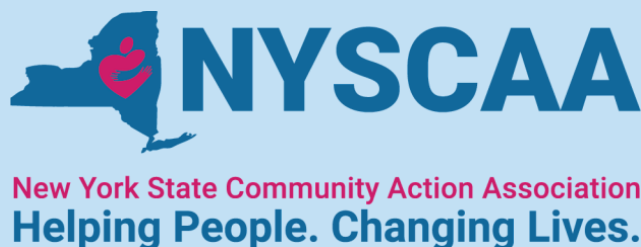


February 2023 NYSCAA News



A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

As Community Action Agencies grow and evolve, it's important to occasionally stop and remember our history. With the passing of two members of our Community Action family, Lee Dillon and Sue Montgomery Corey, our hearts are heavy.

Lee Dillon was the Executive Director of Tompkins Community Action for over 20 years. I first met Lee when I started at NYSCAA in 2010. She was a board member and remained on the board for several years. She was always one of the CAA Executive Directors I relied on most for her considerable knowledge of Community Action and her willingness to help. Lee supported NYSCAA and was always ready to share her experiences and knowledge with emerging leaders, and mentor new Executive Directors with kindness and compassion. Lee was a wonderful combination of fierce advocacy and commitment to Tompkins County's vulnerable residents, passion for Community Action's work, and her enduring wit and humor. She is credited with bringing many innovative and vital programs to her community, including much-needed housing. Her leadership, not only in Tompkins County but throughout the state, will be missed. As one of our CAA Executive Directors said, we have lost a true gem.

Sue Montgomery Corey has a special place in the NY Community Action network; she was the first paid director of NYSCAA, profoundly impacting NYSCAA and developing the network. Sue was also involved with NYSERDA and the Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) committee. I met Sue on the LIFE committee and found her a tireless advocate in her support of energy affordability and reducing the energy burden of low-income households. Her commitment and drive will be missed.

Our communities have sadly lost two women who have influenced and shaped the direction of our agencies, and we offer our condolences to all who knew them.

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:



Regional Meetings Return to In-Person Events

Save the date(s) for NYSCAA's Regional Meetings coming to a Community Action Agency near you. Join representatives from NYSCAA, NYS DOS, and Community Action Agencies, as we discuss best practices, innovative programming, and challenges specific to your area.

Registration for the meetings will be available soon!



What's New on NYSCAA Learn

NYSCAA Learn has over 70 courses and resources covering topics from Community Action, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, HR, data, poverty, frontline staff topics, and technology! These courses are free to all NYSCAA members. We have interactive elearning and added recordings and resources from recent webinars on NYSCAA Learn. Start and stop any of these courses without losing

your progress. In addition, you will receive a certificate of completion for each course you finish.

Find the right course for you in the [NYSCAA Learn](#) catalog. We are always adding new courses– so bookmark the page and explore frequently. You'll need to sign in to see the complete catalog online. You can filter courses by topic area to focus on the subject matter that interests you.

Highlights from New York's CAAs:



Opportunities for Otsego Addresses Housing Stability

[Opportunities for Otsego](#) received funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address un-sheltered and rural homelessness in Otsego County. The \$716,456 award will provide rapid rehousing support to homeless persons in Otsego County and create community partnerships to ensure housing stability.



Albany Community Action Program is Playing with Food

Students at [Albany Community Action Partnership](#) learned about how fruits and vegetables get to the grocery store. Role-playing grocery store workers and shoppers made learning fun. Studies from the CDC have shown that early introduction to fruits and vegetables increases the chances of healthy eating habits later in life.

Be The Change



Stories of Inspiration

José Quisocala began asking an important question at the age of seven: "Why are so many children living in poverty?" He was disturbed by the knowledge that children in his community lived in extreme poverty and sought to create a solution. He responded by creating a

bank for children. The simple concept allows children to exchange recyclable products for cash deposits into their accounts. Currently, 2,500 children between the ages of 7 and 18 are bank members and use their assets to buy food and clothing or pay for school.

You can read more about José Quisocala and his bank [here](#).

CSBG National Partner News:



CAPLAW Develops Social Media Policy Template

Due to federal, state, and local laws regarding employee rights and responsibilities when using social media, CAPLAW has created a social media policy template for agencies to reference and modify as needed. The template provides guidance and suggestions for drafting an effective social media policy.

Click [here](#) for the template and other CAPLAW resources.



National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP): Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Funding Report

The Program Year (PY) 2021 WAP Funding Report is a coordinated data collection effort between the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) and the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) to provide a comprehensive summary of WAP funding and production.

In PY 2021, the WAP Network had over \$1.6 billion available from all funding sources. This includes funds from the DOE WAP, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as \$355 million for 21 states from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). NASCSPP and NCAP found the WAP Network leveraged an additional \$371 million

from non-federal sources (“Other funds”). Other funds come from a variety of governmental and private sources, such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and utility companies.

[Click here](#) for the full report.



Community Introduction to Sovereignty Training for Non-Native CAAs

This training, led by the Alliance for a Just Society (AJS) and the Native Organizers Alliance (NAO), will help lay the foundation for an understanding of Native Sovereignty. Join the conversation as we recognize and acknowledge the land, history, and culture of Native Nations, work to address the inequities that continue to exist, and strengthen the relationship between Native and Non-Native Community Action leaders.

When: Wednesday, March 15th, 2 PM EST

[Click here](#) to register.

National Professional Development Opportunities:

The National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

- [Annual Washington Conference](#) - March 14-17, 2023

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)

- [2023 Winter Training Conference](#) - April 3-7, 2023

CAPLAW

- [2023 National Training Conference](#) - June 27-29, 2023

Resources for New York State:



Governor Hochul's 2023 State of the State

Governor Hochul's 2023 "Achieving the New York Dream" State of the State agenda includes 147 initiatives. Several of the initiatives address concerns related to the work of Community Action Agencies. These include:

- "New York Housing Compact" Strategy to Address New York's Housing Crisis, Build 800,000 New Homes Over Next Decade.
- Annual minimum wage increases.
- \$165 Million in Relief to More than 800,000 Utility Customers.
- Plan to Make Child Care More Affordable, Accessible, and Fair in New York

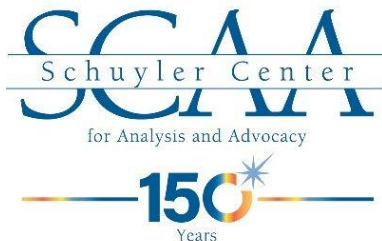
You can read the full State of the State [here](#).



NYS Council of Nonprofits Releases their 2023 State of the Sector

[New York's Council of Nonprofits, Inc. \(NYCON\)](#) recently released their 2023 State of the Sector report. The report evaluates information from over 116,000 nonprofits operating in NYS to assess strengths and challenges in the nonprofit community.

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



Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy: State of New York's Children, 2023 Report

The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy released its 2023 report on the state of Childhood poverty in New York. The report focuses on data collected since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report provides data related to childhood poverty, health, welfare and childcare. Schuyler Center identifies four goals that will guide their advocacy efforts for the year.

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

National News & Resources:



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

FY 2023 Community Economic Development (CED) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is Now Available

The FY 2023 [Community Economic Development \(CED\) Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) is now available. Applications for the FY 2023 CED NOFO are due on May 8, 2023.

Within the coming weeks, a pre-application webinar will be posted to the [CED page](#) of the Office of Community Services (OCS) website. This pre-recorded presentation will provide prospective applicants of the CED program with details about the 2023 grant competition, including:

- Information about the CED program;
- Eligibility information;
- Application requirements;
- Application criteria; and
- The application submission and review process

More information about how to access this presentation will be provided once it has been posted.

[Click here](#) for the full announcement.

Child Trends: National Survey of Children's Health Identifies Key Amenities Affecting Black Teen Ability to Flourish

Analysis of 2020-2021 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)¹ data shows a statistically significant association between flourishing—a condition of mental well-being associated with positive personal and social functioning—and the availability of neighborhood amenities for Black adolescents (ages 12-17). Based on NSCH parental responses, Black adolescents who live in neighborhoods characterized by the presence of sidewalks/walking paths, recreational centers, parks/playgrounds, and libraries/bookmobiles are more likely to exhibit all three NSCH indicators of flourishing (showing interest and curiosity in learning new things, staying calm and in control when faced with a challenge, and working to finish tasks) than Black adolescents who live in neighborhoods that lack one or more of these amenities (63% and 55%, respectively).



The full report can be read [here](#).

Prosperity Now: Policy + Action - Introducing the 2023 Prosperity Now Scorecard

For over a decade, the [Prosperity Now Scorecard](#) has stood as a trusted online data and advocacy tool. The Scorecard brings data to the center of discussions on how we can build an economy that works for everyone, with information on household financial health, racial economic inequality, and the policy landscape. For the 2023 release, the Scorecard highlights the realities that communities faced throughout the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts of an economic system with deep-seated structural barriers to collective prosperity. It also validates our faith in the possibility for radical economic change.

[Click here](#) to explore the scorecard and read more.



Prosperity Now: A New Financial Security Ecosystem

The ongoing pandemic exposed the inequities and biases in our financial systems, creating a domino effect for decreased household financial stability and well-being. As we continue to carve new pathways to wealth building for all, we need to understand the unique strengths and barriers that distinct populations face in achieving financial security.

Prosperity Now has begun to redesign their Financial Security framework to incorporate a systems-lens approach and learning's from partner organizations as they investigate the reality for families when moving from stability to security. This brief re-imagines the existing frameworks by exploring the cascading nature of financial crises to broaden how we think about addressing financial security.

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



Springfield College offers \$5,000 and \$10,000 grants to CAA employees

Springfield College continues its partnership with Community Action Agencies to provide generous education grants to all full and part-time employees. You can earn some undergrad credits for your CAP trainings, including ROMA.

Learn more about grant and degree programs [here](#).



Urban Institute: How Community-Based Organizations Use Data to Advance Racial Equity

When it comes to using data to effect change and ensure equitable outcomes in cities, community-based organizations are leading the way. By building internal organizational capacity to collect and analyze data, investing in trusting relationships with communities, and approaching data collection and analysis from an equity-informed perspective, these organizations are demonstrating how data can inform policies and programs that meet communities' needs.

[Click here](#) to read more.



Wipfli: Register now for the National Training Conference, Stronger to Serve 2023

Join Wipfli's top trainers — including Tammy Jelinek and Denes Tobie — for five days of sessions packed with must-have perspectives on leadership, operational effectiveness, compliance, risk mitigation and talent to take your organization to the next level.

What you'll learn:

- Perspectives to help you grow as a leader
- Knowledge to help you make an immediate difference
- Current regulations and compliance requirements
- How to optimize your use of technology

Who should attend:

- C-suite leaders
- Emerging leaders
- Leadership teams of Head Start and Community Action Agencies and other federally funded human services organizations

In addition to the education sessions, you'll find plenty of networking opportunities to meet and build connections with fellow attendees.

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



Contact Info:

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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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