



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

April 2021

NYSCAA News

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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:

### A Word From NYSCAA's CEO

Dear Friend,

I am very pleased to welcome Mia Nilo to the NYSCAA team. Mia started earlier this month as NYSCAA's CARES Program Manager. She comes to NYSCAA with a wealth of experience in research, communications, and project management. Mia will facilitate the state-wide Social Justice Committee, organize webinars for the network around the impact of COVID in the areas of health and mental health. She will also take the lead on showcasing how Community Action Agencies in NY have responded to the pandemic, both short-term and long-term. We are happy to have Mia join NYSCAA!

On another note, I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Charles Barbay, Project Manager, NYSCAA; Denise Chin, Area Director, Westchester Community Opportunity Program (WestCOP); and Lindy Glennon, Executive Director, Cortland County Community Action Program (CAPCO), for completing the certification process and becoming New York's

newest Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (NCRT). Becoming a certified ROMA trainer is a substantial commitment, and even more so now given the impact of COVID-19. Each of them demonstrated flexibility, dedication, and most of all perseverance! We welcome them to the group of certified ROMA Professionals and the ROMA Alliance!

Thank you,

**Jacqueline Orr**



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### The 2021 New York State Poverty Report is Now Available!

We are pleased to present our newly updated online edition of the [New York State Poverty Report!](#) The report provides a statewide look at poverty. This tool is designed to be a comprehensive resource for New York State's Community Action Agencies (CAAs), community-based organizations, policy makers, advocates, community coalitions, and the general public.



What's Included in the 2021 Poverty Report:

- The New York State Poverty Profile
- U.S. Poverty Profile
- [A Comparative Look at New York's County and City Poverty Levels](#)
- Poverty Levels for New York State's Congressional Districts
- Data Key

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### 2021 Regional Meetings in Partnership with DOS - Registration Currently Available

NYS Department of State (DOS), Division of Community Services (DCS) and NYSCAA are hosting the 2021 Regional Meetings virtually via Zoom. Registration is currently available, along with a [preliminary agenda](#).

- **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

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**Are you a staff or board member of a NY Community Action Agency? Check out**



**NYSCAA LEARN**  
Community Action's Online Learning Portal.

## **[NYSCAA Learn](#) – free online learning for New York’s Community Action Agencies!**

### **Highlights from New York's CAAs:**

#### **Pro Action of Steuben and Yates - *Helping to Spread Awareness for Child Abuse Prevention***

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and brings awareness to the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. [Pro Action of Steuben and Yates](#), together with Prevent Child Abuse Steuben, proudly supported *Wear Blue Day*, to bring awareness to this most necessary cause. Pro Action continues to coordinate activities and support families and children by reinforcing proven strategies to prevent and stop child abuse and neglect for good.



[Click here](#) to learn more about how you can support the fight to end child abuse.

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#### **Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County - *Farm to Family Food Distribution***

In April, [Community Action Planning Council \(CAPC\) of Jefferson County](#) partnered with a number of local organizations to provide community members with nutritious food. Together, over 500 boxes of food were delivered to families in their communities. With the help of the American Dairy Association North East, Red Cross, and Massey's Furniture Barn, CAPC provided a vital service for families facing food-insecurity in Jefferson County. The partnerships they've established with their local community have been instrumental in keeping the service stream flowing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



[Click here](#) to learn more about CAPC of Jefferson County.

### **Monthly Myth Series:**

**Myth:** We can predict, with certainty, which children will be maltreated based on risk factors. - FALSE!

Risk factors associated with child maltreatment include extreme poverty, family unemployment, caregiver substance abuse, lack of understanding of child development, and neighborhood violence. However, each of these only weakly predicts the likelihood of maltreatment. For example, although maltreatment is more common among families living in poverty than among other families, the majority of parents with low incomes do not maltreat their children.



When risk factors are present, protective factors can mitigate the likelihood of maltreatment. Such protective factors include parental social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and children's social-emotional competence. Because maltreatment is so difficult to predict, prevention approaches that strengthen protective factors among at-risk families broadly—even if the risk is low—are likely to be most effective in reducing maltreatment.

[Click here](#) to read more about other myths associated with child maltreatment and prevention.

## CSBG National Partner News & Resources:

### **CAPLAW - *Raising and Preserving the Low-Income Voice: Adapting to the Pandemic***

The CAA tripartite board is a critical venue for achieving the “maximum participation” of the low-income community in the poverty-fighting work of Community Action. But despite the importance placed on the low-income sector of the board, there is relatively little federal law that addresses the recruitment and election of board members using democratic selection procedures. CAPLAW's series of case studies, [Raising the Low-Income Voice: Case Studies in Democratic Selection Procedures](#), sought to address this gap by profiling innovative and responsive practices at CAAs across the country and providing sample materials that could be used and adapted to meet the needs of other agencies.



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CAPLAW has updated the case studies to reflect how the profiled CAAs adapted their existing processes to retain maximum participation while ensuring effective and safe governance practices. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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### **National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - *May is Community Action Month!*** ***Check out this toolkit to plan your events and activities!***

The 2021 Community Action Month (CAM) Toolkit is now available! Access sample graphics, social media messages, press releases and CAM proclamation templates, and more!



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

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### **National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - *Community Action COVID-19 Response Story Templates***

NCAP has partnered with Strategic America to produce a series of [Community Action COVID-19 Response Story Templates](#) for CAAs to promote their work during the pandemic. We have both ready-to-go and customizable design materials for one-pager documents, social media graphics, and e-mail templates.



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### **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.



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### **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.



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## **National Professional Development Opportunities:**

### **CAPLAW**

2021 Virtual Training Conference

June 29 - July 1, 2021

[Click here](#) to learn more.

### **National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)**

2021 Annual Training Conference - Presented Virtually  
September 13-17, 2021

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

[2021 NCAF Conference](#)

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

### **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

## **Tips, Tools, & Resources:**

### **Community Corps - *We Can Do This***

The Biden Administration has launched a new initiative to boost COVID -19 vaccinations. With the tag-line "**We Can Do This,**" the **Community Corps is a coalition of community, religious organizations along with celebrity partners who are coming together to promote vaccination.** Community Action Agencies and State Associations are encouraged to sign up and become a Community Corps organization. Once the organization is a member, you will receive timely and accurate information to share, and have access to resources to build confidence in your communities and more.



[Click here](#) to sign up to be a COVID Community Corps organization.

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### **FPWA - *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New York 2021***

FPWA is an anti-poverty policy and advocacy organization committed to advancing economic opportunity and upward mobility for low-income New Yorkers. Having a prominent New York presence for nearly 100 years, FPWA has long served New York City's human services sector. They provide grants to help individuals and families meet their basic needs and advocate for fair public policies on behalf of people in need and the agencies that serve them.



FPWA is published [The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New York 2021](#) to ensure that the best data and analyses are available to enable New York's families and individuals to make progress toward real economic security. The result is a comprehensive, credible, and user-friendly tool. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a measure that calculates



how much income a family must earn to meet basic needs, with the amount varying by family composition and where they live.

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### **Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Establishing First-in-the-Nation Program to Provide Affordable Internet to Low-Income Families**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation establishing the first-in-the-nation requirement for affordable internet for qualifying low-income families, as proposed in the 2021 State of the State. This legislation requires providers operating in New York State to offer \$15/month high-speed internet to low-income families across the state. New Yorkers qualifying for this affordable internet program include households who are eligible or receiving free or reduced-price lunch, supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, Medicaid benefits, the senior citizen or disability rent increase exemptions, or an affordability benefit from a utility. It also requires providers to report to the Public Service Commission annually on their offers and uptake. This new affordable internet program will impact seven million New Yorkers and 2.7 million households.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

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### **NY Project Hope - Coping with COVID**

COVID-19 has changed a lot about how we live our lives, from daily routines at home to how we do our jobs. The trained crisis counselors at [NY Project Hope](#) understand the changes COVID-19 has made in your life and they know the emotions these challenges create may be strong and sometimes unfamiliar. From uncertainty to sadness, NY Project Hope helps you cope with your reactions to the changes; providing support so you can work to manage the stress and fatigue.



New Yorkers can call the Emotional Support Helpline to speak with someone who has been trained to give you the kind of support that works best for you during the pandemic; whether it's coping strategies, resources, or a chance to talk - the call is always free, confidential, and anonymous. **NY Project Hope's Emotional Support Helpline number is 1-844-863-9314.** Trained crisis counselors are available every day from 8am to 10pm.

NY Project Hope services are available for all New Yorkers. A [printable palm card](#) is available for easy reference. To request printed palm cards to distribute or to request a virtual presentation for your group, please click here to complete the [online form](#).

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

To allow as many consumers as possible to access newly enhanced tax credits, and in light of the ongoing public health emergency, **NY State of Health has extended its Open Enrollment Period for Qualified Health Plans to December 31, 2021**.



Individuals eligible for other NY State of Health programs - Medicaid, Essential Plan and Child Health Plus - can enroll year-round. The best way for consumers to receive assistance at this time is to [phone a navigator or other NY State of Health assister](#) for help.

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

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### **New York State of Health - New Tax Credits Available through the American Rescue Plan**

Good news! Federal law has changed, and more tax credits are now available to New Yorkers who buy a health plan through NY State of Health!



Here's what you Need to Know:

- [The American Rescue Plan](#), which was signed into law on March 11, 2021, will lower health care costs by providing new and expanded financial assistance to New Yorkers enrolling in health insurance through NY State of Health. Their new [fact sheet](#) and [website](#) provide more details.
- This new, enhanced assistance is available to current enrollees and new enrollees, including to higher-income individuals for the first time if they qualify.
- Consumers who complete their updated enrollment in April will receive a premium invoice from their health plan that reflects the lowered premium amount beginning in May.
- Starting in June, NY State of Health will apply these higher tax credits to current enrollees without requiring any action by the enrollee.
- For New Yorkers who are eligible for unemployment insurance for at least one week in 2021, the American Rescue Plan will allow them to sign up for a nearly free health plan through NY State of Health for coverage that lasts for all of 2021. To be eligible for this plan, consumers cannot be eligible for other health insurance such as Medicaid, Medicare, or employer-sponsored coverage.

Visit [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov) for more information.

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**The White House - American Jobs Plan: The Need for Action in New York**



[The White House](#) released state-by-state fact sheets that highlight the urgent need in every state across the country for the investments proposed by President Biden in the American Jobs Plan. The fact sheets highlight the number of bridges and miles of road in each state in poor condition, the percentage of households without access to broadband, the billions of dollars required for water infrastructure, among other infrastructure needs.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

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### **Wipfli - Nonprofit Report Reveals New Leadership Concerns for 2021**

What's keeping nonprofit leaders up at night? In a new [Nonprofit Priorities Benchmark Report](#), nonprofit leaders named their top concerns for 2021. At the top of the list:



1. Employee engagement/burnout
2. Fundraising
3. Recruitment/workforce

The Nonprofit Priorities Benchmark 2021 Report is based on survey responses from hundreds of nonprofit leaders, collected online in January 2021. The survey was distributed and analyzed by Wipfli. The survey covered financial concerns, plus leadership and management development. Access the new report for additional data and resources to help nonprofits overcome their most pressing challenges.

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### **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:

- 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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