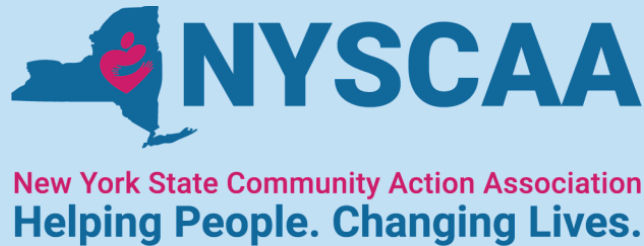


# July 2023 NYSCAA News



## **A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:**

Dear friend,

I am happy to announce that in June, NYSCAA was awarded the FCC-Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant along with three sub-recipient agencies: Cortland County Community Action Program, Community Action Partnership of Madison County, and Connecting Communities in Action in Cattaraugus County. The Affordable Connectivity Program is intended to bridge the digital divide by providing information about the Affordable Connectivity Program and available internet discounts for eligible individuals. The three agencies will complete outreach activities throughout their counties and assist with completing the ACP application process. We are committed to ensuring equitable internet access for all CAAs and their communities.

I want to recognize the CAA staff who passed this year's Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) exam. Congratulations on a job well done!

- Patti Demma, Foster Grandparent Director, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
- Chari Jones, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.

The [2023 Community Action Awards](#) nomination period is currently open but will close on August 1, 2023. Time is running out, so don't wait to submit your nominations for this year's awards. This year, we added a new category; the Social Justice Award. This award recognizes the exceptional and innovative contributions of Community Action Agencies, their staff, and programs in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ).

We are sad to say goodbye to NYSCAA's Program Associate, Leslie Fuentes, who will be leaving us at the end of the month. We will miss her dedication to providing top-notch services to the network. Leslie brought a fresh perspective to NYSCAA, and for that, we thank her. We wish Leslie the best in her future endeavors.

***Jacqueline Orr, CEO***

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## Table of Contents:

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

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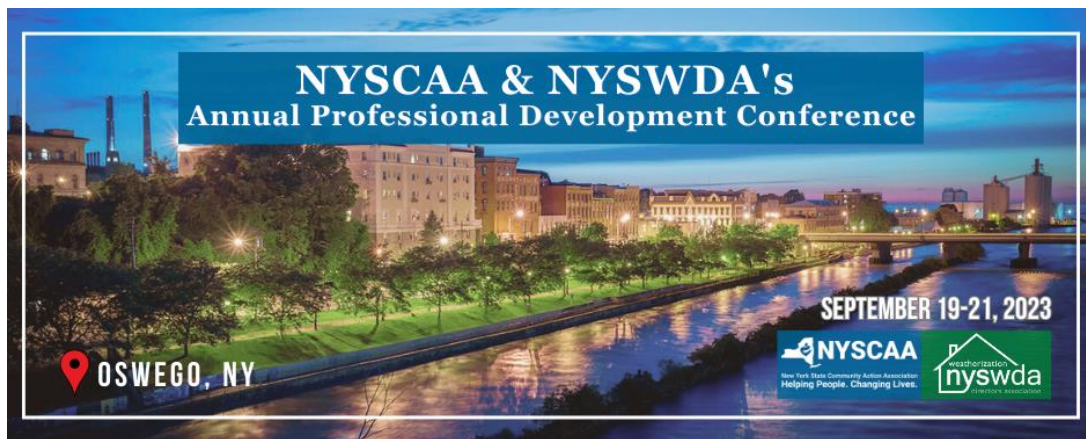
## The Promise of Community Action:

*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.*

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## NYSCAA News:

### Registration is available for NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference: Building Capacity, Impacting Communities



Registration is open for [NYSCAA and NYSWDA's 2023 Annual Conference: Building Capacity, Impacting Communities!](#) The annual conference brings together representatives from Community Action and Weatherization Agencies. Conference participants will convene to learn, be inspired, inspire others, and discuss strategies for meeting new challenges. Join us to gain insights from a wide variety of speakers – from Community Action and Weatherization staff, academicians, policymakers, practitioners, and more!

[Learn More and Register for the Annual Conference!](#)

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## 2023 Community Action Awards

Do you know any outstanding volunteers, employees, program participants, or other individuals who have advanced the work of Community Action, achieved significant personal accomplishments, Fought poverty in their communities, and enabled low-income families to achieve self-sufficiency? These individuals should be honored and recognized for their successful and exemplary efforts, and we invite you to nominate them for [NYSCAA's 2023 Community Action Awards](#).

### Award Categories:

- Community Action Vision and Values
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Personal Achievement
- Service
- Social Justice - \*\*New This Year!

[Submit Your Nomination\(s\) Today!](#)

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## 2023 NYSWDA Annual Achievement Awards

The [New York State Weatherization Directors Association](#) is dedicated to recognizing people who have made significant contributions within the Weatherization network. Awards are given out each year as part of the Annual Gala at the NYSCAA/NYSWDA Professional Development Conference. All nominations will be reviewed and recognize individuals who have demonstrated support for the mission of Weatherization through strong field competency, outreach, and management, or have advocated for the Weatherization Assistance Program at the state, federal or local levels. [Click here to read the award categories](#).

[Submit Your Nomination\(s\) Today!](#)



## NYSCAA Learn is Your Resource for Training and Recorded Webinars

NYSCAA members can watch recordings of our webinars, download slide presentations and other resources, and receive a certificate upon completion, all in NYSCAA Learn. Check out these trending recordings:

- "Yes, And!" Two Powerful Words to Embrace Change, Increase Innovation, and Break Plateaus
- LGBTQ+ Etiquette and Common Bloopers
- Elephant in the Room: Health Disparities and Distrust in Communities of Color
- Creative Problem Solving
- Along with over 75 hours of training!

NYSCAA Learn is an online learning hub that houses eLearning interactive courses and other resources designed specifically for Community Action. NYSCAA Learn has you covered with free training of over 70 courses and resources covering topics from Community Action, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, HR, data, poverty, and frontline staff topics and technology! All courses are free and open to all New York CAA board members, staff, and volunteers.

If you have an account already, access available NYSCAA Learn Courses [here!](#) Logging on for your first time? Visit our [NYSCAA Learn FAQs page](#) for helpful tips!

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## Highlights from New York's CAAs



### Community Action Partnership of Madison County Opens New Outdoor Learning Center

[Community Action Partnership of Madison County's](#) Early Head Start has a new Outdoor Learning Center to assist young children in learning skills for the future. Working with different vendors, childhood providers, the CAP Policy Council, and a licensed daycare provider, the Early Head Start Program designed an Outdoor Learning Center to help accomplish its mission and much more!

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

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## WestCOP Encourages You to Love Your Block!

In June, White Plains Community Action Partnership, a division of [Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.](#), unveiled its Pollinators Garden, a part of the Love Your Block grant. Love Your Block is a two-year Cities of Service grant program that brings City leaders and residents together to build stronger neighborhoods, one block at a time. Through this program, the City of White Plains awarded mini-grants to residents and community partners to help make neighborhoods cleaner and more livable and to spur neighborhood-driven change.

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## CSBG National Partner News:



## Weatherization Day Public Information Campaign Webinar

Join this webinar to learn about the Weatherization Day Public Information Campaign and the resources available to you. Whether the Outreach Toolkit, Site Demonstration Toolkit, or advice from NASCSP partners at the Community Action Partnership and the Community Action Foundation appeal to you, this is the webinar to join! You can access the Weatherization Day toolkit [here](#).

**When:** August 3, 2023 - 2:00 PM EST

[Click here](#) to register.

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## Quarterly Public Community Action Agency Convening – All About Data

In this session NCAP will bring together public Community Action Agencies for programmatic updates, peer learning, and resource sharing. Gather with colleagues from across the nation to learn, discuss, and share! The session will focus on data, its importance, and use within a public CAA. Come prepared to discuss challenges, give advice, and share best practices with fellow public CAAs!

*NOTE: This session is specifically for public Community Action Agencies (i.e. Community Action Agencies within a local government entity, in contrast to a nonprofit or private CAA).*

**When:** August 31, 2023 - 2:00 PM EST

[Click here](#) to register.

## Talk Data to Me at the NCAP Data Convening September 12 - 13 | Denver, CO



## NCAP's Data Convening - September 12-13, 2023 - Denver, CO

Are you interested in taking a deep dive into the pressing topics in the field of data collection and analysis? Want a place where you can network and share resources with other Community Action data professionals? Then NCAP's Data Convening is for you!

[Click here](#) to register and learn more.



## Nonprofit Risk Management Center - 2023 Risk Summit

The Nonprofit Risk Management Center has announced that its 2023 Risk Summit will be back in person this year. This special educational event brings together nonprofit leaders and industry professionals who support nonprofit missions. The 2-day conference will feature 20+ educational sessions,



in-person networking opportunities, and evening social events to build and develop relationships with like-minded sector professionals.

**When:** October 16-17, 2023 - Leesburg, Virginia

[Click here](#) to register and learn more.

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## National Professional Development Opportunities:

### National Association for State Community Action Programs (NASCSAP)

- [2023 Annual Training Conference](#) - September 25-29, 2023

### National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

- [2023 Annual Convention](#) - August 21-25, 2023

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## Resources for New York State:



### ConnectALL - Digital Equity Task Force Town Halls

The [ConnectALL](#) Office in partnership with the New York State Library, has launched a Digital Equity Task Force. The Task Force will help guide the development of the State's Digital Equity Plan - a roadmap for \$1 billion of investments in internet infrastructure and digital equity programming over the next five years. Representatives from over a dozen State Agencies are working with community leaders to launch a series of virtual Town Halls, in five critical outcome areas: Education, Healthcare, Workforce and Economic Development, Civic and Social Engagement, and Accessibility of Government Services.

[Click here](#) to learn about upcoming Town Halls and how you can get involved.



**NYSERDA**

### EmPower+ Program

[EmPower+](#) helps low and moderate-income households save energy and money toward energy improvements made to their property. Households can get up to \$10,000 towards

improvements! The program is open to income-eligible owners and renters of 1-4 family members.

Through EmPower+:

- Households can receive a no cost comprehensive home energy assessment to pinpoint where energy and dollars are being wasted and receive a customized plan to lower energy usage.
- No-cost direct install improvements identified during the assessment can be installed by participating program contractors.
- Households can receive financial discounts on the cost of energy efficiency improvements.



## NY State of Health - Important Changes to New York Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan

Do you or a family member currently have health insurance through New York State Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan? Starting in Spring 2023, New York State will resume eligibility reviews and renewals for people enrolled in these programs. This means you may need to take action to renew your health insurance or the insurance of your family members. Here are some things you can do now to get ready.

### **Sign up for text alerts.**

Sign up to receive SMS/MMS Text alerts from NY State of Health so you don't miss important health insurance updates, including when it's time to renew your coverage. - To subscribe, text START to 1-866-988-0327.

### **Make sure your address is up to date.**

Make sure NY State of Health has your current mailing address, phone number and email address so they can contact you about your health insurance. To update your information:

- Call NY State of Health at 1-855-355-577
- Log into your account at [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov), or
- Contact an [enrollment assistor](#)

If you enrolled in Medicaid through [your county's Medicaid office or through New York City's Human Resources Administration](#), contact that office to update your address and contact information.



### Take action

When it is time to renew your health insurance, you will receive a letter from NY State of Health or a renewal packet if you enrolled through your county's Local Department of Social Services or the New York City Human Resource's Administration. This letter/packet will let you know what you need to do to renew your coverage and how much time you have to respond. Follow the instructions right away.

### What if you don't qualify for Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan?

If you or a family member no longer qualify for Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan, you may be eligible to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through NY State of Health. NY State of Health offers a broad choice of QHPs with comprehensive benefits. More people than ever are qualifying for financial assistance to pay for their premiums. Visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov) or call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220) to learn more and see if you might qualify for financial assistance.



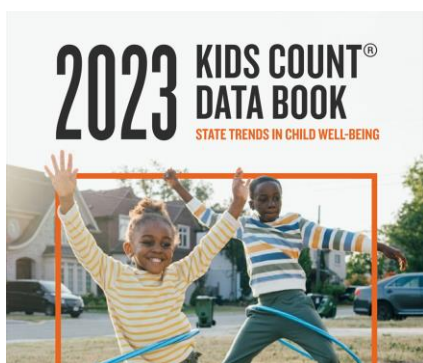
### NYS MyBenefits Tool Connects Residents to Benefit Programs

NYS has released an online tool for State residents. This resource allows individuals to check eligibility for multiple human services benefit programs and apply online for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and Temporary Assistance.

You can access the tool [here](#).

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## National News & Resources:



### 2023 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well-Being

Safe, reliable childcare has been inaccessible and unaffordable for too many Americans. Disparities between those who can and cannot afford childcare reflect structural inequities in the United States. Shift workers, single parents, student parents, and families of color are significantly affected by the failings of the childcare system. Inadequacies of the childcare system hinder family economic mobility and perpetuate generational wealth gaps. The 2023 Annie E.

Casey Foundation KIDS Count® Data Book describes how the country's lack of affordable and accessible childcare negatively affects children, families, and U.S. businesses. The report presents national and state data across four domains — economic well-being, education, health, and family and community — and ranks states in overall child well-being.

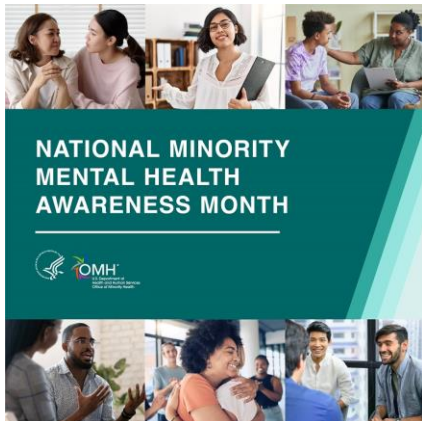
[Click here](#) to access the report.



## ALICE Essentials Index

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households earn just above the [Federal Poverty Level](#) but less than the cost of basics; they can't afford luxury items like fancy jewelry, an extended vacation, or often, even just a trip to the movies. But those are all included in the 200+ categories of goods and services tracked by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the standard measure of inflation in the U.S. These increasing costs are concealed by the CPI's much larger basket of goods. By contrast, United For ALICE's new [ALICE Essentials Index](#) focuses on six household essentials categories: housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan. Nationwide, the rise in the cost of these basics – 3.3% annually from 2007 to 2023 – outpaces the CPI's 2.5% annual rate of increase. When prices increase faster than wages, ALICE struggles to afford the same basket of goods they bought last year.

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



## National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each July to bring awareness to the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness in the United States. Racial and ethnic minorities often suffer from poor mental health outcomes due to multiple factors, including lack of access to quality mental health care services, the cultural stigma surrounding mental health care, discrimination, and overall lack of awareness about mental health.

[Click here](#) to see how you can get involved in National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.



**Institute for  
Research on  
Poverty**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Thirty Years of the FMLA: What's Worked, What Hasn't, and Recommendations for More Equitable Policies

The federal [Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#) was signed into law by then President Clinton in 1993. While the policy provided much-needed protections for some workers, many individuals and families who would have benefited the most were left behind. In June, panelists gathered for a webinar to assess to what extent the policy fulfilled the original intent; how the policy has further widened the gap between low-wage workers—especially women and people of color—and their peers; and what types of policies could provide more equitable and accessible coverage for the workers who need it most.

[Click here](#) to view the webinar recording.



### Contact Info:

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

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

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