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Francesca Sommer, Director of Performance Management Services, Extension 21

New York State Community Action Association

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.



Community Action

October 1, 2015—September 30, 2016

Annual Report

Through training, advocacy, and education, the New York State Community Action Association increases the capacity of New York State's nonprofit network to strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for people living in poverty.

This was a busy and productive year for NYSCAA. Four statewide annual events were held during the year, with record attendance and positive feedback: Executive Directors' Seminar, Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security, Professional Development Conference and HR, Finance and Leadership Conference. During the twelve-month period, NYSCAA offered 49 additional training opportunities, with over 2,000 participants, on a range of topics including: ROMA, Strategic Planning, Communication, Poverty Awareness, Your Money Your Goals and in depth webinars on many functions of Microsoft Word and Excel.

The year was also a year of changes in NYSCAA's staffing. Both Jessica Collier and Jackie Orr left NYSCAA during this period. Their responsibilities and activities were reviewed, some work was assigned to other staff and a decision was made to fill one position. Francesca Sommer joined the staff at the end of the year and will focus on performance management and grant compliance. (For a list of current staff please last page.)

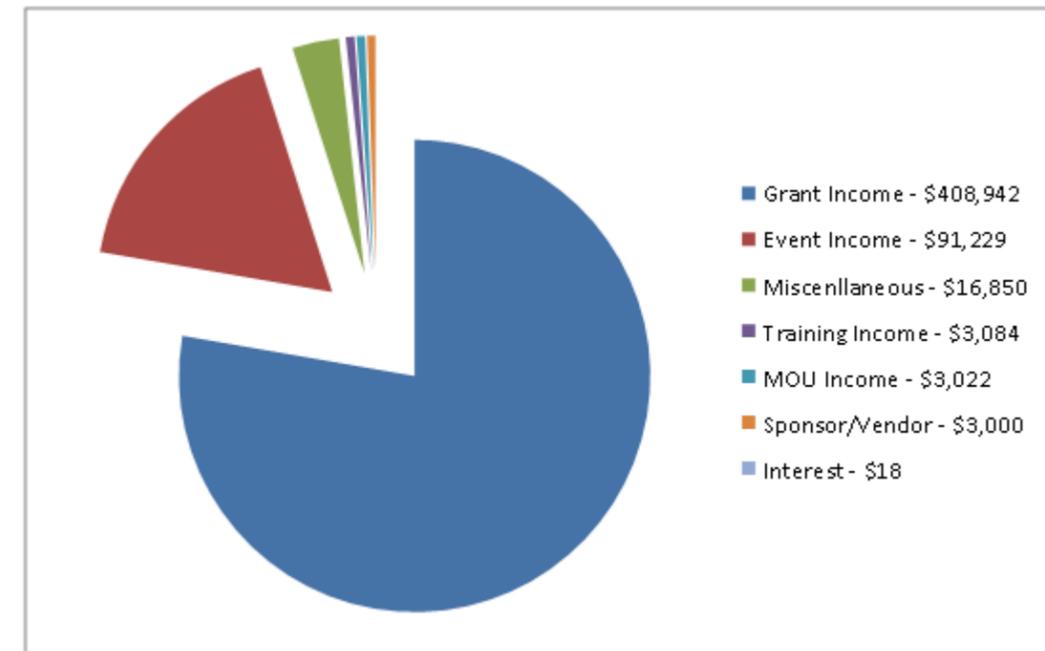
This year we worked with member agencies to ensure they have the resources they need to create meaningful, accurate and useful community needs assessments (CAN) for their service areas. A CNA Workgroup was formed this year to help design and evaluate three CNA survey templates: Community Members, CAA Partners and Board/Staff/Volunteers. The NSYCAA Workgroup was comprised of six member CAAs, including the Adirondack Community Action Program (ACAP); Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO); the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), Cayuga-Seneca Community Action Agency; Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County (CAPCJ) and Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency (MVCAA). The survey templates are currently being used by 13 CAAs as they conduct their assessments.

We have shifted from the NYSCAA CNA data tool housed on NYSCAA's website to a new Community Commons site that will have a broader utility for members, particularly in terms of data gathering, reporting and analysis. The Community Commons Online Data Tool includes a NYSCAA members only hub, providing access to online data from a wide range of data sources. Sixty-seven members from twenty-two agencies have already begun using the Community Commons hub.

Also using the new data hub at Community Commons, NYSCAA released a new, online Community Action Resource Guide, providing a comprehensive listing of New York State's Community Action Agencies and the resources/services they provide. The resource guide is now an interactive, searchable program on the NYSCAA website providing users with many options for searching, sorting and printing data.

Once again this year NYSCAA published the NYS Poverty Report, which is a compilation of poverty related data specific to the state, counties, boroughs, select cities and towns. A hard copy of the report is given to every member of the NYS Legislature as well as every executive director in New York's community action network. It is also available on NYSCAA's website. In the next year, this report will be generated via the new hub at Community Commons in future years, ensuring a resource that is up to date, consistent and readily available on line.

Total Revenue: \$927,554



Another resource created by NYSCAA this year is the Community Action Executive Director's Manual, designed not only as a guide for new executive directors in the NYS community action network, but also to serve as a useful resource for all executive directors. Topics in the manual include: The Community Action Network, History of Community Action, Ethics, ROMA Next Generation, Organizational Standards, Theory of Change, Valuable NYSCAA Resources and Useful Contacts.

This year NYSCAA has launched two affinity groups, one for those who work in Finance and the other for those working in Human Resources. The Affinity Groups will be able to participate in a shared e-mail group to discuss issues pertinent to their particular subject areas and share best practices and information. NYSCAA will promote participation in the Affinity Groups so that an active dialogue among members can occur. In addition to providing a timely forum for member interchange of ideas and information sharing, the Affinity Groups will be able to have virtual meetings and conference calls around selected topics of interest, as the need arises.

Please visit NYSCAA's website to use the many new tools now available:

www.nyscommunityaction.org

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