

# January 2024 - Region II News



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## Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC)

In 2011, the Office of Community Services (OCS), as part of the [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#), established 11 Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC) in the nation to enhance state, regional, and national T/TA strategy for collaboration, capacity-building and exemplary practices in the CSBG network. NYSCAA is the lead organization for Region II, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. As the lead in Region II, NYSCAA's role is to serve as the regional focal point to lead T/TA capacity-building activities.

### FFY 2023-2026 Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC) Goals & Objectives

1. **Service Delivery Models, Strategies, and Partnerships:** Region II will collaborate with agencies, state associations, and stakeholder entities to develop partnerships, service delivery models and protocols to better serve individuals and families with low incomes, paying special attention to those who have been traditionally marginalized.
2. **Build and Strengthen the Knowledge, Capacity, and Ability of the Region to Implement Effective Programs and Activities:** Region II will identify, enhance, implement, and promote capacity-building and quality improvement efforts to meet the programmatic needs of the region. Capacity-building strategies will include professional development and peer-to-peer learning for board and staff, and quality improvement efforts will be addressed by using a results orientation to improve processes and systems.
3. **Regional Activities Designed to Address Collaboration, Capacity Building, and Quality:** Region II will collaborate with region-wide entities to develop and increase strategies and activities that address the need for collaboration, capacity building, quality improvement, and T/TA needs of the region.
4. **Relationship-building, Collaboration, and Information-Sharing Efforts with CSBG state-lead agencies:** Region II will strengthen the positive working relationship with CSBG state-

lead agencies through consistent communications, to share priorities, goals, opportunities, and expectations.

- 5. **Regional CSBG Performance Management Framework Efforts:** Region II will support the CSBG performance management framework by promoting and using ROMA methodology to assess the effectiveness of strategies, systems, and programs.
- 6. **Storytelling and Messaging to Demonstrate the Impact of Collective CSBG Regional Effectiveness:** Region II will develop a framework for capturing, developing, and sharing success stories and messages.

## Region II News

### RPIC Region II Training & Technical Assistance Needs Survey

NYSCAA, CAPNJ, and PRCAA are participating in our annual training & technical assistance needs survey for Region II.

The Region II State Associations request your input regarding T/TA needs of CAAs in each state about trainings that would be most helpful for the growth and well-being of your agency. By responding to this survey, you will provide valuable information as we plan trainings for the region. We truly value your insight! Use the corresponding button below to complete the survey. The survey will take approximately 10 - 15 minutes.

***The deadline to submit your response is Monday, January 15th.***

<a href="#">NY CAAs Click Here</a>	<a href="#">NJ CAAs Click here</a>	<a href="#">PR CAAs Click Here</a>
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### Community Action Partnership of New Jersey (CAPNJ)

*“We are eager to begin the new three-year RPIC grant cycle working with our Region II partners. Having an established relationship with colleagues from NYSCAA and Praac Asociación is lovely, and you can build on individual strengths with a sense of familiarity and affection while creating sometimes complicated and often challenging solutions that can improve services for low-income individuals. In this new cycle, we are enthusiastic about exploring solutions through technology and storytelling and leaning on the strengths of our partnerships to enhance our work and resources.”*  
- Georjean Trinkle, Executive Director, Community Action Partnership of New Jersey

### New Jersey’s Community Action Network Shop with a Cop Hero 2023

There are countless reasons why the Shop with a Cop/Hero is important to CAP NJ. First, it extends work with law enforcement over the past decade with the understanding that positive engagement is necessary between youth and law enforcement, and there is a need to create opportunities for positive interactions. Second, it establishes collaborations and resource sharing from one community action partner to another and gives creativity to each participating CAA to design the best Shop with a Cop program for their community. Third, it extends relationships beyond a one-day event and creates new community activities, traditions, and programs to build upon. This year was extraordinary as the program received funding from then Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver just days before her passing, and it was another way to honor her commitment to low-income children and families and the CAA network. The agencies that participated in the program this past year included OCEAN Inc., which started the initiative, Affordable Housing Alliance, Gateway Community Action Partnership, Greater Bergen Community Action Partnership, Jewish Renaissance Foundation, Somerset Community Action Partnership, United Community Corp, and United Passaic Organization.



Special thanks to all the CAA partners and their networks for making the event come together-their hard work and dedication are inspiring. Please see [CAP NJ's social media](#) account for pictures from other agencies and more joy.

## New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)



### NYSCAA Releases 2022-2023 Annual Report

The 2022-2023 NYSCAA Annual Report is now available. Thank you to the Community Action Agencies (CAAs), our supporters, colleagues, and volunteers who have helped positively impact the communities in New York. The report is available on the [NYSCAA website](#), or can be downloaded [here](#).



### NYSCAA's Young Professionals Committee (YPC)

NYSCAA is searching for interested candidates to join the Community Action Young Professionals Committee (YPC). The committee will be made up of young CAA staff members looking to make an impact on New York's Community Action Network. The committee will advise NYSCAA and the New York Community Action Network on the current and future work of Community Action. The perspectives and priorities of young professionals are critical to the maintenance and sustainability of Community Action. Elevating the voices of young professionals will help NYSCAA become an even more equitable, inclusive, and responsive association.

The Community Action Young Professionals Committee is open to all CAA staff 35 years of age or younger.

***The deadline to apply for the Community Action Young Professionals Committee is January 13, 2024. - Have***

questions about the YPC? Email Charles Barbay,  
[cbarbay@nyscommunityaction.org](mailto:cbarbay@nyscommunityaction.org).

[Click Here to Apply for NYSCAA's YPC!](#)

## Puerto Rico Community Action Association (PRCAA)



### **PRCAA, Acción Social de P.R. & ODSEC Host Introduction to ROMA Training**

PRCAA's Executive Director, Normary Silva Soto, Yomaira Santiago - Acción Social de PR, Inc., and Nadia Torres – ODSEC, hosted a virtual ROMA training for Acción Social de PR employees in Caguas.



### **PRCAA Executive Director Hosts Self-Care Workshop**

PRCAA's Executive Director, Normary Silva Soto, collaborated with the Sagrado Corazon student community to plan and host a wellness and self-care workshop!

In November and December, PRCAA worked on the design of the community study presentation for the faith base to be presented in January 2024 with translation processes of the needs study.

Asociación de Agencias Comunes de P.R., Inc.



**CAPACITACIÓN Y DESTREZAS**  
*Estudio de necesidades para tu comunidad*

Recurso: Normary Silva Soto - Directora Ejecutiva

27 de Enero de 2024  
2:00 p.m.

Calle 1 esquina calle 12  
Sierra Linda  
Bayamón, PR

Para mas inf: Magali Alicea 787-636-8930



Casa de Oracion

praacasoc@gmail.com 939-745-5603



## National Partner News & Resources





## Being Direct: Shared Cost Recovery through Direct Cost Allocation

When federally funded organizations incur shared costs that benefit multiple funding awards it can be difficult to determine how much to charge each award for those costs. Allowable methods of shared cost recovery vary, and organizations weigh factors such as size, resources, experience, staffing, or preference when deciding on their best option for doing so. CAPLAW and Kay Sohl Consulting developed this resource to explore one such option for shared cost recovery: direct cost allocation. Being Direct: Shared Cost Recovery through Direct Cost Allocation discusses factors to weigh when deciding whether to fully recover costs using direct cost allocation principles; how to recover costs using a cost allocation plan; and allowable and unallowable cost allocation methods. It also includes a sample cost allocation plan and examples

[Click here](#) to access the toolkit.



## Community Action 60th Anniversary Toolkit

Over the next 12 months and into 2025, the Community Action Network will commemorate its 60th-anniversary with national, state, and local events and activities. NCAP's has released the [Community Action 60th Anniversary Toolkit](#) to help CAAs and State Associations plan and to provide resources for agencies to use and adapt. The toolkit includes a planning guide, a starter-pack list of over 60 commemoration activity ideas, a 60th anniversary coloring page, and more. Additional templates and tools will be added to the [landing page](#) in the coming weeks and months.

[Click here](#) to download the toolkit.



## 2024 Community Action Month Toolkit

The purpose of the [2024 Community Action Month Toolkit](#) is to provide resources to promote your Community Action Agency and to raise awareness of Community Action Month this May. The toolkit provides sample social media graphics and messaging, resources for commemorating Community Action's 60th anniversary, press release and government proclamation templates, fundraising ideas, video production tips, and event and activity information that your agency can use to increase your visibility!

Check out the toolkit on NCAP's [landing page](#).



## Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Webinar

Dr. King's life and legacy continue to serve as a powerful catalyst for positive change, advocating for social and economic justice that transcends generations. His relentless pursuit of dismantling poverty and addressing racial inequity has left an indelible mark on the fabric of our nation, inspiring individuals and communities to strive for a more equitable and inclusive future.

This year, Thelma French, the esteemed President/CEO of Total Community Action in New Orleans, LA, will serve as the keynote

speaker. During this webinar, NCAP will delve into the profound insights of Dr. King and explore the intricate intersection of poverty and racial injustices. They will honor Dr. King's impactful legacy, acknowledging the strides we've made and recognizing the work that lies ahead.

**When:** January 17, 2024 - 2:00 PM EST

[Click here](#) to register.



## **Apply Today for NCAP's 2024 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) Learning Cohort**

NCAP's [2024 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training \(SNAP E&T\) Learning Cohort application](#) is now live! This 9-month opportunity, presented in collaboration with the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) and American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services (USDA FNS).

Scheduled to run from March to November 2024, this cohort provides Community Action Agencies with a unique chance to explore the potential fit of SNAP E&T within your organizations. Participants will benefit from tailored services, including technical assistance from SNAP E&T experts and peers, customized training and materials, and application assistance for those interested in becoming SNAP E&T Third-Party Partners.

**The application deadline is January 31st, 2024**, and a flyer with more information can be found [here](#). For any inquiries or to express your interest, feel free to reach out to Hayleigh Rockenback, SNAP E&T Senior Associate, at [hrockenback@communitypartnership.com](mailto:hrockenback@communitypartnership.com).

## **National Professional Development Opportunities:**

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

- [2024 Winter Training Conference](#): March 11-15, 2024

### **National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)**

- [2024 Washington Conference & Fly-In Day](#): March 12-15, 2024

### **National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)**

- [2024 Management and Leadership Conference](#): February 14-16, 2024

## **Additional Resources**



## 60 Years of the Economic Opportunity Act

In his State of the Union address in January 1964, President Johnson announced an “unconditional war on poverty,” and his administration introduced sweeping social welfare legislation that sought to help end poverty in the United States. The resulting War on Poverty was part of a wider legislative program known as the Great Society, with which Johnson hoped to transform the United States into a more just and equitable country. The Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) established the Office of Economic Opportunity under the direction (1964–68) of R. Sargent Shriver, whom Johnson had tasked with spearheading the War on Poverty.

[Click here](#) to read the EOA of 1964.



## Black Wealth is Increasing, but so is the Racial Wealth Gap

New Federal Reserve [data](#) show that, despite wealth increases across the board during the COVID-19 pandemic, America’s racial wealth gap widened. Between 2019 and 2022, median wealth increased by \$51,800, but the racial wealth gap increased by \$49,950—contributing to a difference of \$240,120 in wealth between the median white household and the median Black household.

While housing equity increased for Black households, other key wealth-building components like corporate and business equity did not. The United States still hasn’t overcome centuries of discrimination in public policy, financial practices, and societal norms that limited Black wealth accumulation.

This [new report](#) sheds light on the nation’s persistent racial wealth gap and call for structural changes to close it.



## HHS, ACF Announce Nearly \$3.7B to Help Lower Home Energy Costs, Launches National LIHEAP Eligibility Tool

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), released nearly \$3.7 billion in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding to help households with their home energy costs. The funding will help ensure households across the country have the support they need to maintain safe and healthy indoor temperatures, especially as the winter season approaches.

[LIHEAP](#) is administered by ACF’s Office of Community Services (OCS). Every year, the Office of Community Services (OCS) releases funding to states, tribes and territories to assist families and individuals with heating assistance, cooling assistance, home energy equipment repair and replacement and minor energy-related home repairs.

Alongside the funding release, ACF is also officially launching a [LIHEAP eligibility tool](#). This user-friendly tool allows households across the country to quickly identify if they might be eligible for LIHEAP assistance by inputting basic information like income and household size.

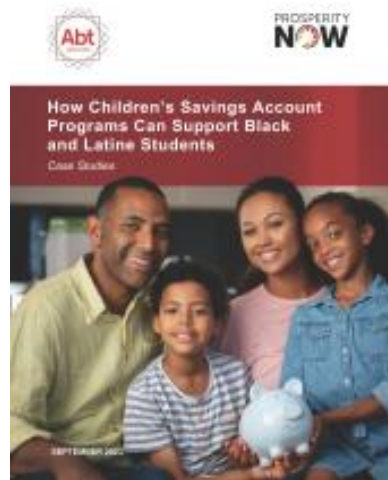
OCS has also released a [LIHEAP heating assistance toolkit](#), which

includes a variety of outreach materials, spotlight videos and winter safety resources designed to help keep families safe and warm during cold weather.

## Prosperity Now: How Children's Savings Account Programs Can Support Black and Latino Students

This report is based on research conducted by Abt Associates and Prosperity Now in 2020-21 with four CSA programs, Boston Saves, Oakland Promise, and Lansing SAVE and KC Scholars. The report explores what the programs are doing to address challenges faced by Black and Latine students in engaging with CSA programs and ultimately accessing and completing post-secondary education.

[Click here](#) to access the report.



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CAPLAW  
Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc.



N A S C S P



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