

A white silhouette map of Region II, showing the outlines of New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, set against a blue background.

RPIC REGION II

NEW YORK · NEW JERSEY · PUERTO RICO · US VIRGIN ISLANDS

October 2021

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Region II News

Community Action Partnership of New Jersey (CAPNJ) News

CAPNJ & DCA Conference

On September 24th, the NJ Department of Community Affairs Office of Community Services and CAP NJ hosted a virtual conference for the CSBG network focusing on “Strengthening the Community Action Network.” The conference theme included internal and external collaborations and opportunities to share our experiences and grow stronger together.



The spirit of the day was captured by the keynote speaker, President and CEO of Greater Bergen Community Action, Robert Halsch, as he discussed coming together more effectively as a network, and the heart center that connects us all with actionable ways to move the

partnership between CAPNJ and DCA congruently forward.
You can watch part of his moving message by viewing this clip [here](#).

Puerto Rico Community Action Association (PRCAA) News

Community Action Staff Participate in Workshops

September 17, 2021: Psychological First Aid Workshop
The objective of the training was for participants to learn the main concepts of crisis management and apply this knowledge through psychological first aid. Crisis intervention is a strategy that is applied the moment the crisis occurs with the objective to assist an individual in regaining functionality and being able to cope and adapt.



September 22 - 23, 2021: Motivation Workshop
Home Assistants and staff of the Northeast Region of Social Action participated in a Motivation workshop. The participants learned methods to assist individuals with identifying their needs. They also learned ways to promote job satisfaction, productivity, learning and discipline.

September 28, 2021: Stress and Anxiety Workshop
Family Support Resource, Ms. Leslie Bonilla from Ninos De Nueva Esperanza, provided a workshop on managing stress and anxiety in the workplace. Participants learned self-care techniques to manage stress and anxiety while benefiting from therapeutic chair massages by Renew Body & Soul Wellness.

New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) News

Congratulations to the Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) Participants!

NYSCAA is excited to extend congratulations to our 2021 Emerging Leaders Institute 2.0 group for successfully completing 2 years of ELI! There were 14 participants in the ELI 2.0 group from 9 Community Action Agencies across the state. Each participant completed a project in which they identified a need within their agency, created and executed a plan to meet their communities need. The group presented to the entire Emerging Leaders 1.0 and 2.0 group at NYSCAA's September Seminar held in East Syracuse, NY. We wish them well as they continue their leadership journey and become ELI alumni!



ELI is a year-long leadership development program designed to build and expand the capacity of future leaders within New York's Community Action Network. The collaborative learning experience incorporates:

- Formal training to build skills and knowledge
- Peer networking opportunities to build local and statewide relationships
- Discussions surrounding current and relevant books chosen by the group and/or leaders within Community Action

Click [here](#) to learn more about NYSCAA's Emerging Leaders Institute.

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 available resources for the Community Action network.

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

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - CSBG T/TA Resource Center

The CSBG T/TA Resource Center connects the CSBG network to training, tools, and resources designed to support their efforts in serving families with low incomes and addressing the causes and conditions of poverty in local communities. The resources on this site are developed by and for the CSBG network.



The CSBG Network is a national network of 1,000+ Community Action Agencies, State CSBG-Offices, State Associations, Tribal Organizations, National T/TA Partner organizations, and the federal Office of Community Services working together to alleviate the conditions of poverty and help families and communities achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Check out the resource center [here](#).

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) - Energy Awareness Month Toolkit

Happy Energy Awareness Month, Weatherization and Community Action networks! NCAP knows you are busy responding to the needs of your customers who are experiencing hardship due to COVID-19. Now more than ever funders and policymakers must learn about the important work you are doing to help make the energy sector more equitable.

You can use the Energy Awareness Month Toolkit in conjunction with the NASCSP Weatherization Day Toolkit. NCAP has developed graphics and messaging for you to share about the need your customers are facing, as well as actions you are taking to address the need. This includes content on energy burden, energy equity and clean energy, COVID-19 and the energy sector, the Weatherization Assistance Program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Energy Efficiency Day (October 6), and Weatherization Day (October 30). In addition, NCAP hopes you find the Facebook Live and video production tips useful for hosting virtual Weatherization Day events.



Check [here](#) or on the picture above to download the Energy Awareness Month Toolkit.

CAPLAW - Updated and New CSBG Client Eligibility Resources!

To assist the Community Action Network in navigating and shaping client eligibility for CSBG-funded services, CAPLAW has updated its [Guide to Client Eligibility](#) and issued a special supplement that addresses income eligibility in disaster and emergency scenarios. The updated guide contains an appendix comparing definitions of income and income eligibility levels across programs commonly administered by CAAs such as CSBG, LIHEAP, Weatherization, and Head Start. It also addresses cost allocation among programs with different eligibility requirements. The supplement discusses how a client's receipt of emergency-related benefits can impact their eligibility for CSBG and other federal programs.



With the start of the fiscal year 2022 on October 1, client income eligibility for CSBG CARES and regularly appropriated CSBG funding (including any FY21 CSBG funding carried over into FY22) will revert to either 100% or 125% of the federal poverty line. CAAs preparing for this change should review their income eligibility policies to identify any areas of flexibility that allow them to continue serving those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges. We hope these resources will answer some of the most common questions related to income eligibility during this period.

CAPLAW's New Resource Library

All of CAPLAW's resources and publications are now available in CAPLAW's new Resource Library. Navigate the different topics to find the resource you need.

Find out more about the new CAPLAW resource [here](#).



CAPLAW's All a-Board! The Purpose, People, and Process of CAA Boards Free Video Series

CAPLAW has updated its popular video series, All a-Board! The Purpose, People, and Process of CAA Boards, with three new videos. These 5-11 minute animated shorts help boost the capacity of community action agency (CAA) boards 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 a training at the next board meeting, the All a-Board! series can serve as a starting point or a refresher. As standalone resources, the videos offer frameworks and hypotheticals based on real-life board situations to help directors understand key aspects of CAA board service. They also complement CAPLAW's existing resources, highlighting important issues that board members can learn more about in our other publications.

Board members can view these brief videos on their own at each board member's convenience, or as a group as part of a full board training or series of short board trainings at the beginning of each board meeting. However they're consumed, CAAs may use these videos to help meet CSBG Organizational Standards 5.7 and 5.8, which call upon organizations to conduct board orientations and ongoing board trainings.

Click [here](#) to watch the video series.

Additional Resources

Census Bureau Report Shows the Poverty Rate for 2020 is up 1% from 2019

COVID, lockdowns, and stimulus affected poverty indicators across the board from 2019 to 2020, [according to the information in three different reports from the Census Bureau](#). Median household income and real median earnings of all workers decreased. However, for full-time, year-round workers, earnings increased. Data also showed that the first two rounds of stimulus checks significantly reduced the supplemental poverty rates for Black and Latino children. And while 91.4% of people were covered by health insurance for all or part of 2020, it still means 280 million Americans did not have health insurance at any point during 2020.



Read more in-depth about income, poverty, and health insurance in real numbers across the United States in these three reports:

- [Income and Poverty in the United States: 2020](#)
- [Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2020](#)
- [The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2020](#)

Thrifty Food Plan is Updated to Reflect the New Max SNAP Benefits, Market Prices, and Dietary Guidelines

For the first time since 2006, the USDA reevaluated the Thrifty Food Plan to reflect updated data on food prices, food composition, and consumption patterns, and currently dietary guidance in the most recent 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The plan acknowledges challenges in food preparation and consumer preferences versus nutritional needs in a way that many prior iterations of the plan never did. As pointed out in this [Brookings opinion piece](#), when food writer Jeffrey Steingarten tried to stick to the plan back in the 90s, he gave up after four days in a mere five-day challenge. While he optimized spending, his time was beleaguered by the intensive cooking and clean-up required. The USDA Market Baskets (weekly amounts of food and beverage categories) now include more convenient items like ready-to-eat breakfast cereals, canned beans, and pre-prepared entrees and sides like soups and frozen pizza.



Supplemental tools like sample menus and how the Market Baskets can be translated into practical meals and snacks will be made available later this year at [MyPlate.gov](https://www.myplate.gov).

You can download and access the 2021 Thrifty Food Plan along with supplemental materials [here](#).

WIPFLI LLP Virtual Trainings

At Wipfli their highest priority is helping you navigate the challenges of today and continue to strengthen your tomorrow.



Now is an excellent time for your governing members, leaders, and staff to get their required ongoing training. They've made it easier to get this training by offering topics live in a virtual format, on-demand, and back on-site in select cities.

Upcoming trainings for nonprofits:

October 14, 11:00am-4:00pm EST - [Senior Human Resources Forums for Nonprofits](#)

October 19, 11:00-4:00pm EST - [CSBG Organizational Standards Boot Camp](#)

October 26-28, 1:30-5:00pm EST - [Head Start/Early Head Start Regulation Boot Camp](#)

National Professional Development Opportunities

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)
Management and Leadership Training Virtual Conference
Save the Dates: February 2nd through February 4th, 2022

