



# NYSCAA

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

**October 2020**

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## **CEO's Letter**

Dear Friend,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Renee Hungerford as the new Executive Director of Community Action of Orleans and Genesee. We are pleased that Renee has joined the Community Action network in NY and will take the leadership role at Orleans & Genesee CAA. Renee comes to the network with varied experience in both the health and banking industries. Welcome, Renee and we are looking forward to working with you!

We at NYSCAA are preparing for our first virtual conference, coordinated with the New York State Weatherization Director's Association (NYSWDA). It will be held on December 1, 3, & 8. We are thrilled to welcome two highly regarded keynote speakers: Rev. Dr. Carla Cheatham, who will discuss "Thriving Through Challenges: Resilience, Emotional Intelligence, and Post-Traumatic Growth" and Dr. Nicol Turner Lee who will present "Digitally Invisible: How the U.S. is Addressing the Divide during COVID-19". These topics are both relevant and timely. Along with our notable keynote speakers, we have a host of additional top-notch workshop presenters and panelists. The agenda also includes time for networking opportunities and affinity group

meetings among Community Action HR, Finance and ROMA professionals. More information about how to register for the conference is contained in this newsletter. We look forward to having you join us.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT

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## Monthly Poverty Myth

***MYTH: Benefits and assistance programs are available to too many people and are too generous.***

***FACT: Qualifications to receive services are exceedingly narrow, and exclude many in need.***

The current Federal Government's proposed budget reflects an all-to-common talking point, that the poor take advantage of generous public assistance, and thus should be the targets of further restrictions and regulations. [The Truth Commission on Poverty in New York State](#) is part of a national Truth Commission on the Right Not to Be Poor, organized as part of the [Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#).

Testimony at the truth commission consistently demonstrated the opposite. Speakers frequently addressed the challenges of navigating various social service systems and highlighted the insufficiency of these systems at meeting their needs. Qualifications to receive services are exceedingly narrow, and exclude many in need. People working in social services and those receiving services about the inadequacy of available assistance.



In Schenectady, New York, Juliana Obie, a caseworker for Children's Services of Schenectady County talked about seeing her clients struggle. "I see how the system - and I say system very generally - is set up for a lot of our families to fail. You do what they tell you to do to move ahead but then it's not quite enough, and then you don't get the help that you need."

Navigating the hurdles to receiving one form of assistance can result in losing other benefits. Elizabeth James, a fast-food worker in Schenectady, had to stop working when she was put on bed-rest during a pregnancy. After going to DSS for help with rent, she said, "They're paying part of our rent, but they cut our food stamps way down. So now, instead of being okay for the month with food stamps, we're like pinching food with our kids."

[Click here](#) to read more about this and other common poverty myths that are present in New York State and around the country.

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## NYSCAA News

### ***Reconnect and Recharge: NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference - Registration Open Now!***



[Registration is open](#) for NYSCAA and NYSWDA's 2020 annual conference. The conference will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 1st, from 8:45am-2:00pm, and from 9:00am-2:00pm on Thursday, December 3rd, and Tuesday, December 8th.

The Reconnect and Recharge Conference will bring together representatives from Community Action and Weatherization Agencies. Conference participants will connect to learn, be inspired, inspire others, and discuss strategies for meeting new challenges. We invite you to come gain insights from a wide variety of speakers – from Community Action and Weatherization staff to academicians, policy makers, and more at this event.

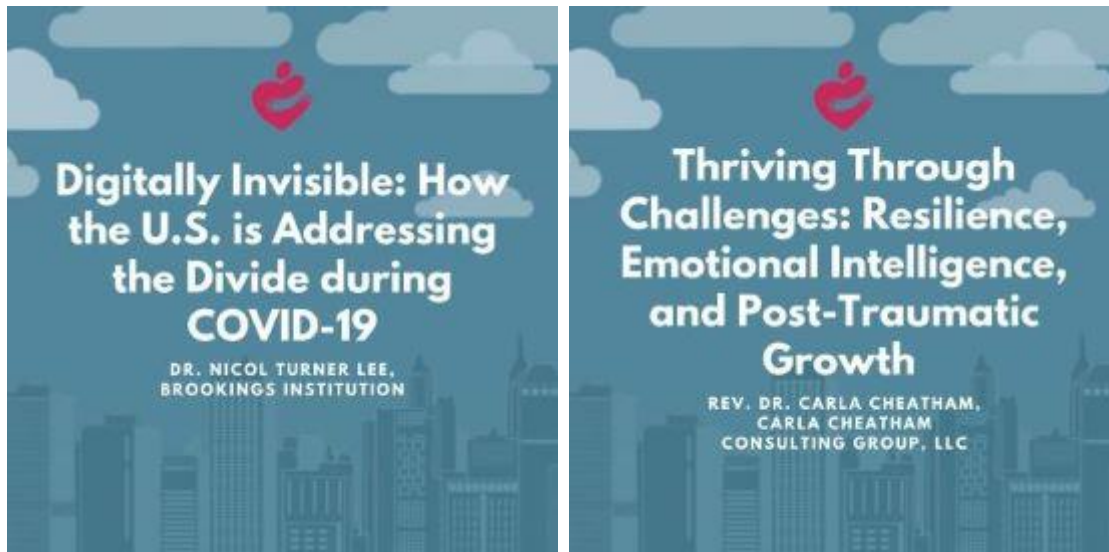
This year, the conference will feature over 35 speakers and over 31 sessions. Registration includes access to all sessions, networking events, raffles and exhibitors!

The deadline for registration is November 23, 2020 - get a head start and [register](#) now!



Scroll down to get a glimpse into a few of NYSCAA's Reconnect & Recharge sessions

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***NY State of Health - The Official Health Plan Marketplace Webinar, November 10th***

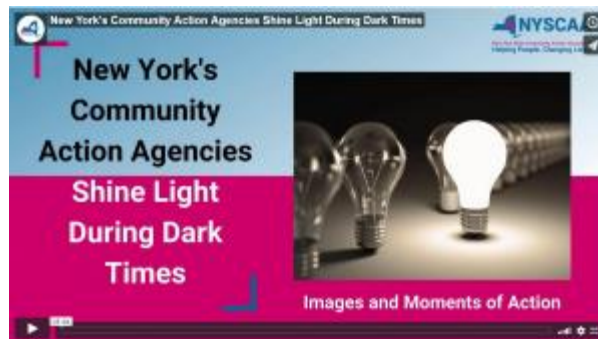


NYSCAA is happy to host the NYS Department of Health for a webinar providing an overview of New York's health plan marketplace on November 10th! New York opened its health plan Marketplace, [NY State of Health](#) in October 2013. The Marketplace's one stop health insurance shopping experience offers high quality comprehensive health plans. NY State of Health is the only place where consumers can qualify to get help paying for coverage through premium discounts or tax credits. Eligible New Yorkers can also enroll in Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan through the Marketplace all year. Join us on November 10th from 1:00PM - 2:00PM for an engaging webinar about New York's official health plan marketplace.

[Click here](#) to register!

## ***Community Action Agencies Shine Light During Dark Times***

NYSCAA has created a short video showcasing the incredible work that Community Action Agencies in New York have been doing for their communities since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check out the video below!



### ***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.

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## **Highlights from our Agencies**

### ***Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.***

[CAPC of Jefferson County](#) is a generous, compassionate, and hard-working agency! With the help of South Jefferson CSD Administration, staff and students, they packed over 250 boxes of food that were distributed to Senior citizen assisted living homes in Carthage, Antwerp, Philadelphia, Evans Mills, Adams, Henderson, Black River, Chaumont, and LaFargeville. Red Cross volunteers joined the work group and helped CAPC of Jefferson County give back to their community. The funding for this initiative was made possible by a generous grant received from the Eastman Foundation (Knowlton Bros). This is a wonderful example of 'People Helping People'!



## ***Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca (CAP)***

[Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca](#) partnered with Cayuga Community College's Criminal Justice Program to help in the fight to end domestic violence. They created the 2020 Pinwheel Garden to represent the victims of intimate partner violence. This annual display is a sobering reminder of the impact of domestic violence and how we can all play a part in preventing it.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call the confidential [New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) Hotline, 24 hours a day, at 1-800-942-6906. The New York State Domestic Violence Hotline has access to advocates in 170 languages through interpreter services.



## ***Pro Action of Steuben and Yates Highlighted in Case Study***

[CAPLAW](#) and the [National Community Action Partnership](#) have developed two case studies focused on the ability of CAAs to respond to unique challenges and effectively govern themselves during difficult times. These case studies highlight the examples of two CAAs, and how each relied on good governance practices and communication to navigate complex challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.



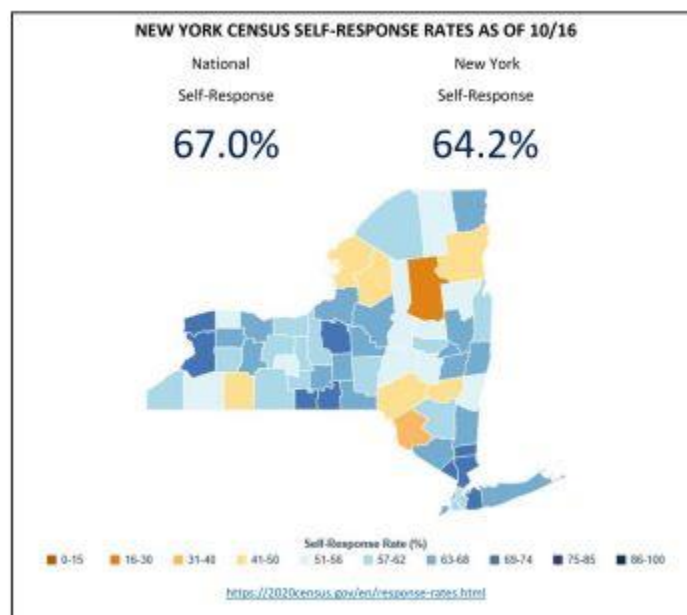
- [Pro Action of Steuben and Yates](#)
- [Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission](#)

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## Census 2020

### 2020 Census Response Rate Map

As people responded to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail, the Census Bureau updated 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 reflects the three response modes combined and for online alone.) Here are the final response rates in NY State:



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## CSBG National Partner Information

**CAPLAW Survey: Low-Income Sector Recruitment and Elections During COVID-19**

One of the many questions CAAs are grappling with right now is how to conduct recruitment and elections for the low-income sector of their tripartite boards during the COVID-19 pandemic. CAPLAW is developing a resource that will highlight some of the ways that boards across the network have adapted to facilitate the participation of their community during this difficult time.

[CAPLAW](#) wants to hear from you about what has worked well and what changes you have made to your recruitment and election procedures during the pandemic. Please fill out the quick survey to share a brief description of the changes you have made, and CAPLAW may follow up with additional questions. **Responses must be submitted by Wednesday, November 4.**

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

### ***New Section 4 of Tools for Top-Notch CAAs: A Practical Approach to Governance and Financial Excellence***



In light of the new FASB accounting standards for nonprofit organizations, CAPLAW has issued a newly updated Section 4 of their popular guide, Tools for Top-Notch CAAs, focusing on financial statements for board members and management for nonprofit Community Action Agencies (CAAs). Also check out the sample financial statements in the Appendix to Section 4.

For more information, and access to the Toolkit, [click here](#).

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## **Additional Resources**

### ***Covid ActNow - America's COVID Warning System***

Covid ActNow is a tiny non-profit that has been working since March to provide trustworthy COVID information. They use 5 key indicators, Daily News Cases, Infection Rates, Positive Test Rate, ICU Headroom Used, and Tracers Hired, to determine risk levels for all 50 states and over 3,000 counties. You can share real-time, local COVID data with your neighbors, friends, and family.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

### ***NY State of Health - Special Enrollment Period Extended through 12/31***

During these challenging times, NY State of Health, New York's official health plan Marketplace, remains committed to ensuring access to affordable, quality health insurance for all New Yorker's, so they can get the care they need.



NY State of Health is here to help New Yorker's who may have lost their health insurance coverage as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to find and enroll in affordable, comprehensive coverage. Many New Yorker's will qualify for Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan due to loss of income/employment or reduced



wages. Those qualifying for these programs can enroll year-round. Individuals who lose job-based health insurance should apply within 60 days of losing that coverage.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the Special Enrollment Period for uninsured New Yorkers will be extended through December 31, 2020. Find out more about this Special Enrollment Period for Qualified Health Plans and updates on insurance options during the Coronavirus pandemic [here](#).

Thousands of assistors throughout the state are available to help consumers enroll by phone. Find a free enrollment assistor [here](#).

For more information, visit us at [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov), or call the NY State of Health customer service center at 1-855-355-5777. Let us help you find a health care plan that works for you.

## ***NY State of Health - COVID Alert NY App***

[COVID Alert NY](#) is the official New York Exposure Notification System app created by the New York State Department of Health in partnership with Google and Apple. COVID Alert NY helps you get timely updates on COVID-19 while protecting your privacy and personal information.

Benefits of COVID Alert NY:

- After downloading the COVID Alert NY app, you will be able to use your phone in the fight against COVID-19 and get exposure alerts, without compromising your privacy or personal information.
- COVID Alert NY is part of New York's Contact Tracing Program and will enhance our efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and keep New Yorkers informed.
- Knowing about a potential exposure allows you to self-quarantine immediately, get tested, and reduce the potential exposure risk to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others.
- COVID Alert NY alerts users if they have come into close contact — within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes — with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, even before the app user may experience symptoms.

## ***Census Releases Updated Household Pulse Survey***

The Household Pulse Survey is designed to deploy quickly and efficiently, collecting data on a range of ways in which people's lives have been impacted by the pandemic. Data will be disseminated in near real-time to inform federal and state response and recovery planning.



[Click here](#) for more information.

***Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes Launches HeARTwork Against Hate contest for NYC Youth - Deadline Extended through October 31st***

The HeARTwork Against Hate is a creative initiative for New York City youth launched by the [Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes](#) in September 2020.



It is important to support young New Yorkers at a time of great stress resulting from the combination of a global pandemic, economic uncertainty, school changes, scapegoating, and issues of systemic racism that have come to the fore. Inspired by [OCA-NY Asian Pacific American Advocates'](#) annual Hate Crime Prevention Art Project, HeARTwork Against Hate provides another opportunity and platform for young New Yorkers to use artistic expression as an outlet.

All New Yorkers have a role in showing respect and standing up for others. Through HeARTwork Against Hate, the City's youth can take a stand against all forms of bias, discrimination, and hate and use their creativity to communicate the positive values that make NYC great.

For more information on submission, prizes, eligibility, and rules, [click here!](#)

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## National Professional Development Opportunities

### **National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)**

2020 Annual Conference - Virtual Registration Only

October 29-30 & November 5, 16-19, 2020

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)**

2021 Annual Convention

Pre-Convention Training: August 30-31, 2021

Core Convention: September 1-3, 2021

Boston Marriott Copley Place

110 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02116

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**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!**



## 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](#) \* [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.](#) [Connecting Communities in Action](#) \* [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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