): Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission [program](#) that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. This new benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to

\$75 per month for families on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

Eligible households can enroll through [a participating broadband provider](#) or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an [online](#) or mail-in application.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting www.fcc.gov/ACP, or by calling 877-384-2575.

Click here to apply for the ACP.



NYSERDA

NYSERDA: Energy & Climate Equity - Winter Assistance to Help Consumers

The winter of 2021-2022 will be difficult for many New Yorkers to manage energy costs. Forecasts indicate energy prices will be higher than last year. This increase will be challenging for consumers with fixed or low incomes. It is important that all consumers are made aware of steps they can take to reduce their energy use and manage their bills this winter.

To that end, you are invited to attend regional virtual workshops about resources available to help consumers this winter season. The workshops will include presentations from the following state agencies: NYS Department of Public Service (DPS), NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), NYS Housing and Community Renewal (NYSHCR), NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), and NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

Dates, times, and login information is below. Each workshop is expected to be approximately 90 minutes with an opportunity to ask questions following the presentations. These workshops have been grouped by region; however, you are invited to join whichever date works best for you or your organization. To join a workshop electronically, participants should visit www.webex.com, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right corner of the screen, and enter the event number and password for that workshop.

3. Metro (NYC/LI), Thursday, January 27 at 1:00 PM

- Event #: 2339-975-4128
- Password: Jan27-1pm

- Phone access code: 2339-975-4128

[Read more from NYSERDA.](#)



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](#).



Contact Info:

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

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