



NYSCAA

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

May 2020

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CEO's Letter

Dear Friend,

CAAs across the country have a bond, simply because we are Community Action Agencies and serve the most vulnerable in our communities. NY is one of the states with the most CAAs - 48 serving all 60 counties. We too in NY are close-knit, linked and connected, with a common mission and purpose in our communities while also supporting and caring for one another especially in challenging times and these are undoubtedly challenging times.

Recently, the CA network in NY has experienced a profound loss with the passing of a much respected and admired colleague, Ed Fancher, Executive Director of Community Action of Orleans and Genesee. Ed, a kind and thoughtful colleague, exemplified the values of Community Action. He was often the person other Community Action executives reached out to for sage counsel and advice. He was a leader, a confidant, and a friend. Under Ed's leadership and guidance, Community Action of Orleans and Genesee flourished to become an exemplary agency with dedicated staff, serving residents with genuineness, concern and empathy.

Ed was a loyal NYSCAA board member committed to strengthening the NY CA network. He was a conscientious listener and offered suggestions in his quiet and deliberative manner. He was a valued member of the finance committee, often looked to for guidance based on his expertise and experience. NYSCAA staff and board members will certainly feel the impact without Ed at our next meeting; his seat will be hard to fill.

While Ed's passing is a tremendous loss for the Community Action network in NY and we will miss him greatly, we know his values, thoughtfulness, and compassion will continue to live on in the work of Community Action in Orleans and Genesee.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT

May's Poverty Myth

"Poverty does not have a lasting impact on children." - False!

FACT: Childhood poverty negatively impacts academic achievement, physical and mental well-being.

The nation's economic crisis has deeply affected the lives of millions of Americans. Skyrocketing foreclosures and job layoffs have pulled the rug out from under many families, particularly those living in low-income communities. Deepening poverty is inextricably linked with rising levels of homelessness and food insecurity/hunger for many Americans and children are particularly affected by these conditions.



Poverty is linked with negative conditions such as substandard housing, homelessness, inadequate nutrition and food insecurity, inadequate childcare, lack of access to health care, unsafe neighborhoods, and under-resourced schools, which adversely impact our nation's children.

Poorer children and teens are also at greater risk for several negative outcomes such as poor academic achievement, school dropout, abuse and neglect, behavioral and socio-emotional problems, physical health problems, and developmental delays.

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

NYSCAA News

Community Action Agencies Shine Light During Dark Times

As we all continue to work through the COVID-19 Pandemic and respond to community needs, we at NYSCAA would like to recognize the effort and hard work of Community Action Agencies across the state. We have compiled stories and accounts of the support Community Action Agencies are providing for their communities in these uncertain times. To read more about the work being done across the state, visit our [Community Action Agencies Shine Light During Dark Times](#) webpage.

2020 Regional Meetings Update

The NYS Department of State and NYSCAA have rescheduled the 2020 Regional Meetings, and moved them to a webinar format.

There are two remaining meetings. Please use the links below to register.

1. [Western Regional Meeting](#): June 9, 2020 at 10AM
2. [Capital District and NYC/LI Regional Meeting](#): June 25, 2020 at 10AM

Reconnect and Recharge: NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference Update



Due to COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus), NYSCAA and NYSWDA have rescheduled the 2020 Reconnect and Recharge Conference to **September 23-25, 2020**. Registration for the conference is temporarily closed and is expected to reopen in June.

However, in an effort to plan for every contingency, NYSCAA is researching available options for a possible virtual conference. We hope to meet in person to discuss best practices and promote resources, but are aware that there may be travel and gathering restrictions in place. We will be watching this closely.

If the conference is held in-person, the Community Action Awards dinner will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2020. NYSCAA has extended the deadline for [nominations](#) for the 2020 Community Action Awards to August 3, 2020.

NYSCAA is also pleased to announce the 2020 Meeting of the Minds is expected to be held in Rochester, NY, beginning on September 22nd! More information will be coming soon.

NYSCAA has also extended its Call for Proposals for the conference until July 24, 2020. Please visit the Call for Proposals [webpage](#) to submit a proposal for the conference.

There are still sponsor and exhibitor opportunities available for the conference. Visit the conference sponsor and exhibitor [webpage](#) for more information on levels and packages.

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.

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

Highlights from our Agencies

Ulster County Community Action

As the COVID-19 pandemic began, [Ulster County Community Action](#) teamed up with local restaurants and the County Executive's Office to provide grocery bags to Saugerties, Kingston, Warwarsing, and Ellenville residents. "Project Resilience" has provided over 100,000 meals delivered by volunteers to local residents.



In addition, Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. has made over 1,000 meals that were delivered to their community's residents. Teaming up with the [Food Bank of the Hudson Valley](#), over 20,000 pounds of food was made available to local food pantries, Community Action of Greene County, The Salvation Army and local churches within Ulster and Sullivan counties. Other donations have helped to continue providing food to their customers and families during the pandemic.

[Click here](#) to donate today!

Census 2020

Census Bureau to Resume Some 2020 Census Field Operations in Select Locations

MAY 4, 2020 — The U.S. Census Bureau, in coordination with Federal, State and local health officials, will begin a phased restart of some 2020 Census field operations in select geographic areas [this week](#).

Updates on the operations resuming by location are available at 2020census.gov. This webpage will be updated weekly as 2020 Census operations resume across the United States.

May 27, 2020 through August 14, 2020: Census takers will interview homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19:

The 2020 Census is underway and more households across America are responding every day. Over 70 million households have responded to date, representing over 48% of all households in America. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau is adjusting [2020 Census operations](#) in order to:

- Protect the health and safety of the American Public and Census Bureau employees.
- Implement guidance from federal, state, and local authorities.
- Ensure a complete and accurate count for all communities.

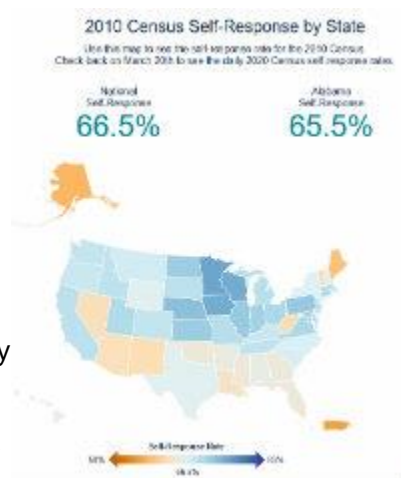
[Click here](#) to read more.

2020 Census Response Rate Map

The U.S. Census Bureau's [online map](#) shows the 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 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 respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail, 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.



Take the 2020 Census Now!

Everyone in your community can still complete the Census [online, by phone, or by mail](#) 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.



Your response matters! The Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states, and your response can shape many different aspects of your community. [See how your answers can shape the future!](#)

Community Action Counts!

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.

[Click here](#) for additional Census resources from the Community Action Partnership.



CSBG National Partner Resources

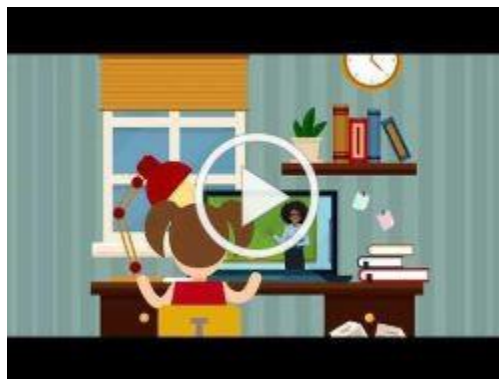
National Partner Resources on COVID-19

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.

- [CAP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [CAPLAW's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [NASCSPP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)

Community Action Partnership Releases Customizable Commercial for Television Broadcast & Social Media

The National Community Action Partnership is pleased to announce that we have produced a customizable commercial that Community Action Agencies can use to raise visibility within their local communities during the COVID-19 national health crisis, so that customers and other community members know your agency is open and providing services. The Partnership has created a 15-second and 30-second version of the video in both English and Spanish. Each version includes a subtitled cut of the video and one without subtitles. **They have intentionally left space at the end for you to include the name of your agency, its contact information, and/or logo – it's completely up to you.**



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

These videos can be broadcast on local television stations or promoted via social media. If you decide to promote via social media, we encourage you to upload your video directly to Facebook or Twitter, rather than sharing a YouTube or Vimeo link, as it will draw much more engagement.

New Resource from CAPLAW Helps CAAs Plan for Reopening

As organizations across the Community Action network begin to reopen their doors to resume operations and services disrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak, it is critical to thoughtfully consider issues that are likely to arise and plan carefully to adjust to the new normal. The concerns that each Community Action Agency (CAA) faces will depend in large part on the issues specific to its community, including any local and state guidance for reopening, and are likely to evolve over time.



CAPLAW has developed this "[Building Readiness: Reopening Our Doors Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)" resource in an attempt to anticipate and address many of the questions on the forefront of CAA planning efforts.

[Click here](#) to learn more and access the resource.

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. The Policies in Practice Webinar Series is intended for Executive Directors, management



staff, board members, and attorneys of CAAs. [Click here](#) to access all previous webinar recordings and materials. Use the link below to register for the final webinar in the series.

1. [Record Retention Policy](#) - Thursday, June 4, 2020

Additional Resources

New York State of Health is Here to Help

All NY State of Health Programs are open during COVID-19!



[NY State of Health](#) has extended the Coronavirus Emergency Special Enrollment Period through June 15, 2020. New Resources are available to help consumers to understand and navigate the enrollment process.

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) on the Grace Period and Special Enrollment Period during COVID-19](#)
- [NY State of Health Insurance Options During the Coronavirus Emergency Fast Facts](#)
- [NY State of Health Insurance Changes During the Coronavirus Emergency FAQs](#)

CARES Engagement Network - COVID-19 Tools and Resources

As many aspects of normal life grind to a halt with closings and cancellations to slow the spread of COVID-19,



[CARES](#) will continue to provide online services, including day-to-day technical support for all projects, sites, and Hubs. CARES has already taken several measures to ensure continued support for our projects, and is committed to maintaining quality information, tools, and resources as well as support for our partners during these challenging times.

[Click here](#) to get started with resources that use real-time and national secondary source data to highlight the impact of COVID-19.

Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) - Upcoming Webinars

Upcoming LIFE 2020 Webinars:



- **Wednesday, June 17th:** [Extending the Benefits of Nonresidential Energy Efficiency to Low-Income Communities](#)

Community Commons - Coronavirus Response: Peer-to-Peer Resource Sharing Library

Community Commons gratefully acknowledges the work that continues across the country and the world to control the spread of Coronavirus. With your help, The Commons has been gathering resources into their [Coronavirus Response: Peer-to Peer Resource Sharing library](#) to help your community continue this work and, as always, their [Community of Support](#) is available for you to share your hopes, fears, and experiences with others throughout this pandemic.



COMMUNITY COMMONS.ORG
together for the common good

Additional Resources from Community Commons:

- [Coping and Staying Emotionally Well During COVID-19-related School Closures](#)
- [Health Leads Roadmap](#)
- [The intersection Between Poverty and Health Care: A Resource Collection](#)
- [New! - Commons Good Podcast with Monte Roulier](#)

21st Annual Wipfli National Training Conference and NEW Virtual Training Experience

October 11-16 | Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino | Las Vegas, NV
July 14 - October 13 | NEW Virtual Training Experience.

You have the option to attend The Wipfli National Training Conference at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino, joining your peers for a week of outstanding learning, or learn from our best trainers in a virtual setting. Both options amplify your impact by getting the training experience and networking you need to serve your community.

[The 21st annual Wipfli National Training Conference](#) includes several detailed, yet, easy to understand sessions that you can apply now to help navigate today's unique challenges such as:

- Hiring and retaining top talent
- Increasing your efficiency
- Streamlining your expenses
- Building a strong technology foundation
- Managing change
- Strategic planning
- And so much more!

The Virtual Training Experience includes access to 40 sessions over three months, delivered live online, but also available on-demand if you are not able to attend the scheduled session.

Those who register to attend the National Training Conference in Las Vegas will also have access to the full Virtual Training Experience, in addition to the sessions they attend in person.

The [21st annual Wipfli National Training Conference sessions are online](#) and ready for you to select your top picks.

National Professional Development Opportunities

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.

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 Program 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.

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