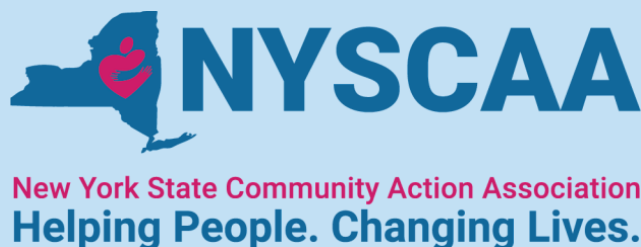


May 2023 NYSCAA News



A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

Community Action Month is ending, and I've enjoyed seeing many agencies celebrate meaningfully with their communities. The spirit of Community Action has been evident throughout the state, from education and information events to staff spirit activities and community outreach projects.

Congratulations to Tina Zerbian, CEO of Connecting Communities in Action (CCA), for receiving the honor of being the 2023 New York State Senate "Woman of Distinction" for the 57th Senate District. Tina is a long-time member of NYSCAA's Board and has used her compassion, insight, and wisdom to strengthen and make NYSCAA an essential resource for the NY Community Action Network.

Two New York Community Action Agencies recently received "Top Work Place" awards. A shout out to Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. and Albany Community Action Partnership developing outstanding work environments!

To celebrate Community Action Month, NYSCAA hosted our "[Shine the Light](#)" campaign, highlighting the fantastic CAA staff around the state and allowing them to express what they love about working in Community Action. Thank you to all of the staff who responded!

The Call for Proposals period for our 2023 Annual conference is currently open. Visit our [Call for Proposals webpage](#) for more information on highlighted topics and selection criteria.

Jacqueline Orr, CEO

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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:

Save the Date for NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference!



Call For Proposals for Presenters at NYSCAA's Annual Conference

NYSCAA is seeking proposals for workshop presentations that focus on developing the knowledge, expertise, and capacity needed by Community Action Agency (CAA) staff for an in-person conference to be held September 19-21, 2023, at the Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center in Oswego, NY.

Preference will be given to interactive presentations, including strategies to engage the audience and leave participants with new skills and knowledge they can immediately use with their customers.

The deadline to submit a workshop proposal is June 2, 2023.

Visit our [Call for Proposals webpage](#) for more information and to submit a workshop proposal today!



Shine the Light Campaign for Community Action Month

As part of Community Action Month, NYSCAA created the "[Shine the Light](#)" campaign, to highlight the fantastic CAA staff from all over New York and their stories about the work they do in Community Action! We are honored to be able to share these amazing stories with you!



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!

Highlights from New York's CAAs

Connecting Communities in Action CEO Tina Zerbian Named 2023 Woman of Distinction

Sen. George M. Borrello announced that Tina Zerbian, CEO of [Connecting Communities in Action \(CCA\)](#), is the 2023 New York State Senate “Woman of Distinction” for the 57th Senate District. Sen. Borrello said he chose Zerbian as the 57th Senate District’s honoree for her humanitarian contributions and service to others and the community.

“Every day, Tina contributes to the well-being of our community. Her care and concern for others is amazing. She is the embodiment of ‘service before self,” Sen. Borrello said. “Because of her compassion-driven leadership, CCA is recognized across New York and the country for innovation and results in the human services world.”

Tina graciously accepted this honor with the statement, “I’ve managed to surround myself with people who are smarter and more talented than I am, who have different experiences than I do, who have been willing to share their wisdom with me. These are the folks who challenge me and lift me up.”

You can read the full article [here](#).



Oswego County Opportunities is Recognized During Community Action Month

[Oswego County Opportunities \(OCO\)](#) was recognized in their community for continuing the mission of helping individuals, families, and communities overcome poverty’s diverse and challenging barriers and build successful, thriving lives.

The four departments of OCO proudly celebrated Community Action Month every day in May. They honored colleagues, held community outreach events, and supported community members who had experienced recent tragic situations.

You can learn more about OCO by following them on [Facebook](#).

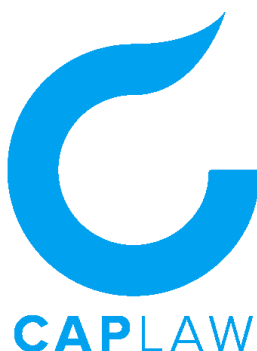


Two New York Community Action Agencies Honored as Top Work Places.

[Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.](#) and [Albany Community Action Partnership](#) have been named Top Work Places in their respective communities.

Top Workplaces awards are based on the results of a research-backed, 24-item employee engagement survey compared across similar organizations. Congratulations to the staff and leadership at these two Community Action Agencies.

CSBG National Partner News:



CAPLAW Releases Information Related to the Employee Retention Credit

CAPLAW has released information to support Community Action Agencies in navigating the Employee Retention Credit. The Employee Retention Credit (the "Credit") was enacted on March 27, 2020, as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the first major COVID-19 pandemic relief package. The purpose of the Credit was to help employers in both the private and nonprofit sectors maintain their workforces in the face of widespread, government-ordered shutdowns and losses in revenue.

[Click here](#) to access the CAPLAW Resources.



NASCSPP Releases the 2021 State Fact Sheets

Each year NASCSPP releases Fact Sheets based on data compiled from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Annual Report, including who is served, services provided,

and outcomes. CSBG Services conducts a detailed survey of the CSBG network that describes the funding sources, services provided, clients and communities assisted, and the results achieved. This information is shared with the network and other research organizations through national reports, articles, and best practices.

[Click here](#) to access the 2021 Fact Sheet.

NCAP's 2023 Annual Convention Awards

Do you know any outstanding volunteers, employees, or others who have advanced Community Action's work, 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! Nominate them for NCAP's 2023 Annual Convention Awards!

[Click here](#) for the complete award descriptions and to nominate someone today!



National Professional Development Opportunities:

CAPLAW

- [2023 National Training Conference](#) - June 27-29, 2023

National Association for State Community Action Programs (NASCSPP)

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

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

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

Resources for New York State:



Home Energy Assistance Program Offers Cooling Assistance Program

NYS Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is accepting applications for cooling assistance. Eligible households may receive one Cooling Assistance benefit per applicant household for purchasing and installing an air conditioner or a fan to help their home stay cool.

More information about eligibility and the application process can be found [here](#).



NY State of Health - The Official Health Plan Marketplace

You and your family have many low-cost, quality health insurance options through the Individual Marketplace. You can quickly compare health plan options and apply for assistance that could lower the cost of your health coverage. You may also qualify for Medicaid or Child Health Plus health care coverage through the Marketplace.

[Anyone can apply!](#) Don't wait, see what options are right for you.

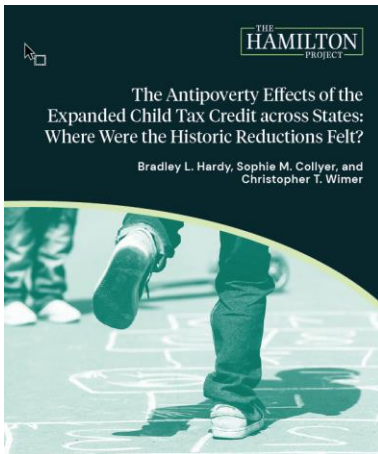


NYS MyBenefits Tool Connects Residents to Benefit Programs

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](#).

National News & Resources:



The Hamilton Project - The Antipoverty Effects of the Expanded Child Tax Credit Across the States: Where Were the Historic Reductions Felt?

In partnership with the Hamilton Project, the [Brookings Institute](#) released its findings from a study about the benefits of extended child tax credits. The report identifies where childhood poverty was significantly reduced and considers state data from two criteria.

[Click here](#) for the full report.



National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services Releases Policy Brief on Rural Childcare

The National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (NACRHHS) released a policy brief on rural childcare. The report sights areas of concern specific to rural childcare and offers seven recommendations, including expanding Head Start programs.

You can find the report [here](#).



PRB Data Review Links Public Housing Vouchers to Better Child Health

PRB (Population Reference Bureau) released a report examining the connection between housing vouchers and better child health. Among the findings, there are links between housing, fewer school absences, and fewer emergency department visits.

[Click here](#) for the full report.



United for ALICE 2023 Annual Report - ALICE in the Crosscurrents: COVID and Financial Hardship in the United States

This ALICE Report provides the first look at the extent of financial hardship in the U.S. using ALICE metrics since the

COVID-19 pandemic began. The pandemic has disrupted longstanding patterns in how and where people live, work, study, save, and spend their time. And the story of ALICE and the pandemic is still unfolding as this report is being written, amid an ongoing health crisis and an economic and public policy landscape that continues to shift. In a time of change, United For ALICE remains committed to providing the most up-to-date local data possible on financial hardship across the U.S.

[Click here](#) for the full report.



US Census Releases Report on Long-COVID Symptoms

The US Census released a report on the effects of Long-COVID symptoms and explored who is most likely to experience long-term symptoms. The study found that Hispanic and Black adults are more likely to report Long COVID-19 symptoms. The study also saw increased symptoms among women, those who identify as bisexual, and those making less than \$25,000 annually.

[Click here](#) for the full report.



US Dept. of Health & Human Services, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation - Human Services in Rural Contexts: Comprehensive Report

This study addresses knowledge gaps in delivering human services programs in rural communities. The goals of this study include providing a detailed description of human services programs in rural contexts and determining the remaining need for human services in rural communities.

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



Wipfli: Register now for the National Training Conference, Stronger to Serve 2023

Join Wipfli's top trainers — including Tammy Jelinek and Denes Tobie — for five days of sessions packed with must-have perspectives on leadership, operational effectiveness, compliance, risk mitigation and talent to take your organization to the next level.

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



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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