



# RPIC REGION II

NEW YORK · NEW JERSEY · PUERTO RICO · US VIRGIN ISLANDS

April 2021

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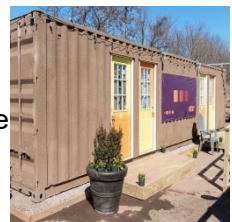
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## Region II News

### Community Action Partnership of New Jersey (CAPNJ) News

#### ***United Community Corporation Creates Collaborative Solution to Address Disproportionate Number of Homeless Individuals in the City of Newark through Hope***

In the most recent 2020 NJ Survey Counts, the City of Newark had the most homeless individuals (<https://monarchhousing.org/njcounts-2020-results/>). The NJ Counts report documents almost twenty-five percent of the entire state's homeless population counted in the study was in one city, Newark, New Jersey, and 86% of the whole homeless county population for Essex County was in Newark. One of the Community Action Agencies in New Jersey, [United Community Corporation \(UCC\)](#), has been working to address homelessness and recently held an open house for a new Newark Hope Village project. UCC has been working around the clock with the City of Newark on the Hope Village Project.





The Hope Village Project has turned seven unused shipping containers into individual homeless shelters, each with its own code-compliant space. The shipping containers are equipped similar to a college dorm room setting, with heat, a bed, a dresser, and a little extra storage. Newark Hope Village also has an area with private shower rooms and a meeting area that provides meals for individuals staying in the shelter. This collaborative project includes unique designs with bright colors and positive inspirations, incorporating a message of hope throughout the complex. The United Community Corporation will be adding Newark Hope Village to its case management, supportive services, and local outreach efforts.

Funding included the federal CARES Act, the Essex County Division of Community Action (through New Jersey Code Blue Grant), and the City of Newark. Craig Mainor, Executive

Director of UCC, has been busy securing partnerships, funding, and services for this project. New Jersey is proud to be bringing innovative solutions to address homelessness in the state.

Additional press coverage and information on the Hope Village, Partnerships, and United Community Corporation can be found [here](#).

## **Puerto Rico Community Action Association (PRCAA) News**

### ***ASPIRA, Inc. of Puerto Rico provides Opportunities for Students to Participate in Technology Career Day.***

Meeting virtually using TEAMS, [ASPIRA, Inc.](#) provided a meeting space for students to learn more about the different careers that are in high demand today. Students who were not sure what they want to study after high school or what field they may be interested in working in, had the opportunity to listen to professionals in different careers. The students were able to see what it was like to work in the different areas and what career would best fit them. Gift certificates of \$50.00 were raffled off among the participants to be used at the local bookstore which was a big incentive to the group of students.

Learn more about ASPRIA, Inc. [here](#).



## **New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) News**

### ***Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. - Partnering with Area Non-Profits to Help the Homeless***

After seeing a sharp increase in visitors to their emergency food and housing programs, including many families who never required assistance before the COVID-19 pandemic, Brentwood-area non-profits that serve a strong number of Latino communities are taking the rare step of teaming up. Magali Roman, Program Coordinator with [EOC of Suffolk's](#) Community Based Initiative joined with 20 members of My Brother's Keeper (a student club at Brentwood High School) and two area non-profits, [Pronto](#) and [Adelante](#), to distribute hundreds of free meals, canned food, hand sanitizer, and stacks of clothing to the homeless. [Click here](#) to read more about the event.



## ***Oswego County Opportunities - Celebrating 55 Years of Service to Oswego Communities***

In 1964, Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act to "eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty". As a result, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were formed to address and end poverty.



[Oswego County Opportunities \(OCO\)](#) was incorporated as not-for-profit Community Action Agency on March 15, 1966. OCO is proud to be a part of the Oswego community, who has supported its mission for 55 years. OCO has spent decades providing essential services to their customers and doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon! Congratulations on fifty five years of exemplary work fighting to end poverty and creating a better life for the men, women, and children in Oswego.

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## **National Partner Information**

### ***National Partner Resources on Covid-19***

In light of increasing concerns about a broader coronavirus outbreak and the impacts on normal business operations, the national partners have compiled resources that are available to the Community Action network.

- [CDC's COVID-19 Site](#)
- [CAP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [CAPLAW's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [NASCS's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)

### ***National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - Establishing a Customer Focused Approach to Community Action Agencies: A Guide to Customer Satisfaction***

NCAP recently released a new guide that covers creating a culture of customer satisfaction, establishing a customer satisfaction system, as well as collecting and analyzing customer satisfaction data. In addition, NCAP hosted [a webinar](#) focused on increasing internal customer satisfaction. [Click here](#) to download the guide.



### ***National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - Health Intersections, Adversity, Trauma, Resilience and Early Childhood***

Join NCAP's [Learning Communities Resource Center \(LCRC\)](#) on May 13 for a special convening called *Health Intersections, Adversity, Trauma, Resilience, and Early Childhood*. This is a three-hour virtual event that will run from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST. Dr. Dayna Long, M.D., FAAP, Clinical Director, [Resilient Beginnings Network](#) and Co-Director, [Center for Child and Community Health](#) UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland will convene medical and community experts to lead this intensive learning event. [Click here](#) to register.



## ***National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - Resources to Promote the Importance of Getting Vaccinated***

With vaccination distribution efforts rapidly increasing, NCAP has put together a list of resources from the [CDC](#) and [FEMA](#). CAAs and state associations can use these materials in their efforts to support and promote the vaccination movement. This list includes websites with more detailed vaccination information, printable posters and other resources. NCAP encourages the use of accurate information as you create materials to use when reaching out to local communities and within an agency. [Click here](#) to download the resources



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## **Additional Resources**

### ***Urban Institute - Young People and Tax Credits: The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit***

This brief from the Urban Institute looks at the challenges and opportunities for young people ages 14 to 24 to [access the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit](#). It also covers ways these tax credits are intended to meet young people's needs and how effectively the needs are met. [Click here](#) to download the brief.



### ***Wipfli - Upcoming Events, Trainings, and Webinars***

[Wipfli](#) offers various events, seminars, forums, and trainings on a wide range of topics during the year. They are offering a wide variety of forums and trainings to help you stay ahead of the curve and help your organization continue to grow.

Upcoming trainings:

- April 6-8, 2021: [In-Depth Training on OMB's Uniform Guidance](#)
- April 13, 2021: [CSBG Organizational Standards Boot Camp](#)
- May 18-20, 2021: [Head Start/Early Head Start Regulation Boot Camp](#)

### ***FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency***

FEMA is the key in building community immunity against COVID-19 in Region II. In addition to wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and washing your hands; consider getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Each state and territory in Region II has implemented a vaccine distribution plan. Learn more about eligibility and vaccination sites where you live:

## New Jersey

In New Jersey, healthcare personnel, long-term care residents and workers, first responders, individuals 65 years and older, individuals with certain medical conditions, and school and childcare staff are eligible for vaccination. Beginning March 15, categories such as public and local transportation workers, public safety workers, migrant farm workers, members of tribal communities, individuals experiencing homeless and those living in shelters, individuals age 16-64 with high risk medical conditions became eligible. More groups will become eligible on March 29.



There are [six mega-sites](#) throughout New Jersey, along with community-based vaccination partnership sites. FEMA is supporting vaccination sites serving under-served communities. These sites operate as closed points of distribution for members of the immediate community and by appointment only. To register for vaccination, residents of New Jersey can visit the [NJ Vaccine Scheduling System](#) or call 855-568-0545.

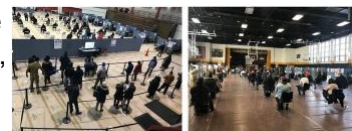
## Puerto Rico

In Puerto Rico, vaccine appointments are available for individuals 60 years and older, individuals 50-59 years and older who have underlying conditions, and school and childcare staff. A list of [vaccine providers](#) is available online. Residents of Puerto Rico can learn more about vaccination on the Puerto Rico Department of Health [website](#) or call the 24/7 hotline number 1-787-999-6202.



## New York

In New York, most healthcare workers, first responders, all individuals age 60 years or older, educators, individuals with certain underlying conditions, and other essential workers are eligible to receive the vaccine. Eligibility expanded further on March 17, allowing public-facing essential workers from government and nonprofit organizations to schedule appointments.



FEMA and New York State have partnered to open six [mass vaccination sites](#) in Brooklyn, Queens, Rochester, Albany, Yonkers and Buffalo to bring the vaccine to under-served communities. Last week, New York State opened 14 additional community-based pop-up vaccination sites at public housing developments, churches, community centers, schools, and fire stations. New Yorker's can make appointments at these centers and additional vaccine sites through the "[Am I Eligible](#)" tool or by calling the NYS Vaccine Hotline at 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).

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## National Professional Development Opportunities

### CAPLAW

2021 Virtual Training Conference

June 29 - July 1, 2021

[Click here](#) to learn more.

### National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

[National Community Action Equity Summit](#)

April 19-21, 2021

The 2021 Equity Summit 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 - Boston, MA

**National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)**

**2021 Conference**

Monday, Sept. 27, 2021 from 3:00pm-5:00pm ET

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021 from 3:00pm-5:00pm ET

Monday, Oct. 4, 2021 from 3:00pm-5:00pm ET

And, back by popular demand, NCAF will be hosting their second official Fly-In Day on Tuesday Oct. 5th, 2021.



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