



NYSCAA Newsletter - April 2019

From the CEO

Dear Friend,

On behalf of NYSCAA we would like to thank everyone who attended the 2019 Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security. We are finalizing the plans for the June Professional Development Conference and putting the final touches on the 2019 Regional Meetings with the Department of State (DOS). We look forward to seeing you at these events.



The 2019 Regional Meetings are underway. The Capital Regional Meeting took place on April 25th and was hosted by Schenectady Community Action Program. The four remaining meeting agendas have been set and are available online. In addition to NYSCAA updates, staff from the Department of State (DOS) will be leading a discussion about the two-year State Plan that will be sent to OCS in September, an update of the MWBE process, and an overview of the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). Pat Standish will also be providing an overview of the new [Community Action Angels Website](#) at the Western, Central, and North Country meetings. Space is limited so please don't wait to [register](#)!

Registration for the [2019 Professional Development Conference](#) in June is now available! We are excited to be partnering with NYSWDA in planning the conference content and presenters. It will be held at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel in Poughkeepsie NY. As in previous years, we will be holding our annual awards banquet where we recognize those individuals, both volunteers and staff, who have made contributions to their communities, agencies, and the Community Action network. The highlight of the evening is recognizing a current program participant who has made significant personal achievements.

We are proud in New York to announce the newest members of the Certified ROMA Professional community! Congratulations to:

- Ashley Alias, Data and Quality Improvement Manager, ACCORD Corporation
- Lindsay France, Executive Assistant, Opportunities for Otsego
- Joelle Hutson, Planning Specialist, Oswego County Opportunities
- Amanda Kruk, Executive Assistant, Schenectady Community Action Program
- Renata Memole-Gwozdz, Community Services Manager, Commission on Economic Opportunity
- Sharon Sabine, PCAP Coordinator, Regional Economic Community Action Program
- Debra Schimpf, CEO, Schenectady Community Action Program
- Valerie Stock, Systems Compliance/Risk Management Manager
- Brandy Strauf, Family Development Director, CAPCO

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events where there is opportunity to connect, learn, and share with your Community Action colleagues.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Orr".

[Jackie Orr](#), NCRT

In this newsletter..

- [NYSCAA News](#)
- [CSBG National Partner Resources](#)
- [Census 2020](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

- [In the News](#)
- [Highlights from our Agencies](#)
- [NYSCAA Events](#)
- [National Professional Development Opportunities](#)

Symposium on Poverty and Economic Opportunity

Thank you to all of the guests who attended our 13th Annual Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security! The event was a great success and has given us many ideas we cannot wait to share with you next year! Below you will find a few pictures that captured just some of the impactful moments at the Poverty Symposium. And thanks to those who have already shared photos - If you have photos from the Poverty Symposium we would love to see them! Please share them with us by sending your photos to Charles Barbay at cbarbay@nyscommunityaction.org!



2019 Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security

April's Poverty Myth:

"Poor people don't want to work!"

FALSE

10.7 MILLION AMERICAN ADULTS

between the ages of 18 and 64 who live in households earning below the poverty line

WORK FULL OR PART TIME



Yet they still live in poverty.

TRUTHS ABOUT POVERTY MYTHS IN THE US:
4thworldmovement.org

What are the reasons some people in poverty don't work?

Those who do not work cite reasons ranging from being retired (1.3 million) and pursuing continuing education (3.5 million), to being ill or disabled (5.2 million) and taking care of family members (3.8 million). Another 1.9 million adults would like to work, but cannot find jobs they're qualified for where they live.

Access to jobs and reliable transportation is another obstacle. Between 2000 and 2012, many people living in poverty moved to the suburbs. Because of this, there were 17% fewer jobs within a typical commuting distance for them.

Support programs to overcome difficulties in childcare, transportation, and job creation in low-income communities would certainly increase the ability of low-income individuals and households to attain and keep jobs.

[Click here](#) to read more from ATD Fourth World USA.

NYSCAA News

Save the Date! - NYSCAA & NYSWDA's June Professional Development Conference - June 5th & 6th

Our June 2019 Professional Development Conference, co-hosted with the New York State Weatherization Directors Association (NYSWDA), is June 5th and 6th at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel in Poughkeepsie, NY. The annual event attracts people from Community Action Agencies and Weatherization Programs all across New York State and is a unique opportunity for executive staff & professionals to enhance their skills, build partnerships, and network. The annual Community Action Awards will take place June 5th at the conference!

For more information about the agenda, hotel accommodations, or to register for the conference [click here](#).

Save The Date: NYSCAA and DOS Regional Meetings

Five Regional Meetings will be held around NY State, and will be coordinated with the Department of State (DOS). The agendas for each Regional Meeting are available and have been posted to the NYSCAA website. Below you can find an up-to-date schedule of this year's Regional Meetings including the hosting CAA, date and time of the meeting, and location. To register for a Regional Meeting or to view the meeting agenda, [click here](#)! We look forward to seeing you there!

- **Western Region:** Hosted by Wyoming County Community Action, May 8th, Wilmott Lodge at Asbury Camp, Chapman Ave, Silver Lake NY 14549
 - 10:00am - 12:30pm NYSCAA and DOS updates
 - 1:30pm - 2:30pm Community Action Angels website with Pat Standish
- **North Country:** Hosted by Adirondack Community Action Programs, May 14th, Heaven Hill Farm, 302 Bear Club Lane, Lake Placid, New York 12946
 - 10:00am - 12:30pm NYSCAA and DOS Updates
 - 1:30pm - 2:30pm Community Action Angels website with Pat Standish
 - *For those who are attending this meeting, there will be an opportunity to attend the Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) Discussion of Programs, Barriers, and Opportunities from 2:00pm - 4:30pm. For more information and to register [click here](#).
- **Central Region:** Hosted by Cayuga Seneca Community Action, June 12th, 89 York Street, Suite 1, Auburn, NY 13021
 - 10:00am - 12:30pm NYSCAA and DOS updates
 - 1:30pm - 2:30pm Community Action Angels website with Pat Standish
- **New York City:** Hosted by NYC Department of Youth & Community Development, June 25th, 123 William Street, New York, NY 10038
 - 10:00am - 1:00pm NYSCAA and DOS updates

CSBG National Partner Resources

From the Community Action Partnership - May is Community Action Month!

FROM NCAP: Annually, the month of May is designated as Community Action Month (CAM). It's a fantastic opportunity for your agency to share your stories, promote your work, emphasize your impact, and shout your successes. For assistance in planning events, social media posts and activities, please view and download our [2018 Community Action Month Toolkit](#). You can download most individual pages separately. Please scroll to the bottom of the page to access the available "individual" pages, including social media images and posts.



NASCSP: Theory of Change - Interactive

NASCSP has made an interactive version of the Theory of Change available [here!](#) The [Theory of Change](#) is intended to provide a graphic overview of the core principles, performance management framework, and services and strategies implemented and led by the network to achieve the goals of Community Action across the nation.



Tax Reform Update: Pre-Tax Salary Deferral Plans for Commuter Benefits Subject to UBIT

FROM CAPLAW:

As highlighted in CAPLAW's February 2018 eNews Bulletin, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the Tax Act), which was signed into law at the end of 2017, included numerous changes affecting tax-exempt organizations and their employees. One change discussed was a new requirement for tax-exempt employers to pay unrelated business income tax (UBIT) on the expenses of providing certain "qualified transportation fringe" benefits to their employees on a tax-free basis. The IRS, however, has since issued new guidance clarifying this requirement. In its most recent update.



Tax-exempt organizations must treat the employee pre-tax salary deferral for qualified transportation fringe benefits (i.e., the amount the employer deducts from its employee's wages to pay for a transit pass or parking costs) as UBTI, and report and pay taxes on those amounts. For example, if your nonprofit CAA administers a pre-tax cafeteria plan and offers employees the opportunity to purchase a \$260 monthly commuter rail pass using pre-tax dollars, it must report this \$260 as UBTI on its Form 990-T and pay tax at the applicable corporate tax rate (currently a flat rate of 21%), even if the CAA does not subsidize any portion of the cost of the pass. Please [click here](#) to read the full article.

Census 2020

New York State Complete Count Commission

The New York State Complete Count Commission has announced six public hearings across the state to gain public input and hear from Census experts and advocates, beginning March 4th in Rochester. So far, 5 of the 6 meetings have been completed.

The Complete Count Commission, [appointed last month](#), is tasked with building upon the sweeping efforts already underway to prepare for next year's federal Census. With these meetings, the Commission is undertaking a multi-year, collaborative strategy involving all state agencies, local and county governments, non-profits and local stakeholders across the state.

The final meeting of the Commission will be open to the public and webcast. The event will feature detailed presentations to the Commission by various entities involved in the census, as well as testimony from advocates, and the general public on a first-come, first-served basis.

The final hearing is scheduled for:

- Monday, May 6th, 6 p.m.
Rockefeller Institute of Government

How the 2020 Census Will Invite Everyone to Respond

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker. With all these options available don't miss out on the count! For more information about your response options [click here!](#)

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



Census County Fact Sheets Available

The Council on Children and Families has been focusing on the undercount of children in the Census and raising awareness with child-serving organizations. They developed NYS KIDS COUNT County Census Fact Sheets that provide a view of how children are doing in each county and a timeline of how communities can prepare for the 2020 Census to ensure an accurate count of children in each county. You can find the NYS KIDS COUNT County Census Fact Sheets [here](#).



Additional Resources

Save the Date: LIFE 2019 Regional Meetings

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), in cooperation with the LIFE Steering Committee, are proud to announce the LIFE 2019 Regional Meeting Series will be held throughout May and June 2019 in seven regions throughout the state.



Low-Income Forum on Energy

Attendees can expect to learn about energy affordability policy, clean energy programs, utility assistance programs, emerging energy issues, innovative models in the low-income energy space, consumer protections, and best practices. The agenda will vary based on location to allow for focus on issues important to a given region. Preliminary agendas will be available in March.

Mark the dates on your calendar so that you can learn, share, and connect about low-income energy. The [LIFE 2019 Regional Meetings website](#) has all the information you need to stay current on meeting information, including venues, agendas, and scholarship opportunities.

- May 9 - Hudson Valley - Poughkeepsie
- May 14 - North Country - Lake Placid
- May 16 - Capital Region - Malta
- May 22 - Western NY - Rochester
- May 23 - Southern Tier - Corning
- June 13 - Long Island - Woodbury
- June 14 - New York City - Manhattan

New Community Indicator Report from Community Commons

In the new Community Commons, you can now go straight to the [Community Indicator Report](#) tool. You'll need to sign in or sign up - but it's ready to help you identify and prioritize the health needs of your community.

Need more support? These quick tutorials will help you with the [step-by-step](#) process; show you how to [share your report and invite collaborators](#); and give you a walk-thru on how to [compare two different areas](#) within the same report.

Also, don't miss the [4 Things We Love About Our New CHNA Tool!](#) See the real potential of this powerful new tool!



COMMUNITYCOMMONS
together for the common good

'We're human beings! the homeless woman yelled. 'Acknowledge us!'

". . . but the city didn't seem to be doing enough. Neither were the nonprofit groups. But maybe she, as nothing more than another human who cared, could accomplish what they couldn't. Maybe she could get this couple out of a tent where they'd lived for more than two years, at the base of Union Station, and into housing."

When The Washington Post published a profile Friday of Monica Diaz, a fast-food restaurant employee simultaneously navigating the homeless and working worlds, Howard University law student Gabriela Sevilla immediately got to work. For the full article [click here](#).

Highlights from our Agencies

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Have something you would like to share in our upcoming newsletter? Email cbarbay@nyscommunityaction.org!

Pictures appreciated!



SNUG Program to Restart in Newburgh

The program whose name is simply 'guns' spelled backwards aims to curb gun violence through the age-old concept of everyday people helping others squash beefs.

Sen. James Skoufis was joined Wednesday by several other local dignitaries, including Danny Hairston, the SNUG coordinator for Poughkeepsie, and leaders of the Regional Economic Community Action Program (RECAP) in announcing the state allotment of \$200,000 for the program to get off the ground in a community with a history of gun violence.

[Click here](#) to view the complete article.

Opportunities for Otsego's Building Healthy Families Program Receives National Accreditation

Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) has announced today that the Building Healthy Families Program of Opportunities for Otsego, a Healthy Families America (HFA) affiliate, has been accredited as a provider of high quality home visiting services to families who want to improve their child's health, nutrition and developmental outcomes.

HFA is a signature program of PCA America that has been providing home visiting services for more than 20 years. HFA-affiliate programs, such as Building Healthy Families, connect with expectant and new parents through community partners such as hospitals, pediatricians, WIC and other community services. To view the full article, [please click here](#).



Columbia Opportunities Launches New Logo!

Columbia Opportunities invites you to visit their website to check out all that's new happening in the agency, especially the launch of their new logo! To view their website and to check out all of the exciting things Columbia Opportunities is working on, [click here!](#)



NYSCAA Events

Professional Development Conference - June 5th & 6th at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, Poughkeepsie, NY

NYSCAA's annual [June Professional Development Conference](#) will be held the week of June 5th & 6th. The conference will include the Annual Community Action Awards Ceremony – Nominations for the awards have been submitted!

RPIC Region II Conference Binghamton, New York

The annual RPIC Region II Conference will be held September 18th & 19th. We look forward to working with our Region II partners in New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to create an exciting event! The Emerging Leaders Institute seminar will also be paired with this event.

Free Job Listings for members

Below is a listing current openings. Click on an item to view the job details.



Do you need to get the word out about a job opportunity at your agency? [Click here to view CA job listings and add your own!](#)

National Professional Development Opportunities

CAPLAW

2019 National Training Conference

Charlotte, N.C.

June 19-21

[Click here](#) for more information.

Community Action Partnership

2019 Annual Conference - Chicago, IL

August 26-26, Pre-Convention Training

August 28-30, Annual Convention

[Click here](#) for more information.

NASCSP

2019 Annual Training Conference

Little Rock, Arkansas

September 23-27

More information coming soon!

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 * Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. 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 Partnership for Madison County, Inc. 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.

New York State Community Action Association, Inc.

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