

New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)



Annual Report

October 2020 - September 2021



New York State Community Action Association
Helping People. Changing Lives.

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ABOUT NYSCAA

OUR MISSION:

The New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) strengthens the capacity of the Community Action Network to address the causes and conditions of poverty.

OUR STAFF:

Jackie Orr,

CEO

Charles Barbay,

Project Manager

Mia Nilo,

CARES Program Manager

Courtney Schanthal,

Program Director

Phoebe Schimpf,

Program and Technology

Director

OUR VALUES:

- NYSCAA supports a network that promotes and values inclusion and diversity.
- NYSCAA works with all people with respect and sensitivity.
- NYSCAA believes in the power of compassion and collaboration to overcome poverty.
- NYSCAA believes all individuals need hope and opportunity to succeed.
- NYSCAA is committed to excellence in all that it does.

CONTACT US:

**New York State Community Action
Association**

2 Charles Blvd, Guilderland, NY 12084

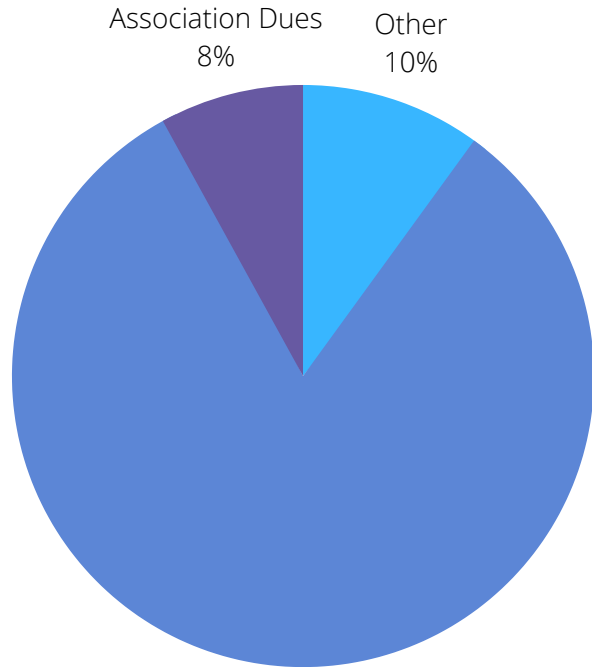
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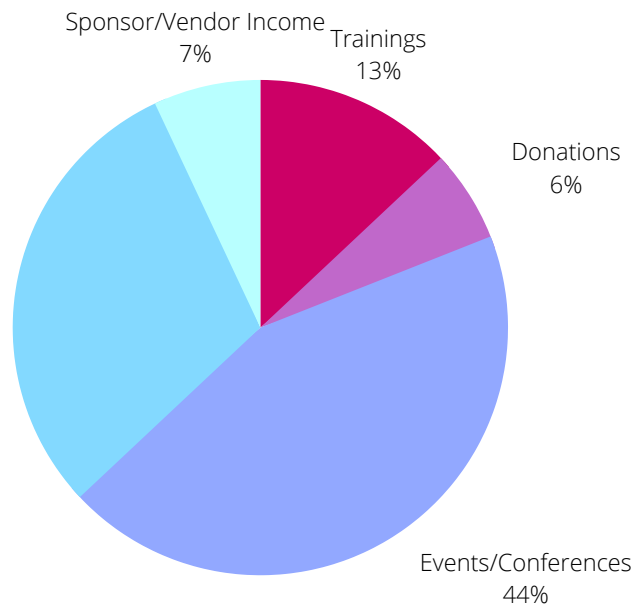


ABOUT NYSCAA



NYSCAA FINANCES

"OTHER" BREAKDOWN



NYSCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

LINDY GLENNON, PRESIDENT
MAUREEN ABBOTT, VICE PRESIDENT
DENIS WILSON, TREASURER
DEBRA SCHIMPF, SECRETARY

AT LARGE:

NEENAH BLAND
MIKE BOBBITT
LESLEY GOOCH-CHRISTMAN
DIANE COOPER-CURRIER
FELICIA NEHR
RENEE HUNGERFORD
DAN MASKIN
CHARLES QUINN
LAURA ROSSMAN
TINA SHARPE
ELIZABETH CARLTON-SPIRA
AMY TURNER
NANCY TURO
TINA ZERBIAN

NYSCAA's activities in 2020-2021 were partially funded by the NYS Department of State/Division of Community Service and the Administration for Children & Families/Office of Community Services

The graphs above represents all revenue that was generated beginning October 1, 2020 through September 20, 2021

THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY NETWORK

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION

- Albany Community Action Partnership
- Columbia Opportunities
- CEO
- Community Action of Greene County, Inc.
- Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc.
- L.E.A.P.
- LifeWorks
- Community Action Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.
- Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.
- Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.

CENTRAL & SOUTHERN TIER REGION

- Community Action Program for Madison County, Inc.
- Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca (CAP)
- Cortland County Community Action Program (CAPCO)
- Delaware Opportunities, Inc.
- Economic Opportunity Program of Chemung & Schuyler Counties
- Greater Opportunities
- Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency
- Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.
- PEACE, Inc.
- Pro Action of Steuben & Yates, Inc.
- Tioga Opportunities, Inc.
- Tompkins Community Action, Inc.
- Wayne County Action Program, Inc.

NORTH COUNTRY REGION

- Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.
- Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
- JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties, Inc.
- Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.
- St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc.
- Warren-Hamilton Counties Community Action Agency

NYC-LI & MID-HUDSON REGION

- Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County
- EOC of Nassau County
- EOC of Suffolk County
- New York City Department of Youth & Community Development
- Regional Economic Community Action Program (RECAP)
- Ulster County Community Action, Inc.
- Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.
- Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.

WESTERN REGION

- ACCORD Corporation
- Action for a Better Community, Inc.
- Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.
- Community Action of Orleans & Genesee
- Community Action Organization of Western New York
- Connecting Communities in Action, Inc.
- Livingston County Office of Workforce Development
- Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.
- PathStone
- Wyoming County Community Action, Inc.



STORIES OF IMPACT & SUCCESS:

Jason B.

Accord Corporation

Stepping Into Fatherhood

In 2020, ACCORD offered two cohorts of The Fatherhood Connection as a pilot project in partnership with Connecting Communities in Action, ProAction of Steuben and Yates, and the local Departments of Social Services and Probation.

Allegany County's group meets weekly, covering topics of parenting and personal development, including child development, fatherhood, parenting, communication skills, anger management, conflict resolution, values and behaviors, and healthy relationships.

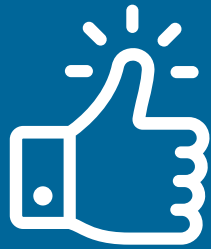
Participants are becoming stronger and growing new skills, their lives forever changed by the program's challenge to every father and fathering male to step into their vulnerability.

Jason, a May 2021 graduate of the program, describes in his video testimony his experience with The Fatherhood Connection and how the program has made a profound impact on his life in learning to be vulnerable and his work to become the dad he wants to be. He says the Fatherhood Connection has helped him to be more understanding when he knows he's in the wrong, "owning it," and "learning ways to not be frustrated about things that don't involve the children." Jason shares in his testimony, "I want to be type of father that my kids know they can run right to me, trust me."



ENGAGING THE NETWORK

NYSCAA supports the Community Action network in collective learning groups known as Communities of Practice or CoPs. Communities of Practice consist of Community Action staff who share similar interests and come together to fulfill both individual and group goals.



BEST PRACTICES COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP)

Reviews best practices and evidence-based models currently in use in CAAs and considers replicability of particular models.



DATA MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP)

Brings together individuals with a comprehensive understanding of the use and influence of data in a CAA.



LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP)

Develops strategies to empower, inspire, and support leaders in CAAs, drive change and deliver results.



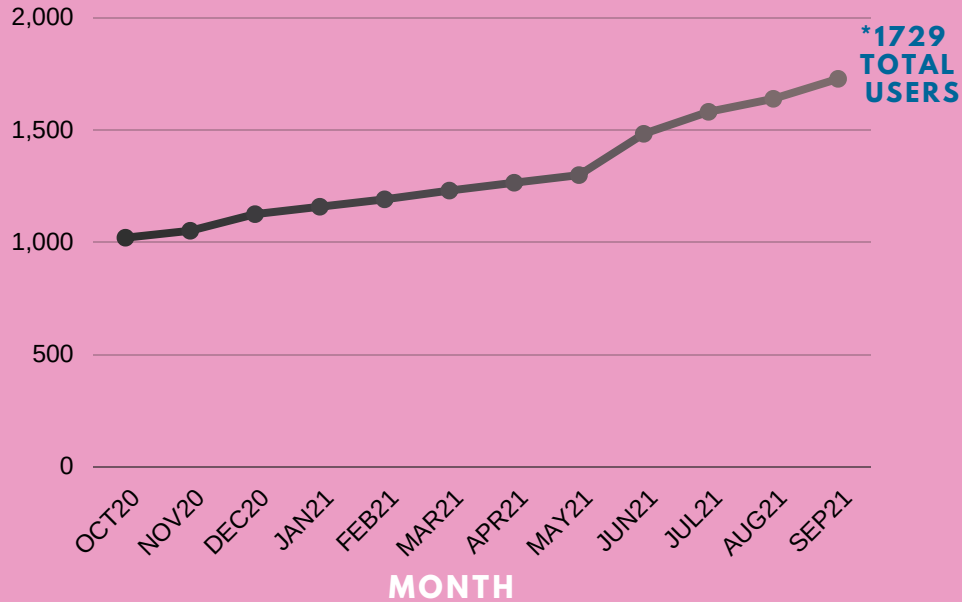
TRAUMA-INFORMED COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP)

Builds a greater capacity of understanding trauma-informed care practices within CAAs in NY.

NYSCAA LEARN

INCREASE IN NYSCAA LEARN USERS BY MONTH

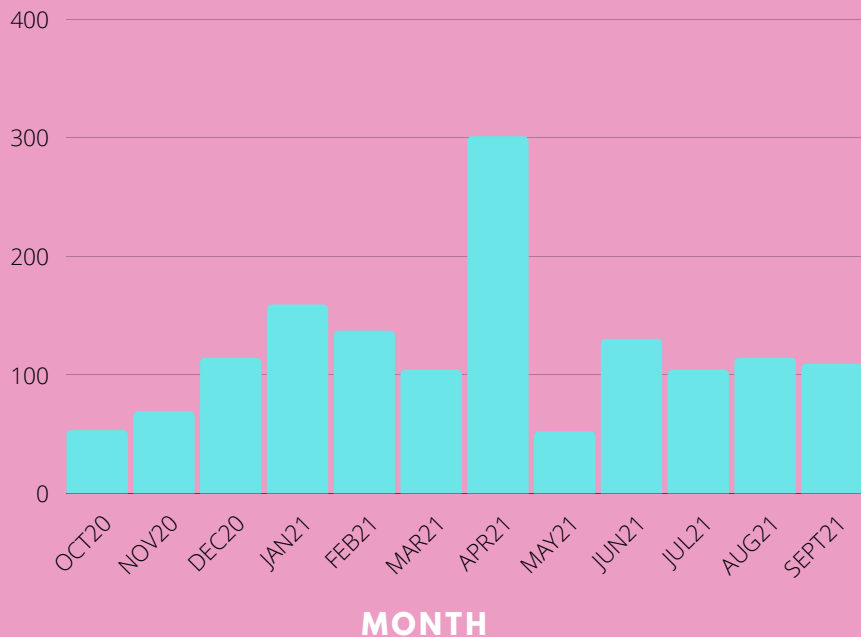
OF NYSCAA LEARN USERS



*1729
TOTAL
USERS

INCREASE IN COURSE ENROLLMENTS BY MONTH

OF COURSE ENROLLMENTS



WHAT IS NYSCAA LEARN?

NYSCAA LEARN is a free, online learning academy that hosts compelling courses for Community Action Agency Staff, Board Members, and Volunteers.

NEW COURSES IN 2021

Strategies for Board Engagement

Tapping into the Low-income Board Sector

NYSCAA
New York State Community Action Association
Helping People. Changing Lives.

Community Action Angels New York

Myth? or Fact?

1. Work Ethic
2. Population Affected
3. Living Above the Poverty Line
4. Being Poor in America
5. Equal Opportunities
6. Lasting Effect
7. Social Security
8. Hunger in America
9. Services for the Homeless

POVERTY IQ

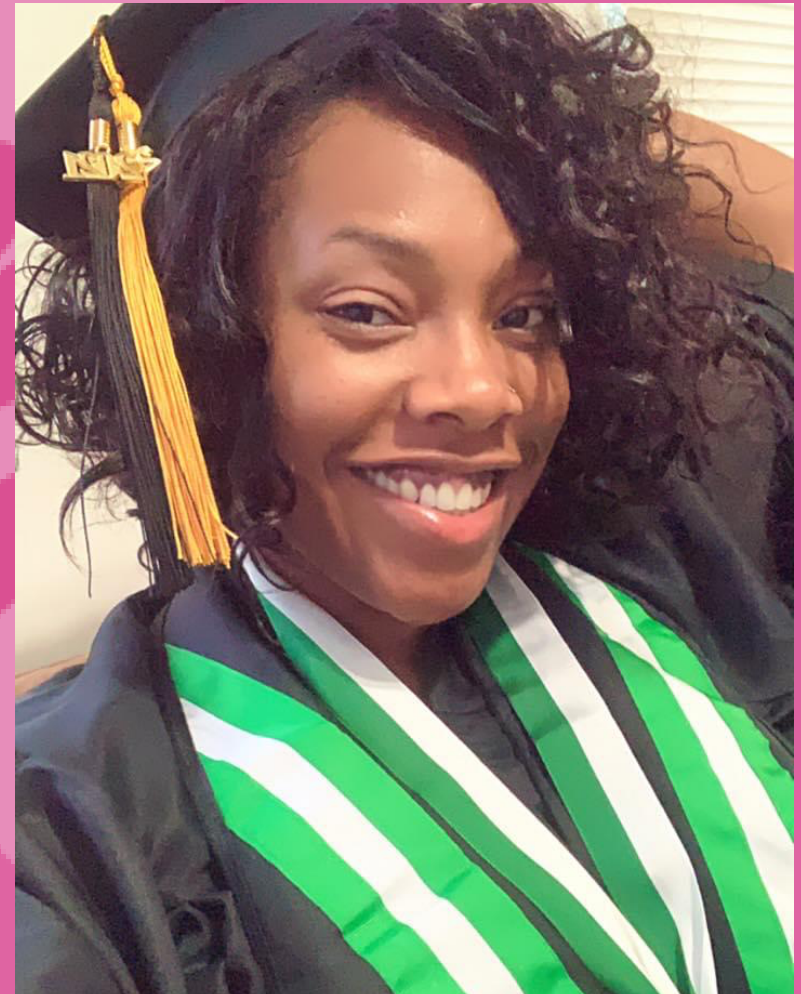
STORIES OF IMPACT & SUCCESS:

Ivey G.

Albany Community Action Partnership

Advancing Careers

Ivey is an alumni of the Dress for Success Albany Women's Group. Dress for Success Albany, a program of Albany Community Action Partnership, provides career services to female-identifying customers such as employability and confidence coaching, soft skills development, and interview-appropriate clothing. Ivey was one of five national winners of the \$6,000 AXA scholarship through Dress for Success Worldwide in 2018. This scholarship helped Ivey pay for a year's tuition, books, and fees at Hudson Valley Community College, where she was a Presidential Scholar. She received her Associate's degree in Human Services in May 2021 and is currently working in this field. In 2021, Ivey and her husband purchased their first home!



NYSCAA AFFINITY GROUPS

WHAT ARE NYSCAA AFFINITY GROUPS?

NYSCAA hosts affinity groups on topics such as Finance, HR, IT, and more. These groups provide the opportunity for members to share promising practices and to discuss current issues with colleagues in their respective fields. In addition to the HR, Finance, and IT groups; NYSCAA also hosts the CAPTAIN and CAP60 Affinity Groups that meet with staff from their software providers to discuss updates and inquiries. Additionally, NYSCAA hosts a Community Action Angels Affinity Group to share resources and information to increase the capacity of New York's volunteer network.

Members by the Numbers



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACES LEARNING COMMUNITY

We know that the leading causes of disease and disability, learning and productivity problems, and early death have their roots in the cumulative neurodevelopmental impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Participants from CAAs across the state are trained in Neuroscience, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Resilience (NEAR) and make up New York's Nationally Certified ACE Interface Trainers.

671

Individuals
Participated in 66
Trainings Presented by
ACE Interface Trainers

53

New ELI
Graduates in 2021

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. Graduates are able to continue their work with ELI for an additional year as part of ELI 2.0.

NYS ROMA ALLIANCE

The NYS ROMA Alliance is a group of Certified ROMA Trainers and Certified ROMA Implementers who currently work at a CAA in New York State or work at the Department of State/Division of Community Services. The purpose of the New York Alliance is to bring together ROMA professionals to develop a culture in Community Action Agencies that supports and contributes to a results orientation.

261

CAA Staff Participated in 4
virtual Introduction to ROMA
Trainings Presented by
Certified ROMA Trainers

1976

Participants across NYSCAA's
Annual Conference, Webinars,
Trainings, & Regional Meetings

WEBINARS, TRAININGS, & EVENTS

NYSCAA provided training to all New York State Community Action Agencies. We partnered with a number of resource providers, state and federal agencies, and private organizations to provide high-quality trainings on relevant topics for the network.

STORIES OF IMPACT & SUCCESS:

Audrey F.

PEACE, Inc.

Building an Essential Business

In May 2021, with the assistance of PEACE Inc.'s Early Childhood and Career Pathway program, Audrey opened and registered her home family daycare. Audrey received Health & Safety and CPR training and now offers a warm and inviting site for parents who desire non-center, community-based daycare. The Early Childhood and Career Pathway Program at PEACE, in collaboration with Childcare Solutions of Central New York, seeks to remove career pathway barriers and increase the number of trained early childhood education practitioners in Onondaga County through vocational training, start-up funds for materials and credentialing, coaching, and technical assistance. As a result, participants gain better employment at childcare centers or open their family daycare programs, ensuring high-quality child care for the parents and children of Onondaga county.



RESPONDING WITH CARES

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, is a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. The Act provides funding for emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Since January 2021, the Social Justice Committee has met each month to discuss how to forward equity policies in CAAs and share a space for an open discussion hosted by NYSCAA where committee members from across the state can coordinate different implementation ideas and discuss complex topics. Policies the committee have been working towards include:

- Equity-centered organizational assessments
- Revised value statements and policy review
- More inclusive recruitment and diverse hiring practices

22

Committee Members
representing 19 CAAs



[Click here](#) for a list of DEI
Resources

HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTHCARE DURING COVID-19

NYSCAA organized a summer webinar series from June-August 2021 with speakers addressing the unique challenges of providing care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Helping People Manage Stress Related to COVID-19
2. Responding to COVID-19 Hesitancy and Misinformation
3. We See You: Effective Ways to Support Families of Color
4. Carrying Equity in COVID-19 Vaccination Forward: Guidance Informed by Communities of Color
5. Elephant in the Room: Health Disparities and Distrust in Communities of Color
6. Outreach and Engagement and the Digital Divide and Technology: Success, Challenges, and Opportunities

213

Individuals Participated in
6 Webinars



[Click here](#) to watch the
recordings on the NYSCAA
website

RESPONDING WITH CARES

AFTER ACTION: COVID-19 & NYSCAA

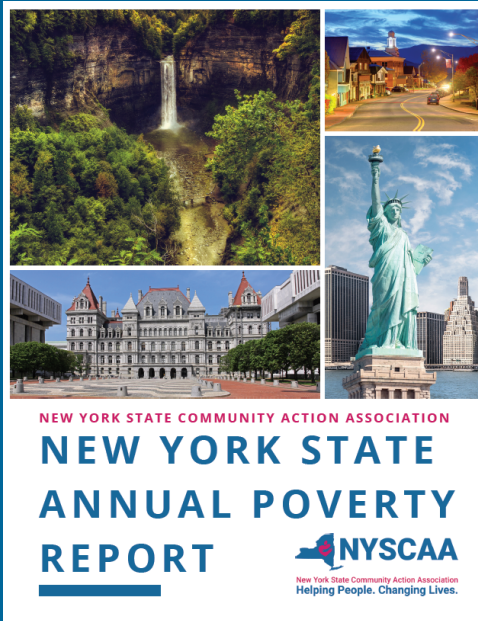
NYSCAA has been preparing Part 1 of the **After Action: COVID-19 & NYSCAA** report, showcasing the incredible work CAAs have done in response to COVID-19. The report will outline the internal policy and procedural changes agencies undertook and continue to do in order to serve their communities during the pandemic. In preparation for the 2022 publication, NYSCAA surveyed CAAs across New York to record how they responded to the changing conditions, which will be featured in the report as a case study, mapping a complete timeline spanning from February 2020-June 2021.

2021



After
Action:
COVID-19
& NYSCAA

RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS



2021 New York State Poverty Report:

NYSCAA released its annual edition of the New York State Poverty Report as a comprehensive resource for Community Action Agencies, policymakers, community coalitions, advocates, and the general public. Highlights from this year's report include:

- County and City Profiles
- A Comparative Look at County Poverty Levels
- Breakdown of Population Below the Poverty Line by Congressional District

Executive Director/CEO Manual

Provides information to assist agency leaders in their roles, including information about Community Action - the network, history, and ethics; guidelines on national trends, and what is available at NYSCAA.

NYSCAA Newsletters

NYSCAA creates and distributes a monthly newsletter to the CAA network, our partners, and other stakeholders with information, tools, and resources. NYSCAA also distributes a bimonthly newsletter for Federal RPIC Region II CAAs and state associations.

Community Action Resource Guide

The Community Action Resource Guide (CARG) allows users to view, search, and download services available at each of the local Community Action Agencies in New York.

RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

NYSCAA DATA HUB

The NYSCAA Data Hub provides the data indicators necessary for the development of **Community Needs Assessments (CNA)**. The Data Hub houses information from a variety of **State and Federal sources** and compiles it into a single downloadable and editable report which includes all NYSCAA agency service areas and New York counties.

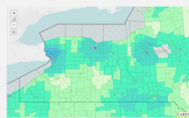
COVID-19 DASHBOARD

New indicators on the COVID-19 Dashboard can be viewed in various formats, from County Vulnerability Dashboards to maps, to an in-depth interactive report that can be edited and shared.



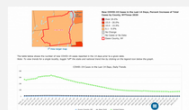
COVID-19 State and County Dashboard

This dashboard provides a daily update of the number of cases and deaths for the state and each county in New York. Click the tabs at the bottom to view vulnerability indicators related to health, demographics, economics, and mobility.



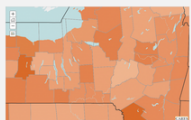
Map: Confirmed Cases & ICU Beds

COVID-19 Map featuring **up-to-date** confirmed cases of COVID-19 by County from the John Hopkins Institute, as well as Hospital locations, ICU Beds within 20 Miles by census tract, and ICU Bed Utilization Rate per 100,000 population.



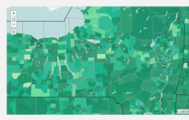
COVID-19 Interactive County Report

This report provides a selected set of indicators related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including case counts and fatalities, health care infrastructure data, and social/economic vulnerabilities. Maps and data are available for individual counties and groups of counties.



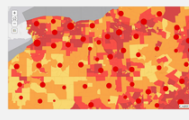
Map: Health Factors

COVID-19 Starter Map featuring health information including County medicare beneficiary rates of Asthma, COPD, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol, and confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Deaths from the John Hopkins University.



Map: Demographic Vulnerability

COVID-19 Map featuring Demographic information including Disabled Population, Median Age, Total Households, Total Population as well as confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Deaths from the John Hopkins University.



Map: Economic Impact

COVID-19 Starter Map featuring Economic information including Median Household Income, Population Below the Poverty Level, Gross Domestic Product, as well as confirmed COVID-19 cases from the John Hopkins University.

ALICE DATA ATTRIBUTES ADDED!

- Year
- Total Households
- Households in Poverty
- Below ALICE Threshold Households
- Above ALICE Threshold Household
- ALICE Threshold for Household Headed by Age Under 65
- ALICE Threshold for Households Headed by age 65 and Over

STORIES OF IMPACT & SUCCESS:

José L.

Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.

Hope and Transformation

“I was fighting for my son,” is the reply that José Lopez gives without hesitation when asked how he got started in Fatherhood Connection. He goes on to explain that, through his experience with Fatherhood Connection, he has learned a lot, and he has changed. “Now, I’m a different person. I don’t do drugs no more. It’s been 4 years. And I got my son back.” He says that his family members notice the transformation, too, especially that he is, “More calm.”

In relating his life experience, José references drugs, gangs, and the period of time when his now 11 year-old son, Rafael, “Only saw me through a glass window.” To gain custody of his son, the courts told José to attend parenting education. He recounts that he had graduated from other programs, and that he did have support from a sponsor and loved ones. At that point, the only things standing between him and the chance to live with his son were a certificate for attending parenting education, and proper housing.

José started attending Fatherhood Connection at a time when he says, “I was giving up on myself. But they gave me hope. They never gave up on me.” Over time, he learned to interact more positively with his son, he got an apartment, and he ultimately gained custody of Rafael. Now, José says, “I feel so proud of myself,” and he talks about the things that he and Rafael do together that they never had the chance to do earlier in Rafael’s life, like playing football and riding bikes together.



EVENT & TRAINING TESTIMONIALS

"I appreciated connecting with colleagues and sharing collective ideas. These ideas will mobilize us- help develop our collective and individual goals."

2020 Reconnect & Recharge Conference Participant

"I enjoyed discussing the leadership strengths and challenges as I think we tend to forget that we are human. Leadership is something that is learned and not a gift that someone is given."

2021 ELI Participant

"This is the best virtual conference I have attended!"

2020 Reconnect & Recharge Conference Participant

"I loved how applicable it is to my job and how it will help better meet the needs of the community."

Applying ROMA in a CAA - NYSCAA Learn Participant

"This was a great webinar!!! Loved the reminder and the feeling that the presenters truly believe the message that they're giving. Best webinar I've attended yet."

Leading Change in Times of Crisis Webinar Participant

A YEAR IN REVIEW



STORIES OF IMPACT & SUCCESS:

Wayne County Action Program, Inc. Connecting With Children

Millie R.

Millie Ryan is a Foster Grandparent with the Wayne County Action Program, serving as a volunteer at the Lima Primary School in Livingston County. Millie is an “essential part of the learning environment,” according to the first-grade teacher who she works with. In this picture, she is working with a small group of children on math facts. In addition to math help, Millie’s ability to connect with children who struggle with reading is imperative to their success. Millie’s patience, empathy, and quiet demeanor have a calming effect on the classroom and help children stay focused and on task. Academic progress for these students is noticeable because of Millie’s perseverance. Millie is very appreciated by her students and peers!



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Retirement Services • Investments





New York State Community Action Association

www.nyscommunityaction.org

Connecting Communities in Action (CCA) Expanding the Reach of Nourish New York

New York State's Nourish New York Initiative supports families and farmers who have been grappling with changes brought on by COVID-19. This critical program helps individuals and families who are food insecure to access the nourishment they need while providing a market for farmers to sell their products. Nourish New York began in May of 2020 and since that time Connecting Communities in Action has partnered with food pantries and local school districts throughout Cattaraugus County to provide easier access to Nourish NY resources.

Connecting Communities in Action has been the recipient of approximately \$265,000 through four separate FeedMore of WNY awards. By finding creative ways to partner with school districts and pantries throughout Cattaraugus County's approximately 1,322 square miles, CCS has been able to identify the residents who need the most support. The Nourish NY program has also established new partnerships and collaborations with local NYS farmers that have since donated directly to our food pantry.

