



**Department
of State**

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT:
Community Services Block Grant Program**

PURSUANT TO SECTION 159-N OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:
THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE**

March 21, 2022

**Kathy Hochul
Governor**

**Robert J. Rodriguez
Secretary of State**

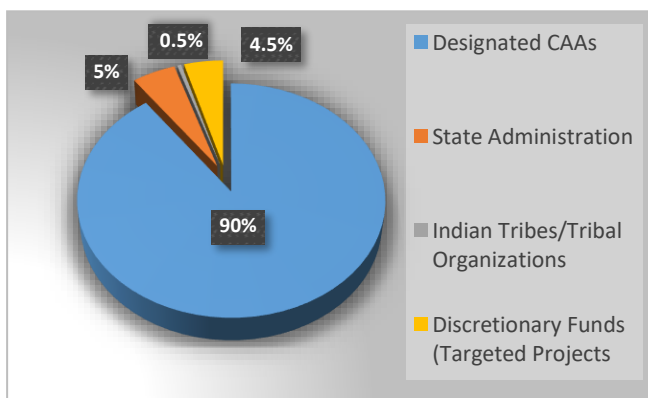
INTRODUCTION

In compliance with § 159-n of the Executive Law, the New York State Department of State (DOS) respectfully submits this annual report regarding the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program. As the CSBG administering agency for New York State, DOS, by and through its Division of Community Services (DCS) establishes goals and objectives to guide program evaluation, monitoring, and oversight.

This report summarizes the accomplishments of the New York State CSBG network, and the actions taken to facilitate and monitor the work of CSBG providers throughout Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021, which covers the period October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021. When reviewing this report, please keep in mind that the service outcome data reported is from FFY 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020). The CSBG program reports outcome data on a one-year lag, as the HHS review delays final verification until the following Federal Fiscal Year.

DISTRIBUTION OF CSBG FUNDING FFY 2021

The Federal CSBG Act requires New York State to distribute at least 90% (\$57,981,272) of its annual \$64,422,525 FFY 2021 allocation of CSBG funding directly to designated Community Action Agencies (“CAAs”) in specific pre-determined proportionate share amounts (see 42 USC § 9907). Five percent (\$3,221,126) of New York’s Federal CSBG allocation may be used for the State’s administration of the program.



Of the remaining funds from the FFY 2021 CSBG allocation, \$2,899,014 (4.5% of the total annual award) was allocated to support innovative initiatives in workforce development, provide vital services for low-income new Americans, establish pilot projects to assist individuals re-entering the community from incarceration, family reunification, fatherhood education, and deliver important trainings and technical assistance throughout the CAA network.

Finally, \$159,971 in CSBG funding was provided to one Native American Tribe/Tribal Organization, as required by New York State Executive Law § 159-i.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

In FFY 2021, the New York State Department of State, Division of Community Services, in partnership with the New York State Office for New Americans (ONA), provided assistance to new Americans in accessing services. Over eight-hundred and fifty thousand dollars in CSBG discretionary funding was allocated to eight ONA Navigator Programs, one New Americans Can Code Program, and one North Country Resource Coordinator.

OFFICE FOR NEW AMERICANS (ONA) PROGRAMS

County/ Area Served	Program Name	FFY 2021 Allocation
Western New York	Journey's End Refugee Services	\$80,000
Finger Lakes	Action for a Better Community, Inc.	\$77,264

Central New York	InterFaith Works of Central NY	\$70,572
Mohawk Valley	The Center	\$80,000
Hudson Valley	Neighbors Link	\$80,000
Long Island	Central American Refugee Center	\$80,000
New York City	Asian American Federation	\$80,000
North Capital Region	LifeWorks Community Action, Inc.	\$80,000
Clinton and Franklin Counties	Joint Council for Economic Opportunity of Clinton & Franklin Counties, Inc.	\$100,000
Albany County	CanCode Communities	\$149,999

DISTRIBUTION OF CARES FUNDING

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 authorized the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program to provide COVID-19 related assistance to New Yorkers. The CARES Act provided \$86,780,939 to New York State, 90% (\$78,102,845) of which was allocated directly to designated Community Action Agencies ("CAAs") in specific proportionate share amounts (see 42 USC § 9907). Five percent (\$4,339,047) of New York's Federal CSBG allocation may be used for the State's administration of the program. Finally, \$144,635 in CARES Act funding was awarded to one Native American Tribe/Tribal Organization.

THE CSBG NETWORK: PROGRAM AND FISCAL OVERSIGHT

Routine monitoring of all CSBG-funded entities is conducted by DOS staff. **Table 1** provides a snapshot of the monitoring activities conducted by DOS in association with virtual and on-site visits to CAAs and other CSBG-funded subrecipient during FFY 2021. These activities include attendance at board meetings, review of board related documents, program and fiscal monitoring, and assistance in the development of work plans and required reports.

Table 1. Oversight Activities	FFY 2021
Site visits (both on-site and virtual), board reviews, program and fiscal assessments, contract assistance, and annual desk review for compliance with organizational standards.	412
Training and technical assistance (T/TA) including compliance with national standards which encompass planning, governance, human resources, fiscal management, data management, and service delivery.	125 (All 47 subrecipients and 1 Indian Tribes received assistance multiple times) (Please note: The number of subrecipients decreased in FFY 2021 as a result of a merger of two subrecipients)
Triennial reviews conducted (via Triennial Review and Assessment for Compliance with Standards (TRACS))	15
Annual Reviews (via Annual Compliance Review of Organizational Standards (ACROS))	32

Federal law requires CSBG States to conduct one full on-site review of each designated CAA at least once every three years (see 42 USC § 9914). For this purpose, DOS developed the Triennial Review and Assessment for Compliance with Standards (TRACS) tool. Based in part on the Federal organizational standards, this triennial review process focuses on the areas of planning, community partnerships and involvement, governance and organizational leadership, personnel administration, fiscal and internal controls, as well as data collection and reporting. Included within the review are written recommendations intended to promote feedback and continuous quality improvement. All DOS recommendations made during the TRACS are ultimately consolidated into a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) developed by DOS and the subject CAA.

In FFY 2020, DOS implemented a new risk-based assessment tool for CSBG eligible entities. This tool allows DOS to assess risk associated with performance. This tool has allowed DOS to offer more assistance to those agencies most in need. A major focus for technical assistance in FFY 2021 continued to be compliance with national standards (instituted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established in 2016), and continuous review of CARES expenditure rates and funding utilization.

DOS offers all CSBG-funded entities opportunities for training and technical assistance (T/TA). Technical assistance needs are often identified during the contracting process, monitoring reviews, or during a triennial assessment. In addition to the training and technical assistance provided directly by DOS staff, subrecipients are offered T/TA through the State's contract with the New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA). This year, NYSCAA focused on training in the Uniform Guidance and provided technical assistance as needed. A highlight of these trainings was the ROMA (Results Oriented Management and Accountability) Alliance Partnership which focused on using the ROMA framework. The purpose of the New York Alliance is to bring together ROMA professionals to develop a culture in Community Action Agencies that supports and contributes to results orientation. Over the past year, three individuals became certified ROMA trainers and 11 became certified ROMA implementers. This program supports a significant push from HHS to address and understand the data needs and the use of data for analysis/continual improvement of outcomes tied to the use of CSBG funds.

Continuous T/TA efforts are strengthened through quarterly calls with agency Executive Directors. These calls have allowed DOS staff to better assess the needs of the community action agencies and offer direct support where needed.

Pursuant to the Federal CSBG Act, the State requires that eligible entities incorporate the federal poverty line (FPL) as a criterion of eligibility in their administration of the CSBG program. Through monitoring and the provision of T/TA, DOS works with eligible entities to ensure that the federal requirement regarding use of the poverty line as a criterion of eligibility is incorporated into intake procedures and program planning. In March 2020, the CARES Act temporarily allowed states to increase the eligibility threshold to 200% of the FPL through the end of FFY 21. Continuing resolutions have extended use of that higher eligibility threshold. Therefore, currently, CSBG subrecipients are eligible to extend service to families and individuals under the 200% FPL.

Although final data is not yet available, this increase is anticipated to assist with the rising number of individuals and families affected by unemployment due to COVID-19.

REPORTING PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

The community action network continues to work diligently to improve the lives of our State’s most vulnerable residents. Through a core network of 45 private and 2 publicly designated eligible entities, a range of services are provided to meet the needs of low-income New Yorkers in all of New York’s 62 counties.

The CSBG Annual Report is a data reporting system, administered by the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCS) and supported by the HHS Office of Community Services (OCS). This collection system emphasizes reporting performance outcomes that demonstrate the strength of the CSBG network on a national level. The data provided by eligible entities for FFY 2020 now includes the number of individuals served, along with those that achieved significant outcomes in each domain. The statistics for FFY 2021 (October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021) are expected to be available later this year, which will be reflected in the FFY 2022 (October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022) Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature. In addition, it should be noted that CARES funding was not received until late in FFY 2020 and, therefore, the service outcomes reported in the table below for CARES are not reflective of a full year.

Service Domain & Domain Outcomes	Description	Services Provided to Individuals in FFY 2020*	CARES Services Provided to Individuals in FFY 2020*
Employment	Participants who obtained support which reduced or eliminated barriers to employment, secured a job, obtained an increase in employment income, or achieved “living wage” employment and benefits.	478,217*	124
Education and Cognitive Development	Participants enrolled in development programs facilitated by the CSBG network and achieved program goals such as an increase in education level or improved academic achievement.	309,389*	207
Income and Asset Building	Participants who increased their ability to meet their basic needs and increased their assets. Participants increased their ability to manage and use resources to improve financial well-being.	16,287*	63
Housing	Participants who gained and maintained stable housing which can include access to emergency housing. Services included eviction and foreclosure avoidance or improving a home’s safety.	29,517	383
Health and Social/ Behavioral Development	Participants who improved their physical, mental, and behavioral health. Metrics include increasing interaction skills, ability to live independently and reducing the recidivism rate of participants.	909,371*	5,536
Civic Engagement and Community Involvement	Participants who increased skills, knowledge, and abilities to enable them to work with Community Action Agencies to improve conditions in the community	3,870*	121
Outcomes and Services Across Multiple Domains	Participants who received a variety of services necessary to help stabilize the household. Example: A Participant who obtains a job may also need assistance with transportation and child-care to maintain employment.	154,988*	14,136
Latest data available for FFY2020			

*An individual may be counted multiple times for a variety of services rendered in each domain.

APPENDIX A

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO CAA SUBRECIPIENTS for FFY 2020

County/ Area Served	Eligible Entity Contact Information	FFY 2020 Allocations	FFY 2020 CARES Allocations
Albany	Albany County Opportunity, Inc. 333 Sheridan Avenue Albany, NY 12206 Ms. Neenah Bland, Executive Director	\$264,471	\$358,673
Allegany	Allegany County Community Opportunities and Rural Development, Inc. 84 Schuyler Street Belmont, NY 14813 Ms. Lesley Gooch-Christman, Executive Director	\$237,673	\$322,230
Broome	Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, Inc. 5 West State Street Binghamton, NY 13901 Mr. Mark Silvanic, Executive Director	\$357,943	\$485,440
Cattaraugus	Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. 25 Jefferson Street Salamanca, NY 14779 Ms. Tina Zerbian, Chief Executive Officer	\$242,501	\$328,878
Cayuga and Seneca	Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. 89 York Street, Suite 1 Auburn, NY 13021 Ms. Laurie A. Piccolo, Executive Director	\$420,755	\$570,625
Chautauqua	Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. 17 West Courtney Street Dunkirk, NY 14048 Ms. Diane Hewitt-Johnson, CEO	\$242,501	\$328,878

Chemung and Schuyler	Economic Opportunity Program, Inc. of Chemung County 650 Baldwin Street Elmira, NY 14901 Ms. Andrea J. Ogunwumi, CEO/Executive Director	\$420,755	\$570,625
Chenango	Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, Inc. 44 West Main Street Norwich, NY 13815 Mr. Mark Silvanic, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Clinton and Franklin	Joint Council for Economic Opportunity of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc. 54 Margaret Street Plattsburgh, NY 12901 Ms. Nicole Laurin, Chief Executive Officer	\$523,460	\$709,912
Columbia	Columbia Opportunities, Inc. 540 Columbia Street Hudson, NY 12534 Ms. Tina M. Sharpe, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Cortland	Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc. 32 North Main Street Cortland, NY 13045 Mr. Greg Richards, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Delaware	Delaware Opportunities, Inc. 35430 State Highway 10 Hamden, NY 13782 Ms. Shelly Bartow, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Dutchess	Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, Inc. 77 Cannon Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 Ms. Elizabeth C. Spira, Chief Executive Officer	\$462,427	\$627,140
Erie	Community Action Organization of Western New York, Inc. 45 Jewett Avenue, Suite 150 Buffalo, NY 14214 Mr. Thomas Kim, President/CEO	\$2,101,038	\$2,849,143
Essex	Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. 7572 Court Street, Suite 2 Elizabethtown, NY 12932 Mr. Alan Jones, CEO/Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878

Fulton/ Montgomery	Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. 20 Park Street, PO Box 835 Fonda, NY 12068 Mr. Denis E. Wilson, Sr., Executive Director	\$364,636	\$494,516
Greene	Community Action of Greene County, Inc. 7856 Rt. 9W Catskill, NY 12414 Ms. Florence Ohle, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Jefferson	Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc. 518 Davidson Street Watertown, NY 13601 Ms. Melinda Gault, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Lewis	Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. 8265 State Route 812 Lowville, NY 13367 Mr. Scott Mathys, Chief Executive Officer	\$242,501	\$328,878
Livingston	Livingston County Board of Supervisors (Community Initiatives Council) 6 Court Street Geneseo, NY 14454 Mr. Ryan Snyder, Director	\$237,673	\$322,330
Madison	Community Action Program for Madison County, Inc. 3 East Main Street, PO Box 249 Morrisville, NY 13408 Ms. Elizabeth Crofut, Interim Executive Director	\$237,673	\$322,330
Monroe and Ontario	Action for a Better Community, Inc. 550 East Main Street Rochester, NY 14604 Mr. Jerome Underwood, President and CEO	\$1,784,412	\$2,420,008
Nassau	Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County, Inc. 134 Jackson Street Hempstead, NY 11550 Mr. Eric Poulson, Acting Executive Director	\$2,359,495	\$3,199,931

Niagara	Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. 1521 Main Street Niagara Falls, NY 14305 Ms. Suzanne Shears, Chief Executive Officer	\$352,455	\$477,984
New York City	New York City Department of Youth and Community Development 2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor New York, NY 10007 Mr. Mike Bobbitt, Assistant Commissioner	\$33,839,875	\$45,893,411
Oneida and Herkimer	Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. 9882 River Road Utica, NY 13502 Ms. Amy Turner, Executive Director	\$663,255	\$899,502
Onondaga	People's Equal Action and Community Effort, Inc. 217 South Salina Street, 2nd Floor Syracuse, NY 13202 Mr. Joseph E. O'Hara, Executive Director	\$1,573,172	\$2,133,526
Orange	Regional Economic Community Action Program, Inc. 40 Smith Street Middletown, NY 10940 Mr. Charles R. Quinn, Chief Executive Officer	\$556,473	\$754,863
Orleans and Genesee	Community Action of Orleans and Genesee, Inc. 409 East State Street Albion, NY 14411 Ms. Renee Hungerford, Executive Director	\$420,755	\$570,625
Oswego	Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. 239 Oneida Street Fulton, NY 13069 Ms. Diane Cooper-Currier, Executive Director	\$237,673	\$322,330
Otsego	Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. 3 West Broadway Oneonta, NY 13820 Mr. Daniel Maskin, Chief Executive Officer	\$242,501	\$328,878
Rensselaer	Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Greater Capital Region, Inc. 2331 Fifth Avenue Troy, NY 12180 Ms. Katherine Maciol, President/CEO	\$242,501	\$328,878

Saratoga	Lifeworks Community Action, Inc. PO Box 169, 39 Bath Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020 Ms. Jo Anne Hume, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Schenectady	Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc. 913 Albany Street Schenectady, NY 12307 Ms. Debra L. Schimpf, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Schoharie	Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc. 795 East Main Street, Suite 5 Cobleskill, NY 12043 Ms. Jeannette M. Spaulding, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Steuben and Yates	Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. 117 East Steuben Street Bath, NY 14810 Ms. Laura Rossman, Chief Executive Officer	\$420,755	\$570,625
St. Lawrence	St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc. One Commerce Lane Canton, NY 13617 Ms. Felicia Neahr, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Suffolk	Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. 31 West Main Street, Suite 300 Patchogue, NY 11772 Mr. Adrian Fassett, President/Chief Executive Officer	\$1,320,230	\$1,790,487
Sullivan	Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. 70 Lindsley Avenue Kingston, NY 12401 Mr. Douglas Blancero, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Tioga	Tioga Opportunities, Inc. 9 Sheldon Guile Boulevard Ms. Maureen Abbott, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Tompkins	Tompkins Community Action, Inc. 701 Spencer Road Ithaca, NY 14850 Ms. Danielle Harrington, Interim Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878

Ulster	Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. 70 Lindsley Avenue Kingston, NY 12401 Mr. Douglas Blancero, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Warren	Warren-Hamilton Counties Action Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. 190 Maple Street, PO Box 968 Glens Falls, NY 12801 Ms. Lynn Ackershoek, Executive Director	\$364,636	\$494,516
Washington	Washington County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. 383 Broadway, B003A Fort Edward, NY 12828 Mrs. Traci Ross, Executive Director	\$242,501	\$328,878
Wayne	Wayne County Action Program, Inc. 159 Montezuma Street Lyons, NY 14489 Mrs. Janelle Krasucki-Cooper, Chief Operating Officer	\$242,501	\$328,878
Rockland and Putnam	Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. 2 Westchester Plaza, Suite 137 Elmsford, NY 10523 Mr. Kiron Dawkins, Interim CEO	\$1,658,501	\$2,249,248
Wyoming	Wyoming County Community Action, Inc. 6470 Route 20A, Suite 1 Perry, NY 14530 Ms. Rosemary Shader, Executive Director	\$237,673	\$322,330
Yonkers	Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc. 20 South Broadway, Suite 420 Yonkers, NY 10701 Mr. Don Brown, Executive Director	\$478,919	\$649,507
Statewide Migrant & Seasonal Farm Worker Agency	PathStone Corporation 400 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14607 Mr. Alex Castro, President & CEO	\$388,943	\$485,513

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES/TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

County/ Area Served	Contact Information	FFY 2020 Final Allocation	FFY 2020 CARES Allocations
St. Lawrence	Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation PO Box 402 Rooseveltown, NY 13683 Ms. Mary Jo Terrance, Executive Director	\$158,372	\$144,635
Suffolk	Poospatuck Indian Nation PO Box 86 Mastic, NY 11950 Ms. Thomasina Mack-Harrell, Director	\$158,372	None

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERS

County/ Area Served	Contact Information	FFY 2020 Final Allocation	FFY 2020 CARES Allocations
Statewide	New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA), Inc. 2 Charles Blvd. Guilderland, NY 12084 Ms. Jackie Orr, Executive Director/CEO	\$350,000	\$305,613
Statewide	Community Action Angels New York Ms. Rosemary Shader, Executive Director	\$50,000	None