



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

March 2021

NYSCAA News

Table of Contents:

1. [NYSCAA News and Updates](#)
2. [Highlights from our Agencies](#)
3. [Monthly Myth Series](#)
4. [National Partner Corner](#)
5. [National Professional Development Opportunities](#)
6. [Tips, Tools & Resources](#)
7. [The New York Network](#)
8. [Contact Us](#)

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:

A Word From NYSCAA's CEO

Dear Friend,

It's hard to believe that it's been one year since March 7, 2020, when a disaster emergency was declared in NYS as a result of the coronavirus. On March 16, 2020 businesses and schools were ordered to close with essential businesses remaining open. Since then, the Community Action network has not missed a beat when responding to the needs in our communities. We stayed open, we mobilized resources, we coordinated, we listened, we implemented, and we responded – we met the needs of our communities and we continue to do so.

While it was a demanding and challenging year, we found that some of the service delivery changes that we were forced to implement have proved beneficial to our families. The impact of the pandemic is not over and as we move forward, stronger and more united than before, we will

expand upon what works and continue to learn, adapt, and grow to meet the changing needs in our communities.

The following are visual representations of how the Community Action network in NY adapted to meet the needs of families.

- [Community Action Shines Light During Dark Times](#)
- [New York's Community Action Agencies Respond to COVID-19](#)

We will continue to showcase the resiliency of the network and the communities we serve.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Orr



Save the Date! - 2021 Regional Meetings in Partnership with DOS

NYS Department of State (DOS) and NYSCAA will be hosting the 2021 Regional Meetings virtually via Zoom. Registration information and the meeting agenda will be available soon.

- **Western Regional Meeting:** Wednesday, May 12th, 10 AM-12:30 PM
- **Central and North Country Regional Meeting:** Tuesday, May 25th, 10 AM-12:30 PM
- **Capital District and NYC/LI Regional Meeting:** Wednesday, June 9th, 10 AM-12:30 PM

Are you a staff or board member of a NY Community Action Agency? Check out [NYSCAA Learn](#) – free online learning for New York's Community Action Agencies!



NYSCAA LEARN
Community Action's Online Learning Portal.

Highlights from New York's CAAs:

Oswego County Opportunities - Celebrating 55 Years of Service to Oswego Communities

In 1964, Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act to "eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty." As a result, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were formed to address and end poverty. [Oswego County Opportunities \(OCO\)](#)



was incorporated as a not-for-profit Community Action Agency on March 15, 1966. OCO is proud to be a part of the Oswego community, which has supported its mission for 55 years. OCO has spent decades providing essential services to their customers and doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon! Congratulations on fifty-five years of exemplary work fighting to end poverty and creating a better life for the men, women, and children in Oswego.

Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. - *Partnering with Area Non-profits to Help the Homeless*

After seeing a sharp increase in visitors to their emergency food and housing programs, including many families who never required assistance before the COVID-19 pandemic, Brentwood-area nonprofits that serve a substantial number of Latino communities are taking the rare step of teaming up. Magali Roman, Program Coordinator with [EOC of Suffolk's](#) Community Based Initiative joined with 20 members of My Brother's Keeper (a student club at Brentwood High School) and two area non-profits, [Pronto](#) and [Adelante](#), to distribute hundreds of free meals, canned food, hand sanitizer, and stacks of clothing to the homeless. [Click here](#) to read more about the event.



Monthly Myth Series:

Myth: Gender inequality is not a big issue for developed countries like the U.S. - False!

Fact: Inequality remains high or extremely high on six out of ten indicators studied by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI).

The U.S. has made significant progress on some aspects of gender inequality. Still inequality remains high or extremely high on six out of ten indicators studied by the [McKinsey Global Institute \(MGI\)](#). The first indicator studied is women in leadership and managerial positions: There are just 66 women for every 100 men in such posts.

[Click here](#) to read more about America's gender gap.



CSBG National Partner News & Resources:

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - *Establishing a Customer Focused Approach to Community Action Agencies: A Guide to Customer Satisfaction*

NCAP has released a new guide that covers creating a culture of customer satisfaction, establishing a customer satisfaction system, and collecting and analyzing customer satisfaction data. In addition, NCAP hosted [a webinar](#) focused on increasing internal customer satisfaction. [Click here](#) to download the guide.



National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - *Health Intersections, Adversity, Trauma, Resilience and Early Childhood*

Join NCAP's [Learning Communities Resource Center \(LCRC\)](#) on May 13 for a special convening called *Health Intersections, Adversity, Trauma, Resilience, and Early Childhood*. This three-hour virtual event will run from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST. Dr. Dayna Long, M.D., FAAP, Clinical Director, [Resilient Beginnings Network](#) and Co-Director, [Center for Child and Community Health](#) UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland will convene medical and community experts to lead this intensive learning event. [Click here](#) to register.



National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - *Resources to Promote the Importance of Getting Vaccinated*

With vaccination distribution efforts rapidly increasing, NCAP has put together a list of resources from the [CDC](#) and [FEMA](#). CAAs and state associations can use these materials in their efforts to support and promote the vaccination movement. This list includes websites with more detailed vaccination information, printable posters, and other resources. NCAP encourages the use of information to create materials to use when reaching out to local communities and within an agency. [Click here](#) to download the resources.



National Professional Development Opportunities:

CAPLAW

2021 Virtual Training Conference

June 29 - July 1, 2021

[Click here](#) to learn more.

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

[National Community Action Equity Summit](#)

April 19-21, 2021

The 2021 Equity Summit will be presented virtually

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

[2021 Annual Convention](#)

Pre-Convention Training: August 30-31, 2021

Core Convention: September 1-3, 2021
Boston Marriott - Boston, MA

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

2021 NCAF Conference
September 27, 28, & October 4, 2021
Second Official Fly-In Day - October 5, 2021

Tips, Tools, & Resources:

Community IT Innovators - 2021 Nonprofit Cybersecurity Incident Report

Most small-to-medium-sized non-profit organizations do not prioritize cybersecurity, despite the risks faced by many of these organizations. The threat landscape continues to evolve and grow, and most organizations are at greater risk than they realize. [This report](#) shares some of the experiences and insights from Community IT Innovators. It also establishes a solid business case for making nonprofit cybersecurity an organizational priority.

The report is intended to help nonprofits establish a credible business case for taking cybersecurity seriously and provides specific and meaningful recommendations for threat mitigation and incident response, in language accessible to any nonprofit executive, decision-maker, or IT staff who implement security.



New York State of Health - *The Deadline for Coverage in 2021 Extended!*

There is still time for consumers to enroll in 2021 health coverage! Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that the Open Enrollment Period for enrollment in a Qualified Health Plan has been extended through May 15, 2021. With this extension, New York joins the [Federal Marketplace](#) and other state-based Marketplaces in giving consumers even more time to enroll for 2021 as the battle against COVID-19 continues, and the vaccination program continues to roll out.



Enrollment remains open for all NY State of Health programs, which is especially important during the ongoing public health emergency. Coverage deadlines and start dates are:

- Enroll by April 15: Coverage starts May 1
- Enroll by May 15: Coverage starts June 1

Additional information on NY State of Health insurance options during the COVID-19 emergency can be found [here](#).

NY Project Hope - COVID-19 Crisis Counseling Program Expands Services to Meet Community Need

There have been changes to our routines, work, school, family life, activities...all aspects of our lives have been affected by COVID-19. Therefore, it is normal to feel stressed, isolated, scared, anxious, sad, or angry. That is why thousands of New Yorkers call the [NY Project Hope Covid-19 Emotional Support Helpline](#) to talk with trained crisis counselors who provide a listening ear, as well as information and referrals to a vast array of community resources.



[NY Project Hope's](#) crisis counseling program has expanded in 12 NY counties highly impacted by COVID-19, including Dutchess, Erie, Nassau, NYC (all boroughs), Orange, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester. By expanding the NY Project Hope crisis counseling program, more New York residents will be able to receive the emotional support they need, along with local resources and referrals from trained crisis counselors who know their community. [Click here](#) for more information about local provider agencies.

Urban Institute - *Young People and Tax Credits: The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit*

This brief from the Urban Institute looks at the challenges and opportunities for young people ages 14 to 24 to [access the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit](#). It also covers ways these tax credits are intended to meet young people's needs and how effectively these needs are met. [Click here](#) to download the brief.



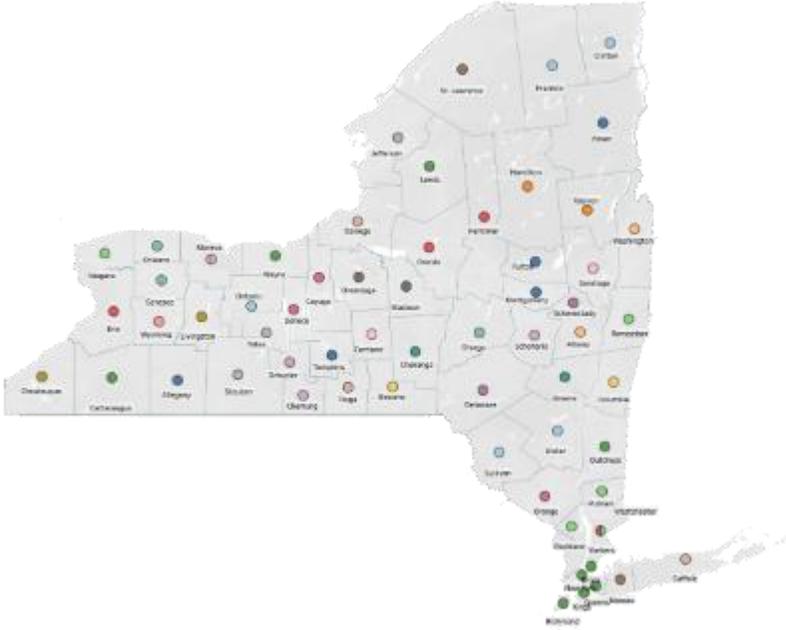
Wipfli - *Upcoming Events, Trainings, and Webinars*

[Wipfli](#) offers various events, seminars, forums, and trainings on a wide range of topics during the year. Sign up for a training below to stay ahead of the curve and help your organization continue to grow.

Upcoming trainings:

- April 6-8, 2021: [In-Depth Training on OMB's Uniform Guidance](#)
- April 13, 2021: [CSBG Organizational Standards Boot Camp](#)
- May 18-20, 2021: [Head Start/Early Head Start Regulation Boot Camp](#)

The NY Network:



[Connect with New York's Community Action Agencies.](#)

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