

# August 2022 - Region II News



## Table of Contents:

- [Region II News](#)
- [National Partner News & Resources](#)
- [National Professional Development Opportunities](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

## Region II News

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



#### **United States Senator Cory Booker Visits Norwescap and Brings \$1.05 Million to Address Hunger**

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker celebrated a major win in the fight against food insecurity Tuesday when he delivered \$1.05 million to Norwescap Food Bank in Phillipsburg. The money is part of a larger package of spending approved by Congress called appropriations “earmarks”, which allows members of Congress to dedicate spending to community projects. Norwescap will use the money to expand its services, including redesigning a warehouse.

[Click here](#) to read the full article



#### **Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver Honors Dora Flores for Nearly 55 Years of Service for Head Start!**

Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver joined O.C.E.A.N. Inc. today to honor Mrs. Dora Flores for her nearly 55 years of service making delicious and nutritious meals for children in the Head Start Program at O.C.E.A.N. Inc. Mrs. Flores was first hired in 1967 while serving as the cook at the LEAP Head Start Center in Lakewood.

Thank you Mrs. Dora, for your many years of service to Head Start and the agency!

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There's still time to get your tickets for CAP Atlantic City Jazz Fest! For more information about the event and for tickets, visit [capjazzfest.com](http://capjazzfest.com).

## New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)



In February, NYSCAA hosted the RPIC Region II Regional Convening. This virtual event brought together over 140 representatives from Community Action Agencies in Region II. Participants gathered to learn about Human Capacity & Community Transformation (HCCT) initiatives in Region II. We were excited to come together around these innovative initiatives to connect, learn, collaborate, and identify opportunities for replication and capacity building. The highlighted initiatives will be spotlighted in the coming editions of the RPIC Region II newsletter. The complete list of highlighted initiatives from Region II can be found on the [NYSCAA website](http://nyscAA.org).

### Highlighted Initiatives from Jersey:

- [New Jersey Association on Correction \(NJAC\) - Fatherhood Program](#): **The New Jersey Association on Correction is headquartered in Trenton, New Jersey, and serves seven counties in the state.** In 2020, NJAC was awarded a 5-year grant from the DHHS Administration for Children and Families funded their Fatherhood Family focused, Interconnected, Resilient, and Essential (Fatherhood FIRE) program. The Fatherhood Program merges NJAC's two areas of expertise, helping returning citizens to successfully reenter the community and promoting positive family relationships. The long-term goals of the program are to improve family functioning improved family functioning, including:

improved couple relationships, marriage, and stability; and improved parenting and co-parenting; improve adult and child well being; increase economic stability and mobility; reduce poverty; and reduce recidivism. To date, 55 fathers have been enrolled and 35 have graduated from the program.

The initiatives are also available on the National Community Action Partnership's (NCAP) [showcase webpage](#). NCAP's new platform shines a light on Community Action success stories to inspire others. You can access resources to strengthen services, build community outcomes, and create family and community change in your local area.



[NYSCAA and NYSWDA's Annual Professional Development Conference: Celebrating our Accomplishments & Forging Ahead](#) will be held September 29-30, 2022 at the [Hyatt Regency Hotel](#) in Rochester, New York.

Visit our [conference webpage](#) for more information on registration, the conference agenda, reserving a room at the hotel, sponsorship opportunities, and more!

#### **COVID-19 Protocols and Requirements for Conference Attendees:**

COVID-19 conditions can change swiftly. We thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility as we navigate hosting an in-person conference during these times and enact protocols to protect the health and safety of all guests!

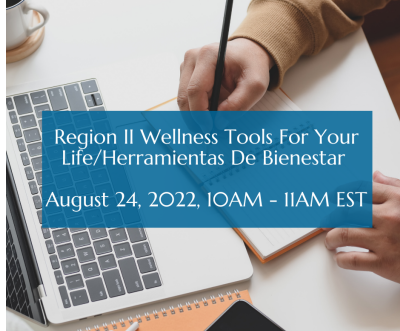
We will continue to monitor and update safety precautions for the Annual Conference regularly and coordinate with trusted national resources, state and local public health agencies, and the hotels/venues hosting the event.

*At this time, we ask that attendees not attend the event if they do not feel well, be prepared to mask at the event, and take a test no more than 24 hours before leaving for the event. We are committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment in which to learn.*

## Asociación de Agencias Comunes de Puerto Rico

### **Region II - Wellness Tools For Your Life/Herramientas De Bienestar - August 24, 2022, 10AM - 11AM EST**

The Wellness Tools for Your Life workshop is a learning experience for each of the participants. We all experience moments of stress at work and in our personal lives, so it is necessary to create a wellness space to heal and to learn tools that allow us to help other people. This workshop provides



you with three powerful tools. We begin with the emotional liberation technique where you will deeply know the benefits of its practice, we will work with the mandala and create your own, and we will end with a 21-day challenge for your own well-being. This webinar will be presented by Normary Silva Soto, MA, Executive Director, Association of Community Agencies of Puerto Rico.

[Click here](#) to register.

## National Partner News & Resources



### NCAP: Start Pathways to Excellence Anytime!

NCAP knows you're busy and continually bombarded with deadlines, so they have a little something special for you. You can enroll your agency in the Bronze Tier of NCAP's [Pathways to Excellence Program](#) at any time of the year. There are no enrollment due dates! If you're wondering if your agency should consider Pathways, then you're ready to enroll in the Bronze Tier today. The Bronze Tier provides tools to explore your agency's readiness for Excellence and makes it easy to get started. You and your team will even get national recognition when you complete the Bronze Tier. Best of all, you haven't missed the deadline for enrollment because there is no deadline! Let NCAP know your questions by emailing [Excellence@CommunityActionPartnership.com](mailto:Excellence@CommunityActionPartnership.com), and enjoy the freedom of year-round enrollment!



### NCAP: Recognizing LIHEAP Action Month

For more than 40 years, the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) has been assisting families with energy costs. Each year, hundreds of Community Action Agencies across the country ensure that people experiencing low incomes - including seniors, children, and people with disabilities - have access to utilities through this critical program. August is LIHEAP Action Month and the National Community Action Partnership recognizes and celebrates the CAAs that connect communities to energy assistance and advocate to protect this crucial lifeline.

NCAP has put together a [landing page](#) with graphics, social media posts, and links to additional resources from the [National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition \(NEUAC\)](#) for CAAs and State Associations to use as they raise awareness about LIHEAP during the month of August!



### Ten Ways OCS is Working to Mitigate Heat Stress

The threat of extreme weather is disproportionately [felt by communities of color, lower-income households, and vulnerable populations](#) as they are more likely to live in "urban heat islands" and are often unable to afford adequate air conditioning. As we grapple with a summer with above-normal temperatures in most of the country, it is imperative to understand not only the impact of heat stress on the individuals, families, and communities we serve, but how grant recipients can utilize OCS programs and flexibility to mitigate the impact of extreme weather and heat stress on vulnerable populations.

This [Dear Colleague Letter](#) issued by the Office of Community Services (OCS) outlines ten steps OCS has taken to raise awareness about and address heat stress this year.

### National Partner Resources on COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on day-to-day life, the national partners have compiled available resources to assist the Community Action network and their customers.

- [The Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [CAPLAW](#)
- [National Association for State Community Services Programs \(NASCSP\)](#)
- [National Community Action Partnership \(NCAP\)](#)

## National Professional Development Opportunities:

### National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP)

- [2022 Annual Training Conference](#): October 24-28, 2022

### National Community Action Foundation (NCAF):

- [Annual Washington Conference, Presented Virtually](#): September 26-27 & October 3-4, 2022

## Additional Resources



### Child Trends: Bridging the Mental Healthcare Gap for Black Children Requires a Focus on Racial Equity and Access

Black people face longstanding disparities in healthcare coverage and in receiving mental health services and diagnoses. This article lays out an equity-focused approach to advancing child and family wellness that relies on strategies that bridge the racial gap in access to high-quality healthcare and healthcare providers.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.



### Gallagher - 2022 Workforce Trends Report Series: People & Organizational Wellbeing Strategy Report

Nearly half of organizations experienced a turnover rate of 15% or higher in 2021, up 9 points from 2020, according to the just released People & Organizational Wellbeing Strategy Report. This valuable resource includes an analysis of more than 4,000 responses to Gallagher's Benefits Strategy & Benchmarking Survey from earlier this year.

The wealth of credible industry data in this report couldn't have come at a better time—especially if the Great Resignation is top of mind for your organization, or if you're wondering how to:

- Combat rising medical costs
- Support emotionally distressed employees
- Adapt to the new world of work post-pandemic

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

### Springfield College: Reduced Tuition Opportunities



## for CAA Staff

As you might already be aware, the [National Community Action Partnership \(NCAP\)](#) and [Springfield College](#) have a partnership that allows you to receive a grant of \$5,000 or \$10,000 toward your education. All Community Action Agency employees who work 20 hours or more per week and are enrolled in one of the College's degree programs are eligible. If you'd like to learn more about the partnership and our degree program offerings, we invite you to explore the webpages listed below.

- [Community Action Partnership Grant](#)
- [Fully Online Degree Program Options](#)
- [Virtual Information Sessions](#)

If you'd like to speak with someone from the Admissions Office about getting started, please use [this link](#) to schedule a phone call or Zoom meeting with Melanie Bonneau, National Online Recruiter.



## United Passaic Org. Launches Community Financial Hub

[United Passaic Organization](#) is partnering with Greater Bergen Community Action and the 1st Bergen Federal Credit Union to launch the Community Action Financial Empowerment (CAFÉ) Hub in the City of Passaic. The CAFÉ Hub guides low-income residents through the process of banking – including opening an account, financial literacy, and applying for loans.

United Passaic Organization is kicking off the partnership by recruiting 100 dedicated and motivated participants from the City of Passaic to take advantage of this great and free opportunity. Interested participants or potential participants looking for more information can contact United Passaic Organization at 973-472-2478 or via email at [info@unitedpassaic.org](mailto:info@unitedpassaic.org).



## U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

The [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to target efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in communities with very high levels of unsheltered homelessness and homelessness in rural areas. Through this Special NOFO, HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches — grounded in Housing First and public health principles — to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families. The application deadline is October 20, 2022.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to apply.



### Contact Info:

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