

June 2022 - Region II News



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Region II News

Community Action Partnership of New Jersey (CAPNJ)



United Progress Inc. Welcomes Dr. Janelle Hall as New Executive Director

CAP NJ is so excited to welcome Dr. Janelle C. Hall as a new Executive Director to the CAA NJ network. Dr. Hall leads the United Progress Inc. organization, an organization serving the city of Passaic in Passaic County. This recently published article highlights some of the community events the agency hosted for Community Action Month, including receiving a proclamation from the City of Passaic, New Jersey declaring May community action month and recognizing the work of UPO.

[Click here](#) to read more about Dr. Hall's efforts to transform United Passaic Organization to best reach her community.



CAP Atlantic City Jazz Fest is Back! For more information about the event and for tickets, visit capjazzfest.com.

United Community Corporation (UCC) Expanding the Work of Hope Villiage

In February, at the convening conference, many commented on the amazing work of UCC and Hope Village, and their work continues with their next slated project for the city's West Ward.

From the desk of Craig Mainor, Executive Director, UCC:

Dear friends, as you may have learned, United Community Corporation in partnership with the City of Newark, NJ, has implemented the first container housing project for the homeless in the State of NJ. Here's a look at the new Hope Village container project. It's slated to go up in N Munn Ave. in the city's West Ward.



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](#).

Highlighted Initiatives from Puerto Rico:

- **Traditional and Modern Agriculture Project:** To meet their community's needs, [ASPRI, Inc.](#) launched in 2002 the Traditional and Modern Agriculture Project. With individuals and families needing methods to achieve self-sufficiency, it is imperative to provide education and training that results in participants obtaining certification and the skills necessary to increase access to local and nutritional produce. By completing the 8-week hydroponics training, participants expand their knowledge and improve the economic opportunities to cultivate and sell their own produce, including different types of lettuces, which overall leads to an increase in their incomes. Read the full write-up about ASPRI's Traditional and Modern Agriculture Project, [here](#).

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.



We are excited to announce that our annual professional development conference, in partnership with the New York State Weatherization Directors Association (NYSWDA), will return for in-person attendance in 2022! The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Rochester, NY, September 29th-30th! Stay tuned for information on registration, hotel accommodations, the Community Action Awards, and much more!

Asociación de Agencias Comunes de Puerto Rico



May Events:

- May 12, 2022 - Practical workshop of the Canvas platform to create infographics and other documents for the prevention of COVID-19.
- May 18, 2022 - Virtual workshop discussing the effects of COVID-19 and how they can lead to social phobia and panic attacks.
- May 26, 2022 - Workshop focusing on returning to post-pandemic routines and on the same day, the Executive Director presented about developing your respiratory capacity with conscious breathing techniques in an activity for ASPRI secretaries.

National Partner News & Resources



New Resource: Building Blocks of Employee Compensation

Community Action Agencies (CAAs), like many employers across the United States, are experiencing challenges retaining their existing staff and recruiting new employees in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. To help CAAs strategize for employee recruitment and retention in a post-pandemic world, CAPLAW has created an interactive, [web-based infographic](#) identifying some types of compensation they can offer, and the laws and regulations governing their salaries and benefits. A [print-ready PDF](#) of this information is also available for download. The rules and compensation types discussed are not exhaustive, but we hope they will help you lay the foundation for a more engaged and experienced workforce.



House Passes CSBG Act In Bipartisan Vote!

The US House of Representatives [voted 246 - 169](#) to pass the [Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act](#)! Thanks to the tireless work of [NCAF](#) and many other organizations across our Network, the bill passed with bipartisan support and multiple friendly amendments adopted. The House rejected amendments that would have been detrimental to CSBG reauthorization. The bill now heads to the U.S. Senate for consideration! In a Congress divided on so many issues, it's notable that the legislation passed with strong bipartisan support, with 30 Republican members voting in favor of the bill.

NCAAP will be sending out additional resources in the coming weeks, including new bill text, analysis, and opportunities for Senate engagement.



OCS: 2022 CED Funding Opportunity Now Available

The FY 2022 Community Economic Development (CED) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is now available. Applications for the FY 2022 CED NOFO are due on July 11th, 2022. The full announcement is available to [download by clicking here](#).

Within the coming weeks, a pre-application webinar will be posted to the CED page of the Office of Community Services (OCS) website. This pre-recorded presentation will provide prospective applicants of the CED program with details about the 2022 grant competition.

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:

CAPLAW:

- [2022 National Training Conference](#): June 28 - 30, 2022 - Chicago, IL

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

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP):

- [2022 Annual Convention](#): August 29 - September 3, 2022 - New York, NY

Additional Resources



Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: CTC has a Critical Role in Helping Families Maintain Economic Stability

The Child Tax Credit (CTC), especially when received monthly, has an important role to play in addressing the income volatility that many families face, a new study from the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) finds. "An expanded, monthly and refundable Child Tax Credit would offer economic assistance supported by a body of evidence that demonstrates long-term benefits for families and society."

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



Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding

In March 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) temporarily waived certain Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) requirements and conditions. The easing of these rules helped prevent people with Medicaid and CHIP—in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories—from losing their health coverage during the pandemic. However, states will soon be required to restart Medicaid and CHIP eligibility reviews. According to some estimates, when states resume these reviews, up to 15 million people could lose their current Medicaid or CHIP coverage through a process called “unwinding.”

In an effort to minimize the number of people that lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage, CMS is working with states and other stakeholders to inform people about renewing their coverage and exploring other available health insurance options if they no longer qualify for Medicaid or CHIP.

[Click here](#) to read more and download the Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding communications toolkit.



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.

U.S. Census Bureau Releases Digital Equity Act Population Viewer

The U.S. Census Bureau announced the release of the [Digital Equity Act Population Viewer](#), an interactive collection of maps that highlight various demographics and broadband internet availability and adoption by state. The maps help policymakers plan and implement digital inclusion and equity programs under the Digital Equity Act of 2021.

The Digital Equity Act of 2021 was established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Sections 60301-60307) with the goal of promoting meaningful adoption and use of broadband services across the “covered populations” in the Act, including low-income households, aging populations,



incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with a language barrier, racial and ethnic minorities and rural inhabitants. [Click here](#) to read more.

WIPFLI

WIPFLI: Stronger to Serve Conference - July 11-15, 2022

WIPFLI is thrilled to announce that registration is open for their Stronger to Serve Conference in Las Vegas this July! You can register today through the Conference website, [here](#). Join top trainers, including Denes Tobie, Tammy Jelinek and Brian Gaumont, for five days of sessions packed with must-have perspectives on leadership, operational effectiveness, compliance, risk mitigation and talent to take your organization to the next level.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

virtualCAP.org

CAPLAW
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N A S C S P



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