New York State Community Action Association

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.

October 1, 2017—September 30, 2018
Annual Report

Through training, advocacy, and education, the New York State Community Action Association increases the capacity of New York State's nonprofit network to strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for people living in poverty.

This year NYSCAA entered our 31st year as the state association for New York Community Action Agencies. Four statewide annual events were held during the year, with strong attendance and positive feedback: Executive Directors' Seminar, Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security, Professional Development Conference and the RPIC Region II HR, Finance and Leadership Conference. During the twelve-month period, NYSCAA offered a variety of additional training opportunities - including seven in-person agency specific trainings on ROMA and five in-person agency specific trainings on Board Roles and Responsibilities, as well as nine IT webinars covering topics from using Survey Monkey to Social Engineering, Data Protection, and Operations Security.
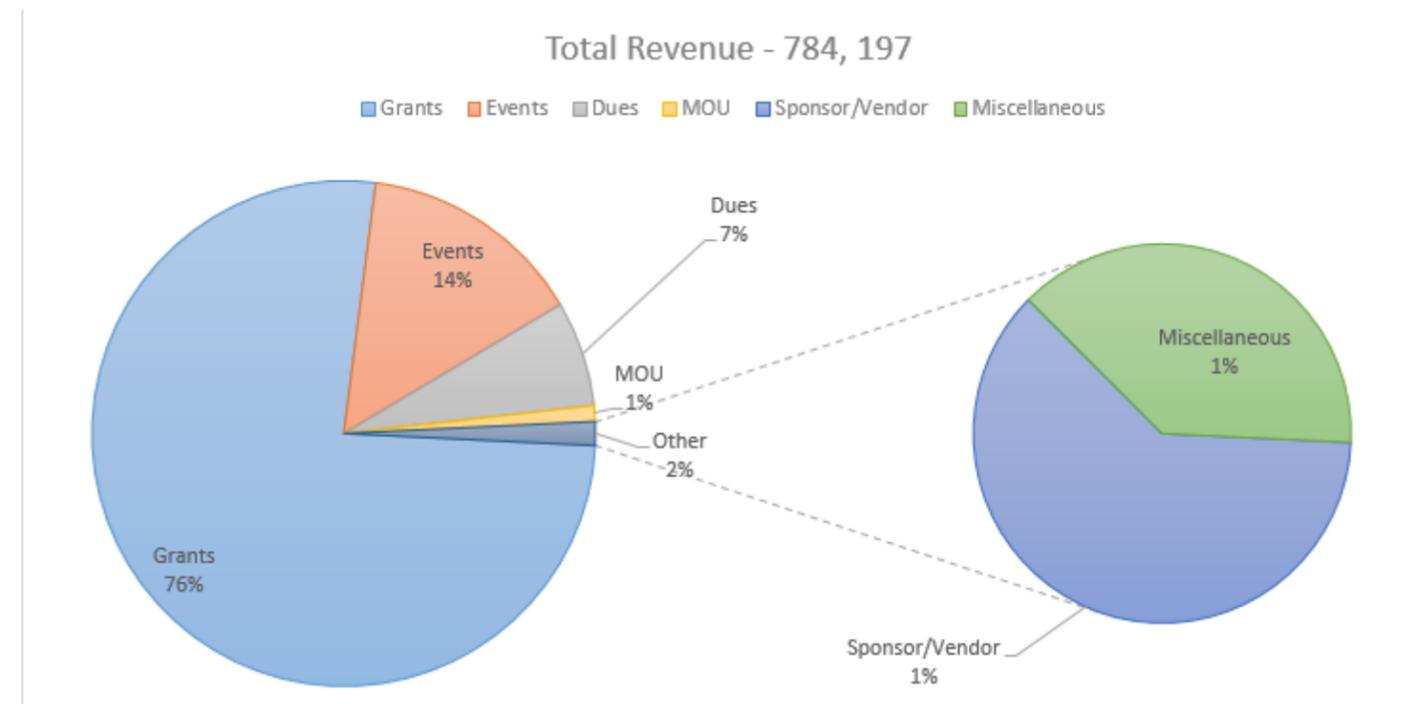
Our partnership with Community Commons allowed us to offer an "Introduction to the NYSCAA Community Needs Assessment Data Hub" webinar in August 2018. To further engage our members and share the most up-to-date information about current trends and topics in Community Action, NYSCAA hosted 5 regional meetings during the summer of 2018 in Plattsburgh, Troy, Batavia, New York City, and Syracuse. Each month we keep our members updated with the latest news through our NYSCAA and RPIC Region II Newsletters.

The year also brought changes in NYSCAA's staffing. In November 2017, NYSCAA wished farewell to our long-time IT Director Phoebe Schimpf and welcomed Dan Healy as our new IT Director. Additionally, Lauren Ford joined the NYSCAA staff as our Training Specialist in October of 2018 and Jackie Orr, former NYSCAA Director of Operations from 2010-2016 was hired as our Chief Executive Officer in August 2018. As the new CEO of NYSCAA, Jackie and the Board of Directors are guiding a strategic planning process to chart a new course for the Association.

This year we continued to host our popular Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI). ELI is a year-long leadership development program designed to build the capacity of future leaders within New York's Community Action Network. We graduated a cohort of 48 ELI Leaders in October of 2017 and welcomed a new cohort of 25 ELI Leaders in July of 2018. ELI graduates are welcomed back to continue ELI 2.0 after their completion of the initial program. ELI is managed by NYSCAA Director of Performance Management Services, Francesca Sommer. We are excited to see ELI continue to flourish into 2019 and beyond.

In addition to the RPIC Region II Conference, NYSCAA coordinated a Convening between RPIC Regions II and III in Harrisburg Pennsylvania in August of 2018. The Convening brought together stakeholders throughout Region II and III to identify regional strategies which states have developed to coordinate training and technical assistance resources among the Community Action networks. As a result of the Convening, New York and New Jersey identified potential collaboration around ROMA Next Generation Data Collection and Analysis and Leadership.

Once again this year NYSCAA published the NYS Poverty Report through our partnership with Community Commons. A hard copy of the report was given to each member of the NYS Legislature and is also available on NYSCAA's website. The Poverty Report, which is a compilation of poverty related data specific to the state, counties, boroughs, select cities and towns, is an excellent resource for our member agencies and those throughout the poverty intervention network in New York. Our partnership with Community Commons has allowed our members to continue to utilize the Community Needs Assessment Tool through our NYSCAA Data Hub. We also updated our Community Action Resource Guide (CARG), which is available on our website and allows users to see services available at each of the local Community Action Agencies in New York. The CARG is searchable, and can be exported to PDF or Excel for further data mining. Our Executive Directors Manual, available for all executive directors within the network, has also undergone an update process this year. The updated Manual includes information about our national partners and updated pertinent information for executive directors such as the CSBG Performance Management Framework.

Total Revenue - 784, 197

Grants 76%
Events 14%
Dues 7%
MOU 1%
Other 2%
Sponsor/Vendor 1%
Miscellaneous 1%

To ensure the information in the manual contains the most current information, we have provided a number of helpful links for further information which executive directors can interact with as they move through the manual.

NYSCAA is continuing to develop a partnership with the Community Action Angels. This year our partnership included developing a dedicated website to the Community Action Angels and a webpage within the NYSCAA website that contains information about the work of Community Action Angels. We will work together to update the website on a consistent basis. NYSCAA and the Angels are also looking to coordinate training opportunities in the new funding year.

The Human Resources and the Finance Affinity Groups provide a network for HR and Finance professionals to share promising practices and to discuss current issues with colleagues in their respective areas. Since 2016, the groups have had lively discussions and have preferred to exchange information electronically. NYSCAA actively monitors the exchanges and has used these forums to learn about the emerging issues that Community Action Agencies have encountered. Over the last year, the following topics were discussed: the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) implementation, IT staffing and outsourcing practices, transportation policies, employee background screening, paid family leave, procurement and purchasing policies, among many others.

Another resource created by NYSCAA this year is our first online training course which will be available to our member agencies. Our pilot course is designed for new Community Action Agency board members to deepen their understanding of their role as a board member and the responsibilities of an effective Community Action Agency board member.

Please visit NYSCAA's website to use the many new tools now available:

www.nyscommunityaction.org

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