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NYSCAA Newsletter



NYSCAA
Newsletter
February 2016



FROM THE CEO

Hello,

I am a lifelong, proud New Yorker, a pride that has only grown since I came to New York's Community Action Network. From our diverse geography of beautiful sandy beaches, high peaks and dense forests, to our rolling hills and lakes, it is hard to imagine a place that offers more. I am proud to be in a state that cherishes and protects our freedom while fostering an environment of personal responsibility and growth. We rank among the top 10 states in the nation in closing the gender wage gap in the percentage of young adults who attain higher education, the percentage of children who are in pre-school, and the rate of microenterprise ownership.

As I travel around the state, I see these assets and more in the people I meet in our vibrant cities and in the countless, quaint villages and towns that I have been lucky to visit and get to know. Even though we are among the top in the nation in many measures there is room for improvement in many areas that we in Community Action know all too well create barriers to opportunity for all.

While we are among the states with the fewest people working low wage jobs, nearly 20% of New Yorkers are working full-time in low wage jobs that do not provide a pathway out of poverty. And while 58% of our three and four year old children are in pre-school, many of the 40% who are not will face life-long learning challenges as a result of having missed the enrichment early education offers during those critical pre-K years. And, sadly enough, we are among the 10 states with the lowest ranking in income inequality, the availability of affordable housing, and high school graduation rates.

These are some of the challenges which Community Action confronts every day. And these are the challenges that Governor Cuomo is confronting with his call for an increase in the minimum wage and the creation of the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative.

You have an opportunity to make a difference and move New York forward by making your voice heard and highlighting the critical work of Community Action at our upcoming Poverty Symposium and Legislative Advocacy Day on March 8 and 9th. We have an exciting program planned for the Symposium and a number of Legislators plan to join us at our first Legislative Reception afterward. And then, we look forward to a busy day visiting our representatives on the 9th. It is not too late to register to take part in these activities; your presence will make a difference.

So often we bemoan the state of politics in this nation and wonder whether our voice and our vote counts. Join us in March to demonstrate the power of Community Action's voice and to participate in democracy in action. Your voice

can be heard but you have to speak up and speak out. I look forward to joining you to promote the promise of community action to make America a better place for everyone.

Karla M. Digirolamo

[E-mail me](#)

Karla Digirolamo, CCAP
NYSCAA

NYSCAA News!

We've got a great turnout so far for our 10th Annual Symposium on Poverty & Economic Security! If you haven't registered yet, [click here](#) and do so now!

The symposium will bring in professionals from all over New York State to share their expertise on significant issues relating to poverty. The year's symposium's topics will address: Intersecting Poverty and Education; Welfare System and Assets; Shelter and Utility Allowances; and Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) & Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP). [Click here](#) for more information on the panels.

[Click here](#) for a full agenda!

This year our Symposium includes the Community Action Advocacy Day on March 9th. NYSCAA staff will be in Meeting Room Two at the Empire State Plaza from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm on the 9th to give you information packets for meetings with legislators and to give you a "home base" before or between your visits. [Click here](#) to see how to schedule a visit with your local legislator.

Emerging Leaders Institute

NYSCAA kicked off the 2016 Emerging Leaders Program this month! We are excited to share that we have [19 new](#) participants for the ELI 1.0 program and [2](#) [returning](#) participants for the ELI 2.0 program. Click on the links to view who is participating this year!

The first session was held at the Embassy Suites in Syracuse and received some great feedback!

Some of our presentations included:
History of Community Action - Aaron Wicks from ABC; Team Building - Dan Mumford & Tom Gardner from TEAM Adventure & Understanding Finances - Judy Harris, from NYSCAA.



Need Training?

NYSCAA is always available to help your agency with training and technical assistance.

We are currently putting together a "Guide to Training, Professional Development, and Capacity Building Services" for Community Action Agencies to use and refer too when in need of training.

The guide lists and gives a short description of the training offered by NYSCAA in areas such as IT, Agency Capacity Building, and Governance.

The guide will be available in print form and listed on our website for all Community Action Members to access.

We are excited for the release of new guide with over twenty different types of trainings!

Stay tuned for more information!

Community Action Awards!

2015 Poverty Report

Our annual edition of the New York State

Poverty Report is available on our website.

The report provides a statewide look at poverty and is designed to be a comprehensive resource for New York's Community Action Agencies, community-based organizations, policy makers, advocates, community coalitions and the general public.

This report does not offer policy recommendations; rather, the intent is to serve as an informational source that adds value to the larger dialogue on how to address poverty in communities across our state.

[Click here](#) to review the report online.



NYSCAA's 2016 Professional Development Conference is booked for June 16th & 17th at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Fairport, NY.

We are currently accepting nominations for all six of our categories. [Click here](#) for a description of all the awards.

[Click here](#) for further information on the submission process.

The deadline for applications is April 21, 2016.

Updates at our Agencies!

Huge Donation!

Thanks to Barnes and Noble Elmira, Elmira Economic Opportunity Program was able to put a free book into the hands of all children participating in EEOP programs. The Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive made a very generous donation of over 1,000 books!



New Program at Cayuga Seneca

Employment Pathways is a new program administered by Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, located at Cayuga Community College Cayuga Works Career Center. The Employment Pathways Program connects underemployed or unemployed income-eligible individuals and families with the resources required to move from poverty to economic self-sufficiency. Along with connecting people to local job opportunities, Employment Pathways coordinates local support services, employers, education and soft skills training through extensive case management designed to help overcome barriers to long-term employment and self-sustainability. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

CAO of Erie County gets grant to live stream meetings

Northwest Savings Bank is donating \$2,500 to give the Community Action Organization's Masten Resource Center the capacity to do live streaming of community meetings over the Internet.

Receiving the grant will allow CAO to host community, block, club, budgeting, parent, and business association meetings, also allowing online participation.

CAO hosts monthly meetings including MLK Business District Association, the Buffalo & Erie County Senior Action Council, the District Parent Coordinating Council and much more.

Way to go CAO!

Employee Spotlight

Rasheada Caldwell, Center Coordinator at the PEACE's Eastside Family Resource Center, was invited to represent PEACE, Inc. at National Grid's opening the Care & Share Program.



In the News & Helpful Tips

- NASCSP has released the 2015 CSBG highlights. The CSBG Information Survey is conducted each year to collect Community Action Network-wide information on outcomes, services and resources that is compiled into the Annual CSBG Report. NASCSP released a quick highlight of the forthcoming information. [Click here](#) to download the fact sheet.
- Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.
- Nine Valentines Day gifts for working families in the President's budget. CFED was very pleased with the release of FY17's budget earlier this month. Among many things to like, [click here](#) to see CFEDs top nine picks.
- In New York, the NYS Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force has just released a new resource tool: Immigrant Assistance Services in New York. The resource includes national and various in-state organizations which offer services that can help immigrants better integrate into our society. The brochure can also be personalized with your photo, your district office information and with any other organizations you may wish to add. [Click here](#) to see the resource guide. For further inquiries, contact Marianela Diaz - diazm@assembly.state.ny.us.



Webinars & Conferences:

NYSCAA Conferences:

Professional Development Conference
June 16 & 17, 2016 Woodcliff Hotel & Spa - Fairport, NY

Region II RPIC: Human Resource, Finance & Leadership Conference
September 15 & 16, 2016 Double Tree - Binghamton, NY

NYSCAA Regional Meetings:

NYSCAA's Regional Meetings have been scheduled and registration is open. [Click here](#) to find one near you! Visit our website to register or click on the link in PDF. A complete agenda will be posted soon.

NYSCAA IT Webinars:

Basic Excel Formulas
March 29, 2016
10:00 - 1:00 EST
[Click here](#) to register.

Advanced Excel Formulas
May 4, 2016
1:00 - 2:00 EST
[Click here](#) to register.

Save the Date:

NCAF 2016 Legislative Conference
March 15 - 18, Washington DC.

[Click here](#) for more information.

LIFE Statewide Conference 2016

May 25 & 26, Albany NY

[Click here](#) for more information.

CAPLAW National Training Conference

June 22 - 24, Ft. Lauderdale FL

Community Action Partnership Annual Convention

August 30 - September 2, Austin TX

NYSCAA Help Desk:

Have a tech question? The NYSCAA Help Desk is open to all NYSCAA

Members. Call Phoebe Schimpf at 518-690-0491 x 28 or submit an inquiry [here](#).

FACT OF THE MONTH:

"If income gains had been broadly shared - and not concentrated in the hands of the richest 1% - Poverty in America could have been eliminated by 1985."

****Coalition on Human Needs**

Trivia!

What's the Year?

1. BB King is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
2. Super Bowl XXI: NY Giants beat Denver Broncos, 39-20 in Pasadena
3. US President Ronald Reagan challenges Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin wall
4. No-smoking rules take effect in US federal buildings
5. Madonna's "Open Your Heart" single goes number 1
6. Fox TV network premieres showing Married With Children & Tracey Ullman
7. Two men became 1st hot-air balloon travelers to cross Atlantic
8. Pulitzer prize awarded to August Wilson for "Fences"
9. NBA's Michael Jordan's 58 points in one game is a Chicago Bulls record
10. Ben & Jerry Ice Cream & Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia announce new Ice Cream flavor, Cherry Garcia



BB King in 2009_(c) by Tom Beetz is licensed under CC BY.

The year is 1987.

Riddle Me This!

What goes around the world and stays in the corner?

The answer is a stamp.

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies 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.

[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](#) · [CACHE \(Community Action Commission to Help the Economy Inc.](#) · [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 County EOC, 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.](#) · [Washington County EOC, Inc.](#) · [WestCOP](#) · [Wayne County Community Action Program, Inc.](#) · [Wyoming County Community Action, Inc.](#) · [Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.](#)



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