NYSCAA
Helping People Changing Lives

2026 Conference Agenda

Resilient by Nature: The Power of Community Action	
Finance	
HR	
Head Start	
Management & Leadership	
Weatherization & Housing	
Specialized	

Tuesday, September 15, 2026							
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM		**NYSCAA Board of Directors Meeting (Convention Center)**					
3:00 PM – 4:45 PM		**Early Conference Registration Opens (Convention Center)**					
5:00 PM		**Cocktails and Connections Meet-Up (Steelbound Brewery - Sheraton Hotel)**					
Wednesday, September 16, 2026							
7:30 AM	EXHIBITS OPEN	**Registration Opens**					
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM		**Breakfast**					
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM		**Conference Welcome — Tim Nichols (NYSCAA) • Niagara Falls Elected Official (TBD) • Niagara Falls Community Action ED • Diane Hewitt-Johnson (NYSCAA Board President)**					
9:30 AM – 10:45 AM		**Keynote Presentation — Allan Kehler "Find Your Voice. Find Your Power"**					
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM		**Break**					
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM		WIPFLI — Presentation Part 1	Artifical Intelligence, Real Results - Integra HR	Presentation Pamela Maxstadt - Council on Children & Families	From Check Engine Light to Mission in Motion: Aligning Structure, Communication & Culture in Community Action - Ashley Elias, ACCORD	New York's Human Rights Law,- Fair Housing - Attorney General's Office	Doing More with Less: Automation, Optimization & Cost Control for Today's Nonprofit Leaders, Netrio
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM		**Lunch — Legislative Update with David Bradley | Community Action Awards**					
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM		WIPFLI — Presentation Part 2	Succession Planning: From Surviving to Thriving - Integra HR	Presentation Pamela Maxstadt - Council on Children & Families	Leadership and Management, TBD	Weatherization Presentation, TBD	PANEL: Redefining "Community" in Community Action - Greg Richards, CAPCO, Carolyn Brown - PEACE, Laura Rossman - Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Eric Poulson , EOC Nassau (ELI Reccomended)
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM							
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM		Beyond Grants: Building a Sustainable Year-End Giving Strategy, Angela Rogensues, Common Road Advisors	Reclaiming Wellness In A Demanding World - Allan Kehler	Head Start Presentation, TBD	Confidence in Clarity: Handling Tough Conversations in the Workplace Brian Evers - Russell Sage College	Panel- Weatherization Peggy Gans — Greenologists LLC, Presenters TBD	"B.I.G. - Boundaries, Integrity and Generosity: Identifying and Upholding our Boundaries"*Tina Zerbian, University of Buffalo
Evening		**Dinner on your own!**					
Thursday, September 17, 2026							
7:30 AM	EXHIBITS OPEN	**Registration Opens**					
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM		**Breakfast**					
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM		**Keynote Presentation — Chelsea Ambrose - Uncovering Resilience**					
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM		**Break**					
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM		Dollars and Data: Aligning ROMA With Federal Fiscal Accountability - Latisha Chastang	Recruitment & Retention 101 Dr. Melanie Porter, Community Action Organization of WNY	Dental Therapy Presentation - Schuyler Center for Analysis & Advocacy	Citizens Preparedness Course — NYS National Guard	Weatherization Presentation, Chris Chimento, NYS Homes and Community Renewal	Presentation NYS Dept. of State — Jaqueline Orr
11:30 AM – 1:15 PM		**Lunch — Documentary - "I Have A Name" / Community Action Awards**					
1:15 PM – 2:30 PM		WIPFLI — Presentation Part 3	Be Bold: Reconnecting with Strengths to Purposeful Action - Theresa Radley, CAPCO	Stay Well ECE Project Presentation, Laura Bellows, PhD, MPH, RDN, Cornell University	The Belief Behind The Behavior: A Trauma-Informed Look at Leadership Culture - Chelsea Ambrose, Laura Rossman, Tina Zerbian	Weatherization and Advocacy Panel, Presenters TBD	Presentation NYS Dept. of State — Mindy VanAlstyne

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM		**Break**					
2:45 PM – 4:00 PM		Put the "Fun" back into Fundraising Events, Victoria Tiebor, Wyoming County Community Action	AI Intake in Community Action - Alison Rumler-Gomez, CAP60	Head Start Presentation, TBD	Demistifying the Civil Service, Adam Dolce, NYS Department of Civil Service	Weatherization Directors Roundtable Presentation, Presenters TBD	Notetaking for Case Workers - Michelle Stewart
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM		**NCAP Update: Denise Harlow**					
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM		**Reception (Convention Center)**					
Evening		**Dinner on your own!**					
Friday, September 18, 2026							
8:00 AM		**Breakfast**					
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM		**ELI 1.0 Graduation**					
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM		**ELI 2.0 Project Presentation**					
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM		**Conference Closing Remarks**					