



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

February 2021

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Monthly Myth Series - Black History Month

MYTH: Slavery was limited only to the southern United States. - FALSE!

Fact: Slavery touched nearly every corner of this country.

When people think about slavery in the United States, they often picture large cotton plantations in the Deep South. One popular textbook claims that while cotton “enriched planters in the South, as well as bankers and ship owners in the North,” the latter still relied on a “free labor system.” Similarly, the College Board’s curriculum for Advanced Placement U.S. history states that “the North’s expanding manufacturing economy relied on free labor in contrast to the Southern economy’s dependence on slave labor.”



Northern communities supported and benefited from Southern slavery through the shipbuilding, textile and shoe-making industries. In Rhode Island alone, traders shipped more than 100,000 African captives to the Caribbean and American colonies. Plantations along the Connecticut, Delaware and Hudson rivers relied on enslaved workers to produce wheat and process it into flour. Slavery was widespread at universities as well: The Maryland Jesuits,

who founded and ran Georgetown, sold enslaved laborers to pay off debts to keep the school in operation, and early presidents of Harvard brought enslaved laborers to work on the campus. Enslaved laborers even built the structure in Lower Manhattan for which Wall Street is named.

[Click here](#) to read more about this and other common misconceptions about slavery in the U.S.

NYSCAA News

Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) 2021 Cohort

NYSCAA's 2021 [Emerging Leaders Institute](#) cohort is about to launch with a total of 38 participants in ELI 1.0 and 16 participants in ELI 2.0 from CAAs across the state! The group will meet virtually in March to kick off the year's seminars. This is the 11th year of the Emerging Leaders Institute continuing to assist in developing and enhancing future leaders' skills in Community Action Agencies across New York State. We are eager to meet everyone at the upcoming Introductory Webinar!

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

Schenectady Community Action Program - Long Story Short

Poverty impacts thousands of people in the Capital Region, but [SCAP](#) is sharing hope for breaking the cycle of poverty. That is why they created the [Long Story Short](#) campaign; to raise awareness of the strengths and successes of the people they serve, the difficulties they have overcome, and to combat the negative stigma associated with poverty.



Sharing these stories motivates and inspires customers and spreads the message of hope. Additionally, through these stories, SCAP can showcase their uniqueness and the many ways they can help their community. [Click here](#) to read the stories of customer success.

PEACE, Inc. - Working to Serve the Community

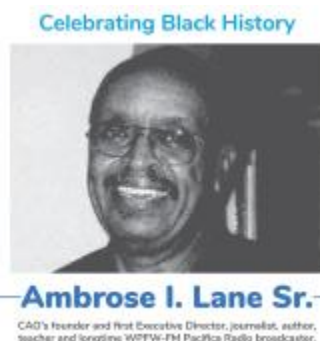
LaDeena Curry, the new coordinator for [PEACE Inc.'s](#) Emma L. Johnston Southside Family Resource Center, wants to offer a safe, warm, and inviting environment where people can feel comfortable. Offering a range of traditional and COVID related services, Curry and the rest of her South Side team are trying to empower local residents through support and empathy.



The center continues to serve the community during the pandemic. Its food pantry is open Thursdays and for emergencies. Crisis, whole family, and other case management services are available by appointment as well. For Curry, such offerings are especially needed now. Even with the pandemic, many services have been expanded. Each Thursday or by appointment, job candidates can receive resume, job search, and mock interview assistance. Bus passes and job attire are also available to help people obtain quality work. [Click here](#) to read more about PEACE, Inc.'s work to empower their communities.

Community Action Organization of WNY - Black History Month Spotlight, Ambrose I. Lane Sr.

[The Community Action Organization of WNY's \(CAO\)](#) honored their founder and first Executive Director, the late Rev. Ambrose I. Lane Sr. Rev. Lane was an anti-poverty activist, integral in creating the Community Action Organization of WNY. He was also the first African-American candidate for mayor of Buffalo. A journalist, author, teacher, and longtime WPFW-FM Pacifica Radio broadcaster, Mr. Lane gained national attention in his 1966 proposal, "We Ourselves", was presented to the White House Conference on Civil Rights a year later.



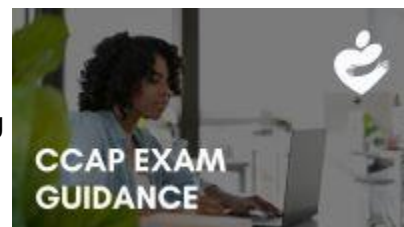
Rev. Lane's contributions to New York's Community Action Network were pivotal in a time when civil rights issues were at the forefront of controversy in the United States. His dedication and resolve to improve the lives of the people in Western New York communities are still alive and well in the agency he helped to create. [Click here](#) to read more about the late Rev. Lane.

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 tests, focusing on the Study Guide and practice questions.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar on March 9.



Community Action Partnership - COVID-19: Community Action Responded Quickly in the Early Days of the Pandemic

The Partnership is excited to share that they've added a new section to their website that includes a [new report](#) on Community Action's response to the early days of the pandemic, as well as several statewide and local reports. [Click here](#) to check out the landing page. Please note that this landing page is also the access point to many of the Partnership's other tools and resources regarding COVID-19.



The Partnership's new report, [COVID-19: Community Action Responded Quickly in the Early Days of the Pandemic](#), draws from data collected during the first 90 days of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. and includes stories that show how Community Action Agencies adapted and grew during the initial days of the crisis.

CAPLAW - All-a-Board! The Purpose, People, and Process of CAA Boards

CAPLAW has updated its popular video series, **All a-Board! The Purpose, People, and Process of CAA Boards**, with three new videos. These 7-11 minute animated shorts help boost Community Action Agency (CAA) board's capacity to recruit, engage, and fulfill their responsibilities. Whether you're a new CAA board member eager to orient yourself to the work of community action, an existing board member looking for clarity on your role and responsibilities, or a board chair planning to facilitate training at the next board meeting, the All a-Board! series can serve as a starting point or a refresher.



To gain access to the videos, [click here](#).

Additional Resources

The Administration for Children & Families Appoints New Director of the Office of Community Services (OCS)

We welcome Dr. Lanikque Howard as the new Director of the [Office of Community Services \(OCS\)](#) and Senior Advisor on Asset Building for the [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#). Dr. Howard's appointment was announced this month in a press release put out by the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#). As the OCS Director, Dr. Howard provides leadership and oversight of over \$6 billion in mandatory and discretionary grants through six social service and community development programs, including the [Community Services Block Grant \(CSBG\)](#) and the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#).



Dr. Howard served three years in the Obama Administration in the Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary, supporting the development and implementation of ACF policy and cross-cutting initiatives. Before returning to ACF, Dr. Howard was the Senior Administrator for Programs at First 5 Alameda County, where she oversaw a number of strategic programs, initiatives, and partnerships to address the causes and consequences of poverty, reduce racial disparities, and maximize the potential of young children and their families.

The Community Action network at large is excited to work with Dr. Howard and we look forward to continuing our strong relationship with OCS. [Click here](#) to read Dr. Howard's full bio.

McKinsey & Company - The future of work after COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted labor markets globally during 2020. The short-term consequences were sudden and often severe: Millions of people were furloughed or lost jobs, and others rapidly adjusted to working from home as offices closed. Many other workers were deemed essential and continued to work in hospitals and grocery stores, on garbage trucks and in warehouses, yet under new protocols to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus.



[This report on the future of work after COVID-19](#) is the first of three MGI reports examining aspects of the post-pandemic economy. Here, they assess the lasting impact of the pandemic on labor demand, the mix of occupations, and the workforce skills required in eight countries with diverse economic and labor market models: China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Together, these eight countries account for almost half the global population and 62 percent of GDP.

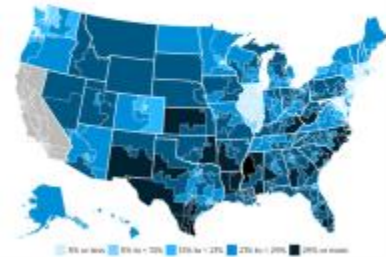
[Click here](#) to read the full report.

Economic Policy Institute - Interactive map of the week: 21% of the U.S. workforce would get a raise with a \$15 federal minimum wage.

The federal minimum hourly wage is just \$7.25 and has not increased since 2009. The [Raise the Wage Act of 2021](#), introduced in the U.S. House and Senate this week, would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025.

Economic Policy Institute research shows that this would lift the pay of nearly 32 million workers across the country—that's 21% of the U.S. workforce! Take a look at the [new interactive map](#), organized by congressional district, to see what percentage of wage earners would receive a pay increase in your community.

A national \$15 minimum wage would deliver wage increases to workers across the country
The impact of raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2025, by congressional district



Urban Institute - Facing the Facts About Housing Injustice Will Help Pave the Way to Racial Equity

In a [memorandum](#) released in January, President Biden acknowledged what research and evidence have indisputably shown: the federal government has played a central role in creating and perpetuating today's patterns of racial segregation, neighborhood disinvestment, housing insecurity, and racial wealth gaps. Moreover, these patterns have terrible consequences because they fuel inequities in health, education, policing, and employment.



Such an acknowledgment is both historic and consequential. No president has so explicitly recognized the federal government's culpability or taken official action to redress the consequences of its actions. And although leaders in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other federal agencies (PDF) have previously recognized the federal government's role in creating racial inequity and injustice, progress in addressing ongoing harms has been halting at best.

[Click here](#) to read more.

WIPFLI - Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

[Wipfli](#) offers various events, seminars, forums, and trainings on a wide range of topics during the course of the year. They are offering a wide variety of forums and trainings to help you stay ahead of the curve and help your organization continue to grow.



Upcoming trainings:

1. March 9, 2021 - [In-Depth Training on OMB's Uniform Guidance](#)
2. March 16-18, 2021 - [Head Start/Early Head Start Regulation Boot Camp](#)
3. March 25, 2021 - [CSBG Organizational Standards Boot Camp](#)

Click on a training above to find out more information about the presenters and how to register.

National Professional Development Opportunities

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 N.Y. 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](#) * [JCED 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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