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## Region II News

***Community Action Partnership of New Jersey***

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No one foresaw that the February in-person NJ Quarterly meeting for CSBG grantees would be the last for the foreseeable future. Luckily, there was a great presentation from one of the agencies, [NORWESCAP](#), and their Chief Program Officer, Jessica Hoffman on one of their services that was created to address a need in the community, the Mexican Consulate on Wheels Program. This program has been operational since 2010 and they have served 500 families partnering with the Mexican Consular Services. This need was created when one of the school districts changed its registration requirements that prevented families from being able to enroll their children without certain identification, despite living in the district. The agency advocated for the acceptance of Consular ID Cards and this later created a partnership with the Mexican Consulate. This partnership brings the following services on site twice a year: Mexican Passport and Registration; Recovery of Mexican Nationality; Passport Renewals; ID Cards; Birth Registration; Legal Advice; Services for adults and children; and Voting Credential (INE).



The Mexican Consulate offices work with local organizations and many of the CAA's in New Jersey have partnerships similar to the Consulate on Wheels as well as other programs to help protect Mexican citizens who are in NJ. The Mexican Consulate coordinates a wide range of public activities and services, including outreach to low income families, family health fairs, conferences, and workshops. To learn more about the Consulate on Wheels program or to find out more information on how a CAA can partner with the Mexican Consulate, [click here](#).

### ***Sires and Payne, Jr. Announce CARES Act Funding to Local NJ Community Health Centers***

On April 7th, Congressman Albio Sires (D-NJ) and Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-NJ) announced that HHS has awarded two Community Health Centers (CHCs) that serve North Jersey residents with much needed funding to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Newark Community Health Centers, Inc. was awarded \$1,608,965 and North Hudson Community Action Corporation received \$2,547,890. This funding was provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020.

[Click here](#) to read more.

### ***Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources for Region II***

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to provide you with resources for the ongoing efforts to assist the Community Action Network and stress protecting the health and safety of staff and customers. NYSCAA has compiled a number of [state and federal resources](#), as well as [tech resources](#) to support the increase in employees working remotely.

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## Census 2020

### **2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19**

**April 13, 2020:** The 2020 Census is underway and more households across America are responding every day. Over 70 million households have responded to date, representing over 48% of all households in America. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau is [adjusting 2020 Census operations](#) in order to:

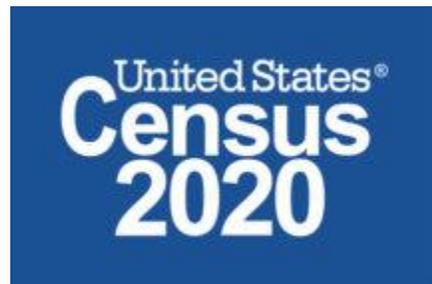
- Protect the health and safety of the American Public and Census Bureau employees.
- Implement guidance from federal, state, and local authorities.
- Ensure a complete and accurate count for all communities.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **The 2020 Census is Live!**

Everyone in your community can still complete the Census [online or by phone](#) during the coronavirus pandemic!

To help reduce the coronavirus risk, the Census Bureau is providing resources and guidance for your local census efforts. [Click here](#) to learn how to promote Census engagement while managing risks related to the coronavirus.

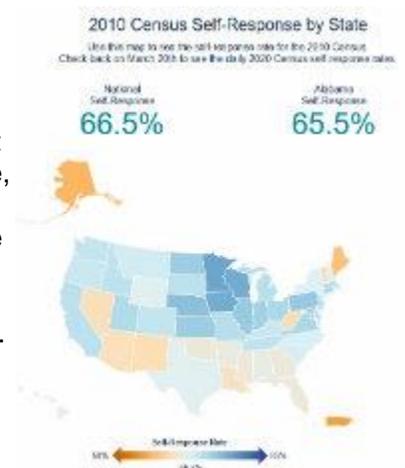


Additional Census Resources:

- [Count All Kids - Messaging and Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Working for the 2020 Census](#)
- [More Census Resources](#)

### **The 2020 Census Response Rate Map Preview Now Available**

The U.S. Census Bureau launched [a new online map](#) as part of its 2020 Census Response Rate Challenge — where state, local, and community leaders work together to promote a complete and accurate count by increasing the self-response rate in their community. The preview map currently displays 2010 Census self-response rates as a reference point for states, counties, cities, and census tracts around the country. Users will be able to use the map to track their community's progress in responding to the 2020 Census



As people begin responding to the 2020 Census online, the Census Bureau will update the map daily to reflect the percentage of households that self-

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respond online, by phone or by mail after being invited to do so. (The rate will be provided for the three modes combined and for online alone.)

[Click here](#) to read more.

## ***Community Action Partnership - Complete Count Committee***

Make sure to visit the Community Action Partnership's (CAP) [Census 2020 webpage](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest news and information about the upcoming 2020 Census. This once in a decade event is critical for Community Action and the families and communities we serve across the country, and it is essential that all people are counted.

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## **National Partner Information**

### ***National Partner Resources on Covid-19***

In light of increasing concerns about a broader coronavirus outbreak and the impacts on normal business operations, the national partners have compiled resources that are available to the Community Action network.

- [CDC's COVID-19 Site](#)
- [CAP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [CAPLAW's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [NASCSPP's Coronavirus Resource Page](#)

### ***Community Action Partnership - Community Action Month (CAM) Toolkit Overview Webinar - April 29th, 2PM EST***

Please join CAP for the release of the [2020 Community Action Month Toolkit](#)! They'll walk through the contents of the toolkit, how to use it, and highlight what's new including all-new social media graphics and sample tweets, new daily themes and hashtags, updated meme creators, 2020 Census content, and a companion one-pager with ideas and resources to help you take your efforts virtual so you can stay safe while you celebrate.



[Click here](#) to register for the webinar, today!

### ***National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) Conference Postponed***

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Due to the accelerating outbreak of the coronavirus, the [National Community Action Foundation \(NCAF\)](#) postponed its March conference in Washington, DC until November, 2020.



Though the annual conference has been delayed until the week of November 15th, 2020, in Washington, DC, NCAF would like to connect with folks soon on a number of sessions that were planned for March. So, while some of the sessions will be rescheduled for November, NCAF will be holding its first ever "rolling remote conference" for others.

### ***CAPLAW - Policies in Practice Webinar Series***

Effectively governed Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have policies and systems in place that encourage accountability, transparency and efficiency of operations. Dive into this governance checkup to review some key policies your CAA is required to have under the CSBG Organizational Standards — a whistleblower policy, conflict of interest policy, procurement policy, and record retention policy. Each 60-minute webinar is intended for Executive Directors, management staff, board members, and attorneys of CAAs. See below for more information and to register.



1. [Procurement Policy](#) - Thursday, April 30, 2020
2. [Record Retention Policy](#) - Thursday, June 4, 2020

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## **Additional Resources**

### ***Social Media Best Practices for Community Action Agencies (CAAs)***

Between posting content and responding to messages in real-time (not just on one platform but on three or four!), managing social media can become a full-time job. Thankfully, NYSCAA has put together some social media best practices documents to help you out!

We understand that using social media gives CAAs the opportunity to share their stories of success, promote innovative programs, and highlight the impact of the life-changing services you offer. We hope you'll find the [Social Media Best Practices](#) documents to be a useful resource to guide your online social media efforts.



### ***American Way of School Funding is 'Uniquely Bad' for Inequality***

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Rising inequality is now at the heart of U.S. public debate, looming over just about every policy discussion from trade to interest rates and the topic is likely to take center stage in this year's presidential election. America's classrooms are one place where the trend could be halted.



U.S. schools get most of their money from state and local authorities. The latter typically rely on property taxes to raise revenue and can do it more easily in wealthy neighborhoods. It's a "uniquely American" system, says Elaine Weiss, a researcher at the Economic Policy Institute. And its distributional consequences are "uniquely bad," she says. "Some kids, just by dint of where they are born, will have much less funding."

[Click here](#) to read more.

## ***Internal Revenue Service (IRS) - Form W-4 & Tax Withholding Estimator***

**Tax Withholding Estimator:** The IRS encourages everyone to use the Tax Withholding Estimator to perform a "paycheck checkup." This will help you make sure you have the right amount of tax withheld from your paycheck. There are several reasons to check your withholding:

- Checking your withholding can help protect against having too little tax withheld and facing an unexpected tax bill or penalty at tax time next year.
- At the same time, you may prefer to have less tax withheld up front, so you receive more in your paychecks and get a smaller refund at tax time.

**Form W-4:** The IRS has released the final version of the 2020 [Form W-4](#). The new form must be used by all new employees hired on or after January 1, 2020 and any employees who wish to adjust their federal withholding on or after January 1, 2020.

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## **National Professional Development Opportunities**

### **CAPLAW National Training Conference**

June 30th - July 2nd, 2020 - Chicago, Illinois

[www.capl原因.org](http://www.capl原因.org)

### **National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)**

2020 Annual Convention

August 26th-28th, 2020 - Seattle, Washington

[www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com)

### **National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)**

2020 Annual Conference

November 15, 2020 - Washington D.C.  
[Click here](#) for more information.



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