



March 2020

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CEO's Letter

Dear Friend,

The Community Action network recognizes that when disaster strikes, people living in poverty end up being affected disproportionately often due to a lack of resources that both limit these families with the ability to prepare for emergencies and to recover.

As is the true nature of Community Action, the NY network and Community Action Agencies across the country are being flexible and innovative in serving their communities and helping those most vulnerable.

It is our goal at NYSCAA to create mechanisms for the network to share information and support each other so that we are able to serve our staff, customers and communities.

NYSCAA is working with the National Partners, State Associations, non-profit leaders, and our local CAA's to help respond effectively to the changing environment. We will continue to highlight [resources](#) and [strategies](#) that allow the work of Community Action to endure during these difficult times.

At this time, NYSCAA has cancelled all in-person events through the end of April. We are currently working with the Department of State (DOS) to monitor the COVID-19 crisis and will

update you with any news about rescheduling the 2020 Regional Meetings. Please check our [Events Webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information surrounding the COVID-19 impact on NYSCAA's events and trainings.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT

March's Poverty Myth

"Growing up in poverty has no lasting effect on children." - False!

Many believe in the outmoded idea that every American has an equal chance to succeed in life. In truth, poor children begin their journeys at high risk for physical, social, emotional and behavioral problems attributed to lack of nutrition, physical stimulation and/or emotional development. Those challenges can be difficult to overcome as children grow up and attempt to break the cycle of poverty.



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

NYSCAA News

New York State 2020 Poverty Report

The New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) is pleased to present its annual edition of the [New York State Poverty Report](#). Providing a statewide look at poverty, this publication is designed to be a comprehensive resource for New York's Community Action Agencies, community-based organizations, policy makers, advocates, community coalitions and the general public. This report does not offer policy recommendations; rather, the intent is to serve as an informational source that adds value to the larger dialogue on how to address poverty in communities across our state.

We have also compiled poverty statistics by Congressional District. Find the statistics [here](#).



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.

NYSCAA is collaborating with national Community Action partners, our state's Community Action Agencies, and other non-profits to help respond effectively to the COVID-19 situation. We are having daily conversations with members across our Network about their concerns, their questions, and their strategies for continuing our work. This situation is unprecedented, but we are confident in the collective strength of our network and ability to support people with low-income and our communities.

Please visit the [NYSCAA website](#) as we continue to update and add to the resources listings.

Highlights from our Agencies

Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) announced [Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County](#) was awarded a \$88,479 Senior Corps grant through the Americorp's Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency for volunteering and service.



This grant will support over 300 Senior Corps volunteers in the RSVP program and expand Senior Corps' presence in the Hudson Valley. Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County is one of only 10 awardees from New York State.

Westchester Community Opportunity Program

[Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. \(WestCOP\)](#) appeared on NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt. Members of the National Guard arrived in New Rochelle, New York, to help distribute food at New Rochelle Community Action Program, which is one of several WestCOP locations in Westchester County. The food will go to families and students from the three New Rochelle public schools that are closed in the containment area, namely, the roughly 2,800 students who qualify for free and reduced price lunch.



[Click here](#) to read more. For the full broadcast, [click here](#).

Census 2020

2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19

MARCH 28, 2020 — Based on continuing assessments of guidance from federal, state and local health authorities, the U.S. Census Bureau is [suspending 2020 Census field operations](#) for two additional weeks to April 15, 2020. The Census Bureau is taking this step to help protect the health and safety of the American public, Census Bureau employees, and everyone who will go through the hiring process for temporary census taker positions.

[Click here](#) to view the summary of adjustments to operations. Should any additional adjustment become necessary, the Census Bureau will promptly publish the change in an updated document.

The 2020 Census is Live!

Everyone in your community can still complete the Census [online or by phone](#) during the coronavirus pandemic!

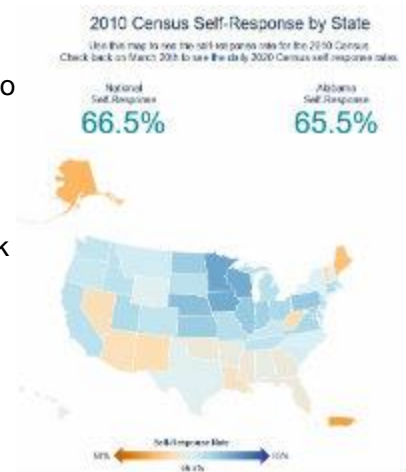
To help reduce the coronavirus risk, the Census Bureau is providing resources and guidance for your local census efforts. [Click here](#) to learn how to promote Census engagement while managing risks related to the coronavirus.

Additional Census Resources:

- [Count All Kids - Messaging and Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Working for the 2020 Census](#)
- [More Census Resources](#)

2020 Census Response Rate Map Preview Now Available

The U.S. Census Bureau launched [a new online map](#) this week as part of its 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 preview 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 begin responding to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail in mid-March, 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.

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.

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.

- [CDC's COVID-19 Site](#)
- [CAP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [CAPLAW's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [NASCSPP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) Conference Postponed

Due to the accelerating outbreak of the coronavirus, the [National Community Action Foundation \(NCAF\)](#) is postponing its March conference in Washington, DC. NCAF understands that postponement creates hardships for many who had planned to attend, making this a difficult decision for its Board of Directors. However, the almost hourly coronavirus developments taking place in Washington compelled NCAF to err on the side of caution and safety.



Though the annual conference has been delayed until the week of November 15th, 2020, in Washington, DC, NCAF would like to connect with folks soon on a number of sessions that were planned for March. So, while some of the sessions will be rescheduled for November, NCAF will be holding its first ever "rolling remote conference" for others. Stay tuned for more updates to come in the following weeks.

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

Additional Resources

New York State of Health - Special Enrollment Period Through April 15th for Uninsured Individuals

NY State of Health, together with the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS), announced that New Yorkers will make a [Special Enrollment Period](#) available to New Yorkers during which eligible individuals will be able to enroll in insurance coverage through NY State of Health, New York's official health plan Marketplace, and directly through insurers. NY State of Health, DFS, and New York State health insurers are taking this action due to the exceptional nature of the public health emergency posed by the COVID-19 so that individuals do not avoid seeking testing or medical care for fear of cost. The open enrollment period for coverage in 2020 had previously ended on February 7, 2020.

Individuals who enroll in Qualified Health Plans through NY State of Health or directly through insurers between March 16 and April 15, 2020 will have coverage effective starting April 1,

2020. Individuals who are eligible for other NY State of Health programs – Medicaid, Essential Plan and Child Health Plus – can enroll year-round. As always, consumers can apply for coverage through NY State of Health on-line at nystateofhealth.ny.gov, by phone at 855-355-5777, and working with [enrollment assistors](#).

New York State of Health - Health Coverage Options Available for New Yorker's

[New York State of Health](#), the Official Health Plan Marketplace, is a new way for people to shop for, compare and enroll in health coverage. It is also the only place to get financial assistance provided by the federal government to lower the cost of your health coverage.



The Marketplace gives you an easy way to compare health insurance plans so you can choose the one that's right for your health needs and your budget. Health insurance offered through the Marketplace will include a comprehensive set of benefits and coverage.

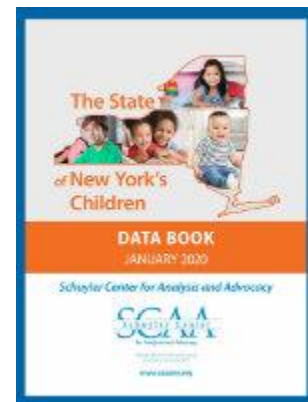
Please view the information below about what coverage options are available:

- [Why You Need Health Insurance Fact Sheet](#)
- [Medicaid At A Glance](#)
- [Essential Plan Fact Sheet](#)
- [Benefits Before The Deductible Fact Sheet](#)
- [Family Dental Coverage Fact Sheet](#)
- [Pediatric Dental Coverage Fact Sheet](#)

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy - State of New York's Children

Since 1872, the [Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy](#) has advanced policies that improve child health and well-being, enabled families to achieve economic security, and augmented quality early childhood opportunities so that all New York children have a fair opportunity to thrive. Among their strategies: elevate the concerns of children, of low-income and disenfranchised families. Hold government to account.

2020 marks the fourth [State of New York Children](#) event – an event created to complement the Governor's State of the State and draw specific attention to the status of the state's children.



- [The State of New York's Children Data Book](#)
- [Slide Presentation](#)
- [A 2020 Vision for New York's Medicaid Program: Preserve Care and Protect Consumers](#)

American Way of School Funding is 'Uniquely Bad' for Inequality

Rising inequality is now at the heart of U.S. public debate, looming over just about every policy discussion from trade to interest rates and likely to take center stage in this year's presidential election. America's classrooms are one place where the trend could be halted.



U.S. schools get most of their money from state and local authorities. The latter typically rely on property taxes to raise revenue and can do it more easily in wealthy neighborhoods. It's a "uniquely American" system, says Elaine Weiss, a researcher at the Economic Policy Institute. And its distributional consequences are "uniquely bad," she says. "Some kids, just by dint of where they are born, will have much less funding."

[Click here](#) to read more.

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](#)

Empire Justice Center - Shouldering the Strain: How Counties Cope with Inadequate Child Care Funding

At an annual cost of \$15,394, quality child care is unaffordable for 90% of New York families. New York State ranks 6th out of all 50 states for the most expensive infant care. In fact, a minimum wage worker would have to work for 35 weeks just to pay for one infant's child care! Yet subsidized child care is underfunded and increasingly unavailable.



Shouldering the Strain: How Counties Cope with Inadequate Child Care* breaks down the top methods that counties across New York State employ to deal with this chronic and worsening underfunding. Based on data collected by Empire Justice from July to August of this year, this report includes up-to-date information on the methods counties use to try and stretch child care funds, from lowering eligibility levels or closing intake to denying subsidies to parents and caretakers with disabilities. [Click here](#) to read the report.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) - Form W-4 & Tax Withholding Estimator

Tax Withholding Estimator: The IRS encourages everyone to use the [Tax Withholding Estimator](#) to perform a “paycheck checkup.” This will help you make sure you have the right amount of tax withheld from your paycheck. There are several reasons to check your withholding:

- Checking your withholding can help protect against having too little tax withheld and facing an unexpected tax bill or penalty at tax time next year.
- At the same time, you may prefer to have less tax withheld up front, so you receive more in your paychecks and get a smaller refund at tax time.

Form W-4: The IRS has released the final version of the 2020 [Form W-4](#). The new form must be used by all new employees hired on or after January 1, 2020 and any employees who wish to adjust their federal withholding on or after January 1, 2020.

National Professional Development Opportunities

CAPLAW

National Training Conference
June 30th - July 2nd, 2020 - Chicago, Illinois
[Click here](#) for more information.

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.

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 Partnership 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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