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NYSCAA NEWSLETTER February 2015

Hello-

As you can see below, NYSCAA and the network were busy this week with our first Virtual Legislative Advocacy Day. This was an opportunity to combine in-person visits and the use of electronic media, telephone calls, e-mails and faxes to communicate with our elected officials in Albany. Our goals for the day were to educate our state representatives about Community Action and poverty issues and to create an awareness of the nature and importance of the statewide Community Action network. We appreciate the help offered by our member agencies who participated in this event.

Jessica Collier and I had the good fortune of making in person visits to the Legislative leaders and we accompanied Laura Rossman and Liz Spira on visits with their representatives. We were very pleased with the reception we got and with the interest expressed in the work of Community Action. We were reminded once again of the importance of this kind of outreach when Legislative staff recognized our logo and graphics on the materials we shared. Regular communication and branding ensures our public officials know Community Action and the role we play in serving their constituents and communities.

It is a pleasure and privilege to get to represent Community Action and we look forward to growing this event in the future. If your agency is able to send representatives to the capital to meet with elected officials, we will be happy to accompany you and assist you in preparing materials to share.



Liz Spira, CEO of Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Karla Digirolamo, NYSCAA CEO, and Jessica Collier, NYSCAA RPIC Training Coordinator, meet with NYS Senator Sue Serino.

Karla

Karla Digirolamo
NYSCAA

[Email Me](#)

POLICY UPDATE

On Wednesday, February 25th the New York State Community Action network embarked on a new policy strategy. As a network, we made our voices heard through phone calls, e-mails and in-person visits during our first Virtual Legislative Day. We have already received positive feedback from those who participated virtually and with in-person visits.

[Please click here to take a quick survey to tell us how to make the next event better.](#)

The main focus of the day was introducing Community Action to our legislators with one voice, united. We stand firmly behind



Laura Rossman, Executive Director, and Stephanie Bates, Special Projects Manager, from ProAction of Steuben & Yates, Inc. meet with Assemblyman Joseph Giglio.

the mission of Community Action to change people's lives, embody the spirit of hope, improve communities and make America a better place to live. Virtual Legislative Days like ours are crucial to the advancement of the people we serve and the programs we provide. Legislators need to hear from you to understand the work you are doing in their district and to see the value in Community Action.

We should no longer be the best kept secret in town. We want to be sure that the community and policy makers at every level know what Community Action is and the valuable role we play in enhancing the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Below are the materials that were provided to share with your legislators. Please continue to use them with funders, board members, community partners, volunteers, staff and others.

[**NYSCAA 2015 Public Policy Agenda**](#)

[**CA in NY**](#)

[**America Without Community Action**](#)

[**New York State Poverty Rates**](#)

[**New York State CSBG Information Sheet**](#)

[**Raise the Minimum Wage**](#)

[**A Face Behind the Numbers**](#)

NYSCAA NEWS

[**Registration Now Open!**](#) **9th Annual Symposium on Poverty & Economic Security**

The symposium will be held at the Holiday Inn on Wolf Road, Albany, NY in April 1 & 2, 2015. Keynote speakers include Dr. Jim Withers of Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy Health System and Richard Reeves, Senior Fellow in Economic Studies and Policy Director for the Center on Children and Families, Brookings Institute. There will also be panel discussions on transportation, mental health and education. For more information and registration, click [here](#).

[**Nominations for the 2015 Community Action Awards are open**](#) on the NYSCAA website. Please consider staff, volunteers, participants and community supporters that make a difference every day in your agency/community and nominate those deserving individuals for one of the awards - Leadership Award, Personal Achievement Award, The Service Award, The Community Action Vision and Values Award and The Innovation Award. Though the nominations process is ongoing, to be considered for an award in 2015, a nomination needs to be submitted no later than April 24, 2015. The Awards will be presented at **NYSCAA's June Conference which will be held on June 16 & 17, 2015 at the Lake Ontario Conference Center in Oswego, NY.** Click [here](#) for more

information and to nominate somebody.

FREE IT Webinars

Basic Access

March 3, 2015

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Click [here](#) for more information.

Merging With Microsoft Word

March 12, 2015

1:30 - 2:00 PM

Click [here](#) for more information.

NYSCAA's IT Help Desk is open every Tuesday from 1 PM to 5 PM and every Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM. Call 518-690-0491, extension 28 during those times to access the help desk. You can also fill out a support request on our website anytime by at:

<http://nyscommunityaction.org/information-technology/help-desk>.

Are you using the Tools and Trends section of NYSCAA's website? Recent additions include the Fiscal Policy Institute's "blue book" - analyzing the NYS budget proposal for 2015-2016, using clear language and excellent graphics. Get it [here](#).

MEMBER NEWS



On February 4, 2015, CEO (formerly the Commission on Economic Opportunity) marked its 50th anniversary with the unveiling of a new

brand. The agency's new tag line is "Changing Lives, Improving Our Community."

The grand unveiling featured a presentation by Emily Cote, CEO's Marketing and Communications Director, which traced the

evolution of CEO's brand over the last 50 years. She said, "The rebrand is NOT about casting aside all of the rich history and a legacy built by the hands - and hearts - of those who came before us, it is about honoring and embracing everything we have become and looking forward to the next 50 years." For more information on CEO's new brand, contact Emily Cote at (518) 272-6012, extension 274 or ecote@ceoempowers.org.



The New York State Department of State recently announced that ACCORD Corporation will receive \$100,000 through the Western New York Regional

Economic Development Council's discretionary funding allocation. This funding will be used to provide workforce development and supportive services to fifty (50) unemployed and/or under employed individuals with income at or below 125% of the federal poverty level. The goals of the new ASSET program include improving employment skills, promoting self sufficiency, and building assets to create improved quality of life. Individuals between the ages of 18-35 and female single parents will receive priority for program entry based on funding source priorities and poverty rate data for single parent households.



Dan Maskin, CEO of Opportunities for Otsego, was recently appointed to the Prevent Child Abuse New York Board of Directors. Prevent Child Abuse New York is the state chapter of the national

organization Prevent Child Abuse America, a leader in the movement to stop child abuse and neglect.

On March 5, 2015, Opportunities for Otsego will be honored by the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce with the Quality of Life Award for the work the agency does in the communities of Otsego County. For more information about the award dinner, click [here](#).

OTHER NEWS

Save the Date - Head Start will hold their annual training and professional development conference on May 11 - 12, 2015 in Albany, NY.



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