



New York State Community Action Association  
**Helping People. Changing Lives.**

## A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

We recently returned from our Emerging Leaders' Seminar in Syracuse, NY. It was terrific to see everyone in person! We look forward to working with this engaged group of leaders. See more information on the first seminar below.

Our team is in full planning mode for NYSCAA and NYSWDA's 2022 Annual Conference, to be held on September 29-30 in Rochester, NY. We hope you will help shape the dynamic content featured at the conference by submitting a proposal for a workshop. Visit our [Call for Proposals webpage](#) for more information and to submit a workshop proposal for this year's conference.

Thank you,

**Jacqueline Orr, CEO**

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## The Promise of Community Action:

*Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*

## NYSCAA News:

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## 2022 Annual Conference Call for Workshop Proposals!



NYSCAA is seeking proposals for workshop presentations for the in-person conference focusing on developing the knowledge, expertise, and capacity needed by CAA staff. The conference will be held in Rochester, NY, on September 29-30, 2022.

Preference will be given to interactive presentations, including strategies to engage the audience and leave participants with new skills and knowledge they can immediately put to use with their customers.

Visit our [Call for Proposals webpage](#) for information and to submit a workshop proposal for this year's conference.



### Emerging Leaders

On April 13 and 14, NYSCAA hosted forty-seven Community Action Leaders for the 2022 Emerging Leaders Institute Leadership Seminar, *Your Journey Begins Here*. This dynamic group of Leaders representing twenty-one Community Action Agencies from across New York State spent an interactive-packed day and a half focused on: the causes and realities of poverty; harnessing workplace culture and diversity; taking a strengths-based approach to personal and workplace development; reflecting on Leadership as it relates to their leadership style and journey, and engaging in Leadership project sharing and discussion. Leaders have expressed excitement and gratitude for the shared in-person time, focused learning opportunities, leadership reflection insights, and peer insights. At the same time, presenters spoke of having a new appreciation for the work of community action and admiration for its leaders.

### Highlighted Initiatives from New York's CAAs:

*In the coming months, we will focus on initiatives highlighted at the RPIC Region II Regional Convening. [Click here to view all the initiatives.](#)*

**Employment focused services (EFS) -  
Pathstone Corporation**

## Employment Focused Services

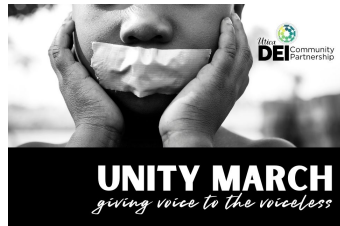


For Individuals  
on Probation

**PathStone**  
Connecting You to Opportunity

PathStone Corporation has operated an Employment Focused Services Initiative since January 2017. This program addresses the need for increased employment opportunities, specifically for re-incarcerated individuals. While providing job readiness services, staff noticed that participants frequently arrived at sessions hungry and unable to pay attention. Fortunately, CSBG funds were made available, which approved PathStone's plan to obtain professionally prepared meals for breakfast and lunch. This support, while seemingly insignificant, had a definitive impact on the program by meeting participants' nutritional needs, thereby allowing them to focus on session content. [Click here to read more.](#)

## Highlights from New York's CAAs:



### Utica DEI Community Partnership's Unity March on April 21, 2022

The Utica DEI Community Partnership and Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency called on the Utica community to take to the streets, to walk together in a Unity March to Give Voice to the Voiceless.

Speakers addressed the economic, social and criminal justice in our neighborhoods. Speakers included Evon Ervin, Oneida County Legislator, Dr. Randy VanWagoner, President of Mohawk Valley Community College; Dr. Laura Casamento, President of Utica University. The Rev. Sharon Baugh, President NAACP Utica, gave the invocation.



### JCEO Offers Free Immigration Consultations

JCEO, in collaboration with Hiscock Legal Aid Society, Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Inc, and the NYS Office of New Americans is offering free immigration consultations on Wednesday, May 18th, from 10 AM - 4 PM. For more information, please reach out to Diane Noiseux, ONA Immigrant Resource Coordinator, at 518-561-6310 or [dnoiseux@jceo.org](mailto:dnoiseux@jceo.org).

## Monthly Myth Series:



**MYTH:** Poor parents are uninvolved in their children's learning, largely because they do not value education.

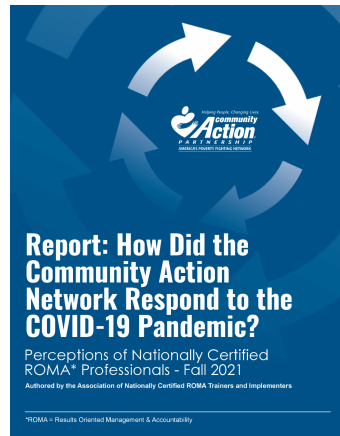
**The Reality:** Low-income parents hold the same attitudes about education that wealthy parents do.

Low-income parents hold the same attitudes about education that wealthy parents do (Compton-Lilly, 2003; Lareau & Horvat, 1999; Leichter, 1978). Low-income parents are less likely to attend school functions or volunteer in their

children's classrooms (National Center for Education Statistics, 2005)—not because they care less about education, but because they have less access to school involvement than their wealthier peers. They are more likely to work multiple jobs, to work evenings, to have jobs without paid leave, and to be unable to afford child care and public transportation. It might be said more accurately that schools that fail to take these considerations into account do not value the involvement of poor families as much as they value the involvement of other families.

[Click here to read more about the myth of the Culture of Poverty.](#)

## CSBG National Partner News & Resources:



### NCAP: Report: How Did the Community Action Network Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic?

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit American communities in early 2020, the nation's Network of over 1,000 local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) sprang into action. CAAs adapted existing services, implemented new ones and – almost overnight – shifted their entire organizational operations. How did they do this?

This report answers this question based on input from Nationally Certified Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Professionals (NCRPs). [View and download the report here.](#)



### Office of Head Start Expands Eligibility to SNAP Recipients

On April 21, 2022, the Office of Head Start released an Information Memorandum (IM) expanding Head Start eligibility to families that are eligible for or receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The expansion is effective immediately.

OHS has created a [landing page of resources, including FAQs about the new standard, a letter from OHS Director Dr. Futrell](#), and an updated [Head Start Eligibility Verification Form](#).



### NCAP: Community Action Month Toolkit

The purpose of the 2022 Community Action Month Toolkit is to provide resources to promote your Community Action Agency and to raise awareness of Community Action Month this May. We encourage you to share your stories throughout the entire year, but Community Action Month is a great way to showcase your successes in empowering families. To those ends, this toolkit contains templates of social media posts, press releases, government proclamations, fundraising ideas, video production tips, and event and activity information that your agency can use to increase your visibility!

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

# National Professional Development Opportunities:

## CAPLAW:

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

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

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

## The National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

- [Annual Washington Conference](#) - September 29 - 10/4 - Virtual

## National Community Action Partnership (NCAP):

- [2022 Annual Convention](#): August 29 - September 2, 2022 - New York, NY

## WIPFLI:

- [Stronger to Serve Conference](#) - July 11-15, 2022

# SAVE THE DATE!

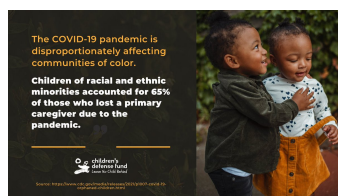


## NYSCAA & NYSWDA'S ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2022



## Tips, Tools, & Resources:



### The Hidden U.S. COVID-19 Pandemic: Orphaned Children – More than 140,000 U.S. Children Lost a Primary or Secondary Caregiver Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting communities of color. In a study released in October 2021, minority children accounted for 65% of those who lost a primary caregiver due to the pandemic. [Click here to learn more.](#)



## Mapping the Intersections of Poverty, Race and COVID-19

Crises do not unfold independently of the conditions from which they arise. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated preexisting social and economic disparities that have long festered in the US. Widespread and unequal distribution of wealth, income, and resources prior to the pandemic created the conditions for many of the negative outcomes associated with the virus.

However, there have been glaring omissions in efforts to consistently collect and disseminate data on poverty, income, and occupation as they relate to COVID-19 outcomes. Income and wealth information are not systematically collected for people who have died or fallen ill from COVID-19 in the US; therefore, there is no systematic way to know the poverty status of those who have died. This has left a gap in our assessment of the pandemic, including both its drivers and solutions. A Poor People's Pandemic Report: Mapping the Intersections of Poverty, Race and COVID-19 aggregates data from more than 3,200 counties to connect information about COVID-19 deaths to other demographic characteristics, including income, race, health insurance status, and more.

[Click here to read more.](#)



## National Minority Health Month

April is National Minority Health Month, and this year the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) and its partners are highlighting the important role individuals and organizations can play in helping to reduce health disparities and improve the health of racial and ethnic minority and American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

The theme for this year's National Minority Health Month is Give Your Community a Boost! The theme focuses on the continued importance of COVID-19 vaccination, including boosters, as one of the strongest tools we can use to protect communities from COVID-19, which has disproportionately affected communities of color. CDC data show that some racial and ethnic minority groups — particularly Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, and American Indian or Alaska Native people are at increased risk of getting sick, having more severe illness, and dying from COVID-19. Give Your Community a Boost! also supports the many other efforts happening in communities across the country to advance health equity.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## May 6 is Digital Wellness Day

Digital Wellness Day raises global attention for mental, physical, emotional health, and safety when using digital devices. It's a chance to rethink when, where, why, and how we interact with technology to ensure we are using it for its best and highest purposes.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI)



## VOCABULARY QUIZ

What's the difference between equity and equality? How familiar are you with terms like BIPOC, gender nonconforming and cultural appropriation? You can find out by taking the quiz below. There are 37 questions in total.

[Click here to take the quiz.](#)



## Biden-Harris Administration Launches Nationwide Network of Partners to Tap Resources for Rural America

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack and White House Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice have announced a new whole-of-government effort led by USDA to transform the way federal agencies partner with rural places to create economic opportunity in rural America. The USDA-led Rural Partners Network (RPN) is an all-of-government program that will help rural communities access government resources and funding to create jobs, build infrastructure and support long-term economic stability.

[Click here for more.](#)



### Contact Info:

New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)  
2 Charles Blvd, Guilderland, NY 12084  
(518) 690 - 0491  
[www.nyscommunityaction.org](http://www.nyscommunityaction.org)

Looking for more information about New York's Community Action Agencies? Visit [The NY Network](#) portion of our website!

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