



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES/CSBG

Kathy Hochul, Governor
Robert J. Rodriguez, Secretary of State

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

Columbia Opportunities, Inc. Share Resources to Educate the Community



Helping People. Changing Lives.
A Community Action Partnership

Columbia Opportunities, Inc. helped to enhance awareness of Juneteenth: “Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. They arrived a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end of slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.” Nix, Elizabeth (2021).

Additional information and resources:

For Children and Teens:

- [What is Juneteenth?](#), The History Channel
- A beautifully illustrated video narrated by Levar Burton in honor of the [155th anniversary of Juneteenth](#).
- From PBS Georgia, a list of [Six Picture Books that Celebrate Juneteenth](#)
- From the blog *Colours of Us*, a list of [readings about Juneteenth for children and teenagers](#)
- A link to the Smithsonian’s [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#), including its virtual [Searchable Museum](#)
- A virtual tour of [The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History](#) in Detroit



For Adults:

- A powerful 2021 [Juneteenth documentary](#) with a focus on southeast Texas from KHOU, a CBS affiliate in Houston, Texas.
- A short, impacting Vox piece titled, “[Why all Americans should honor Juneteenth](#)”.
- The History Channel’s [Juneteenth: What You Need to Know](#).
- PBS Austin’s 2019 [Juneteenth Jamboree](#).
- From Penguin Random House publishing, a [Juneteenth Reading List](#)
- The New York Times’ article, [So You Want to Learn About Juneteenth?](#)

Juneteenth Resources curated by Berne Bendel, Columbia Opportunities, Inc. Board of Directors & Columbia-Greene Community College Associate Professor of Education/Psychology

SCCAP Shares their 2021 Impact Report

On Monday, June 27, 2022, Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc. (SCCAP) held their 2022 Annual Meeting. This year's breakfast program was held at Olde Tater Barn in Central Bridge, New York. The appreciation breakfast was attended by all of SCCAP's staff, the Board of Directors, as well as Manuel Rosa, Aimee Kollar, and Katy Hanson from the New York State Department of State, Division of Community Services. Outside of the wonderful breakfast served, the highlights of the event included a speech from Manuel Rosa, Director of the Division of Community Services, and the presentation of SCCAP's 2021 Impact Report. Director Manuel Rosa's speech recounted the difficulties experienced by the community during the last two years of the COVID pandemic. He reiterated how important the work done by all staff members each day is as he noted, "You save lives- everyday, with the work that you do. You might not see it directly, but each of you has saved lives".

The presentation of SCCAP's 2021 Impact Report further emphasized the significance and far-reach of the programs of SCCAP. Board Chair Pastor Raymond Richards II read aloud to all in attendance statistics on families who received services, and what those services mean to the local community. The Impact Report called attention to the achievements SCCAP made in supporting relationships and esteem-building, enhancing our workforce, stabilizing families and maximizing resources, promoting wellness and improving infrastructure. One example from the report showcased how SCCAP ensured that immediate needs were met to alleviate stress and keep families safe. In 2021, 23 rent/utility payments were made to keep families housed, \$79,147 were returned to families through the Earned Income Tax Credit through the VITA program, 394 food pantry packages were given out through the curbside food pantry, and 363 SNAP/HEAP applications were completed. Programs increasing stabilization prevent family crisis and maximize their financial resources for local spending. The 2021 Impact Report cited a factsheet from hungersolutionsny.org to demonstrate that every \$1.00 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity. In addition to stabilizing families, SCCAP also worked to reduce unemployment and contribute to economic growth. 856 total services were provided through the Displaced Homemaker Program and 17 workshops were held related to employment skills and job searching. 16 individuals enrolled in the program, 14 entered employment and 7 retained employment for more than 90 days. Client impact statements also read aloud went beyond the statistics and showcased the personal stories of support received from SCCAP.

After the review of the 2021 Impact Report, SCCAP Executive Director Jeannette Spaulding took time to show gratitude for all of the SCCAP staff. Jeannette acknowledged the dedication the staff have shown and the commitment to building a stronger, healthier community. The Division of Community Services shares it's thanks to Schoharie County Community Action Program for all the hard work and looks forward to hearing about future achievements!

To find out more about programs at SCCAP or how you can help support the mission, contact Jeannette Spaulding, Executive Director at jeannette.spaulding@sccapinc.org to call 518-234-2568 x3002 or call toll free: (866) 849-2402 or check out their website: <https://sccapinc.org/>.



Schoharie County
COMMUNITY
ACTION
PROGRAM

Celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month!

The NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) is celebrating the immigrant heritage of our grantees and the communities they serve. Throughout the month, ONA has shared stories from our partners on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages highlighting what immigrant heritage means to them. As one of our partners shared:

“At Neighbors Link, we are always celebrating the many heritages of the immigrant community we serve because it is an important part of our mission. It is a core belief at our organization that integration is key to strengthening communities. According to researcher Brené Brown, PhD, MSW, “integration” comes from the root word “integrare” which, in Latin, means to “make whole.” We believe that integration, or making our community whole, occurs when many cultures and unique individuals come together to form one vibrant community. At Neighbors Link, we foster this idea by encouraging individuals and families to celebrate the intersections of cultures, beliefs and experiences that make them unique, and how that unique identity contributes to, and benefits, their community. Celebrating immigrant heritage deepens and renews our understanding of how diversity positively impacts all of us. Multiple times throughout the year, we incorporate cultural celebrations across all of our programming.

In the photos attached, you will see examples of immigrant heritage celebration events where families brought food from their cultures, wore traditional clothing, displayed their country-of-origin’s flag and danced to traditional music. These celebrations are educational for both adults and children, build a sense of belonging and are a beautiful example of the diversity that exists in our community.”

On June 28, 2022, ONA also hosted a webinar on the topic of “Celebrating New York’s Immigrant Heritage: Using Data to Learn About Immigrants in Our Communities,” which featured presenters from the U.S. Census Bureau and the American Immigration Council, who shared ways to use data to learn about the immigrant communities which call New York State home. Opening remarks were provided by the NY Department of State’s Secretary of State Robert J. Rodriguez. If you’d like to receive a recording of the webinar, or to be added to our mailing list for future events, please contact ONA at NewAmericans@dos.ny.gov.



Safe Celebration Tips for the 4th of July

As the 4th of July approaches, the NYS Division of Consumer Protection urges New Yorkers to celebrate safely and to use extreme caution with fireworks and family gatherings.

Did you know that in the U.S., the 4th of July is one of the holidays with the highest accident statistics?

Around the 4th of July, there are a lot of fire-related accidents. Every year, thousands of people — most of them children, teens and young adults — are injured while using fireworks. Most of these injuries happen in the month around the 4th of July. The Consumer Product Safety Commission found that nationally nearly half of the fireworks-related injuries were to people younger than 20 years of age. July is also one of the peak months for grilling fires.

Additionally, this is one of the most dangerous holidays to be on the road. According to the National Traffic Safety Administration, dates around this holiday, sadly, often see an increase in impaired driving crashes. Drunk driving isn't the only risky behavior causing crashes on our roads; drug-impaired and distracted driving are issues too. Many people recognize that driving under the influence is dangerous. However, many people fail to recognize the danger of driving while distracted, especially if they try to talk or text on a cell phone.

NYS Division of Consumer Protection wants you to enjoy a safe holiday and offers these tips you can follow:

FIREWORKS - WHAT'S LEGAL AND WHAT'S NOT IN NEW YORK STATE:

What's Legal:

- ✓ Sale of sparkling devices by registered sellers from June 1 until July 5 annually. Sparkling devices are ground-based or handheld sparking devices that produce a shower of colored sparks or colored flame, crackling or whistling noise and smoke. They do not launch into the air.
- ✓ **Users must be 18 years or older** to use sparkling devices

What's Not Legal:

- ✗ Sparkling devices are illegal in New York City and the following counties: Albany, Bronx, Columbia, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange (prohibited in the Cities of Middletown and Newburgh only), Queens, Richmond, Schenectady, Suffolk, and Westchester.
- ✗ Any other types of fireworks including firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, spinners, and aerial devices are illegal statewide.

TIPS TO CELEBRATE SAFELY:

Tips for Using Fireworks Safely:

- **Children and Sparklers are a Dangerous Combination. Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks**, including sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This is hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never throw or point fireworks toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials. Always follow the instructions on the packaging.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- Make sure the person lighting fireworks always wears eye protection.
- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- If you are impaired by alcohol, don't use fireworks



Tips for Driving Safely:

- Avoid driving while impaired. If you are driving this July 4th, make sure to watch out for others as they may not be sober.
- If you plan to drink, make a plan ahead of time for a sober ride home.
- A sober driver is one who does not drink at all, not the one who's had the least to drink. **Even if you've had only one drink, let someone who hasn't been drinking take you home.**
- If you're hosting a 4th of July gathering, help the designated drivers out by making sure there are plenty of non-alcoholic beverages.

Tips For Grilling Safely:

- Never leave a lit or hot grill unattended.
- Never grill indoors. Keep the grill out in the open, away from the house, the deck, tree branches, or anything that could catch fire.
- Always supervise the grill when in use. Make sure everyone, including children and pets, stay away from the grill.
- Avoid loose clothing that can catch fire when cooking on the grill.

The New York State Division of Consumer Protection provides resources and education materials to consumers on product safety, as well as voluntary mediation services 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 www.dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection.

For more consumer protection tips, follow the Division on social media at Twitter: @NYSConsumer and Facebook: www.facebook.com/nysconsumer.

Reimagined Workforce through Opportunity

New York State (NYS) was awarded an \$18M Education Stabilization Fund – Reimagine Workforce Preparation (ESF-RWP) grant by the United States Department of Education. The NYS Department of Labor (NYSDOL), Empire State Development (ESD), the State University of New York (SUNY), and the City University of New York (CUNY) are utilizing this funding to respond to the economic and workforce consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic through the following initiatives:

- NYSDOL – \$5.2M is available via a Request for Applications ([RFA](#)) to create or expand short-term education and training opportunities that help participants return to work, become entrepreneurs, or expand their small business.
- ESD – \$3.2M is available to train entrepreneurs through a series of intensive workshops and bootcamps so they can more effectively establish and run their own business in the current economic environment.
- SUNY – \$4.4M is available to leverage its existing “[Stay Near, Go Far](#)” initiative to provide free training to eligible participants in the high-growth areas of technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing.
- CUNY – \$4.4M is available to provide free training to eligible New York City residents for in-demand digital transformation sectors such as data analytics, cybersecurity, advanced logistics/supply chain, digital marketing and communications, and software development.

SUNY has ESF-RWP programs available at Adirondack Community College ([ACC](#)), Finger Lakes Community College ([FLCC](#)), and SUNY [Orange](#), while CUNY has an available program at LaGuardia Community College ([LAGCC](#)).

For questions or more information on available ESF-RWP opportunities, please contact WDTD.Onestop@labor.ny.gov.

Clean Energy Training Programs

New York State Community Action Agencies have a documented history of successfully partnering to provide individuals from historically underserved communities with workforce development services, while providing services that address barriers to employment. We believe you are well-positioned to partner with training providers to provide clean energy training and wraparound services that will lead to employment in local regions across New York State.

Did you know that there are nearly 500 Clean Energy Training Programs in New York state providing skills training that will help reduce hiring challenges identified by New York State employers? These training programs will enhance technical skills and experience by providing opportunities to re-skill or up-skill clean energy workers which will increase local economic growth and help New York build back better and greener. Clean energy industry and employment trends are outlined in the NYSERDA Clean Energy Report here: <https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/About/Publications/New-York-Clean-Energy-Industry-Report>.

Current funding opportunities for Energy Efficiency and Clean Technology (PON 3981)

NYSERDA is accepting proposals requesting between \$50,000 and \$500,000 in NYSERDA funding.

Upcoming application deadlines are July 26, 2022, and January 18, 2023.

https://portal.nyserdera.ny.gov/CORE_Solicitation_Detail_Page?SolicitationId=a0rt000000MdOBOAA3

NYSERDA is seeking proposals for technical training, experiential learning, job placement and supportive services that enable New York State grow its clean energy economy and advance the climate equity and just transition goals of New York's Climate Act. The purpose of this solicitation is to strengthen the pipeline of skilled talent for the Energy Efficiency and Clean Technology labor market. Projects funded through this solicitation are intended to develop and deliver technical training and relevant education, hands-on experience, and placement into paid internships, apprenticeships, full-time jobs, or advanced formal training to ensure that both new and existing workers, apprentices, journeypersons, and students, as applicable, have the skills, experience, and qualifications required to meet industry demand.

Workforce development programs offered by NYSERDA give preference to individuals who fall under certain categories of priority populations and/or to individuals residing in disadvantaged communities, as defined by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act).

NYSERDA is pleased to host a new, online "Partner Connector" site to facilitate connections among training providers and other partners interested in applying to our workforce development and training funding opportunities. <https://nyserdera.seamlessdocs.com/f/partnerconnect>

I NY Summer Weekends

Looking to plan things to do in New York State in the summer, look no further. We've planned your weekends for you, allowing you to sample the best of everything New York State has to offer, from surfing, hiking, and camping to festivals, fireworks, and live outdoor theater. Make your summer an unforgettable one in New York by checking out the following attractions:

- [New York Surf School](#), at Rockaway Beach in New York City
- Celebrate [Independence Day](#) at Boldt Castle
- Enjoy FREE live music with [Bonfires & Brews](#) in Chautauqua-Allegheny
- Get to know [Greenport's](#) waterfront village
- Watch an outdoor play and explore [Bannerman Castle](#)
- Visit [a vintage amusement park](#) in [Sylvan Beach](#)
- Explore the revitalized waterfront at [Canalside Buffalo](#), the kids will love the [Children's Museum](#)
- Camp in the [Catskills](#)
- Spend the day at the [NYS Fair](#)

Did you know...

CSBG CARES ACT Supplement Funding – DOS Close Out Activities

In case you haven't heard, the CSBG CARES Supplement Act funding will come to an end on September 30, 2022. In preparation for the closure of this funding opportunity, DOS would like to share with our network of CSBG CARES funded agencies, our anticipated timeline and related close out activities checklist. **Agencies that have expended 100% of CSBG CARES funds may start submitting their Unaudited Financial Report (but no later than October 30, 2022).** Please direct any questions regarding the CSBG CARES close out to your assigned Program Analyst or Fiscal Field Representative.

CSBG CARES Contract Closeout Checklist:

During the last CSBG CARES contract visit, the DOS Program Analyst will review a sampling of customer files:

- ✓ to ensure that customers who received CSBG CARES funded service(s), activity(ies) and/or outcome(s) were CSBG income eligible.
- ✓ to verify that the file notes what CSBG CARES funded service(s), activity(ies) and/or outcome(s) were provided or achieved.
- ✓ to verify that the service(s), activity(ies) and/or outcome(s) noted within the customer file is consistent with the last approved CSBG CARES work plan (prepare, prevent or respond).

By October 30, 2022, the subrecipient will:

- ✓ submit a completed final Program Progress Report
- ✓ complete the PPR Narrative and explain any outcomes, services or activities that did not meet or exceeded projected outcomes based on the last approved CSBG CARES work plan.
- ✓ submit the CSBG CARES Unaudited Financial Report (UFS) to their assigned DOS Fiscal Field Rep.
- ✓ complete and submit an amendment, only upon request by DOS, to reconcile actual expenditures with last approved budget

By December 30, 2022, DOS (Program) will complete and distribute:

- ✓ a closeout report on the review of the PPR & PPR Narrative and contract performance

Additional Resources for the CSBG Network

Resources for Responding to COVID-19

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

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

[NASCSP Coronavirus Resources](#)

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

[Food Pantries across New York State](#)

[New York State Department of Health](#)

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