



NYSCAA Newsletter - March 2019

From the CEO

Dear Friend,

Happy Spring! Or at least we hope spring is right around the corner! Staff are putting the final touches on the upcoming Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security as well as coordinating regional meetings with the Department of State planned for the spring and summer. We look forward to seeing you at these events.



The 2019 regional meetings dates have been set and we are in the process of finalizing the agenda for each meeting. In addition to NYSCAA updates, staff from the Department of State (DOS) will be leading a discussion about the two-year State Plan that will be sent to OCS in September.

We are also excited to partner with Pat Standish who will be conducting Board Engagement trainings as part of the Western and Central meetings. There are links in this newsletter to register for the training's. The final agenda will be posted to the NYSCAA website shortly.

Please save June 5th & 6th, for the Annual Professional Development Conference. Once again, we will be joining with our partner NYSWDA in planning the conference content and presenters. It will be held at the Grand Hotel in Poughkeepsie NY. As in previous years, we will be holding our annual awards banquet where we recognize those individuals, both volunteers and staff, who have made contributions to their communities, agencies, and the Community Action network. And the highlight of the evening is recognizing a current program participant who has achieved significant personal accomplishments.

We look forward to seeing you at these events where there is opportunity to connect, learn, and share with your Community Action colleagues.

Best,

[Jackie Orr](#), NCRT

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"Drug use is higher in poor communities!"

FALSE

**IN FLORIDA, \$172 MILLION WERE SPENT
DRUG TESTING WELFARE RECIPIENTS.**



**ONLY 2% TESTED POSITIVE,
SAVING THE STATE JUST \$98,000.**

In Arizona, 108,000 welfare recipients were drug tested. **Only 2** tested positive.

Twelve states have started to require drug testing for welfare recipients based on the misconception that people in poverty use drugs more than the rest of the population. These programs represent a tremendous waste of government money – one program in Florida cost the state \$172 million, with only 2% of those tested failing. This saved the government no more than \$98,000.

In Tennessee, after 6 months and 16,000 drug tests, just 37 people had tested positive. In Arizona, after 108,000 drug tests, only 2 applicants were disqualified because of positive drug tests. The myth that drug use is higher in poor communities hurts us all – no matter our socioeconomic background.

[Click here](#) to read more from ATD Fourth World USA.

NYSCAA News

Congratulations to Jackie Orr, CEO at NYSCAA and Tina Zerbian, CEO at Cattaraugus Community Action who were selected as honorees for the Notable Women in Human services Hall of Fame!

In March, Strong Nonprofits honored some of the women providing critical services across New York in human services. Investing in these women is crucial to ensure nonprofits agencies can recruit and retain quality staff, and so our communities value our leaders! This year, Jackie Orr and Tina Zerbian were nominated and received the prestigious award. To learn more about the Women in Human Service Hall of Fame and the amazing women who have been inducted [click here!](#)



NYSCAA Annual Community Action Awards 2019

Please note: Nominations for the 2019 awards are due no later than April 19, 2019.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize staff and members of the community for their support and accomplishments. Please consider staff, volunteers, participants and community supporters that make a difference every day in your agency/community.

Award recipients are recognized at the banquet at NYSCAA's Annual meeting. Remember, the recipient of the Personal Achievement Award is our nomination to the National Community Action Partnership for the Annual Sargent Shriver Award.

[Click here](#) to view NYSCAA's Community Action Awards on-line submission page for more information on date, times, and submissions!

Save The Date: NYSCAA and DOS Regional Meetings

Five Regional Meetings will be held around NY State, and will be coordinated with the Department of State (DOS). The preliminary agenda for the Regional Meetings will consist of a review of the State Plan from DOS accompanied by updates from NYSCAA staff. There will be an additional Board Engagement Training, hosted by Pat Standish and Jackie Orr, at the Central and Western Regional Meetings. Below you can find an up-to-date schedule of this year's Regional Meetings including the hosting CAA, date and time of the meeting, and location. You will also find a link to register for each meeting, we are looking forward to seeing you there! Stay tuned for the full agenda and further details.

1. Capital Region: Schenectady Community Action Program, April 25th, Schenectady NY

- 9:30am - 12:30pm, 913 Albany Street, Schenectady NY
- [Click here to register for the Capital Regional Meeting!](#)

2. Western Region: Wyoming County Community Action, May 8th, Perry NY

- 10:00am - 12:30pm, 6470 Route 20A, Suite 1, Perry NY
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm for the Board Engagement Training
- [Click here to register for the Western Regional Meeting!](#)

3. North Country: Adirondack Community Action Programs, May 14th, Lake Placid NY

- 10:00am - 1:00pm, 302 Bear Club Lane, Lake Placid, New York 12946
- [Click here to register for the North Country Regional Meeting!](#)

For those who are attending this meeting, there will be an opportunity to attend the LIFE Discussion of Programs, Barriers, and Opportunities from 2:00pm - 4:30pm. For more information and to register [click here](#).

4. Central Region: Cayuga Seneca Community Action, June 12th, Auburn NY

- 10:00am - 12:30pm, 89 York Street, Suite 1, Auburn NY

- 1:30pm - 3:00pm for the Board Engagement Training
- [Click here to register for the Central Regional Meeting!](#)

5. New York City: Dept. of Youth & Community Development, TBD, New York, NY

- The NYC Regional Meeting will take place in June. More details to follow.

CSBG National Partner Resources

(NEW) NASCSP and OCS Webinar: CSBG SmartForms for Annual Report Modules 2-4, On Wednesday, February 27th

NASCSP and OCS hosted a webinar to review the new CSBG SmartForms for Modules 2, 3, & 4 of the Annual Report. NASCSP and OCS will demonstrate using the SmartForms, highlight functionality of the forms, and discuss reporting. The [Slides](#) and [Recording](#) are available now.

Census 2020

New York State Complete Count Commission

The New York State Complete Count Commission has announced six public hearings across the state to gain public input and hear from Census experts and advocates, beginning March 4 in Rochester.

The Complete Count Commission, [appointed last month](#), is tasked with building upon the sweeping efforts already underway to prepare for next year's federal Census. With these meetings, the Commission is undertaking a multi-year, collaborative strategy involving all state agencies, local and county governments, non-profits and local stakeholders across the state.

Each meeting of the Commission will be open to the public and webcast. The events will feature detailed presentations to the Commission by various entities involved in the census, as well as testimony from advocates, and the general public on a first-come, first-served basis. The hearings scheduled are:

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4. Friday, April 12, 3 p.m.
Suffolk County Legislature - William J. Lindsay County Complex - William H. Rogers Building
725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, NY 11787

5. Friday, April 26, 10 a.m.
Mohawk Valley Community College - Utica
1101 Sherman Dr.
Utica, NY 13501

6. Monday, May 6, 6 p.m.
Rockefeller Institute of Government
411 State St.
Albany, NY 12203

Additional Resources

Save the Date: LIFE 2019 Regional Meetings

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), in cooperation with the LIFE Steering Committee, are proud to announce the LIFE 2019 Regional Meeting Series will be held throughout May and June 2019 in seven regions throughout the state.



Low-Income Forum on Energy

Attendees can expect to learn about energy affordability policy, clean energy programs, utility assistance programs, emerging energy issues, innovative models in the low-income energy space, consumer protections, and best practices. The agenda will vary based on location to allow for focus on issues important to a given region. Preliminary agendas will be available in March.

Mark the dates on your calendar so that you can learn, share, and connect about low-income energy. The [LIFE 2019 Regional Meetings website](#) has all the information you need to stay current on meeting information, including venues, agendas, and scholarship opportunities.

- May 9 - Hudson Valley - Kingston
- May 14 - North Country - Lake Placid
- May 16 - Capital Region - Malta
- May 22 - Western NY - Rochester
- May 23 - Southern Tier - Corning
- June 13 - Long Island - Woodbury
- June 14 - New York City - Manhattan

Lobby Laws Should Empower the Grassroots, Not Big Money

The average New Yorker understands that these two New Yorkers—a lobbyist and a nonprofit employee—have very different roles in our political system. Why is Governor Cuomo trying to treat them as the same? The governor's budget plan would impose a stringent regulatory regime on any organization spending \$500 or more to reach out to lawmakers. The likely result: grassroots organizations will be unable to meet with lawmakers, leaving the legislative corridors clear for big spending lobbyists to wield their influence and set the agenda.

For the full article and to learn more, [click here](#).

New from Community Commons: Community Indicator Report

The new [Community Indicator Report](#) tool has launched and is ready to help you identify and prioritize the health needs of your community!

There's an easy [step-by-step tutorial](#); you can share your report and invite collaborators; and you can even compare two different areas within the same report.

The reports are great, but we believe they should be a catalyst for community engagement, prioritization, and action – not just a box to check. See the [Community Assessment Starts Here](#) resource list to get started.

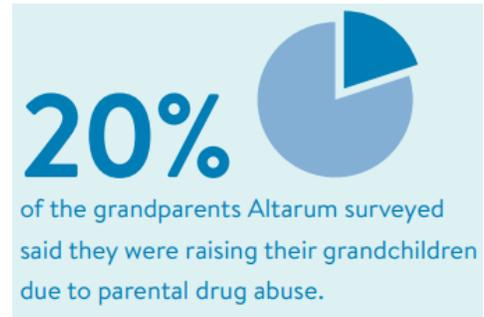


Collateral Damage of the Opioid Crisis: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

By all metrics, our country is now facing the largest drug epidemic of all

time. The ripple effects of the opioid crisis are rapidly accumulating, resulting in—among other consequences—a dramatic uptick in the number of children being removed from the custody of their parents. Nationally there was a 10% increase in the number of children entering the foster care system between 2012 and 2016. Many of these children end up in the care of relatives. Though grandparents have historically stepped in to provide varying levels of support to their adult children and/or grandchildren as needed, they are now being called upon to assume primary parental responsibility for their grandchildren in unprecedented numbers.

To access the full report [click here](#).



New Interactive Map Details Who Benefits in Each Congressional District from a \$15 Minimum Wage by 2024

As Congress considers passing the [Raise the Wage Act of 2019](#), which proposes raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024, Economic Policy Institute (EPI) has created a new interactive map that shows the share and count of workers in each congressional district that would receive wage increases if the bill passes. The map also breaks down the share of workers who will benefit by age, gender, and race. See the entire article [here](#).

Aligning Affordable Housing Efforts with Actions to End Homelessness

In many communities, conversations on housing affordability and those about homelessness are happening in different places among different groups of people. The following strategies and resources from the National Alliance to End Homelessness will support communities in aligning those conversations and will improve progress on preventing and ending homelessness.

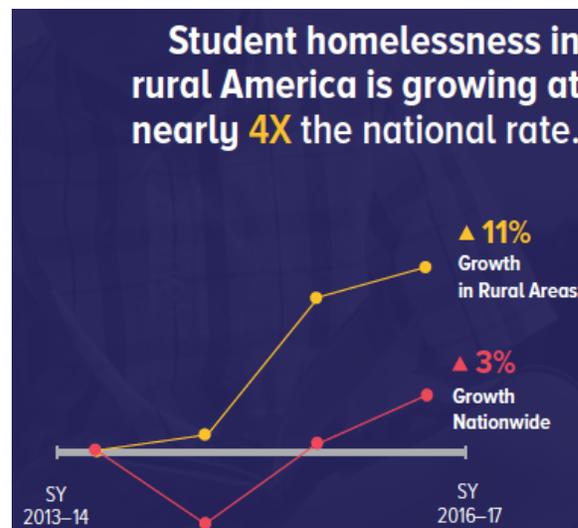
To download the report, [please click here](#).



Student Homelessness Growing Fastest in Rural America

Most of America's homeless students live in cities and suburbs. However, roughly one in eight homeless students lives in a rural community. While student homelessness is primarily an urban problem, it is growing at a much faster rate in rural communities. Rural student homelessness grew by 11% nationally, with growth in some states drastically higher. Rural student homelessness increased in 38 states between the 2013-2014 school year and the 2016-2017 school year.

To learn more [click here](#).



Individual Homelessness: What are the trends?

Despite successes with some sub-populations (like the 49% decrease in veteran homelessness since 2010 and the 25% decrease in homeless families since 2012), individual adults continue to be the largest segment of the homeless population.

And some troubling trends have been emerging from HUD's Point-in-Time data. There is a history of modest progress on individual homelessness. There was a six-year period of declines between 2011 through 2016. However, that trend is slowly reversing. Individual homelessness has increased for the second year in a row: up 3% from 2016 to 2017, and then another 2% from 2017 to 2018.

[Continue reading the full article here.](#)

Highlights from our Agencies

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Have something you would like to share in our upcoming newsletter? Email cbarbay@nyscommunityaction.org!

Pictures appreciated!



Guarding Community: Auburn Prison Staff Forms Group to Support Good Causes

Since forming last December, the Auburn Correctional Facility Community Guardians, a group of correctional officers who have banded together in support of good causes, have raised thousands of dollars' worth of donations and supplies for local charities.



Staff from the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency accept donations for the agency's domestic violence shelter from members of the Auburn Correctional Facility Guardians, a new charity group formed of prison staff.

For more about Community Guardians [click here](#).

Opportunities for Ostego: We Got Your Back

Advocates from Opportunities for Ostego's Violence Intervention Program joined the SUNY community yesterday for the annual "Got Your Back" event. In all, 2,000 comfort kits were assembled and will be distributed to organizations who support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Opportunities for Otsego employees said the kits are indeed a comfort to people, especially in the "crisis period" following an assault, when they may have fled with no belongings. The bags contained information from the Office of Victims Services, including a guide to crime victims' compensation in New York State. Innocent crime victims may be eligible for compensation for injury, death, loss of essential personal property and other expenses.

For the full article [click here](#).



NYSCAA Events

Poverty Symposium - March 27 & 28, 2019 Latham, NY

We look forward to seeing you there!

Emerging Leaders Institute

Three Seminars will be held for those in the Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI). The first sessions will be on March 26th, prior to the Poverty Symposium.

Professional Development Conference - June 5 & 6 at the Grand Hotel, Poughkeepsie, NY

NYSCAA's annual June Professional Development Conference will be held the week of June 5th & 6th. The conference will include the Annual Community Action Awards Ceremony – NYSCAA is currently accepting nominees!

RPIC Region II Conference Binghamton, New York

The annual RPIC Region II Conference will be held September 18th & 19th. We look forward to working with our Region II partners in New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to create an exciting event! The Emerging Leaders Institute seminar will also be paired with this event.

Free Job Listings for members

Below is a listing current openings. Click on an item to view the job details.



Do you need to get the word out about a job opportunity at your agency? [Click here to view CA job listings and add your own!](#) The human services workforce is 81% women. In March, we honor some of the women providing critical services across New York. We must invest in women like these to ensure nonprofits can recruit and retain quality staff, and so our communities value our leaders!

National Professional Development Opportunities

Community Action Partnership 2019 Annual Convention

Chicago, IL

August 26th-27th, Pre-Convention Training

August 28th-30th, Annual Convention

[Click here](#) for more information.

CAPLAW

2019 National Training Conference

Charlotte, N.C.

June 19-21

[Click here](#) for more information.

NASCSP

2019 Annual Training Conference

Little Rock, Arkansas

September 23-27

More information coming soon!

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.



Our Agencies

Click on Name of Agency to Visit Website: Action for a Better Community, Inc. * Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. * Albany Community Action Partnership * ACCORD Corporation * CAPC of Jefferson

County * Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. * Chautauqua Opportunities Inc. * Columbia Opportunities, Inc. * Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Capital District Region, Inc. * Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc. * Community Action of Greene County, Inc. Community Action of Orleans & Genesee * Community Action Partnership for Madison County, Inc. Cortland Community Action Program, Inc. (CAPCO)* Delaware Opportunities * Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Inc. * Economic Opportunity Program Inc. of Chemung County EOC of Nassau County - Hempstead * EOC of Suffolk - Patchogue * Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. * JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties * Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. * Livingston County Planning Department * Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. * NYC Department of Youth and Community Development * Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. * Opportunities for Broome, Inc. * Opportunities for Chenango, Inc. * Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. * Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. * Path Stone PEACE, Inc. * Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. * RECAP * Saratoga County EOC, Inc. Schenectady Community Action, Inc. * Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc. * St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc. * Tioga Opportunities, Inc. * Tompkins Community Action, Inc. * Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. * Warren/Hamilton Counties ACEO, Inc. * L.E.A.P. * WestCOP * Wayne County Community Action Program, Inc. * Wyoming County Community Action, Inc. * Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.

New York State Community Action Association, Inc.

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