



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

June 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 the *Call for Proposals* for NYSCAA and NYSWDA's 2021 Annual Conference is currently available. The conference will be held virtually on October 6th, 12th, & 14th. The conference will include distinguished speakers and keynotes, break-out sessions, sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, networking events for CAA staff, and much more! We welcome proposals for workshop presentations that focus on developing the knowledge, expertise, and capacity of CAA staff. You can submit a proposal for a workshop session [here](#).

The National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) has published the [2018 CSBG National Performance Update](#). This is the first national report based on the data collected from Modules 1-4 of the CSBG Annual Report. The information reported in this national report is baseline data and will be used for trend analysis in subsequent years. Note

that Albany Community Action Partnership's LEED-certified, sustainable early childhood education services building project is highlighted on page 30.

At NYSCAA's Annual Meeting earlier this month we welcomed two new board members: Renee Hungerford, Executive Director, Community Action of Orleans & Genesee; and Nancy Turo, Controller, PEACE, Inc. I welcome their voices to NYSCAA's Board of Directors. We also said good-bye to two long-term board members: Melinda Gault, Executive Director, Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County; and Janelle Cooper, Executive Director, Wayne County Action Program, Inc. It was a pleasure to work with both of them and I will miss their involvement and insights.

Thank you,

**Jacqueline Orr**



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### Call for Proposals Now Available! - NYSCAA & NYSWDA's 2021 Annual Conference

We are currently accepting proposals for workshop sessions for NYSCAA and NYSWDA's 2021 Annual Conference! The conference **will be held virtually on October 6th, 12th, & 14th**. [Submit your proposal today!](#)

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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 a comprehensive resource for New York State's Community Action Agencies (CAAs), community-based organizations, policymakers, advocates, community coalitions, and the general public.

Included in the 2021 Poverty Report:

- The New York State Poverty Profile
- US 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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### 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:

**Action for a Better Community - Be Part of the Action - Participate in Community Action Month!**

[Action for a Better Community](#) challenged their staff to put a design twist on the Huggy Heart during Community Action Month. The agency-wide challenge was designed to boost staff morale and recognize the participation of the entire agency. There were many amazing submissions and the winners received prizes donated from community partners. Congratulations to the winners!



**Oswego County Opportunities (OCO) - County Youth Bureau Parks & Rec Recognized as Community Champion**

Oswego County Opportunities (OCO) Cancer Prevention in Action program (CPiA) has recognized the Oswego City-County Youth Bureau County Parks and Recreation department as a “Community Champion” for its efforts to raise awareness of skin cancer and the importance of sun safety.



With the safety of the children, staff, and visitors at the forefront of its parks, Oswego City-County Youth Bureau Parks and Recreation partnered with the Cancer Prevention in Action program last year to implement sun safety policies at Camp Hollis and Camp Zerbe. With the positive response, the policies received sun safety will again be a priority at both camps.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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### **Tompkins Community Action - 2021 Victory Garden Project**

[Tompkins Community Action's](#) 11th Annual Victory Garden Project was a success! Thanks to the fabulous donation of plants from Cornell University School of Integrative Plant Science and generous donations from The Reagan Companies, Ithaca Lowes, Cargill Salt volunteers, and TCAction Staff; TCAction provided vegetable and flower plants to 117 households and 6 community partners, including the Southside Community Center, GIAC, Friendship Donation Center, Ithaca Community Gardens, Ellis Hollow Apartments and Cornell Cooperative Extension.



Over the years, they've seen amazing results from this project; returning gardeners become TCAction volunteers, children trying vegetables they've never eaten before, and families are learning skills that last a lifetime. Many gardeners even donate their extra vegetables back to TCActions Food Pantry.

## **Monthly Myth Series:**

**Myth:** Homosexuality is a choice. - **FALSE!**

**Fact:** Homosexuality is caused by factors such as genetics and the biology of brain development.

Parenting, peer pressure, and religious struggles are not causes of homosexuality or heterosexuality. Homosexuality is no more a choice or decision than being straight. Asking a gay person, “When did you decide to be gay?” is similar to asking a heterosexual person, “When did you decide to be attracted to people of the opposite sex?”.



Scientific data indicates that sexual orientation (homosexuality or heterosexuality, i.e. gay or straight) is biologically based. While there is more to learn, studies suggest that what leads to

a person being gay or straight lies within our genetics (i.e. DNA), epigenetics (i.e. how factors affect our genes), and what occurs in the developing brain before birth.

Love is love. Do your part to promote equality. [Click here](#) to read more about commonly misrepresented LGBTQ+ myths.

## CSBG National Partner News & Resources:

### **National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - *Spread the Word About New EBB and ARP Benefits for Individuals & Families***

NCAP has created two new documents to help Community Action Agencies promote the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) and benefits included in the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) helps defray the household's internet costs, while the American Rescue Plan consists of an assortment of benefits for eligible families. We encourage Community Action Agencies to use these documents to spread the word with customers about these essential programs.



- [FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit](#)
- [New American Rescue Plan Benefits for Families](#)

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

This webinar will explore the intersections of poverty, health, and racism in America. The webinar will also introduce the Community Action Network to the American Public Health Association's six-part webinar series, Advancing Racial Equity, which explores racism as a driving force for the social determinants of health.



Presenters: Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Executive Director, APHA | Denise Harlow, Chief Executive Officer, NCAP

Date: June 30, 2021 - 2 PM EST

[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  
September 20-23, 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

### **Wipfli**

[Stronger to Serve 2021 National Training Conference](#)  
July 13-16, 2021 - Onsite Conference  
July 26-30, 2021 - Virtual Experience

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## Tips, Tools, & Resources:

### **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.

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### **Administration for Children and Families - Recognizing Child Tax Credit Awareness Day**

The [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#) at the [U.S Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) engaged with grantees, families, and community partners to recognize Child Tax Credit (CTC) Awareness Day! Starting July 15 and through the end of the year, most families will receive a monthly payment of \$300 per child under six and \$250 per child ages 6-17. The IRS has launched a [simplified online tool](#) that will allow families not automatically enrolled in the program because they did not have to file taxes last year to receive the Child Tax Credit. Families can also visit [ChildTaxCredit.gov](#) to learn more about this important benefit.



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### **Brookings - How resident-led advocacy in Rochester, N.Y. is creating a more playful city!**

Over the last year, the intersecting crises of COVID-19, economic security, and systemic police brutality have compounded [toxic stress](#) for children across the country and inflicted a disproportionate toll on Black and Latino or Hispanic youth. Research shows that toxic stress in childhood caused by [poverty](#), [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\)](#), and [racism](#) significantly alters overall brain structure and function in children, undermining their health and well-being later in life. National advocates are [raising alarm bells](#) about the lasting impact COVID-19 will have on children's health—particularly, their ability to rebound from yet another trauma without adequate support.



But what is a city's role in mitigating toxic stress, supporting play, and prioritizing kids? [Rochester, N.Y. is showing how cities can support kids and families](#) by advancing policy, systems, and environmental changes that prioritize the power of play.

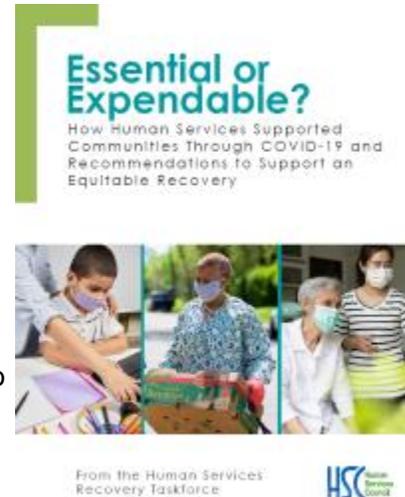
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## **Human Services Council - *Essential or Expendable?: How Human Services Supported Communities Through COVID-19 and Recommendations to Support an Equitable Recovery***

Through the darkest days of the pandemic, when hospitals and morgues both filled to capacity, the human services sector remained a vital backbone for New York. Nonprofits rose to the occasion, ensuring shelters stayed open and getting New Yorkers off the streets, helping children and families make the transition to online school, delivering food to people who could not leave their homes and were newly experiencing food insecurity, and ensuring kids in the foster care system were in safe and nourishing environments.

Human services were a lifeline to communities during the peak of COVID-19 and they will be **essential** for New York to achieve an equitable post-pandemic recovery. Communities will need job training for displaced workers, eviction prevention for those unable to make rent, and after-school and tutoring to get children back on track along with childcare to get parents back to work.

[This report](#) outlines the role of nonprofit human services organizations during the pandemic, analyzes the state of the sector today, and provides recommendations for strengthening New York's post-pandemic recovery by ensuring a strong and sustainable human services delivery system.



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### **NY Project Hope - New Emotional Support Resources**

To assist New Yorkers cope with transitions as things continue to open up, NY Project Hope recently added new COVID emotional support content to our website.

- [Coping tips for stepping in.](#)
- [Reopening anxiety? You're not alone!](#)
- [Anxiety in social settings.](#)
- [Check in on your teen during the reopening.](#)
- [Masks are no longer mandated for fully vaccinated people.](#)
- [Coping with vaccine anxiety.](#)



In addition, we provide virtual presentations on a variety of coping and support topics and have printed materials available. [Click here](#) to request materials and/or a presentation.

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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 assistor](#) for help.

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

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### Wipfli - Stronger to Serve 2021 Wipfli Virtual Training Experience

Wipfli is offering a unique virtual conference experience. Need help breaking down regulations, staffing strategies, finances, or funding trends? The Stronger to Serve 2021 Wipfli Virtual Training Experience is designed specifically for Community Action Partnerships and nonprofit organizations.



The Virtual Training Experience is **online July 26-30**, with content available on-demand for two additional weeks. Search the detailed schedule on the [conference website](#) and [register](#) to save your spot today.

### The NY Network:



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**Connect with New York's Community Action Agencies.**

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