



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

January 2021

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CEO's Letter

Dear Friend,

I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Matthew Bull, COO, Pro Action of Steuben and Yates; Felecia Dumas, Executive Director, St. Lawrence County Community Development Program; and Sue Kervin, Planning & Evaluation Data Analyst, Action for a Better Community, for completing the certification process and becoming New York's newest Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (NCRT). Becoming a certified ROMA trainer is a substantial commitment, and even more so now with COVID-19 restrictions. Each of them demonstrated flexibility, commitment, and most of all perseverance! We welcome them to group of certified ROMA Professionals and the ROMA Alliance!

I am proud to announce that NYSCAA's newly formed Social Justice Committee met for the first time this month. The committee, comprised of staff from nineteen CAAs, is charged with identifying barriers causing inequities in our communities and developing strategies to assist the CAA Network. The group is excited and committed to being agents of change not only in their own Community Action Agency but in the community as well. The work of this group will be shared throughout the network.

Best,



[Jackie Orr](#), NCRMT

Monthly Poverty Myth

MYTH: No one in the United States goes hungry. - FALSE!

The [USDA](#) estimated that 11.1% of US households were food insecure in 2018. This means that approximately 14.3 million households had difficulty providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources. Rates of food insecurity were substantially higher than the national average for households with incomes near or below the [Federal poverty line](#).



56% of food-insecure households in the USDA survey reported that they had participated in one or more of the three largest Federal food and nutrition assistance programs in the previous month. One of these programs is known as [SNAP](#) or the Supplemental Nutrition Program. [Learn more about policies that help.](#)

[Click here](#) to read more about the state of poverty in the United States.

NYSCAA News

New York's Community Action Agencies Respond to COVID-19

New York's Community Action Agencies (CAAs) created new programs, adapted to expanding customer needs, and continue to empower individuals and increase community resilience. They have been on the front lines and will continue to respond to the needs of the individuals and families they serve. [Click here](#) to see the efforts by New York's CAAs to address the challenges created by the pandemic.



NYSCAA's 2020 Annual Report is Now Available

NYSCAA's 2020 Annual Report is now available on the [NYSCAA website!](#)

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



NYSCAA Resources on COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have developed an online listing of resources to support you and your agency's important work. NYSCAA has compiled several [state and federal resources](#), as well as [tech resources](#) to help you during this challenging time.

Please visit the [NYSCAA website](#) as we continue to update and add to the resources listings.

Highlights from our Agencies

Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council

Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council is proud to reintroduce itself as [LifeWorks Community Action](#) after 55+ years of dedicated service!

The new LifeWorks name centers the focus on the commitment that staff, volunteers, and partners have to be part of a solution and the spirit of hope for a better future. This new name focuses on Community Action's legacy.



Help Starts Here.

The tagline, "Help Starts Here", defines work the agency does. It shows that the agency is a starting point to many services that help people overcome challenges. It encourages people to ask the question "Can You Help Me?" and promises an answer.

[Click here](#) to see the updated LifeWorks Community Action website.

Community Action Organization of WNY

[Community Action Organization of WNY \(CAO\)](#) selects new CEO and President.

The Community Action Organization of WNY's (CAO) Board of Directors has selected Thomas U. Kim as its new President and CEO. Kim has a 30+ year career of extensive organizational, management, and



Community
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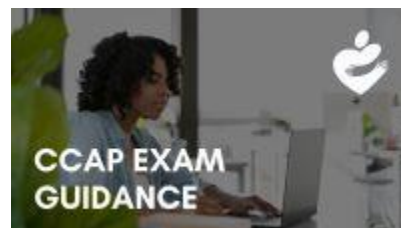
fiscal leadership experience across non-profit, government, military, and for-profit sectors. He most recently served as Executive/Organizational Consultant for the Los Angeles Dream Center. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Primo Center in Chicago, an organization that serves the city's homeless population through shelter assistance, early childhood education, healthcare, and more. Kim also volunteers as the Board Chair for the Faith n Hope International Ministry, a not-for-profit entity focused on providing long term solutions to the orphan crisis in Asia.

[Click here](#) to read more about CAO and their new CEO and President.

CSBG National Partner Information

Community Action Partnership - Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Exam Guidance

The Partnership is hosting a webinar to assist candidates planning to take the CCAP exam. The session will focus on the best strategies for preparing for the examination; noting what distinguishes the CCAP exam from other kinds of tests, with particular focus on the Study Guide and practice questions.



[Click here](#) to register for the webinar.

New COVID-19 Web Resources from CAPLAW

As winter approaches and we face new and increased COVID-19 challenges across the country, CAPLAW would like to remind the Community Action Network about two online resources that we are continually updating to assist the Network during this difficult time. These resources, initially released in spring 2020, contain in-depth information and analysis, and updates to them reflect evolving laws, regulations, guidance, and events related to the pandemic. They include:



- [Building Readiness: Planning, Prevention, Response, and Liability](#) - Contains guidance presented as a series of FAQs to anticipate and address many of the questions related to operating during the pandemic. The five sections addressed are: planning for onsite services, prevention and workplace safety protocols to minimize the spread of COVID-19, responding to known or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the workplace, liability issues around COVID-19 related claims, and other resources for additional guidance.
- [CARES Act Benefits for Nonprofit CAAs](#) - Provides details on certain benefits made available to non-profit CAAs through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and the Economic Security Act (CARES Act), including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP loans), Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), Main Street Lending Program, Employee Retention Credit, and payroll tax deferrals.

Additional Resources

The Annie E. Casey Foundation - Kids, Families and COVID-19

This [KIDS COUNT policy report](#) examines how households with children are faring during the pandemic. Its findings are primarily based on surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread economic damage and isolated families in unprecedented ways. Parents have had to juggle both educating and caring for their children. Millions of Americans have lost not just their jobs, but their sense of stability, source of income, and health care.

To succeed now and after the pandemic, families must have good health, both physical and mental, and the health care to maintain it. They must also have food and the money to buy it; safe, stable housing and communities; education and the means to access it; and quality child care so that parents can work. [Click here](#) to read more.

National Head Start Association - Resources to Support Young Children in the Wake of the Violent Mob in the US Capitol

[The National Head Start Association](#) has compiled a list of resources to navigate difficult conversations regarding the events at the US Capitol. For everyone in the Head Start community, their role in supporting the nation's most vulnerable children is most critical in moments like this. They hold the privilege and responsibility that comes with nurturing the country's youngest learners and recommit to creating a brighter, more empathetic future through them and for them. As you support children and families in the wake of this violent act, NHSA has compiled a list of resources to navigate these conversations.



[Click here](#) to see what resources are available through NHSA.

Harvard University Center on the Developing Child - How Racism Can Affect Child Development

Years of scientific study have shown us that when children's stress response systems remain activated at high levels for long periods, it can have a significant wear-and-tear effect on their developing brains and other biological systems. This can have lifelong effects on learning, behavior, and both physical and mental health.



A growing body of evidence from both the biological and social sciences connects this concept of chronic wear and tear to racism. This research suggests that constant coping with systemic racism and everyday discrimination is a potent activator of the stress response. This may help us understand the early origins of racial disparities in chronic illness across the lifespan.

The evidence is overwhelming: Black, indigenous, and other people of color in the U.S. have, on average, more chronic health problems and shorter lifespans than whites at all income levels.

[Click here](#) to read more.

The Rural Blog - One-Third of Rural Counties Lack a Pharmacy Listed in Coronavirus Vaccination Plan

According to a new study, almost one-third of rural counties don't have a pharmacy partnered with a chain or network that's participating in the federal government's coronavirus vaccination program.

"The [study](#) from the Rural Policy Research Institute's Center for Rural Health Policy and Analysis found that 750 of the 1,962 nonmetropolitan counties in the study do not have a pharmacy that is listed in the federal Health and Human Services vaccine distribution partnerships," Tim Marema reports for

The Daily Yonder. "The combined population of those rural counties is about 5.6 million, according to the study, or about 13 percent of the rural population."



In November, the federal Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) said the vaccine would be distributed through chains such as Rite Aid, Walgreens, Kroger, Walmart, and independent pharmacy networks such as Good Neighbor Pharmacy, Marema reports. Such locations make up 60% of the pharmacies nationwide.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Bloomberg - U.S. Suffers Sharpest Rise in Poverty Rate in More Than 50 Years

The end of 2020 brought the sharpest rise in the U.S. poverty rate since the 1960s, according to a study released January 25, 2021.

Economists Bruce Meyer from the University of Chicago and James Sullivan of the University of Notre Dame found that the poverty rate increased by 2.4 percentage points during the latter half of 2020 as the U.S. continued to suffer the economic impacts from Covid-19.



That percentage-point rise is nearly double the largest annual increase in poverty since the 1960s. This means an additional 8 million people nationwide are now considered poor. Moreover, the poverty rate for Black Americans is estimated to have jumped by 5.4 percentage points, or by 2.4 million individuals.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) Webinar Series

Fostering Equity in Local Clean Energy Policy - February 25, 2021 - 1:30 PM EST

For local governments, prioritizing social equity in clean energy strategies begins with identifying groups historically underserved by energy efficiency and renewable energy investments, the disparate impacts of current policies, and who is poised to have a voice in future policy design and implementation. These concerns guide the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) work in supporting local communities working to advance social equity through clean energy initiatives. Historically, many marginalized groups have been underserved, overlooked, and underrepresented in local clean energy planning and policymaking. These groups can vary from place to place but often include people of color, low-income residents, older adults, indigenous peoples, immigrants, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness. Join this webinar to learn about what can be done to address the barriers to clean energy facing marginalized communities, including an exploration of five dimensions that can be used to evaluate how cities and their local utilities are creating, promoting, and supporting socially equitable clean energy strategies.



[Click here](#) to register.

National Professional Development Opportunities

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

2021 Management & Leadership Training Conference
February 3 - 5, 2021

[Click here to register.](#)

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)

2021 Winter Training Conference
March 8 - 12, 2021

[Click here to register.](#)

CAPLAW

2021 Virtual Training Conference
June 29 - July 1, 2021

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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

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!



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](#) * [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 Program for Madison County, Inc.](#) [Connecting Communities in Action](#) * [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.](#) * [Greater Opportunities](#) * [JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties](#) * [Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.](#) * [LifeWorks Community Action](#) * [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](#) * [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.

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