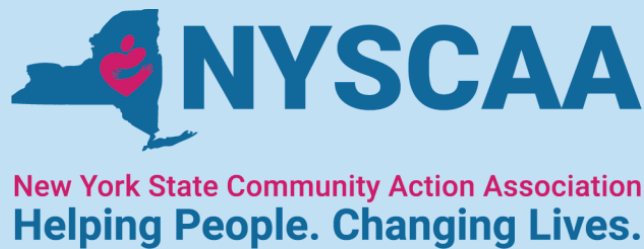


June 2023 NYSCAA News



A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

Congratulations to new NYSCAA board members Shelly Bartow, Executive Director of Delaware Opportunities, and Eric Poulson, Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County. Also, congratulations to Diane Hewitt-Johnson for being elected Vice President of NYSCAA's board. We say goodbye to Deb Schimpf, Chief Executive Officer at Schenectady Community Action Program, who will no longer be on NYSCAA's board. Deb served as a member of NYSCAA's board of directors for many years and, most recently, as Vice President. We will miss Deb's insight and commitment to the network.

We have just completed the five regional meetings held throughout NY over the past two months. We want to send a special thank you to Connecting Communities in Action, Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, LifeWorks Community Action, the NYC Department of Youth & Community Development, Oswego County Opportunities, and their dedicated staff for hosting this year's meetings. The CAA staff did a tremendous amount of planning and organizing the events—we would not have been able to do this without your commitment and support. The meetings were a valuable opportunity to hear from the Department of State/Division of Community Services and the NYS ConnectALL Office, network with peers, and learn about innovative Community Action programs and services.

I am excited to announce that registration is now open for our [Annual Professional Development Conference: Building Capacity, Impacting Communities!](#) The conference will be held September 19-21, 2023, at the [Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center](#) in Oswego, New York. The conference will include distinguished speakers and keynotes, break-out sessions, sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, networking events for CAA staff, the 2023 Community Action and Weatherization Awards Gala, and much more! We hope that you will join us in September.

The nomination period for the [2023 Community Action Awards](#) is currently open and will close August 1, 2023. This year, we are excited to announce the addition of the Social Justice Award. This award recognizes the exceptional and innovative contributions of Community Action Agencies,

their staff, and programs in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ). More information about the award categories and criteria can be found below in the newsletter.

I would like to congratulate both Connecting Communities in Action and Wayne County Action Program that recently received the Top Employer Awards. A shout out to Tina Zerbian and Janelle Cooper for developing outstanding work environments!

Jacqueline Orr, CEO

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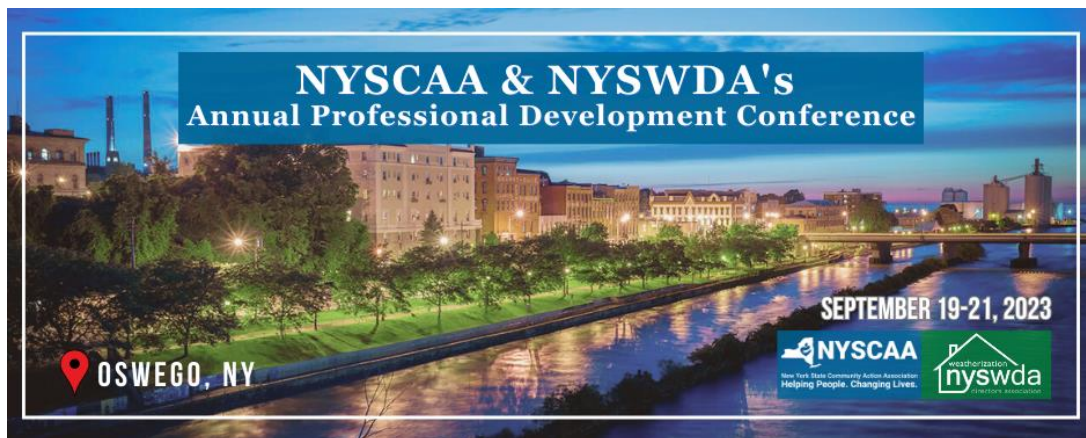
- [NYSCAA News](#)
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The Promise of Community Action:

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:

Registration is now available for NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference: Building Capacity, Impacting Communities



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!](#)

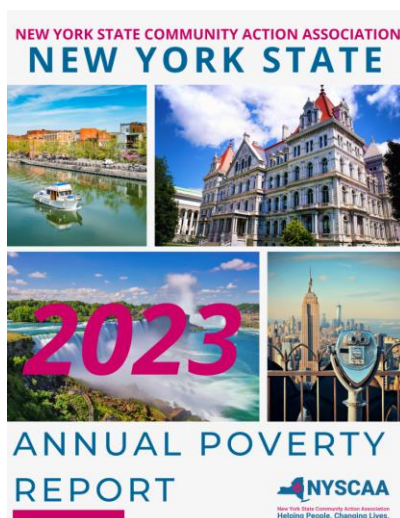
2023 Community Action Awards

Do you know any outstanding volunteers, employees, program participants, or other individuals who have advanced the work of Community Action, achieved significant personal accomplishments, fought poverty in their communities, and enabled low-income families to achieve self-sufficiency? These individuals should be honored and recognized for their successful and exemplary efforts, and we invite you to nominate them for [NYSCAA's 2023 Community Action Awards](#).

Award Categories:

- Community Action Vision and Values
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Personal Achievement
- Service
- Social Justice - **New This Year!

[Submit Your Nomination\(s\) Today!](#)



2023 New York State Poverty Report

Our newly updated online New York State Poverty Report is now available! Providing a statewide look at poverty, this publication is designed to be a comprehensive resource for New York's Community Action Agencies, community-based organizations, policymakers, advocates, community coalitions, and the general public.

What's available in the report:

- NYS Poverty Profile
- NY County Poverty Profiles

- Key City Profiles
- A Comparative Look at NY's County Poverty Levels
- Expanded ALICE Data
- Data Trends for Median Household Income by Race & Ethnicity

[Click here](#) to download the report!



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:

- "Yes, And!" Two Powerful Words to Embrace Change, Increase Innovation, and Break Plateaus
- LGBTQ+ Etiquette and Common Bloopers
- Elephant in the Room: Health Disparities and Distrust in Communities of Color
- Creative Problem Solving
- Along with over 75 hours of training!

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



Pro Action Hosts Their Resilience Symposium

[Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.](#) wrapped up a month of celebrating Community Action with an exceptional event, their Resilience Symposium! The Symposium at Corning Community College offered opportunities to learn about stress, trauma, the brain, trauma-informed approaches, and healing! The fantastic event highlighted Pro Action's commitment to learning more about trauma and how to build resilience in themselves and others.



RECAP Welcomed the Orange County Commissioner of Health to their Head Start Classrooms

To conclude Community Action Month, [RECAP](#) was honored to welcome Dr. Alicia Pointer, Orange County Commissioner of Health, to their Head Start classrooms. Dr. Pointer read to students and listened to the challenges facing staff, students, and their families throughout the county. Dr. Pointer was a huge hit, and received a standing invitation to return daily and read more books!

CSBG National Partner News:



Effective Coordination: Working Across Service Systems to Impact Homelessness

This session, led by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, will provide an overview of effective homeless service systems and the interdependence of interventions and service providers to maximize impact and efficacy. Speakers will discuss how Community Action Agencies can enrich and expand upon the services CAAs provide to at-risk and homeless populations. Local examples of effective collaboration will be provided.

When: June 28, 2023 - 2:00 PM EST

[Click here](#) to register.



Increasing Weatherization Capacity Through Leveraging National Service

Service Year Alliance's new Climate & Environmental Resilience Guide & [Energy Efficiency Roadmap](#) are designed to expand programming in growth areas, such as AmeriCorps and VISTA. The roadmap linked within the guide details how to leverage these programs to advance state and local weatherization and energy efficiency goals. Join NASCSP, NCAP, and Service Year Alliance to learn how Service Year can help you develop a talent pipeline, assist with intake or outreach, coordinate with partners, or increase contractor capacity.

When: June 29, 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 (NASCSP)

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

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

- [2023 Annual Convention](#) - August 21-25, 2023

Resources for New York State:



ConnectALL - NYS Internet Access Survey

[ConnectALL](#) has launched the [New York State Internet Access Survey](#) to better understand the needs of New York residents when it comes to computers and internet access. This important survey will help the ConnectALL Office develop a comprehensive Digital Equity Plan for the State and ensure that all New York residents can fully experience the opportunities that come from having full access and adequate skills to use computers and the internet in their everyday life. All New Yorkers are encouraged to complete the 10-minute online survey (available in 12 languages) to ensure that your experience is included in the State's plan for Digital Equity.

[Click here](#) to take the NYS Internet Access Survey.



NYS OCFS Division of Childcare Services Released the Second Edition of their Quarterly Newsletter

The [NYS Office of Children and Family Services \(OCFS\) Division of Child Care Services \(DCCS\)](#) released the second edition of their quarterly newsletter. [The newsletter](#) includes information and updates from DCCS on the NYS Budget, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Resources, The Governor's Child Care Availability Taskforce, The Comprehensive Background Check System, pictures on how the Early Childhood Educator and Child Care Provider Appreciation week was celebrated around the state, along with so much more! The newsletter is also available [in Spanish](#).



nystateofhealth
The Official Health Plan Marketplace

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 you 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:



ACF Announces New Name for Federal Child Support Office to Reflect Family-Centered Approach

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced that it has renamed the Office of Child Support Enforcement to the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS). This change reflects the program's commitment to serving the whole family and promoting family self-sufficiency. The program will continue offering many services, including enforcement remedies. It will continue to partner with child support agencies and others to encourage parental responsibility, so children receive reliable support from both parents.

[Click here](#) to read more.



Helpful Tips to Avoid Affordable Connectivity Program Scams

The [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#) is a public program that helps eligible households save on their monthly Home Internet. Be cautious, make sure you're signing up for the REAL ACP!

Tips to steer clear of ACP scammers:

1. Never pay to sign up for ACP benefits.
2. Never give out your financial information.

3. Never apply through a company that says you cannot change to a lower-priced service.
4. Only apply for the ACP benefit through verified and trusted channels, such as the FCC's official website.

[Click here](#) for more helpful tips and information about the ACP.



Housing for Trans People, by Trans People

Nationwide, trans people experience disproportionate rates of housing instability. With a poverty rate three times that of the general population, Black trans people experience this challenge most acutely. [Urban Institute](#) research explores how one trans-led organization in Atlanta reduces homelessness and supports housing stability for trans women.

[Learn more](#) about one resident's experience with the Trans Housing Coalition. This organization places Black and Latina transgender women in transitional and permanent housing and partners with other services to help trans women secure stable futures.



Making Workforce Development Systems More Racially Equitable and Inclusive

The [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) launched the Generation Work initiative in 2016 to connect more of America's young adults—especially those of color from low-income families—with the knowledge and experience necessary to succeed in today's job market. The initiative seeks to address structural inequities in local workforce development systems and asks the partner organizations to examine their practices to change them to serve young people better and advance racial equity and inclusion (REI). This issue focus highlights a few promising strategies that the Generation Work partnerships have pursued to foster awareness of REI among the organizations and their staff and to translate this awareness into changes in organizational practices.

[Click here](#) for more.



United for ALICE 2023 Annual Report - ALICE in the Crosscurrents: COVID and Financial Hardship in the United States

This ALICE Report provides the first look at the extent of financial hardship in the U.S. using ALICE metrics since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The pandemic has disrupted longstanding patterns in how and where people live, work, study, save, and spend their time. And the story of ALICE and the pandemic is still unfolding as this report is being written, amid an ongoing health crisis and an economic and public policy landscape that continues to shift. In a time of change, United For ALICE remains committed to providing the most up-to-date local data possible on financial hardship across the U.S.

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



Household Pulse Survey Shows 31.1% Reported Symptoms Three Months or Longer After They Had COVID-19

Hispanic and Black respondents were more likely than other racial or ethnic groups to report COVID-19 symptoms lasting three months or longer, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey (HPS).

The HPS, an experimental online survey representative of the U.S. adult population at the state and national level, began asking about long COVID symptoms in June of 2022, more than two years after the pandemic hit the United States. It found that 31.1% of respondents ages 18 and over reported long-lasting symptoms.

[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.

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



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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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