



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

July 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 excited to announce that [registration is now open](#) for NYSCAA and NYSWDA's Annual Conference, **Strengthen and Sustain: Building Resilient Communities!** The conference will be held virtually on October 6th, 12th, & 14th, 2021 and will include distinguished speakers and keynotes, break-out sessions, sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, networking events for CAA staff, and much more!

I would also like to recognize the CAA staff s who passed the CCAP Exam in June. Congratulations on a job well done!

- Natasa Joldic, Central Intake Coordinator, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.

- Michelle Kelley, Assistant Director of Child Development, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
- Ann Perry, Assistant Family Resources Director, Mowhawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
- Dr. Shelly Bartow, Executive Director, Delaware Opportunities Inc.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Orr



**"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 35 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!](#)



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New York State Weatherization Directors Association

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@mvcaa.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!

Save the Date! - 14th Annual Meeting of the Minds

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Minds, hosted by [Community Action Angels New York](#), will be hosted virtually on September 14th and 15th, 2021. Mark your calendars!

Highlights from New York's CAAs:

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. (MVCAA) Joins in Support of the Ride for Autism

#MVCAAHeroes spent their Sunday afternoon out in Utica, supporting Ride for Autism and spreading the word on their many programs, spreading knowledge on the COVID-19 vaccine, and sharing smiles with the community, happy to be out at local events again! [Follow them on Facebook](#) for updates on their Youth Bash and Summer Rec Program.



Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. Celebrate New Values!



On June 24th, Pro Action celebrated the reveal of a brand new set of values! The event featured thoughts from Pro Action's CEO Laura Rossman, along with remarks from Assemblyman Phil Palmesano. Special guest, Mia Enders sang "Rise Up" for the audience of Pro Action staff and members of the Board. Pro Action Culture Committee members proudly shared how they will operationalize the new values in the work done at the agency. It's a great example of how agencies in the network are championing equity in their communities.

Read Pro Action's new values on their [website](#).

Monthly Myth Series:

Myth: Poor people don't have to pay for a gym to stay fit and active. They can just go to the park and exercise for free. They're just unhealthy and lazy. **-FALSE!**

Fact: At a city level, researchers have long acknowledged that park access is *unequal* and studies have shown that the biggest predictor of weekly exercise at the state level is the *median income*.

In recognition of National Parks and Recreation Month, it's important to recognize that investment in public goods has not been distributed equally. According to park data organized by the [National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network and reported by Brookings](#), among the 100 largest metro areas, almost 54% of residents live within half a mile of a park, indicating a little less than half of all residents live outside a 10-15 minute walk to a park and there is a considerable range depending on the market. While urban cores match their population densities with park access, it's shown that newer suburbs offer half the amount of park access to mature suburbs and even less to exurbs. When looking for the factors affecting which city residents remain disconnected from parks, it often depends on their income, education, and race.

Among nine other possible indicators, a [higher median income was the most reliable predictor for whether a resident of a state was likely to exercise](#) the amount recommended by the CDC. Higher incomes, managerial or professional jobs, and the job density in urban cities all equated to a higher likelihood of having the time, energy, and money to invest in fitness. Poverty *is* a barrier to wellness and is exacerbated by urban planning that is catered to higher-income residents.

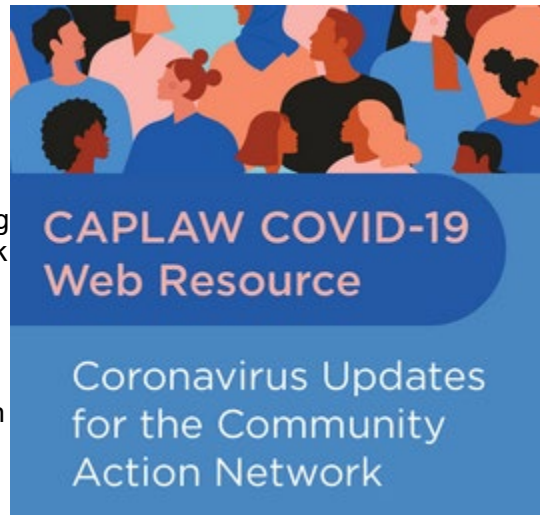
CSBG National Partner News & Resources:

CAPLAW Do's and Don'ts of Workplace COVID-19 Vaccinations

As Community Action Agencies (CAAs) continue to adapt and evolve in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, their strategies for protecting employees from serious illness resulting from COVID-19 has shifted from mitigating the risk of transmission via measures like PPE and social distancing to promoting vaccinations. This article by CAPLAW provides guidance for CAAs that want to encourage employee vaccinations and offers some key do's and don'ts as they engage in the five key types of vaccine-related efforts:

1. Vaccine mandates
2. Vaccine administration
3. Proof of vaccination
4. Vaccine incentives
5. Vaccine education

You can [read and download the article here](#) or access CAPLAW's [COVID-19 web resources](#) or [five-part webinar series on employer operations during and beyond the pandemic](#) on their [website](#).



National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - *Racism and Health Equity in Community Action Webinar*

The Partnership recently hosted its "Racism and Health Equity in Community Action Webinar" on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. Special thanks to Subject Matter Experts, Dr. Georges C. Benjamin and Tia Taylor Williams of the American Public Health Association!

If you missed the live presentation, the webinar [recording](#) and [slides](#) are now available.



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:

Fact Check on Delta Variant - USA Today Fact Check

On July 13, NYSCAA held a webinar on "**Responding to COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation**" in which Dr. Tara Kirk Sell of Johns Hopkins' Center for Health Security shared a number of resources that dismantle many of the vaccine and COVID-related myths going around. One resource included was the [USA Today Fact Check](#), which responded directly to a viral video claiming the delta variant is fake and merely a political ploy by laying out the facts that:

- **The delta variant is real and more contagious** than the other virus strains.
- It has been reported in at least 98 countries.
- In the US, more than 51.7% of the new coronavirus cases were linked to the delta variant since the start of July.
- **Unvaccinated people are most at risk.**
- **The two-shot vaccines and J&J vaccine are all highly effective against the delta variant.**
- It is still fine not to wear a mask if you are *vaccinated*. If you are unvaccinated you should wear a mask. However, **the best way to prevent getting the delta variant is getting vaccinated.**
- The CDC will most likely *not* ask people to wear a mask again *unless* there is a crisis or might advise mask mandates to communities experiencing an outbreak or a particular vulnerability.



You can read the article, watch the video, or check the sources for this information [here](#).

New 2020 Fair Housing Trends Report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition

According to the new trends report titled, "[Out of Reach 2021](#)," by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NFHA), there is no state, county, or city in the country where a full-time minimum-wage worker working 40 hours a week can afford a two-bedroom rental. The report also outlines how the unaffordability of the rental market disproportionately harms people of color, the problem with stagnant wages in a wealthy country, the reality of how affordable housing does not trickle down from new developments in the private market, and federal policies needed to end the housing crisis.



You can find this report, the trends from previous years, and a special report based on research conducted by Zillow in partnership with the National Fair Housing Alliance using data from Yelp titled, "[Where You Live Matters: Access to Key Amenities is Worse in Communities of Color](#)" on the [Reports and Research page of the NFHA website](#).

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

This year at the Rural Health Symposium, Alan Morgan, CEO of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), will be providing a rural perspective on the Biden Administration and timely topics from Washington, and Dr. Donna Beegle will be giving the motivational keynote presentation. She will be sharing ideas for working more effectively with students and families who live in the crisis of poverty, improving communication across poverty barriers, and addressing the social determinants of health in rural New York.



The Rural Health Symposium is a fantastic opportunity to network and the Annual Policy Forum always provides important perspectives on issues relevant to rural health and the well-being of rural communities.

Save the date for September 27 and visit the [New York State Association for Rural Health website](#) to check for when registration opens!

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.

Special Report: Making the Case for Investing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in Charitable Nonprofits

The COVID-19 pandemic resurfaced an undeniable truth: charitable nonprofits and governments are natural partners, serving the same constituents in the same communities. Partnerships between the sectors allow for leveraging of resources, relationships, and strengths to serve communities even better.

A new report from the National Council of Nonprofits, [**Strengthening State and Local Economies in Partnership with Nonprofits**](#), provides substantive guidance to governments and solutions for nonprofits seeking support from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Contained within the report are:

- guiding principles for identifying high-impact programs to fund;
- recommendations for designing programs with integrity; and
- successful models of nonprofit relief from around the country.

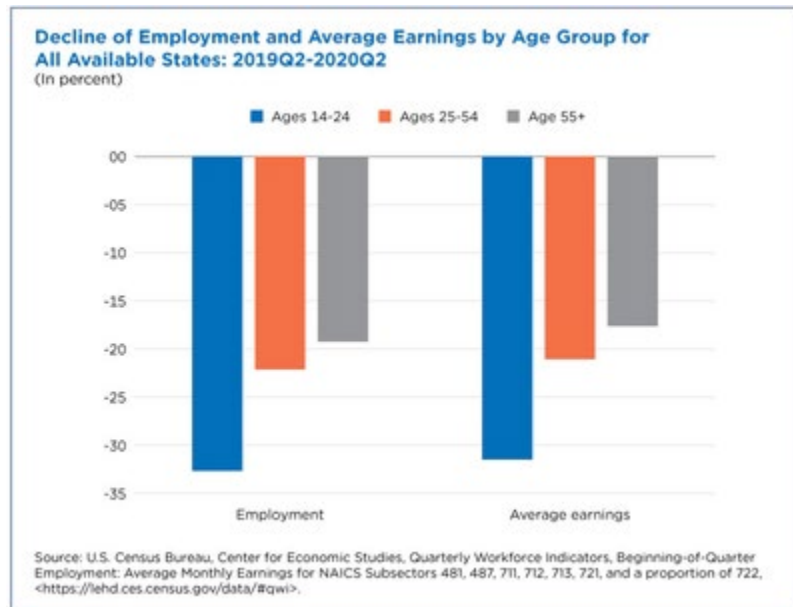


The final portion of the Special Report offers inspiring examples of successful programs that government-nonprofit partnerships can replicate, adapt, and expand to benefit people and help communities recover. The section contains many Community Action COVID-19 response stories taken from NCAP's report, [**COVID-19: Community Action Responded Quickly in the Early Days of the Pandemic**](#). These stories include examples of Community Action food assistance services, vaccination efforts, childcare support, rental and utility assistance, and homelessness prevention services.

[Click here](#) for more via the National Council of Nonprofits.

US Census Bureau - *Tourism and Related Industries Declined Sharply in Northeastern States in Spring 2020, Women and Young Workers More Affected Nationwide*

The Census Bureau's Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) show the extent of employment and earnings impacted from state to state. Travel, tourism and outdoor recreation jobs make up approximately 4%-5% of total private employment in most states. QWI year-over-year data (as opposed to seasonal), showed a *31.5% decline in travel, tourism and outdoor recreation employment in New York State* and just over *15% earnings loss from 2019 to 2020*.



Nationally, the share of female employment in the travel industry was just over 50%, with some variation across the states. However, women experienced about a 3% decrease in employment and 11% decrease in average earnings more than their male counterparts. Young workers, despite accounting for just under 20% of the national employment in the travel industry, typically accounted for a larger fraction of employment declines in some states, as seen in the figure above.

You can read the full article and see the complete data sets here on the [official US Census Bureau website](#).

The NY Network:



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

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