

October 2022 - Region II News



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Region II News

Association of Community Action of Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Works to Respond to the Needs of the People in the Aftermath of Hurricane Fiona

More than 24,000 families have been impacted and affected by Hurricane Fiona, most of them from the south-west area of the island. Currently, uninterrupted services continue, so the number of families affected is much higher. In the Association of Community Agencies of PR, we are committed to offering an excellent service to all employees.

In the municipalities of San Juan and Bayamón, they have worked uninterruptedly in the delivery of food vouchers, boxes of basic necessities and hot food for the participants of geriatric centers. The ODSEC, INSEC and ASPRI offices serve all of Puerto Rico by offering food cards, boxes of water, ice, COVID-19 detection tests, food boxes, electric generators, cisterns, and other basic necessities.

[Click here](#) for more information on how to support the people of Puerto Rico in Hurricane Fiona relief efforts. You can also donate on the [NYSCAA website](#).

Upcoming Events and Workshops for November and December

1. November 16, 2022: Feedback as a key tool for progressive discipline
2. November 29, 2022: Behavior was right in work scenarios (virtual)
3. December 8, 2022: Basic principles of customer service
4. December 15, 2022: How to get out of your comfort zone

Community Action Partnership of New Jersey (CAPNJ)



New Board Member Appointed to National Community Action Partnership's Board of Directors from Region II

Lynne Algrant, Vice President of Planning, Development & Communications at Greater Bergen Community Action, was sworn in as the new representative for Region II on the National Community Action Partnership's (NCAP) Board of Directors in August at the Annual Convention in New York, NY. Lynne is honored at the opportunity to represent Region II and is looking forward to working with her colleagues at the national level.

New Jersey Annual Conference Celebration

David Bradley and NCAF - New Jersey was grateful that David's schedule allowed for a virtual visit to New Jersey, during a storm and no power, but nothing stops David from getting the message out. David spoke about some upcoming challenges, shared some experiences on the Hill, and some insight into the important efforts of New Jersey to help shape future CSBG funding.

The J. Harris Academy of Police Training joined CAP NJ to improve responses to critical incidents, opportunities to partner with law enforcement agencies locally. This served as a reminder of what tragedies can happen and how we can prepare and protect our staff, clients and community.

Scott Bruno, DCA CSBG Lead, provided reflections during the last days of CARES funding, lessons learned, and shared some insight into the thoughtful and intended manner New Jersey CAA's spent, modified and delivered services that responded directly to urgent community needs.

Financial Empowerment HUB - Jen Underwood moderated a discussion on New Jersey's financial empowerment efforts, from the initial work to the vision. Jen led a round table discussion with the HUB, Greater Bergen Community Action, who provided an overview of the services available to the network and the services currently delivered in the summer CARES pilot project. It was easy to be encouraged by their work with low-income individuals. They were later joined by other NJ CAAs, including Dr. Hall from UPO and Leslie Dona and Armstead Johnson. The agencies discussed partnerships within the network and how this work requires collaboration. UPO and UPI spoke about the recruitment efforts, and the direct link from financial education to banking and access to capital. The sharing of these experiences - from speaking at congregations to enrolling group enrollment - reminds us all how fortunate we are that we have dedication and vision in our network.



Remembering the Dedication of Dr. Allen DeGiulio

At the conference, a moment of silence was held to reflect on and [provide tribute](#) to Dr. Allan DeGiulio for his lifetime of service and the scholarship fund in his name. The network remains profoundly saddened by his loss and grateful for the imprints he left behind. The Dr. Allan DeGiulio PHASES Scholarship Fund assists students in GBCA's PHASES program

who have aged out of foster care. To donate to the scholarship visit www.greaterbergen.org/donate. **To donate by mail, send checks to:** Dr. Allan DeGiulio PHASES Scholarship Fund, Greater Bergen Community Action, 392 Main Street, Hackensack, NJ. *Please make sure to note "Dr. DeGiulio Scholarship Fund" In the NOTES/DESIGNATION field of the online form or the memo field on the check when making your donation*

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](#).

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.



Connecting Communities in Action: The Fatherhood Connection Pilot

The national poverty rate for families with female-headed households with no husband or similar male figures stands at 29.7%. When these same female-headed households have children under 18, the poverty rate increases to 47.6% (over four times the rate in married-couple families); for those same households with children less than five years of age, the poverty rate increases explodes to 62.1%.

Forty-two percent (42%) of families living in poverty in Cattaraugus County are female-headed with absentee father figures. Children in father-absent homes are almost four times more likely to be poor and are at significantly higher risks for substance abuse and aggressive behaviors. Children without present fathers are more than twice as likely to die by suicide. Father involvement with their children in school and

academics is associated with students mainly achieving A grades, but 71% of high school dropouts are fatherless.

In FFY 2021, the NYS Department of State (DOS) used CSBG Discretionary resources to fund a pilot project to create, sustain, and evaluate the Fatherhood Connection Pilot. The Fatherhood Connection assists in creating a firm foundation for the men in the community through the facilitation of men's parenting and personal development groups to increase self-sufficiency and self-awareness. Three community action agencies were involved in the pilot, including Connecting Communities in Action (CCA).

[Click here](#) to read more about CCA's participation in the Fatherhood Connection Pilot, and the impact it had on the communities of Cattaraugus County.



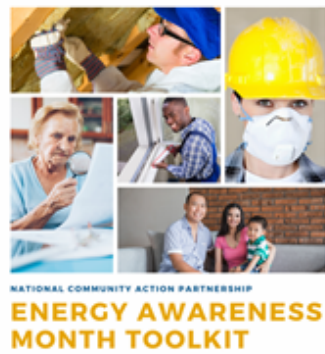
In September, NYSCAA hosted it's annual conference, Celebrating Our Accomplishments & Forging Ahead. We would like to thank our distinguished speakers, sponsoring organizations, and guests who attended to learn and be inspired. We would especially like to thank the local Rochester organizations, Action for a Better Community and PathStone Corporation, for their support of the event. We look forward to another great conference in 2023!



National Partner News & Resources

NCAP: Energy Awareness Month Toolkit

October is Energy Awareness Month! The Energy Awareness Month Toolkit is a great resource to use in conjunction with the [NASCSP Weatherization Day Toolkit](#) all throughout the month of October. NCAP has developed graphics and messaging for you to share about the need your customers are facing, as well as actions you are taking to address the need.



[Click here](#) to access the Energy Awareness Month Toolkit.



**READINESS
TO RESILIENCE**
The Community Action
COVID-19 Story



NCAP: Readiness to Resilience - The Community Action COVID-19 Story

This new report from NCAP shares snapshots from over 130 Community Action Agencies across the Network as they responded to COVID-19. Read to learn how your peers tackled the challenges of the pandemic using innovative new approaches.

The report is available in an interactive digital edition, which has been translated into Spanish. We encourage you to share this exciting story of Community Action's nationwide impact during the pandemic!

- [Read the digital version](#)
- [Leer la edición digital \(Español\)](#)

NCAP: Young Professionals Advisory Committee Regional Nominations Open

The National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) Young Professionals Advisory Committee will advise the NCAP Board of Directors on the current and future work of Community Action. NCAP believes the perspectives and priorities of young professionals are critical to the maintenance and sustainability of Community Action. As such, elevating the voices of young professionals will help NCAP become an even more equitable, inclusive, and responsive association.

[Click here](#) for the Young Professionals Advisory Committee Charter which includes a comprehensive outline of the committee purpose, structure, roles, and responsibilities.

[Click here](#) to access the Regional Nomination Form. Deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, November 4th.



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 \(NASCSPP\)](#)
- [National Community Action Partnership \(NCAP\)](#)

National Professional Development Opportunities:

- [2023 Management & Leadership Training Conference \(MLTC\)](#): February 8-10, 2022

Additional Resources



Child Trends: Understanding Employment Trajectories for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Young Adults Can Support Their Well-Being

Early adulthood is a critical life stage for education, employment, relationship formation, and reproductive health, but young adults' experiences in these areas are highly varied. Using averages to describe youths' experiences may miss meaningful differences that could alter their developmental trajectories. Understanding these trajectories—and their implications for youth of varying races, ethnicities, and genders—can help researchers, practitioners, and policymakers support young people's development and ensure greater well-being into their adulthoods.

This brief summarizes some findings from a new report by Child Trends and the Brookings Institution that reveals different employment pathways taken by young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds through the use of trajectory analysis—a person-based approach that allows us to cluster people into meaningful patterns based on their employment earnings and the fringe benefits they receive.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Re-Envisioning TANF: Toward an Anti-Racist Program That Meaningfully Serves Families



An America where no one experiences poverty is possible. Already, the U.S. has programs with the potential to make this vision a reality, including programs that provide cash assistance, like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The current TANF program provides very little cash assistance and is marked by stark racial disparities, but it has the potential to reduce child poverty, increase economic security, and advance racial equity. This report offers a vision for an anti-racist approach to the TANF program, with new statutory goals and policy recommendations to advance racial justice.

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

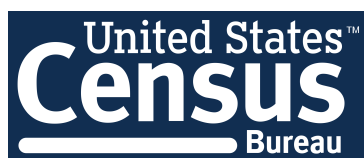
Springfield College: Reduced Tuition Opportunities for CAA Staff



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.

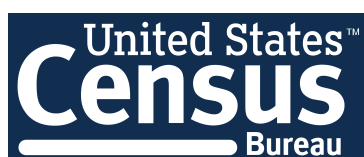


U.S. Census Bureau: Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2021

The U.S. Census Bureau announced that real median household income in 2021 was not statistically different than 2020. The official poverty rate of 11.6% was also not statistically different between 2020 and 2021. The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2021 was 7.8%, a decrease of 1.4 percentage points from 2020.

Meanwhile, the percentage of people with health insurance coverage for all or part of 2021 was 91.7% (compared to 91.4% in 2020.) An estimated 8.3% of people, or 27.2 million, did not have health insurance at any point during 2021, according to findings from the 2022 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). That's compared with an estimated 8.6% of people, or 28.3 million, who did not have health insurance at any point during 2020.

[Click here](#) to read more.



U.S. Census Bureau: Increase in Income Inequality Driven by Real Declines in Income at the Bottom

Real median U.S. household income was \$70,784 in 2021, statistically unchanged from the previous year, although income inequality increased for the first time since 2011, according to the U.S. Census Bureau release of the [Income in the United States: 2021 report](#).

Declines in real income at the bottom of the income distribution resulted in increased income inequality as measured by the Gini index — a common measure of income inequality. The Gini index measures income inequality ranging from 0 to 1 — reflecting the amount that any two incomes differ, on average, relative to mean income.

Income inequality refers to how evenly income or income growth is distributed across the population. Higher income inequality represents less equal income distribution or growth. The report provides several measures of inequality. In this story, we focus on changes in the Gini index and the ratios of income at different percentiles.

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



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