



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

August 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:

Strengthen and Sustain: Building Resilient Communities
NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference
October 6th — October 12th — October 14th
2021
[Register Now](#)

NYSWDA New York State Department of Social Services
NYSCAA New York State Community Action Association
Helping People. Changing Lives.

"Strengthen and Sustain: Building Resources and Resiliency in our Communities" NYSCAA & NYSWDA's 2021 Annual Conference

The [Strengthen and Sustain: Building Resilient Communities Conference](#) brings together representatives from Community Action and Weatherization Agencies. Conference participants will come together to learn, be inspired, inspire others, and discuss strategies for meeting new challenges. We invite you to join us to gain insights from a wide variety of speakers – from Community Action and Weatherization staff to academicians, policymakers, practitioners, and more.

This year's virtual conference will feature over 30 speakers and over 30 sessions focusing on topics including Fatherhood, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Workforce Development, Human Resources, Capacity Building, Leadership, Mental Health First Aid, Voter Redistricting, and much more! Registration includes access to all sessions, networking events, raffles, and exhibitors!

The deadline for registration is Friday, September 10, 2021 - don't wait, [register today!](#)

Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP)

Renee Tuggle, CCAP, Fiscal Director at Mohawk Valley Community Action, will be leading a study group of CCAP candidates. The group will provide support in developing and submitting the Executive Skills Portfolio (ESP) and preparing for the exam. Renee will be starting the study group in September; the group will meet on the fourth Thursday of each month until the exam in June. Thank you to Renee for volunteering her time and expertise! If you are interested in getting more information, please reach out to Renee at rscarter@mvmca.com.

If you are interested in learning more, the process is well outlined on the [National Community Action Partnership](#) website.

The Partnership's annual convention will take place in New York City in August 2022. We hope to have a good number of CCAPs from NY cross the stage to receive their certificates!

Meeting of the Minds - Register Separately for Each Session!

[Session 1](#)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
10:00AM-12:30PM

- **Welcome:** Pat Standish, Coordinator, Community Action Angels New York
- **Opening Remarks:** Manuel Rosa, Director, Division of Community Services, NYS Department of State



- **Nonprofit Messaging**--*The Impact of Words on Volunteers, Donors & All We Serve*
- **Panel Discussion:** *Stigma--Making Change Happen*
- **Project Sharing**

Session 2

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

10:00AM-12:30PM

- **Opening Remarks:** Jacki Orr, CEO, New York State Community Action Association
- **Aligning Non-Profit & Small Business Goals:** Clearing the Path for Success Job Placement and Mutual Success
- **Project Sharing**
- **2021 Special Guest Speaker:** Mike Duffy on Happiness in Serving
- **Closing Remarks:** Manual Rosa, Director, NYS Department of State, Division of Community Service

Check the [Community Action Angels NY website](#) for more information on the event!

Highlights from New York's CAAs:

L.E.A.P. has been nominated for ARCC Business Awards "Nonprofit of the Year"!

The Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce recently announced the nominees for the 2021 ARCC Business of the Year Awards, recognizing member businesses for their achievements in business, economic and quality of life contributions to our region for over 30 years. These businesses were nominated by their peers, and each will be interviewed and scored by a committee of ARCC members.

The nominees and winners will be recognized at an awards breakfast, on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at Dunham's Bay Resort in Lake George, NY.

L.E.A.P. thanks everyone for their award nomination! Check out their [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for updates.



Community Action for Wyoming County Gets Featured in The Daily News Hosting its First-Ever Poverty Simulation Training!

On Thursday, August 12, Community Action for Wyoming County guided participants through a highly interactive experience designed to foster an understanding of what a typical low-income family experiences trying to get by from month to month. Over 80 staff from 22 local Community Service Agencies participated, including Accord, Wyoming County Office of the Aging, Wyoming County DSS, Wyoming County Mental Health, Wyoming County Community Health System, and so many more!

The print edition of the feature, written by Matt Surtel, captures CARES Coordinator Kelly McLaughlin in a moment of pained frustration while roleplaying as an 18-year-old single mom. Her quote to *The Daily News* illustrates the introspection the simulation often evokes: *"It was eye-opening. Considering all the hoops and obstacles, we had to jump through and over just to pay rent, put food on the table, and find a job. You find a job, but then child care has to be lined up. But then when you go do that, you've lost your job because you didn't show up to work on time. It gave me a new perspective on what my clients go through on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis."*



You can read the digital edition of the feature on [The Daily News online site](#) or see more pictures of the event on the [Community Action of Wyoming County Instagram page](#).

Monthly Myth Series:

Myth: Giving poor people direct cash handouts will discourage them from working. - **FALSE!**

Fact: A recent study analyzing different unconditional cash transfers concluded that there is either no effect on labor market supply or only a slight reduction in work and earnings.

Providing cash directly to individuals has often been met with criticism, suspicion, and fear: the thinking goes that people who need financial assistance are not to be trusted, as their financial position reflects a moral failing rather than a societal one. These objections to cash transfer programs are rooted more in myth than empirical evidence. As the debate about a universal basic income gains prominence, it is important to set the record straight about the behavioral effects of unconditional cash assistance.

The [2017 study published by the Roosevelt Institute titled, *No Strings Attached: The Behavioral Effects of US Convonditional Cash Transfer Programs*](#), explored how three different cash transfers programs. While the amounts dispersed and time periods were distinct in each experiment, each provided money without set conditions and without a means test. The data was synthesized for the following outcomes: consumption; labor force participation

(employment, hours worked, and earnings); education; health; and other social outcomes, such as marriage or fertility choices.

The effects of stimulus checks on adults, like those pursued in the past year, are surely different, but the evidence generally suggests that work disincentive effects of cash are small. University of Pennsylvania economist Ioana Marinescu, who authored the study, concluded, **“Our fear that people will quit their jobs en masse if provided with cash for free is false and misguided.”**

CSBG National Partner News & Resources:

New CAPLAW Resource! Weatherproofing CAA Bylaws: Preparing for Emergency Governance

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present numerous challenges for CAAs that impact existing governance structures and practices related to board meetings, board member terms and selection, authority to take action, and more. CAPLAW created this resource to help CAAs prepare their bylaws for future emergencies and avoid significant problems resulting from a failure to comply with the organization's rules.

You can [download the resource here](#) or check for [recent updates on their Building Readiness: Planning, Prevention, Response, and Liability](#) page.



National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - *Get Connected With CTC, EBB, ARP Outreach Resources*

Use this new interactive flyer from NCAP to access outreach and program resources for recent benefits like the Child Tax Credit (CTC), the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB), and benefits in the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Click on any of the resources featured in the .PDF document to access them instantly. [Download now](#). Or, check out NCAP's other interactive resources on [their website](#).



National Professional Development Opportunities:

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)
[2021 Annual Training Conference](#)

September 20-23, 2021
[Registration OPEN!](#)

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

[2021 NCAF Conference](#)

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

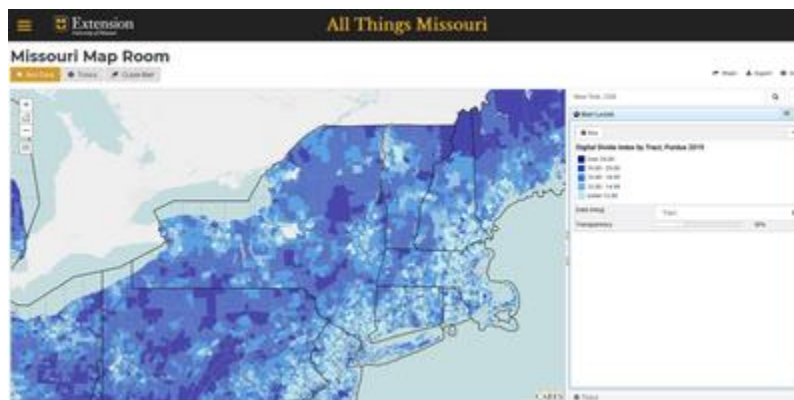
National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

[2021 Annual Convention](#)

Pre-Convention Training: August 30-31, 2021
Core Convention: September 1-3, 2021
Boston Marriott - Boston, MA

Tips, Tools, & Resources:

MU CARES Digital Divide Index and Food Desert Census Tracts Maps



Create interactive maps based on new and updated data in the [Missouri Map Gallery](#). There is wide inequity in access to broadband internet. Rural areas in particular lack sufficient infrastructure to supply high-speed internet to residents as well as the business community. [Use the map builder and layer function to check out the digital divide here in New York.](#) Or, [create a food access starter map with layers related to food access](#) including food deserts, population with limited food access, locations of major supermarkets and food pantries, and the Modified Retail Food Environment Index Score from the CDC.

NY Project Hope - New Online Wellness Groups Starting July 26th!

As NY continues to reopen and folks navigate through new changes caused by COVID-19, people continue to seek emotional support to help them cope with the transitions, stress and anxiety. In response to this need, NY Project Hope is proud to introduce [Move Forward with Hope: New Online Wellness Groups!](#) There are six different groups to choose from:

- Mental Wellness Monday
- COVID Longhailer Support Group
- Wellness Wednesday
- Teen2Teen Support Group
- COVID and Relationships
- Moving Forward Friday

MOVING FORWARD FRIDAY ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP



EVERY FRIDAY @ 6PM
LEARN HOW TO HANDLE
RE-ENTRY ANXIETY AND MOVE FORWARD...

NY Project Hope is also still publishing new blog posts, coping tips, and updated mental health resources on [their website](#).

New York State Association for Rural Health - Rural Health Symposium, "Connect with Rural, for Rural, by Rural" Virtual Event September 27, 2021

Join colleagues from across New York State to network and hear from national experts on current rural health issues. Elected officials from across New York State will present updates on the latest rural health and wellness issues facing residents. Topics will include telehealth and broadband in rural communities, new marijuana legislation, workforce development, and rural health infrastructure.

- Receive updates and annual reports on behalf of NYSARH's Board of Directors from the Executive Committee.
- Review the 2020-2021 Annual Report and learn about NYSARH's priorities for 2021-2022.
- Meet NYSARH's 2021-2022 Board of Directors, including newly elected representatives.



Visit the New York State Association for Rural Health website to [REGISTER for the Rural Health Symposium TODAY!](#)

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 assistor](#) for help.

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

Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) - *Essential Worker Scholarship*

OCFS is administering \$25 million in funds to provide child care support for children of essential workers. The [Essential Worker Scholarship](#) is only available to residents of New York State and will be awarded weekly through payments made directly to child care providers on the parents' behalf. This is the first in a series of new investments to support the child care industry and working families as provided for by the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan Act.



Child care costs will be covered for essential staff whose income is less than 300 percent of the [federal poverty level](#) and will be paid up to the market rate for each region statewide for children aged six weeks through 12 years. Families currently receiving child care scholarships under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act are strongly encouraged to also apply for this new funding opportunity.

[Click here](#) for more information on how to apply.

The Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Highlights the SNAP Program's Efficacy Over the Years

A reevaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan used to calculate SNAP benefits is rolling out in [October](#), **giving an average increase of \$36.24 per person.** This article by IRP Affiliate, Diane Schanzenbach, provides great context for how important the program has been, especially in stabilizing the economy and dispensing much-needed resources during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Key takeaways from the article:

- SNAP is an effective and efficient program that increases food spending and can stabilize the economy during a fiscal downturn.
- Small changes to the program could further reduce food insecurity among families with children, particularly during the summer months.
- Increases in the generosity of benefits and policies that improve program access--such as those put in place as part of COVID-19 pandemic relief--strengthen SNAP's ability to stabilize the economy.
- Major changes in the program structure that make it less responsive to shifts in need are not advisable.

You can [download the article here](#) or check out the [IRP main page](#) for more research and resources.

The NY Network:



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

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