



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

November 2020

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CEO's Letter

Dear Friend,

As we put the finishing touches on our first virtual conference that will kick-off next week, we are saying good bye to Suzette Washock , NYSCAA's Finance and HR Director, who has been with us close to four years. We will miss Suzette and her dedication and commitment to NYSCAA's stability and growth.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our friends, colleagues, and supporters a Happy Thanksgiving! Thank you for all of the work you do everyday to ensure a better tomorrow for your clients and communities.

We look forward to connecting with you next week during our conference.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT



Monthly Poverty Myth

MYTH: Poverty is only located in cities.

FACT: High poverty rates have increased at a greater rate in American suburbs compared to American cities.

The US Census Bureau revealed that high poverty rates aren't just associated with metropolitan areas. According to Scott Allard, a professor at the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington, poverty's geography has increasingly moved to the suburbs.



"The number of poor persons in suburban Chicago eclipsed the number in the City of Chicago in the last decade, and there are no signs of this trend reversing

anytime soon," Allard wrote. "Seven of every ten suburban municipalities outside Chicago saw the number of poor residents at least double from 1990 to 2014. More than 40 percent of Chicago suburbs saw their poverty population more than triple during that time. By 2014 there were nearly 17 million poor people living in the suburbs of the 100 largest metropolitan areas, compared to just under 13 million in the cities."

Allard's data show that suburbs have seen increases in single-parent households, decreases in the number of college graduates and higher unemployment rates. As a result, suburban demand for assistance programs has increased but social service providers don't have sufficient resources to meet the need.

[Click here](#) to read more about this and other common myths associated with poverty.

NYSCAA News

Reconnect and Recharge: NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference - Last Call for Registration!



[Register](#) now for NYSCAA and NYSWDA's 2020 annual conference. The conference will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 1st, from 8:45am-2:00pm, and from 9:00am-2:00pm on Thursday, December 3rd, and Tuesday, December 8th.

The Reconnect and Recharge Conference will bring together representatives from Community Action and Weatherization Agencies. Conference participants will connect to learn, be inspired, inspire others, and discuss strategies for meeting new challenges. We invite you to come gain insights from a wide variety of speakers – from Community Action and Weatherization staff to academicians, policy makers, and more at this event.

This year, the conference will feature over 35 speakers and over 31 sessions. We are very pleased to welcome two highly regarded keynote speakers: Rev. Dr. Carla Cheatham, who will discuss "Thriving Through Challenges: Resilience, Emotional Intelligence, and Post-Traumatic Growth" and Dr. Nicol Turner Lee, who will present "Digitally Invisible: How the U.S. is Addressing the Divide during COVID-19". Along with our notable keynote speakers, we have a host of additional top-notch workshop presenters and panelists.

Registration includes access to all sessions, networking events, raffles and exhibitors!



NYSCAA Resources on COVID-19

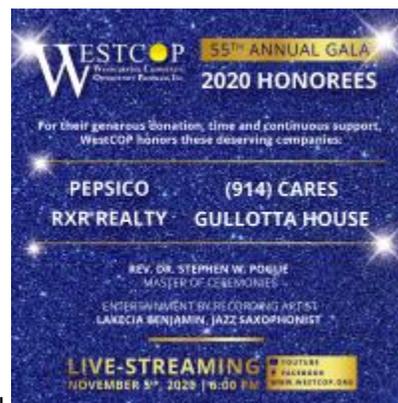
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have developed an online listing of resources to support you and your agency's important work. NYSCAA has compiled a number of [state and federal resources](#), as well as [tech resources](#) to help you during this challenging time.

Please visit the [NYSCAA website](#) as we continue to update and add to the resources listings.

Highlights from our Agencies

Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.

In response to the enormous challenges presented by the pandemic, [WestCOP](#) celebrated its 55th Annual Gala fundraiser with a virtual event on November 5th! Their executive team and board chairman expressed their appreciation to the corporate sponsors and community partners for their generous donations, time, and continuous support. Their honorees this year were Pepsico, (914) Cares, RXR Realty, and Gullotta House. They were serenaded virtually by Lakecia Benjamin, a jazz saxophonist, and hosted by Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue. WestCOP is still accepting donations. [Click here](#) to donate today!



Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. (MVCAA)

[Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. \(MVCAA\)](#) is teaming up with [Stuff The Bus CNY](#) to help make Christmas a little brighter for some children and families in Central New York. You can donate new, unwrapped toys to Stuff the Bus and help families in need!

Individuals, families, or organizations who would like to participate in the toy-drive can visit Stuff The Bus CNY's website to see a [full list of stops and locations](#). Let's all give a little this holiday season and help make tomorrow brighter for families in need!



CSBG National Partner Information

Community Action Partnership - Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Program

The time is now to [get enrolled](#) and begin the process of earning your Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) certificate! When you earn your CCAP you gain national recognition for your accomplishments -- every year incoming CCAPs are honored at the Partnership's Annual Convention, the largest gathering of Community Action professionals in the country.



A CCAP certification benefits both you and your agency. It tells others you have achieved a nationally recognized standard, improves your professional marketability, enhances the credentials of Community Action staff, and provides an edge in competing for public and private grant funds. Enrollment is open now but act soon because the deadline for submitting your Candidate Data Form (CDF) is **Friday, January 15**.

To learn more about CCAP and what it takes to become certified, [click here](#).

New Tool from CAPLAW - Combining Forces: A Merger Manual for Community Action Agencies

Now more than ever, CAAs are exploring mergers as a strategy to improve their sustainability and enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. Whether or not your agency is currently contemplating a merger, this tool will help you understand what may be gained and what should be considered in the pursuit of a strategic merger transaction.



To view the tool, [click here](#). To view the appendices, [click here](#).

Additional Resources

Child Trends - Updated State-Level Data for Understanding Child Welfare in the United States

Each year, hundreds of thousands of children are removed from their families and subsequently enter foster care. Our newly updated data resource provides the most recent state and national data on child maltreatment, foster care, kinship caregiving, and adoption from foster care. The [resource](#) also recommends that states consider certain contextual information when interpreting and responding to data, including systemic racism and bias, economic stressors, neighborhood characteristics, and more. State leaders can use this information to ensure that their child welfare systems support the safety, stability, and well-being of all families in their states.



LIHEAP DCL-2020-01 Funding Release FY21

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services (OCS), Division of Energy Assistance (DEA), has announced the release of approximately \$3.36 billion of Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 regular block grant funding to LIHEAP grantees. This funding is provided under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act, ("Continuing Resolution"). The Continuing Resolution provides funding for LIHEAP until December 11, 2020.

To read the full CSBG Dear Colleague Letter, [click here](#).

Covid ActNow - America's COVID Warning System

Covid ActNow is a tiny non-profit that has been working since March to provide trustworthy COVID information. They use 5 key indicators, Daily News Cases, Infection Rates, Positive Test Rate, ICU Headroom Used, and Tracers Hired, to determine risk levels for all 50 states and over 3,000 counties. You can share real-time, local COVID data with your neighbors, friends, and family.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

NY State of Health - Special Enrollment Period Extended through 12/31

During these challenging times, NY State of Health, New York's official health plan Marketplace, remains committed to ensuring access to affordable, quality health insurance for all New Yorkers, so they can get the care they need.



NY State of Health is here to help New Yorkers who may have lost their health insurance coverage as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to find and enroll in affordable, comprehensive coverage. Many New Yorkers will qualify for Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan due to loss of income/employment or reduced wages. Those qualifying for these programs can enroll year-round. Individuals who lose job-based health insurance should apply within 60 days of losing that coverage.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the Special Enrollment Period for uninsured New Yorkers will be extended through December 31, 2020. Find out more about this Special Enrollment Period for Qualified Health Plans and updates on insurance options during the Coronavirus pandemic [here](#).

Thousands of assistors throughout the state are available to help consumers enroll by phone. Find a free enrollment assistor [here](#).

For more information, visit us at www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov, or call the NY State of Health customer service center at 1-855-355-5777. Let us help you find a health care plan that works for you.

Census Releases Updated Household Pulse Survey



The Household Pulse Survey is designed to deploy quickly and efficiently, collecting data on a range of ways in which people's lives have been impacted by the pandemic. Data will be disseminated in near real-time to inform federal and state response and recovery planning.

[Click here](#) for more information.

National Professional Development Opportunities

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) [2021 Management & Leadership Training Conference](#)

February 3-5, 2021

The 2020 MLTC Will Be Presented Virtually

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

2021 Annual Convention

Pre-Convention Training: August 30-31, 2021

Core Convention: September 1-3, 2021

Boston Marriott, Copley Place

110 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02116

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)

Save the Date: 2021 Winter Training Conference

Held Virtually from March 8-12, 2020

Are you a staff or board member of a NY Community Action Agency? Check out [NYSCAA Learn](#) – free online learning for New York's Community Action Agencies!



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.



Our Agencies:

Click on Name of Agency to Visit Website: [Action for a Better Community, Inc.](#) * [Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.](#) * [Albany Community Action Partnership](#) * [ACCORD Corporation](#) * [CAPC of Jefferson County](#) * [Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [Chautauqua Opportunities Inc.](#) * [Columbia Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Capital District Region, Inc.](#) * [Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc.](#) * [Community Action of Greene County, Inc.](#) * [Community Action of Orleans & Genesee](#) * [Community Action Program for Madison County, Inc.](#) * [Connecting Communities in Action](#) * [Cortland Community Action Program, Inc. \(CAPCO\)](#) * [Delaware Opportunities](#) * [Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [Economic Opportunity Program Inc. of Chemung County](#) * [EOC of Nassau County - Hempstead](#) * [EOC of Suffolk - Patchogue](#) * [Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties](#) * [Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Livingston County Planning Department](#) * [Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) * [NYC Department of Youth and Community Development](#) * [Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Broome, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Chenango, Inc.](#) * [Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.](#) * [Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Path Stone PEACE, Inc.](#) * [Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.](#) * [RECAP](#) * [Saratoga County EOC, Inc.](#) * [Schenectady Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.](#) * [St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc.](#) * [Tioga Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [Tompkins Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc.](#) * [Warren/Hamilton Counties ACEO, Inc.](#) * [L.E.A.P.](#) * [WestCOP](#) * [Wayne County Community Action Program, Inc.](#) * [Wyoming County Community Action, Inc.](#) * [Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.](#)

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