



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES/CSBG**

Kathy Hochul, Governor  
Rossana Rosado, Secretary of State

Please practice social distancing and wear a mask whenever possible for your safety and the safety of others.

## August 2021

### Wayne County Action Program, Inc.

Wayne County Action Program, Inc. (Wayne CAP) is grateful for the CARES funding received. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wayne CAP presented a comprehensive plan that would provide support for our staff as well as for our customers. The biggest impact we have seen so far is in the INCREASE in the feeling of food security by Wayne County residents overall.

Beginning in the spring of 2020, during the rising wave of COVID-19 uncertainty and precautions, Wayne CAP started to work with Foodlink (our regional food bank) to provide distributions of food boxes for 300 people per week. Wayne CAP was able to assist in this huge undertaking by providing staff and volunteers to help, but more importantly to utilize resources made available through our CARES funding to help deliver food boxes to those who could not attend the distributions for themselves.

CARES funding provided us with the means to purchase vans to use for many different purposes. **We prioritized getting food into the homes of those who needed it most.** We were able to pick up food boxes at the distribution site and deliver them to the doorsteps of shut-in seniors and families that either did not have transportation or were scared to venture out of their homes due to the pandemic. We also were able to continue to provide daily breakfast and lunch foods to all our enrolled Head Start families. **The relief we saw on the faces of those we served was immeasurable.** One Head Start child would greet our staff at the door with a big smile, excited to see what was in those days delivered box! One senior citizen, also a regular participant of our medical transportation service, stated that having this food delivered directly to them made them feel safe and know that they would not go hungry.

The food distributions are now monthly, but we continue to use our CARES funded vans to transport food to where it is most needed. Each month we bring a van full to our agency food pantry located in Sodus. This pantry provides food to all Wayne County residents in need. We also bring food to our site in Lyons for distribution to families receiving our services. In addition, we have 20-25 senior citizens on [Type here]



a monthly list to have food boxes delivered directly to them at their homes. **The COVID-19 pandemic caused a great upheaval in how we provide services, but it did not stop those services.** CARES funding was made available at the right time to allow us to acquire new tools to use to help our Wayne County neighbors. **Our vans have proven to be invaluable assets, expanding our scope of service provision during an unprecedented time when everything around us was shutting down.**

CARES funding has enabled Wayne CAP to either expand upon existing services to meet an increased need or to fully add new services for our staff and customers as a direct result of circumstances created by the pandemic.

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For our essential staff:

- Hazard Pay has been distributed;
- Deep cleaning of office and service space has taken place at our Lyons and Sodus based buildings;
- No touch automatic entry doors were included in the renovation of the new Main Office building located in Lyons;
- All reception areas across our multiple sites have had plexi-glass barriers installed;
- Personal Protective Equipment has been purchased and distributed to all sites;
- Mobile generators have been purchased to ensure minimal interruption of service in the event of a power outage;
- Subscriptions for Zoom have been purchased for all locations to allow for virtual service provision.

For our customers:

- Wayne CAP staff and volunteers assisted in the weekly (through March 2021) and now monthly free food distributions serving ~ 300 recipients per distribution;
- When necessary, this food was delivered by agency van to the homes of customers unwilling or unable to come to a distribution themselves;
- Lunches for children were made available at centralized sites for pick up, or delivered to the children's homes;
- Emergency rent and utility assistance has been provided for customers who became unemployed as a result of the pandemic, and therefore unable to meet these expenses;
- Agency van, driven by staff or volunteers, has provided transportation for senior citizens for medical appointments and other essential appointments throughout the pandemic.

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## New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) Brings Together Their Social Justice Committee

Beginning January of 2021, as part of CARES funding, NYSCAA and 22 participants from 19 different Community Action Agencies have come together every month to discuss how to forward racial equity policies in their organizations and share a collegiate-style space hosted by NYSCAA where committee members from across the state can coordinate different implementation ideas and discuss difficult topics. The intent is that members will use the committee as an opportunity to learn from each other and help realize the ideals of its identity statement detailed below.

*“The Social Justice Committee builds and bridges partnerships, and together fights systems of oppression that individuals who are marginalized and families within our communities. We are committed to:*

- **Equity and Accessibility:** *we advocate to ensure all communities and social systems are equitable and accessible to everyone.*
- **Participation:** *we create opportunities in which all community members have safe, participatory, inclusive, and active platforms to have a voice in making policies/decisions that affect their lives.*
- **Rights:** *we empower self and others through sustainable practices and collective liberation utilizing individual voice to impact decisions.”*



Before modeling inclusive values and leadership in their communities, many committee members thought it was essential to become more informed and prepare themselves so they would be able to have more nuanced discussions about race. Discussions led by experienced Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) facilitators like Dawn Knight-Thomas, MSW and Sam Fletcher Ph.D. challenged committee members' views towards racial stereotypes and how to reconcile societal influences and unconscious bias when working with community members.

In addition to directly addressing race and racism, the Social Justice Committee intends to tackle a wide array of priorities that may serve many other intersectional identities, including looking into hiring more older workers, being more inclusive towards different sexual and gender identities, and looking at service delivery through a trauma-informed lens. Future committee meetings will be centered around workshopping DEI action plans and brainstorming how to create organizational infrastructure that is sustainable rather than reliant on a single passionate advocate or leader.

*“What I envision with the Social Justice Committee is to learn the perspectives and ideas that other communities use to help determine how a community agency can continue to make a difference. I hope to also provide education from being the ancestor of war vs. the descendant of slaves. I hope that there are opportunities to uplift and educate not just by one family at a time. I hope that I have the opportunity to work with staff on a common idea and grow with support in hopes that an idea develops that can be effective in the political sector.” –Lileyka Thomas, Schenectady Community Action Program.*

## Fall Season Safety with Division of Consumer Protection!

As summer temperatures begin to cool and vacations end, it's time to get ready for fall activities. The NYS Division of Consumer Protection offers some advice for readers for safety as we kick off the fall season:

**Bicycle and Helmet Safety** –Bicycle accidents occur year-round, affecting riders of all ages. If your children are traveling back to school on their bikes, or you commute using a bicycle, be sure to do the following:

- ALWAYS wear a bicycle helmet. Make sure your helmets fit well and meet US safety standards.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, in a single file.
- There are different types of helmets for different activities—make sure your helmet is for bike riding.
- Ensure children are wearing bright colored clothing so they are more easily seen.
- Report any concerns about your safety equipment to the Consumer Protection Safety Commission at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

**College Dormitory Safety**- Moving onto campus this fall? Be sure to check your dormitory and have the following information handy:

- Locate the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms within your dorm or off-campus housing and verify or obtain assurances that they are in proper working order. Participate in any needed safety demonstrations.
- Check for working sprinkler systems and fire extinguishers, especially if you are staying in off-campus housing.
- Locate the nearest emergency exits.
- Never overload outlets with too many demands for power to prevent fires.
- Review the emergency plan in case of fire or a carbon monoxide leaks.
- Remember to call 911 in case of any emergency and follow safety protocol.

**Baby Safety Month**- September is Baby Safety Month! It's a great time to review ways to keep babies safe this season:

- Check for choking hazards around the house. Common everyday items like buttons, magnets, and coins present a choking hazard for babies.
- Cribs are best left bare for babies to prevent suffocation. Avoid all kinds of pillows wherever babies sleep.
- Remember ABC to keep baby safe. Keep baby **A**lone, on its **B**ack and in a **C**rib!  
<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/0672.pdf>
- Make sure cribs meet federal safety standards. Visit the CPSC at [CRIB SAFETY](#) for more information.
- Check also for car seat standards and that your car seat has not expired (yes, they have expiration dates!) The DMV answers some questions on car seats here at [DMV Safety Restrains](#).

The Division of Consumer Protection offers these tips and more to educate and support New York's consumers. To find more information, go to the Division of Consumer Protection website at: <https://dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection>.

The Division of Consumer Protection provides voluntary mediation between consumers and businesses. The Consumer Assistance Helpline 1-800-697-1220 is available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, excluding State Holidays, and consumer complaints can be filed at any time at <https://dos.ny.gov/file-consumer-complaint>

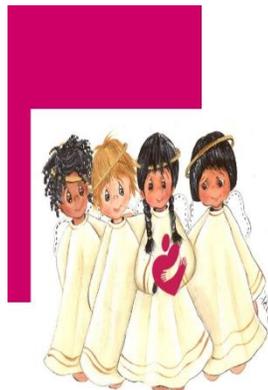
Connect with the Division on social media by following us via Twitter at [@NYSConsumer](#) or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nysconsumer](http://www.facebook.com/nysconsumer).

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Minds: September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Dear Friends,

As we slowly start to recover from the devastating impacts of the past 18 months, we all feel a sense of pride in what was accomplished by the staff and volunteers in Community Action agencies around New York State and across the country.

It was the worst of times, but people were helped. It was during these times we recognized a possibility to reconfigure life and our work towards the world we want, to reimagine what we might do and create the spaces in which we could reimagine together. Thank you for all you did then, for what you are doing today, and for what you will continue doing through what we all hope to be a brighter tomorrow.



Community Action Angels  
New York

14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Virtual  
Meeting of the  
Minds

10:00AM - 12:30PM | September 14

10:00AM - 12:30PM | September 15

I want to personally invite you to join us at the virtual [14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Minds](#). It is my hope that this year's agenda, as in the past, brings opportunity to learn from each other, to share our successful programs but more important to feel supported, valued, encouraged, and regenerated. This year I am excited to honor some special Community Action volunteers for service, leadership, courage, and heart!

Please register as soon as possible on our website [communityactionangelsny.org](http://communityactionangelsny.org). As always there is no registration fee to allow as many to attend as would like.

If you have any questions, please email me at [pstandish@wccainc.org](mailto:pstandish@wccainc.org) look forward to seeing you in September but until then I would like to leave you with this thought...my thought about each of you, "The good things of prosperity are to be wished, but the good things that belong to adversity are to be admired." ~Seneca

All my best,

Pat Standish

This year's virtual Meeting of the Minds consists of two separate sessions. The initial session includes opening remarks from NYS Department of State Division of Community Services Director Manuel Rosa, Non-Profit Messaging: The Impact of Words on Volunteers, Donors, and All We Serve, a panel discussion on Stigma – Making Change Happen, and an opportunity for project sharing.

New York State Community Action Association CEO, Jackie Orr will be providing opening remarks on the day of the second session. Additional session two topics include: Aligning Non-Profit and Small Business Goals: Clearing the Path for Successful Job Placement and Mutual Success, an additional opportunity for project sharing between the New York Community Action Agency Network, and special guest speaker, Mike Duffy who will talk about happiness in serving.

Meeting of the Minds will be taking place virtually in two sessions on Tuesday, September 14 and Wednesday, September 15 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:20 p.m. both days. The agenda is available [here](#) and participants are asked to register for each session separately. Registration is currently open ([Session 1](#)) and ([Session 2](#))!

## Office for New Americans: Ramirez June Initiative Develops Free, Multilingual Resource to Help New American Families

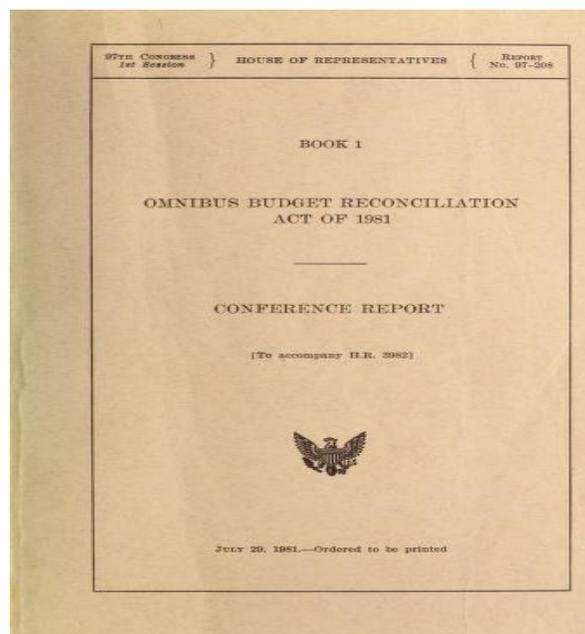
In recognition of Disability Pride Month, and the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the New York State Office for New Americans (ONA) is announcing the publication and distribution of *Voyage*. This free multi-lingual resource book is designed to help new Americans families celebrate their children's growth and development, identify the signs of disabilities and get help and support for their children. The book was developed by the ONA Ramirez June Initiative to support new American families with young children, with illustrations by Pat Standish, who leads Community Actions Angels, and in collaboration with writer and publisher Vinnie Taylor.

For more information, please visit: [Ramirez June Initiative](#)

## Join NASCSP in Celebrating CSBG's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On August 13, 2021 was the Community Services Block Grant's 40th anniversary. Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 was signed into law on August 13, 1981, authorizing and establishing the block grant structure of CSBG and protecting the Community Action Agency Network. Four decades of success could not have happened without the incredible work of so many people, from federal partners at the Office of Community Services, to State leaders at offices and agencies across the country, and to local Community Action Agencies in meeting the needs of millions.

Read NASCSP's official blog, [The State of Poverty](#), on what this anniversary means for where the CSBG network has been and where it is going.



## NASCSP 2021 Annual Training Conference

[Register Now!](#) This virtual conference experience takes place September 20 – September 23, 2021. Click on the following link to find more information and view the [Conference Agenda](#).

## NCAP's Virtual Annual Convention

To register to attend virtually, [click here](#). **Member prices are for attendees employed by agencies/organizations that are 2021 paid members of NCAP only.** To check the membership status of your agency/organization, please email [registration@communityactionpartnership.com](mailto:registration@communityactionpartnership.com)

Click here for [event overview and registration information](#) or to view the [agenda](#).



## Division of Consumer Protection wants you to be connected!

Please feel free to reach out to Gregg Collar ([Gregg.collar@dos.ny.gov](mailto:Gregg.collar@dos.ny.gov)) from the Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection, who will be able to provide you with further direction and answer any specific questions you might have regarding the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and more.

For more information, including eligibility, please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

For an outreach kit in various languages, please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-outreach-toolkit>

It is important to note that the program runs as long as there are funds to support it, so please encourage all eligible participants to apply ASAP!

## Resources for responding to COVID-19

**[Community Action Partnership: COVID-19 Community Needs Assessment](#)**

**[CAPLAW: Coronavirus Updates for the Community Action Network](#)**

**[NASOSP Coronavirus Resources](#)**

**[NYSCAA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources](#)**

**[Food Pantries across New York State](#)**

**[New York State Department of Health](#)**

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