



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

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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:

A Word from NYSCAA's CEO

Dear Friend,

I am delighted to announce the dates for our 2021 Annual Conference in coordination with the New York State Weatherization Directors Association. The conference will be held virtually on October 6th, 12th, & 14th. The conference will include distinguished speakers and keynotes, break-out sessions, sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, networking events for CAA staff, and much more! Be on the lookout for more updates regarding the call for proposals and registration information.

On another note, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Jessica Lowell, Community Services Program Analyst 2, Division of Community Services, for being honored as one of the 2021 Women of Excellence Organizational Impact Award recipients. The Women of Excellence Award recognizes and celebrates the exceptional women at the Department of State for their outstanding service as professionals in the workplace or as volunteers in the

community. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Jessica. Her impact on the Community Action network is immeasurable. We are thankful for her dedication!

Thank you,

Jacqueline Orr



The 2021 New York State Poverty Report is Now Available!

We are pleased to present our newly updated online edition of the [New York State Poverty Report!](#) The report provides a statewide look at poverty. This tool is a comprehensive resource for New York State's Community Action Agencies (CAAs), community-based organizations, policymakers, advocates, community coalitions, and the general public.



Included in the 2021 Poverty Report:

- The New York State Poverty Profile
- US Poverty Profile
- A Comparative Look at New York's County and City Poverty Levels
- [Poverty Levels for New York State's Congressional Districts](#)
- Data Key

2021 Regional Meetings in Partnership with DOS - Registration Currently Available

NYS Department of State (DOS), Division of Community Services (DCS), and NYSCAA are hosting the 2021 Regional Meetings virtually via Zoom. Registration is currently available, along with the [agenda](#).

- [Capital District and NYC/LI Regional Meeting](#): Wednesday, June 9th, 10 AM-12:30 PM

Save the Date! - NYSCAA & NYSWDA's 2021 Annual Conference

The 2021 Annual Conference in coordination with NYSWDA **will be held virtually on October 6th, 12th, & 14th**. More information on our call for proposals, sponsorship opportunities, and registration rates will be available soon. We hope to see you in October!

Are you a staff or board member of a NY Community Action Agency? Check out [NYSCAA Learn](#) – free online learning for New York’s Community Action Agencies!



NYSCAA LEARN
Community Action's Online Learning Portal.

Highlights from New York's CAAs:

Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca - *Empowering Families Through Movement*

The [CAP Cayuga/Seneca Challenge: Empowering Families Through Movement](#) is a virtual opportunity to bring us together to help lift up struggling families through community action. Run, walk, bike, swim or choose how and when you move and the mileage goal you want to complete over 15 days. Connect and track your progress on their [race page](#) and share with your fellow participants in their Facebook group. In this inspiring virtual challenge, we'll move miles to end poverty and elevate CAPs mission: to cultivate a community where all people are respectfully supported and empowered to embrace opportunities for learning, growth, and economic security.



[Register today](#) and get involved!

Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) - *Partnering with the Community to Fill the Truck!*

In May, the [Commission on Economic Opportunity \(CEO\)](#) partnered with a number of community organizations to Fill the Truck! Working together with several local businesses, CEO staff and their Board Members worked to collect personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, and much more to help stock their Food Pantry. Keeping a healthy stock of personal hygiene items, in addition to food, is essential to make sure community members have access to the supplies they need most.



[Click here](#) to donate to the Commission on Economic Opportunity.

Monthly Myth Series:

Myth: Impoverished Americans can rise from rags to riches with nothing but hard work. - **FALSE!**

The United States is theoretically a land of opportunity where anyone can climb the economic ladder with hard work and determination. However, recent research indicates that there is actually less economic mobility in the United States than in the European Union or other wealthy countries. Approximately 50 percent of a father's income advantage is inherited by his son, which means that generational wealth significantly impacts whether and to what extent people thrive.



In the United States, 1 in 25 children raised in the bottom quintile of the income distribution can climb to the top quintile, while the figure in Denmark is nearly 1 out of 6. In our popular rhetoric, we celebrate the success of that single individual to the exclusion of the other 24.

[Click here](#) to read more about other common poverty myths that exist in the United States.

CSBG National Partner News & Resources:

CAPLAW - New CDC Guidance: Implications for CAAs

This CAPLAW News Flash addresses a few key questions that CAAs may have regarding the new CDC COVID-19 safety guidance.



"On May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated safety guidelines for people fully vaccinated against COVID-19. In a major departure from its past guidance, the CDC states that fully vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask or physically distance in any indoor or outdoor setting unless required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, or regulations. The new guidance also clarifies that fully vaccinated people do not need to test, quarantine, or be restricted from work following known exposure to COVID-19, if they are asymptomatic unless they are residents or employees of a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter. However, they should still monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days following an exposure..."

[Click here](#) to download the full News Flash from CAPLAW.

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - Community Action COVID-19 Response Story Templates

NCAP has partnered with Strategic America to produce a series of [Community Action COVID-19 Response Story Templates](#) for CAAs to promote their work during the pandemic. NCAP has ready-to-go and customizable design materials for one-pager documents, social media graphics, and email templates.



National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - Resources to Promote the Importance of Getting Vaccinated

With vaccination distribution efforts rapidly increasing, NCAP has put together a list of resources from the [CDC](#) and [FEMA](#). CAAs and state associations can use these materials in their efforts to support and promote the vaccination movement. This list includes websites with more detailed vaccination information, printable posters, and other resources. NCAP encourages the use of information to create materials to use when reaching out to local communities and within an agency. [Click here](#) to download the resources.



National Professional Development Opportunities:

CAPLAW

2021 Virtual Training Conference
June 29 - July 1, 2021
[Click here](#) to learn more.

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)

2021 Annual Training Conference - Presented Virtually
September 13-17, 2021

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

[2021 NCAF Conference](#)
September 27, 28, & October 4, 2021
Second Official Fly-In Day - October 5, 2021

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

[2021 Annual Convention](#)
Pre-Convention Training: August 30-31, 2021
Core Convention: September 1-3, 2021
Boston Marriott - Boston, MA

Tips, Tools, & Resources:

Community Corps - *We Can Do This*

The Biden Administration has launched a new initiative to boost COVID -19 vaccinations. With the tagline "**We Can Do This,**" the **Community Corps is a coalition of community, religious organizations along with celebrity partners who are coming together to promote vaccination.** Community Action Agencies and State Associations are encouraged to sign up and become a Community Corps organization. Once the organization is a member, you will receive timely and accurate information to share and access resources to build confidence in your communities and more.



[Click here](#) to sign up to be a COVID Community Corps organization.

Federal Communications Commission - *Emergency Broadband Benefits (EBB) Program Goes Live!*

On May 12th, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [opened enrollment for the Emergency Broadband Benefit \(EBB\)](#), a temporary program that helps households afford internet services and equipment during the pandemic. The program offers eligible households a monthly discount of up to \$50 (up to \$75 on Tribal lands) for broadband service and associated equipment rentals. The EBB also offers a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer. Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](#). The FCC has also published an [EBB outreach toolkit](#) with infographics, multilingual flyers, and FAQs.



FPWA - *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New York 2021*

FPWA is an anti-poverty policy and advocacy organization committed to advancing economic opportunity and upward mobility for low-income New Yorkers. Having a prominent New York presence for nearly 100 years, FPWA has long served New York City's human services sector. They provide grants to help individuals and families meet their basic needs and advocate for fair public policies on behalf of people in need and the agencies that serve them.



FPWA is published [The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New York 2021](#) to ensure that the best data and analyses are available to enable New York's families and individuals to make progress toward real economic security. The result is a comprehensive, credible, and user-friendly tool. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a measure that calculates

how much income a family must earn to meet basic needs, with the amount varying by family composition and where they live.

Kaiser Family Foundation - *Latinos and the Nation's COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout*

The [Kaiser Family Foundation \(KFF\)](#) and [UnidosUS](#) presented an [interactive web event](#) on Thursday, May 20th on the latest insights on what is working and what barriers must be overcome in ensuring equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines for Latinos in the US, including new KFF survey findings from the community.

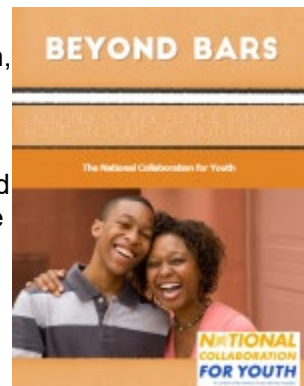


KFF's analysis of state-reported data shows Hispanic and Black people have received smaller shares of vaccinations compared to their share of cases and their share of the population in most states. New KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor data finds that access barriers and information gaps may be contributing to lower rates. Closing these gaps will be vital to mitigating long-standing health and economic disparities and the disproportionate toll the pandemic has taken on these communities.

- [Greater than COVID YouTube Channel](#)
- COVID Questions Answered - [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions available.
- [COVID Vaccinations and Black America](#)

National Human Services Assembly - *Beyond Bars: Keeping Young People Safe At Home and Out of Youth Prisons*

“Beyond Bars: Keeping Young People Safe at Home and Out of Youth Prisons” is a publication of the National Collaboration for Youth, produced with significant input and work from National Assembly and NCY member, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. The report should serve as a handbook for juvenile justice administrators, legislators, judges, the non-profit community, and youth advocates for how to end the practice of youth incarceration, promote public safety, and restore a sense of belonging for our young people in their homes and neighborhoods.



The collective experience tells us that communities often characterized by intense needs also have extraordinary assets that can be easily overlooked. We need to advocate for leveraging those assets as one means to meet those intense needs and providing greater resources for neighborhood-based services and programs.

[Click here](#) for more information and to download the complete report.

National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM) - Vaccine Central

Immunization rates in the United States are often lower among people born in another country. To avoid compounding the pandemic's burden on refugee, immigrant, and migrant (RIM) communities, local governments must make vaccination more accessible. This will require overcoming barriers to vaccination due to:

- Cultural factors
- Knowledge and beliefs about a disease or vaccine
- Healthcare access



Health departments, community-based organizations, and others have [free access to this initial set of resources](#) that support vaccine planning, roll-out, knowledge, and confidence among RIM communities. Please [check back](#) regularly as we will continue to update resources as they become available.

National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM) - Scaling Up COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Strategies with Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Communities

You can [apply now](#) to get up to \$250,000 for your innovative COVID-19 education, testing, contact tracing, vaccination, and other prevention and mitigation strategies in [refugee, immigrant, and migrant \(RIM\) communities](#).

Local health departments (LHDs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) can be most effective when they work together in partnership. That's why NRC-RIM is partnering with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to provide funding and technical assistance to LHDs and their RIM community partners. Even if a local health department does not yet have an established relationship with a community partner, it is never too late to commit to working together on the COVID-19 response.



The goals of this funding are:

- Improve COVID-19 prevention and mitigation
 - Reduce inequities in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality
 - Identify best practices and sustainable models for preventing COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.
-

NY Project Hope - Coping with COVID

COVID-19 has changed a lot about how we live our lives, from daily routines at home to how we do our jobs. The trained crisis counselors at [NY Project Hope](#) understand the changes COVID-19 has made in your life and they know the emotions these challenges create may be strong and sometimes unfamiliar. From uncertainty to sadness, NY Project Hope helps you cope with your reactions to the changes; providing support so you can work to manage the stress and fatigue.

NY Project Hope Coping with COVID



New Yorkers can call the Emotional Support Helpline to speak with someone who has been trained to give you the kind of support that works best for you during the pandemic; whether it's coping strategies, resources, or a chance to talk - the call is always free, confidential, and anonymous. **NY Project Hope's Emotional Support Helpline number is 1-844-863-9314.** Trained crisis counselors are available every day from 8 AM to 10 PM.

NY Project Hope services are available for all New Yorkers. A [printable palm card](#) is available for easy reference. To request printed palm cards to distribute or to request a virtual presentation for your group, please click here to complete the [online form](#).

New York State of Health - *The Deadline for Coverage in 2021 Extended!*

To allow as many consumers as possible to access newly enhanced tax credits, and in light of the ongoing public health emergency, **NY State of Health has extended its Open Enrollment Period for Qualified Health Plans to December 31, 2021.**



Individuals eligible for other NY State of Health programs - Medicaid, Essential Plan and Child Health Plus - can enroll year-round. The best way for consumers to receive assistance at this time is to [phone a navigator or other NY State of Health assistor](#) for help.

Additional information on [NY State of Health](#) insurance options during the COVID-19 emergency can be found [here](#).

Region 2 National Preparedness Division - *Avoid Scams & Fraud Targeting Older Adults*

May is Older Americans Month, a time to build resilience and connections among older adults. Unfortunately, scammers often target older people for fraud and identity theft. Please join the Region 2 National Preparedness Division for a webinar on scams targeting seniors, including Coronavirus scams, financial scams, identity theft, and Medicare fraud on Thursday, May 27th from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST.



Robin E. Eichen, Senior Attorney at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), will discuss how to recognize and avoid scams targeting older individuals and resources available from the FTC

to report and recover from fraud. Charles Clarkson, Project Director of the Senior Medicare Patrol of New Jersey, will discuss how to prevent Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse.

[Click here](#) to register.

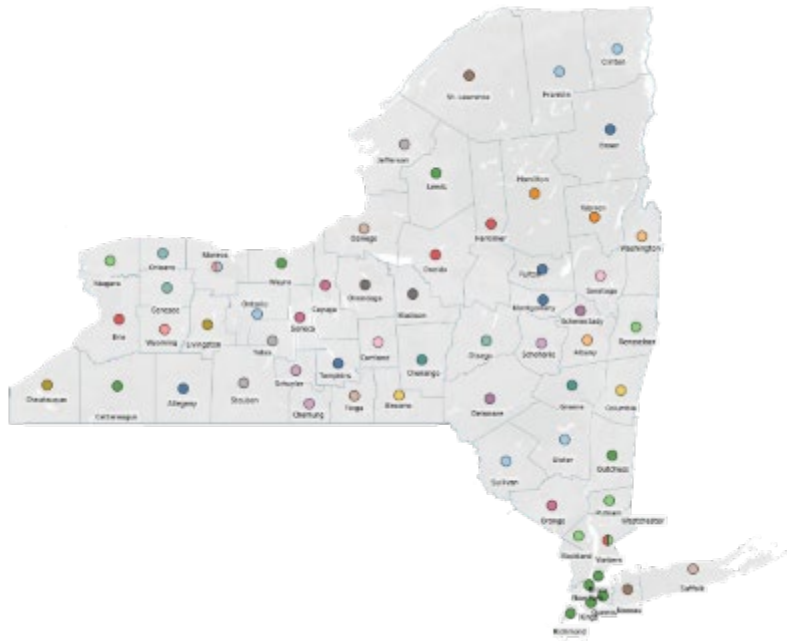
Wipfli - Stronger to Serve 2021 Wipfli Virtual Training Experience

Wipfli is offering a unique virtual conference experience. Need help breaking down regulations, staffing strategies, finances, or funding trends? The Stronger to Serve 2021 Wipfli Virtual Training Experience is designed specifically for Community Action Partnerships and nonprofit organizations.



The Virtual Training Experience is **online July 26-30**, with content available on-demand for two additional weeks. Search the detailed schedule on the [conference website](#) and [register](#) to save your spot, today.

The NY Network:



[Connect with New York's Community Action Agencies.](#)

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