



December 2019

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## Region II Information

In September 2019, NYSCAA was awarded the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program: Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC) – Human Capacity and Community Transformation Initiatives for Region II comprised on New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

The goals of the RPIC for the next three years are as follows:

- **Goal 1:** Maximizing and aligning HCCT T/TA resources and coordinating regional T/TA Plans.
- **Goal 2:** Identify and highlight capacity building practices for State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Associations, and CSBG-eligible entities to share and promote cross-learning throughout identified region.

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- **Goal 3:** Organize, implement, and participate in national or regional T/TA activities designed to address the collaboration, capacity building, and exemplary practice needs of the CSBG Network to support the full implementation of the CSBG HCCT.
  - **Goal 4:** Helping State CSBG Lead Agencies and local CSBG-eligible entities implement, meet and exceed organizational standards in areas such as consumer input and involvement, community engagement, community assessment, organizational leadership, board governance, strategic planning, human resource management, financial operations and oversight, and data and analysis.

We will be sharing more information about these goals and associated strategies as NYSCAA works in partnership with the Community Action Partnership of New Jersey (CAPNJ) and the Puerto Rico Community Action Association (PRCAA) as well as our CSBG national and federal partners.

### ***Puerto Rico Hosts Nationally Certified ROMA Trainer Classroom Session***

This month, National Certified ROMA Trainer (NCRT) Candidates from Puerto Rico completed a NCRT Classroom Session. The three day Train-the-Trainer classroom session allowed candidates to practice the delivery of the ROMA content, while being evaluated on knowledge and delivery by Nationally Certified ROMA Master Trainers. Dr. Barbara Mooney, Director of the National Peer to Peer Training and Certification Project, and Carey Gibson, MSW, Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer (NCRI) Project Manager, delivered an Introduction to ROMA training and evaluated candidates at the classroom session. [Click here](#) for more information on becoming a NCRT.



***OCEAN, Inc. and First Bergen Federal Credit Union Partner to Bring Credit Union Services to Toms River, New Jersey***

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Greater Bergen Community Action's First Bergen Federal Credit Union has long provided basic banking services to low-income residents of Bergen County, New Jersey.

Now, fellow CAA, OCEAN, Inc. has partnered with First Bergen to open a credit union in Toms River, which will serve the low-income population in Ocean County, New Jersey. First Bergen's charter allows them to operate in additional counties in New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut.



This is a great example of how CAAs can partner to increase available services to low-income people. For more information, contact: Connie Louise Fahim at [cfahim@oceaninc.org](mailto:cfahim@oceaninc.org).

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## Census 2020

### ***How Do I Take the 2020 Census?***

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding: online, by phone, or by mail.

[Watch this new PSA](#) by the U.S. Census Bureau to learn more about the different ways to respond to the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau has also released a PSA Toolkit which enables partners and stakeholders to access produced PSAs or create their own using pre-approved messages. PSAs are an effective way to educate the public about the importance of the 2020 Census and why participation matters.



### ***Is My 2020 Census Data Safe?***

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your 2020 Census responses and keep them strictly confidential. In fact, every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

[Watch this PSA](#) by the U.S. Census Bureau to learn more about how census data is private, protected by law, and stored securely.



### ***2020 Census: Who to Count***

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The 2020 Census will count every person living in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories. If you are completing the census for your home, you should count everyone who is living there as of April 1, 2020 (Census Day). That means everyone who is living and sleeping there most of the time.



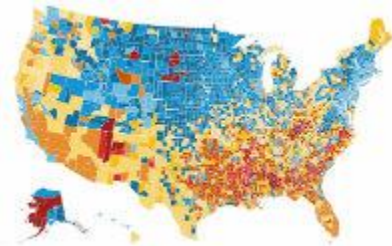
You may have questions about how people in some special circumstances are counted on the 2020 Census, including people who move on Census Day, people born on Census Day, military members, and more. [Click here](#) to find out who you should count on your census form.

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## Additional Resources

### ***Disrupting Food Insecurities: Tapping Data for Strategies that Tackle the Root Causes***

An estimated 40 million Americans - including 12.5 million children - struggle with [food insecurity](#), meaning they can't afford an adequate diet. Federal nutrition programs and charitable meals make up the first line of defense, but solving this challenge will require communities to go beyond in-kind food distribution to disrupt the root causes of economic distress.



[This dashboard](#) equips counties with data about their food insecurity levels and related risk factors, identifies cross-cutting opportunities for intervention, and groups counties by shared challenges. Dive into your county's data and explore strategies tailored to your county.

### ***Children Living in High-Poverty, Low-Opportunity Neighborhoods***

Living in areas of concentrated poverty — and missing out on safe and healthy opportunities to learn, play and grow — is a reality for more than 8.5 million kids in America today. Policy, business and philanthropic leaders must act now to boost housing options and spur economic growth for the families who call these communities home.



This snapshot shares the latest data — for the nation and each state — on children growing up in high-poverty areas. It also singles out two important factors, geographic location and race and ethnicity, that shape a child's risk of living in concentrated poverty. The document ends by outlining recommended moves that leaders can take to help families in these communities thrive. [Click here](#) for more information.

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## National Professional Development Opportunities

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**Community Action Partnership**

2020 Annual Training Conference  
January 8th-10th, 2020 - San Juan, Puerto Rico  
[Click here](#) for more information.

**National Association for State Community Services Programs**

2020 Winter Training Conference  
February 26th-28th, 2020 - Arlington, Virginia  
[Click here](#) for more information.

**National Community Action Foundation**

2020 Annual Conference March 17th-20th, 2020

**CAPLAW National Training Conference**

June 30th - July 2nd, 2020 - Chicago, Illinois

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