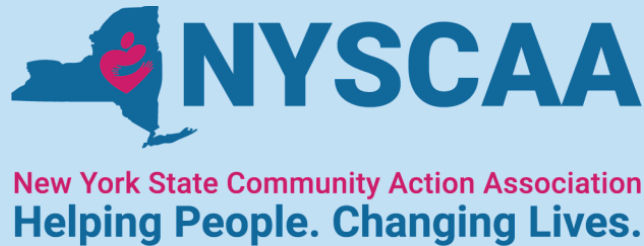


August 2023 NYSCAA News



A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

Those of us who attended the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) Convention in Atlanta last week connected and engaged with our peers in NY and around the country, heard from our national and federal partners, and had the opportunity to learn about the innovative and extraordinary work Community Action Agencies are doing across the country. I would like to recognize and congratulate Jerome Underwood for receiving the National Drum Major for Justice Award from NCAP. Jerome is a member of NYSCAA's Board of Directors and an ardent supporter of our work and the work of the CAAs across the state. We are honored to work closely with Jerome to bring and promote justice to the communities in New York.

I am excited to announce that NYSCAA was identified as a Community Champion by [Prosperity Now](#). Prosperity Now identifies key leaders in communities across the country to be partners in advancing strong and effective programs and policies at all levels of government. NYSCAA will work with Prosperity Now and other Community Champions to advance systemic policy change and racial and ethnic economic justice.

The NYSCAA & NYSWDA Conference is just around the corner, and time is running out to register for [Building Capacity, Impacting Communities](#). Registration is available until September 1, 2023. We hope that you will join us in Oswego to learn and be inspired.

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:



Action for a Better Community's CEO Honored at 2023 NCAP Annual Convention

Jerome Underwood, President and CEO of Action for a Better Community, received the National Drum Major for Justice Award from the National Community Action Partnership at their Annual Convention in Atlanta on Thursday, August 24, 2023. The National Drum Major for Justice Award is named in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous sermon, "The Drum Major Instinct" from February 4, 1968, in which he said, in part: "Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. (Amen) Say that I was a drum major for peace. (Yes) I was a drum major for righteousness..." Congratulations, Jerome!

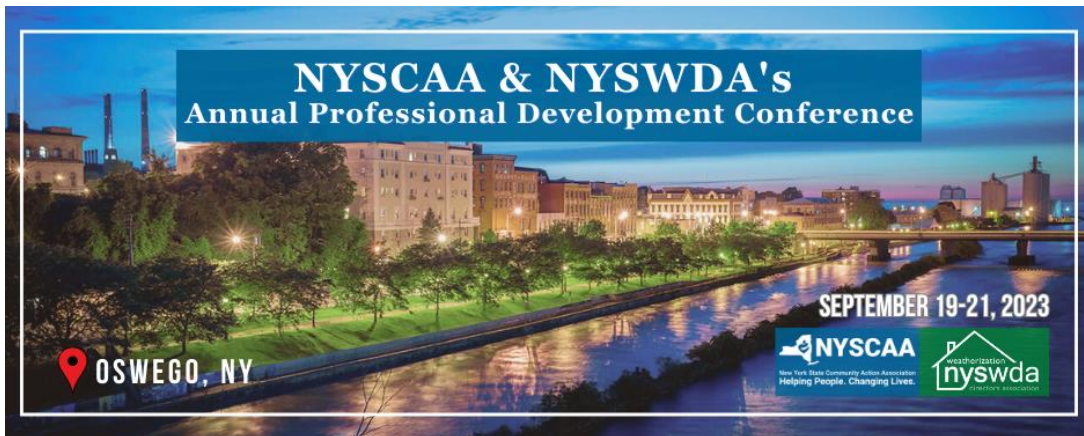
[Click here](#) to read NCAP's full award release and view a [short video](#) about Jerome's work for justice.

New York CAAs Attend NCAP Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA

1. NYSCAA staff, Jerome Underwood (ABC), and Mike Bobbitt (NYC DYCD) pose for a photo with staff from Mutual of America!
2. Patti Demma (left) and MVCAA's CEO, Amy Turner (right), celebrate Patti receiving her CCAP!
3. NYSCAA staff with a group of NY CAA staff who made the trip to Atlanta!
4. Carey Gibson (right) of ANCRT receives her CCAP from NCAP CEO Denise Harlow (left)!



NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference: Building Capacity, Impacting Communities - Registration Deadline, September 1, 2023



Registration is open for [NYSCAA and NYSWDA's 2023 Annual Conference: Building Capacity, Impacting Communities!](#) The annual conference brings together representatives from Community Action and Weatherization Agencies. Conference participants will convene to learn, be inspired, inspire others, and discuss strategies for meeting new challenges. Join us to gain insights from a wide variety of speakers – from Community Action and Weatherization staff, academicians, policymakers, practitioners, and more!

[Learn More and Register for the Annual Conference!](#)



NYSCAA Learn is Your Resource for Training and Recorded Webinars

NYSCAA members can watch recordings of our webinars, download slide presentations and other resources, and

receive a certificate upon completion, all in NYSCAA Learn. Check out these trending recordings:

- AI for Good: Empowering Nonprofits to Drive Impact and Ethical Innovation
- "Yes, And!" Two Powerful Words to Embrace Change, Increase Innovation, and Break Plateaus
- Connecting People to Services: Using myBenefits and NYDocSubmit as Resources
- LGBTQ+ Etiquette and Common Bloopers

NYSCAA Learn is an online learning hub that houses eLearning interactive courses and other resources designed specifically for Community Action. NYSCAA Learn has you covered with free training of over 70 courses and resources covering topics from Community Action, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, HR, data, poverty, and frontline staff topics and technology! All courses are free and open to all New York CAA board members, staff, and volunteers.

If you have an account already, access available NYSCAA Learn Courses [here!](#) Logging on for your first time? Visit our [NYSCAA Learn FAQs page](#) for helpful tips!

Highlights from New York's CAAs



CEO Joins Sidewalk Warriors of Troy for Community Giving

[CEO](#) lent a hand to the Sidewalk Warriors of Troy to distribute supplies to community members to help them get through the week. At the event, over two hundred men, women, and children were given food, clothing, diapers, toys, and other household essentials. A tiny piece of the world is changed every Thursday night as [Sidewalk Warriors](#) gathers their volunteers and friends together.



MVCAA Hosts a Community Day in Utica

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency (MVCAA) hosted an event in Utica with several community partners. Guests received school supplies, scooters, and free ice cream. There was a caricature artist and face painting. You can see more pictures on the [MVCAA Facebook](#) page.

CSBG National Partner News:



Build America, Buy America: How BABA Impacts CAA Programs

Federal grant recipients such as Community Action Agencies (CAAs) working on public infrastructure projects will now need to ensure the supplies and materials they purchase are primarily manufactured in the United States. The Build America, Buy America Act (BABA, or Buy America) applies a domestic content procurement requirement to federally funded public infrastructure projects, meaning that certain supplies purchased with federal funds are required to be manufactured primarily in the United States. Existing “Made in America” laws already required this for iron, steel, and certain manufactured goods, and BABA now extends the requirement to nonferrous metals, such as copper, plastic and polymer-based products, glass, optical fiber, and other construction materials such as lumber and drywall.

[Click here](#) to read more.



NCAP's 2023-2024 Public Policy Priorities

NCAP has released its 2023-2024 Public Policy Priorities! The updated priorities are the product of a 10-month review process, including six national listening sessions, over 100 anonymous survey responses, and input from NCAP Board Members, stakeholders, partners, and staff.

NCAP continues to prioritize many of the policy positions from the 2021-2022 platform, but the updated priorities include additions that are crucial to the work of Community Action, including:

- NCAP's vision for how to use the priorities effectively
- New highlight box-outs on Tribal Issues, a Whole Family Approach to providing services, Federal Poverty Measurements, and Social Determinants of Health
- Expanded section on Immigration policy priorities
- Policies addressing appraisal bias and disparities in rates of home-ownership
- Opposition to education policies that limit or prohibit learning about the history, cultural experience, and identity of historically marginalized populations and communities
- Policies addressing cost-prohibitive dental care, including access and reforms
- Expanded Climate Change section that explicitly links the climate crisis to poverty and populations served by CAAs

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



Mutual Reinforcement for Two-Generation Initiatives: A New Measurement Tool

Since 2019, the federal government has sponsored Next Steps for Rigorous Research on Two-Generation Approaches (NS2G) to strengthen initiatives that aim to support child development and improve family economic security. One objective of the NS2G project was to develop and test a draft measure of two-generation initiative functioning. In this session, you will learn about the Two Generation Mutual Reinforcement Measurement Tool that Mathematica developed, provide a live demonstration, discuss how you might use this tool within your agency and with your partners, and answer any questions you have.

When: September 7, 2023 - 2:00 PM EST

[Click here](#) to register.



Nonprofit Risk Management Center - 2023 Risk Summit

The Nonprofit Risk Management Center has announced that its 2023 Risk Summit will be back in person this year. This special educational event brings together nonprofit leaders and industry professionals who support nonprofit missions. The 2-day conference will feature 20+ educational sessions, in-person networking opportunities, and evening social events to build and develop relationships with like-minded sector professionals.

When: October 16-17, 2023 - Leesburg, Virginia

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

National Professional Development Opportunities:

National Association for State Community Action Programs (NASPCSP)

- [2023 Annual Training Conference](#) - September 25-29, 2023

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

- [NCAP's Data Convening](#) - September 12-13, 2023
- [New Executive Director Institute](#) - October 31 - November 1, 2023
- [Executive Director and Board Chair Symposium](#) - November 2-3, 2023

Resources for New York State:



NYSERDA

EmPower+ Program

[EmPower+](#) helps low and moderate-income households save energy and money toward energy improvements made to their property. Households can get up to \$10,000 towards improvements! The program is open to income-eligible owners and renters of 1-4 family members.

Through EmPower+:

- Households can receive a no cost comprehensive home energy assessment to pinpoint where energy

and dollars are being wasted and receive a customized plan to lower energy usage.

- No-cost direct install improvements identified during the assessment can be installed by participating program contractors.
- Households can receive financial discounts on the cost of energy efficiency improvements.



NY State of Health - Important Changes to New York Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan

Do you or a family member currently have health insurance through New York State Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan? Starting in Spring 2023, New York State will resume eligibility reviews and renewals for people enrolled in these programs. This means you may need to take action to renew your health insurance or the insurance of your family members. Here are some things you can do now to get ready.

Sign up for text alerts.

Sign up to receive SMS/MMS Text alerts from NY State of Health so you don't miss important health insurance updates, including when it's time to renew your coverage. - To subscribe, text START to 1-866-988-0327.

Make sure your address is up to date.

Make sure NY State of Health has your current mailing address, phone number and email address so they can contact you about your health insurance. To update your information:

- Call NY State of Health at 1-855-355-577
- Log into your account at nystateofhealth.ny.gov, or
- Contact an [enrollment assistor](#)

If you enrolled in Medicaid through [your county's Medicaid office or through New York City's Human Resources Administration](#), contact that office to update your address and contact information.

Take action

When it is time to renew your health insurance, you will receive a letter from NY State of Health or a renewal packet if you enrolled through your county's Local Department of Social Services or the New York City Human Resource's Administration. This letter/packet will let you know what you

need to do to renew your coverage and how much time you have to respond. Follow the instructions right away.

What if you don't qualify for Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan?

If you or a family member no longer qualify for Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan, you may be eligible to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through NY State of Health. NY State of Health offers a broad choice of QHPs with comprehensive benefits. More people than ever are qualifying for financial assistance to pay for their premiums. Visit nystateofhealth.ny.gov or call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220) to learn more and see if you might qualify for financial assistance.

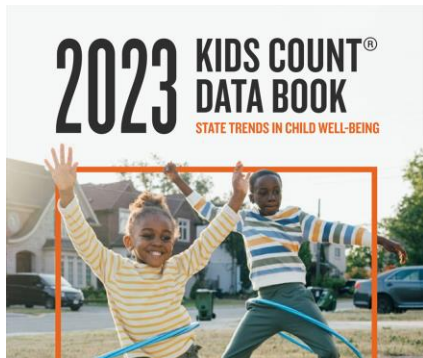


NYS MyBenefits Tool Connects Residents to Benefit Programs

NYS has released an online tool for State residents. This resource allows individuals to check eligibility for multiple human services benefit programs and apply online for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and Temporary Assistance.

You can access the tool [here](#).

National News & Resources:



2023 Kids Count Data Book: State Trends in Child Well-Being

Safe, reliable childcare has been inaccessible and unaffordable for too many Americans. Disparities between those who can and cannot afford childcare reflect structural inequities in the United States. Shift workers, single parents, student parents, and families of color are significantly affected by the failings of the childcare system. Inadequacies of the childcare system hinder family economic mobility and perpetuate generational wealth gaps. The 2023 Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS Count® Data Book describes how the country's lack of affordable and accessible childcare negatively affects children, families, and U.S. businesses. The report presents national and state data across four domains — economic well-being, education, health, and family and community — and ranks states in overall child well-being.

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



Resources for Populations Served by ACF Programs

The Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) has developed a set of materials intended to provide guidance to hard-to-reach populations to increase their awareness and understanding of the array of resources that may be able to assist them. These resources are explicitly designed to be user-friendly and easy to digest. The materials include resources for transition-age youth exiting foster care, families with children ages 0-12, prospective Head Start participants, survivors of domestic violence looking to find and keep housing, fathers looking for benefits programs or parenting tips, and providers supporting those seeking post-disaster housing.

[Click here](#) for the full resource library.



National Human Services Assembly (NHSA) 2023 Centennial Summit: Advancing Human Services

National Human Services Assembly is commemorating its 100th Anniversary by hosting [NHSA's 2023 Centennial Summit: Advancing Human Services](#) on October 12 from 12:00-4:30 PM Eastern. The Summit is intended to bring human service and other nonprofit professionals at all levels together to recognize the sector's greatest accomplishments, address our most pressing issues, and envision the next 100 years. Topics for the afternoon include addressing worker well-being, achieving diversity and equity among human service leaders, articulating success with ESG, advocating for sustainable funding, and other issues critical to the sector.

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



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

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