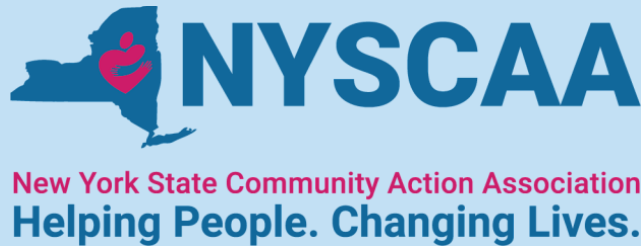


October 2023 NYSCAA News



A Word From NYSCAA's CEO:

Dear friend,

I want to congratulate our 2023 Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) graduates! I am pleased to recognize Sara Chobot, Leslie Mosman, Beverly Murrell-Frasier, Darlene Mack-Brown, Denise Coleman, Erica Bayne, Aubrey Coast, Melissa Fuss, and Melissa Wines for completing ELI 2.0. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of all 31 CAA staff who completed ELI 1.0 - we hope that you all will join us for ELI 2.0 in the future.

I am also pleased to report that NYSCAA will continue as the Lead State Association for Federal Region II to administer the most recent Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC) grant through September 2026. We look forward to working with our partners in New Jersey and Puerto Rico to provide impactful services, improve the lives of low-income individuals and families, and make the region's communities a better place to live.

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:

NYSCAA's Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI)

The 2023 Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) Cohort concluded this month with the final seminar in Syracuse, NY. ELI is a year-long leadership development program where participants explore their leadership styles, develop leadership aptitude, and empower themselves and others. Congratulations to all of our ELI 1.0 & 2.0 graduates!



FCC Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

NYSCAA partners with three of New York's CAAs, Cortland County Community Action Program (CAPCO), Community Action Partnership for Madison County, and Connecting Communities in Action (CCA), to provide services for the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) grant. These CAAs have participated in almost 200 in-person events and successfully signed up 51 people for the ACP. Their hard work ensures essential and affordable internet services for individuals and families across the state.





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:

- AI for Good: Empowering Nonprofits to Drive Impact and Ethical Innovation
- "Yes, And!" Two Powerful Words to Embrace Change, Increase Innovation, and Break Plateaus
- Connecting People to Services: Using myBenefits and NYDocSubmit as Resources
- LGBTQ+ Etiquette and Common Bloopers

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



Connecting Communities in Action CEO Receives Woman of Distinction Award

Tina Zerbian, CEO of Connecting Communities in Action, received the Woman of Distinction Award for 2023 in the 57th Senate District. State Senator George Borrello presented the award to Tina. He stated, "As CEO of Connecting Communities in Action, Tina's overriding goal has been to give those who are struggling hope and the tools they need to overcome adversity so they and their families can thrive. Throughout her career, her leadership and dedication have had an impact and made life better for others."

Tina has been making Community Action better since 1980. She started her career at Connecting Communities in Action as the first Domestic Violence Coordinator in Cattaraugus County. Tina has been the CEO since 1984, growing CCA programming and expanding services to families and individuals in a five-county area. She is a Certified Community Action Professional, Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer, and a Certified Financial Social Worker. Her innovation, dedication, and leadership have consistently pushed the needle forward for Community Action in her community and across the state. Congratulations, Tina!

LifeWorks Community Action Hosts Media Day to Showcase Weatherization Program

LifeWorks Community Action's Energy Services division hosted a live weatherization event on Wednesday, October 11, to demonstrate how a weatherized home reduces energy burdens for families by enhancing energy efficiency. The LifeWorks team and its partners explained the process as they weatherized a residential home in a single day.

"October is National Energy Awareness Month. There are numerous older homes, mobile homes, and apartments in Saratoga and Schenectady counties that could benefit from the federally and state funded home weatherization assistance program offered by LifeWorks. Our goal is to raise awareness of this program and encourage people to apply for assistance," said LifeWorks Executive Director Krystle Nowhitney Hernandez.



CSBG National Partner News:



CAPLAWCast - Bridging Across Barriers: The Mother of States

In this episode of [CAPLAWCast](#), Bridging Across Barriers: The Mother of States, Abby Hanks and Matt Fitzgerald of Virginia's Office of Economic Development and Erik Johnston of the Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP), discuss key aspects of the state office, state association relationship, including how they work together to provide maximum feasible deference to a diverse array of CAAs in Virginia, and how elements such as communication, trust, and flexibility have bolstered collaborative efforts and assisted CAAs across the Mother State.

[Click here](#) to listen to the latest episode.



CAPLAW CSBG Training Module

CAPLAW's CSBG Training Module is an interactive tool for Community Action Agencies to learn about the federal Community Services Block Grant Act. All Community Action Agencies receive Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds. These funds come with legal requirements that affect how CAAs are governed. Thus, it is essential for CAA staff and board members – as well as anyone else who works with these funds – to understand how CSBG operates and the critical requirements of this funding source.

[Click here](#) to take the CSBG Training Module.



NASCSP: Weatherization Day 2023

Each year, Weatherization Day celebrates the long and storied history of weatherization alongside the work that continues every day. Weatherization has served hundreds of thousands of households and saved individuals, families, and communities millions of dollars through energy and health savings. For 47 years, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has provided constant, effective, and innovative services to recipients nationwide. This year, it is the innovations and recipients that are lifted up in NASCSP's public information campaign and [Weatherization Day Outreach Toolkit](#).



NCAP Convenes the First Policy & Advocacy Virtual Roundtable

Everyone's always talking about Community Action's history of advocacy and the public policy implications of fighting poverty. But what does that really look like? Frankly, it's hard to say - each person and organization in the Network guides that work through their individual priorities and actions. To that end, NCAP is convening quarterly Policy and Advocacy Virtual Roundtables to facilitate informal discussions about agency and association engagement on policy and advocacy issues. Come learn what others are doing and add your voice to the discussion.

For additional information, contact Ryan Gelman, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy:

RGelman@communityactionpartnership.com.

When: October 27, 2023 - 1:30 PM EST

[Click here](#) to register.



NCAP: Your Community by the Numbers

This workshop is designed to give data users an overview of the power of census data. During this training, you will learn about how the Census Bureau collects and publishes data on these topics, as well how to access and download tables and create maps. Attendees will learn about the topics and geographic level of data that can be used for planning and serving community development. This training will show data users how to find topics about the demographics, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, housing, poverty, disability, veteran status, employment, and more.

Presented by: Kimberly Davis, Data Dissemination Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau

When: November 8, 2023 - 2:00 PM EST

[Click here](#) to register.

National Professional Development Opportunities:

National Association for State Community Action Programs (NASPCSP)

- [Winter Training Conference](#) - March 11-15, 2023

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

- [New Executive Director Institute](#) - October 31 - November 1, 2023
- [Executive Director and Board Chair Symposium](#) - November 2-3, 2023

Resources for New York State:



ConnectALL Released the NYS Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Five-Year Action Plan.

Empire State Development's [ConnectALL Office](#) has published the [NYS Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program Five-Year Action Plan](#).

Governor Kathy Hochul established ConnectALL in 2022 to transform New York State's digital infrastructure so all residents and businesses have access to high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband for education, economic growth, and full participation in civic life. In the [Five-Year Action Plan](#), ConnectALL describes how BEAD funding will play a critical role in advancing the State's goals and delivers a comprehensive needs assessment to this end.



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:



Systems-Level Strategies to Facilitate Kindergarten Transitions: Key Study Findings and Examples from Case Studies of Head Start & K-12 Partnerships

The Understanding Children’s Transitions from Head Start to Kindergarten (HS2K) Project aims to better understand how to improve children’s kindergarten transitions from Head Start programs to elementary schools. The transition to kindergarten occurs within and between two distinct systems (early care and education [ECE] and K-12 education) that each work under their own governance structures, philosophies, and accountability metrics.

A systems approach recognizes that organizational conditions set the stage for the scale and success of transition practices in both Head Start and K-12 systems. Policies, perspectives, and professional supports feed into and provide the structure for the fourth P—practices. Each of the 4Ps exists at every level of each system: governing agency, administration, building, and classroom. This brief shares findings on the 4Ps for Head Start program and school-based practitioners, with examples from HS2K case studies.

[Click here](#) to download the brief.



Resources for Populations Served by ACF Programs

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has developed a set of materials intended to guide hard-to-reach populations to increase their awareness and understanding of the array of resources that may be able to assist them. These resources are explicitly designed to be user-friendly and easy to digest. The materials include resources for transition-age youth exiting foster care, families with children ages 0-12, prospective Head Start participants, survivors of domestic violence looking to find and keep housing, fathers looking for benefits programs or parenting tips, and providers supporting those seeking post-disaster housing.

[Click here](#) for the full resource library.



Uniform Guidance Wants Your Feedback

Wipfli would like to invite you to an upcoming webinar, discussing the latest round of proposed updates to the Uniform Guidance regulations - including how impactful your

voice can be in the notice of proposed rule making process. Wipfli's team of experts has been diligently working to provide you with valuable insights into the proposed changes that could impact your organization. This is a fantastic opportunity to stay ahead of the curve with the evolving regulatory landscape.

If you have any questions beforehand, feel free to reach out to tjelinek@wipfli.com.

[Click here 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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