



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.

## Pop-Up Pantry in Sullivan and Ulster Counties

Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. (UCCAC) has expanded their food pantry services by holding Pop-Up Food Pantries throughout Ulster County and Sullivan County to directly assist those facing food insecurity. Once a month, in a different location, each Outreach office holds a Pop-Up Pantry providing foods directly to clients, aiming to increase food security and overall health in the communities they serve. UCCAC provides low-income families with food pantry bags along with fresh produce that they receive through their Farm Stands and Food Hubs as well as assist with additional support by addressing other needs such as housing, utility, HEAP, and SNAP by utilizing mobile technology. UCCAC has outreach vehicles that allow for a Mobile Outreach office.



If you know someone interested in applying for services or employment with Ulster County Community Action click [here](#) or have any questions, please call 845-338-8750.

## Happy Disability Pride Month from the ONA Ramirez June Initiative!



This July, the ONA Ramirez June Initiative celebrates Disability Pride Month and the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26. Disability Pride Month commemorates the passing of the ADA, landmark legislation which promotes equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Today, people with disabilities including new Americans, still face barriers accessing equal opportunities and vital services. The ONA Ramirez June Initiative strives to remove barriers for new Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) through building cross-system partnerships, engaging new American communities, and sharing multilingual resources.

On July 20th, in partnership with the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC), the Ramirez June Initiative presented to the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) at their annual conference in Washington, D.C. The theme of the 2022 NACDD conference, was Worlds Imagined, which asks attendees to “Imagine a world full of opportunities and possibilities,” where people with disabilities do not face barriers, but have equal opportunities to achieve their dreams and live their best life. The Ramirez June Initiative’s presentation, “Piloting the Ramirez June Initiative,” shared with other state’s Developmental Disabilities Councils about how New York is building capacity to support new Americans with I/DD so that other states can recreate the model and for support for new Americans with I/DD to grow at the national level.

For more information about the ONA Ramirez June Initiative please visit: <https://dos.ny.gov/ramirez-june-initiative>

## Back to School 2022: Be Prepared

As the summer reaches its peak, parents and students are thinking about back-to-school time. The NYS Division of Consumer Protection (DCP) provides targeted scam prevention tips for parents and students ahead of the new school year. Below is some guidance on how to start the new school year safely.

### Protect Students from Identity Theft:

Child identity theft is a real problem. The Federal Trade Commission has reported identity theft for those under 19 years old grew 60% in three years. Children are 35 times more likely to become victims of identity theft than adults. Stay vigilant and keep these tips in mind to avoid falling victim of cybercriminals.

- **Protect documents that contain a child's personal information.**
- **Be careful when providing identifying information to after-school activities and sports clubs upon registration.** If asked for a Social Security Number (SSN), inquire why it is needed and insist on using another identifier. Oftentimes organizations include the SSN request as a formality, and it may not be mandatory.
- Only label books, backpacks and lunches with the student's full name and any other information on the inside! Using initials on the outside is okay, but names, even just first names, on the outside can create an unsafe situation.
- **Discuss internet safety tips with children** and remind them to be careful about opening attachments and suspicious emails. For tips on how to stay safe online, please see information from this [January 2020 Consumer Alert](#).
- **Both parents and students be careful on all social media platforms and don't overshare.** Any information you post can be seen and utilized by identity thieves. Avoid sharing personal information including full names, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security Numbers, or even where they go to school. Social media posts often reveal sensitive information unintentionally. Cybercriminals look for content that can reveal answers to security questions used to reset passwords, making accounts vulnerable to identity theft.

### Avoid Back to School Shopping Scams:

DCP urges consumers to take note of common scams while shopping. Scammers may try to exploit the back-to-school rush through fraudulent ads or through other forms of solicitations.

- **Protect your identity when shopping online:** Ensure transactions are conducted over a secure connection. Make sure the website is secure by identifying a padlock symbol by the URL or the https and avoid using public Wi-Fi to log in to online accounts.
- **Beware of fake ads and websites:** As fraudsters continue to advance in sophistication, fake websites frequently resemble legitimate sites with credible looking logos, pictures, and payment options. If the website is advertising extremely low prices, or discounts beyond 50 percent, consumers should be wary and diligently verify the legitimacy of the seller.
- **Learn how to spot phishing emails:** Scammers may send phishing emails to students and parents saying that they missed a delivery of school supplies. These emails request that the recipients click on a link to reschedule this delivery. That link either floods victims' computers with malware or sends them to fake websites that request their personal and payment information.
- **Ensure you know who the seller is:** Some major retailers allow third party sellers to list items on their site, and those items can be hard to distinguish from the rest. Read all the fine print to ensure you are comfortable with the seller.

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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/nysconsumer).



## Signed Legislation to Strengthen Rights of People with Disabilities

A legislative package was signed that further upholds and strengthens the rights of New Yorkers with disabilities. This legislative package encourages autonomy in decision making through a Supported Decision-Making Agreement and seeks to educate the public about the myriad ways people with intellectual and developmental disabilities contribute meaningfully to their communities and reduce harmful stigma and stereotyping. Click [HERE](#) to read the full article.

## Launch of New Online Dashboard to Access Unemployment Data

On July 22, 2022, the launch of two new interactive online dashboards to improve access to unemployment data for all New Yorkers. The [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) dashboard, a joint effort between New York State and the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, provides monthly and annual employment, unemployment, labor force, and unemployment rate data for New York State, labor market regions, metropolitan areas, counties, workforce investment regions, and municipalities of at least 25,000 people. The [Unemployment Insurance](#) dashboard contains weekly data on benefits paid, beneficiaries, and initial claims sorted by region, industry, and program. Data for the UI dashboard is available for New York State's 10 labor market regions, as well as out-of-state residents who were employed in New York and qualify for New York UI benefits. Distribution of this data will help to better connect New Yorkers to the resources and support they need. This data is used by a variety of policymakers, industry experts, and other stakeholders who will benefit from greater access. It will inform and help determine eligibility for federal assistance programs that benefit New York State. Estimates will also inform state and local budgetary processes. Private industry, researchers, the media, and other individuals use the data to assess local labor market conditions and make comparisons across [geographic areas](#). These new dashboards are part of an ongoing effort to modernize the New York State Department of Labor's systems and processes, increase data transparency across the department and enhance the overall customer experience.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full article.

## OCS Relaunches Customer-Facing Energy Help Website

Office of Community Services(OCS) is excited to announce the relaunch of [energyhelp.us](#), which is the consumer-facing website for information on how to apply for LIHEAP services.

Improvements to the website include:

- Making it easier for households to quickly find the three ways they can get connected to a LIHEAP office and/or application (via the NEAR hotline, email, or search tool)
- Translating the website into [Spanish](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), and [Traditional Chinese](#)
- Publishing a new LIHEAP animated cooling video in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Mandarin](#)
- Adding a video describing how to access LIHEAP services broadly in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Mandarin](#)

Please share this information widely with your networks and partners. We can work together to ensure that families know that LIHEAP is available to help them stay safe in their homes all year long.

You can also follow OCS on [Twitter](#) (@OCS\_ACFgov) and amplify LIHEAP-related content using #LIHEAP.

## NCAP Annual Conference in NYC: August 31 – September 2, 2022

NCAP's [2022 Annual Convention](#) will be held at the [New York Marriott Marquis](#) overlooking Times Square in Midtown Manhattan in the heart of New York City. Plan now to check out some of the sights, food, and activities that you can only experience in the Big Apple! Have an adventure through the streets of [Manhattan](#) where you'll find famous attractions like [Central Park](#) and [Rockefeller Center](#), renowned museums like [the Met](#) and [MoMA](#), [top-flight restaurants](#), [beautiful historic sights](#), and a creative scene second to none. [Click here](#) to register and learn more.

## Did you know...

### Reminder: CSBG Eligibility Guideline

Be on the lookout for updated information regarding the 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Currently as of 10/1/2022, the CSBG Eligibility Guideline is set to revert back to 125%.

### 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. 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.

**By November 30, 2022, the subrecipient will:**

- 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](#)

[NASCSA Coronavirus Resources](#)

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

[Food Pantries across New York State](#)

[New York State Department of Health](#)

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