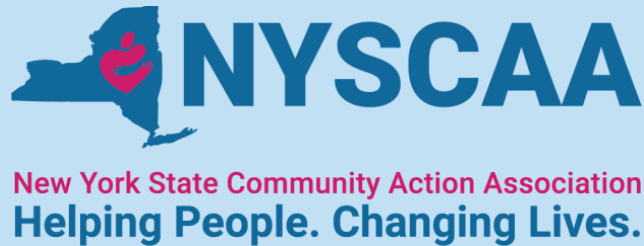


June 2022 NYSCAA News



A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

At NYSCAA's Annual Meeting earlier this month, we said goodbye to NYSCAA's Board President, Lindy Glennon. Lindy has been a long-standing member of NYSCAA's Board of Directors and a leader of Community Action in New York State. We thank Lindy for her over 15 years of service to the network and wish her all the best in her retirement. Maureen Abbott, Executive Director of Tioga Opportunities, Inc., has been named the new President of NYSCAA's Board. Maureen served as the Vice President under Lindy. We are lucky to have Maureen's expansive knowledge and commitment to Community Action. Debra Schimpf, Executive Director of Schenectady Community Action Program fills the role of Vice President; Dan Maskin, CEO of Opportunities for Otsego, is the new Secretary; and Diane Cooper-Currier, CEO of Oswego County Opportunities, is the Treasurer. We also welcome two new board members: Jerome Underwood, Executive Director, Action for a Better Community, Inc.; and Diane Hewitt-Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. I welcome their voices to NYSCAA's Board of Directors.

We are happy to announce that NYSCAA will be bringing back the [Community Action Awards](#)! They will be awarded during the annual NYSCAA/NYWDA conference in September. The Community Action Awards recognize CAA staff, volunteers, and program participants for their accomplishments and outstanding commitment to progressing the work of Community Action. The submission period is now open. More information about the awards, including submission instructions, can be found in the newsletter.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Orr, CEO

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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:

SAVE THE DATE!



NYSCAA & NYSWDA'S ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2022



The Community Action Awards are back!

The Community Action Awards will return in 2022 to NYSCAA and NYSWDA's Annual Professional Development Conference! After a short hiatus due to COVID, we are excited to bring back the awards as a part of this year's conference.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize staff and members of the community for their support and accomplishments. Please consider staff, volunteers,

participants and community supporters who make a difference every day in your agency/community.

The award categories and descriptions have changed, so please read each award description carefully. [Click here](#) for more information on the award categories and how to submit a nomination! **The deadline is August 1, 2022.**



On behalf of its Social Justice Committee, NYSCAA has engaged the services of a DEIB Consultant to support the advancement of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in the Community Action Agencies. Supporting workforce diversity can improve performance and promote a workplace culture that values differences. In the current environment where workforce recruitment and retention are challenging, there exists an opportunity to build an organizational culture that supports equity, anti-racism and cultural humility while increasing human resource capacity in the agencies, further supporting the quality of services to their customers.

In April, thirty-two agency staff members, representing 15 Community Action Agencies, began participating in training sessions with Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI). Over the course of eight sessions, they will discuss and learn about the following topics and challenges, focusing on effectively promoting change within the agencies:

- Discovery and organizational awareness in relation to equity, anti-racism, and inclusion.
- Review and employ strategies to minimize and mitigate the impact of implicit bias.
- Answer how we work to achieve equity and liberation through anti-oppressive practices (AOP).
- Understand and promote the importance of learning about the cultural identity and values of those they serve.
- Understand how to use power and privilege to move from an ally to an accomplice.

Highlighted Initiatives from New York's CAAs:



PathStone Employment Focused Services

To meet a community need, [PathStone Corporation](#) has operated an Employment Focused Services (EFS) Initiative since January 2017. This program addresses the need for increased employment opportunities, specifically for re-incarcerated individuals. Over the five-year operational period, EFS has served 485 participants. 40% of these participants have been placed into long-term unsubsidized employment. 53% have earned occupational skills credentials. And 40% have completed all program aspects, including job-readiness programming and evidence-based cognitive-behavioral intervention.

[Click here](#) to read more about PathStone's Employment Focused Services and its impact on the residents of Monroe County.

In the coming months, we will focus on initiatives highlighted at the RPIC Region II Regional Convening. [Click here to view all the initiatives.](#)

Highlights from New York's CAAs:



Action for a Better Community: Focus on Fathers Friday Event

Action for a Better Community (ABC) held a special Focus on Fathers Friday event on Friday, June 17th, to celebrate male involvement in the home and community as a part of Fathers Day Weekend. Local companies and vendors gathered at the event to offer educational and employment information for fathers. Empowering fathers helps to strengthen families and the whole community!

[Click here to view more from Action for a Better Community.](#)



Community Action of Orleans & Genesee: Establishing a Telehealth Hub to Help People Access Healthcare

Renee Hungerford, director of [Community Action of Orleans & Genesee, Inc.](#) (CAOG), has announced her agency has received a grant from the Finger Lakes Performing Provider System to fund a program she calls “Axis of Care.” Her goal is to make their Holley Center an access point that brings healthcare to the customers.

[Click here to read more about how CAOG is bringing healthcare access to their communities.](#)



Pro Action of Steuben and Yates: Supporting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Pro Action's Yates Office for the Aging wore purple in support of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th. They wore the color purple, because they believe in elder justice. Supportive communities and resources are essential to engaging older people and preventing abuse.

[Click here to view more from Pro Action.](#)

Monthly Myth Series:



Myth: LGBTQ+ people are requesting “special rights.”

Fact: This is not true. There are no special rights being claimed by or for LGBTQ+ people. They are entitled to enjoy the same human rights and fundamental freedoms to which every human being is entitled. Regretfully, these rights and freedoms are denied to millions of people around the world just because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. This is why there is a need to focus on ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and ensure the inclusion of all LGBTQ+ people in development.

[Click here](#) to read more about dispelling myths about the LGBTQ+ Community.

CSBG National Partner News & Resources:



NCAP & NASCSP's Video Challenge

[NCAP](#), in partnership with [NASCSP](#), is kicking off a Nationwide Weatherization Video Challenge! They want to see the amazing work you are doing. Videos should be 1-3 minutes long, with a variety of topics and locations. Consider interviews with clients on why they are applying for the WAP, or new recruits on why they want to work in WAP. How about a montage of crews at work? Before and after photos from your favorite projects? The goal is to get at least one video from each state, but also to ensure a mix of urban and rural areas, cold and warm climates, and demographic diversity. Videos produced for this project can then also be used for your own website/social media campaigns as well.

[Click here](#) for materials from the launch webinar, and [click here](#) to submit your video!



NCAP: July 1 Enrollment Deadline for Silver and Gold Pathways to Excellence Tiers

Time is running out to submit your agency's application to participate in the Fall Cohort for SILVER and GOLD tiers of the National Community Action Partnership's Pathways to Excellence opportunity. Silver-tier participants work with two of the seven Standards of Excellence while Gold tier agencies complete a self-study on all seven. Agencies in both tiers receive group and customized training and technical assistance as well as a written peer feedback report that includes recommendations for moving your CAA closer to the achievement of each Excellence Standard. Your team, your customers and your community deserve excellence. Your agency deserves recognition. We can help you deliver. Enrollment information can be [found here](#).



OCS: Comprehensive CSBG Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment Survey

[The Office of Community Services \(OCS\)](#) is committed to strengthening the T/TA that they provide and support to ensure it is timely, relevant, anticipatory of the CSBG network needs, and driven by the CSBG network. OCS seeks your input to help inform the future of CSBG training and technical assistance and invites the Community Action Network to complete an online [Comprehensive Community Services Block Grant \(CSBG\) Training and Technical Assistance \(T/TA\) Needs Assessment](#).

OCS will use this information to inform its T/TA Learning Agenda. It is critical that OCS hear from the entire Community Action Network including CSBG states, territories, Tribes and Tribal Organizations, state associations, and CSBG-eligible entities within the CSBG Network. All CSBG staff within the agency are encouraged to complete the survey to account for all T/TA needs — administrative, programmatic, and fiscal. The survey is open through 11:59pm ET on Friday, July 8, 2022. Only fully surveys can be submitted. If you have any questions, please contact CSBGStates@acf.hhs.gov.

[Click here](#) to read the full OCS Dear Colleague Letter.

National Professional Development Opportunities:

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)

- [2022 Annual Training Conference](#): October 24-28, 2022

The National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

- [Annual Washington Conference](#) - September 29 - 10/4 - Virtual

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP):

- [2022 Annual Convention](#): August 29 - September 2, 2022 - New York, NY

WIPFLI:

- [Stronger to Serve Conference](#) - July 11-15, 2022

Tips, Tools, & Resources:



Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: CTC has a Critical Role in Helping Families Maintain Economic Stability

The Child Tax Credit (CTC), especially when received monthly, has an important role to play in addressing the income volatility that many families face, a new study from the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) finds. "An expanded, monthly and refundable Child Tax Credit would offer

economic assistance supported by a body of evidence that demonstrates long-term benefits for families and society."

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

NY Project Hope

[NY Project Hope](#) helps New Yorkers understand their reactions and emotions during COVID-19. They have an emotional support helpline, educational materials, trusted referrals, and local provider agencies... all dedicated to helping you manage and cope with changes brought on by COVID-19.

Here are some new articles and resources from NY Project Hope that may be of interest:

- [One step forward, two steps back](#)
- [My Personal Jenga Tower: How a game helped me understand rebuilding life during](#)
- [Online Wellness Groups](#)

NY Project Hope continues to offer free printed materials, presentations, and tabling opportunities. [Click here](#) to request posters and cards or to schedule a public education session or information table visit.

NY State of Health

Important Changes Are Coming to New York Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan

Do you or a family member currently have health insurance through New York State Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan? When the COVID-19 public health emergency ends, New York State will resume eligibility reviews and renewals for people enrolled in these programs. This means you may need to take action to renew your health insurance or the insurance of your family members. Here are some things you can do now to get ready.

1. **Sign up for text alerts.** Sign up to receive SMS/MMS Text alerts from NY State of Health so you don't miss important health insurance updates, including when it's time to renew your coverage. To subscribe, text START to 1-866-988-0327.
2. **Make sure your address is up to date.** Make sure NY State of Health or your local Medicaid office has your current mailing address, phone number and

How are you doing?...

Sometimes it helps to talk about it...

1-844-863-9314
7 days / 8am-10pm

Emotional Support Helpline
Online Support Groups
Website Resources
NYProjectHope.org

Confidential | Anonymous | Free

NY Project Hope
Coping with COVID

The Official Health Plan Marketplace

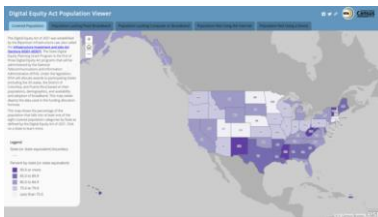


email address so they can contact you about your health insurance.

3. Visit <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/COVID-19-Changes> to learn more. New York will continuously update this webpage as more information becomes available.

Get more information:

- If you enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or the Essential Plan through NY State of Health, call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220) with any questions you have.
- If you enrolled in Medicaid through [your county's Medicaid office or New York City's Human Resources Administration](#), contact that office with any questions you have.



U.S. Census Bureau Releases Digital Equity Act Population Viewer

The U.S. Census Bureau announced the release of the [Digital Equity Act Population Viewer](#), an interactive collection of maps that highlight various demographics and broadband internet availability and adoption by state. The maps help policymakers plan and implement digital inclusion and equity programs under the Digital Equity Act of 2021.

The Digital Equity Act of 2021 was established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Sections 60301-60307) with the goal of promoting meaningful adoption and use of broadband services across the “covered populations” in the Act, including low-income households, aging populations, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with a language barrier, racial and ethnic minorities and rural inhabitants. [Click here to read more.](#)



Contact Info:

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Looking for more information about New York's Community Action Agencies? Visit [The NY Network](#) portion of our website!

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