



**Department
of State**

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT:
Community Services Block Grant Program**

PURSUANT TO SECTION 159-N OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW

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

April 2, 2024

**Kathy Hochul
Governor**

**Robert J. Rodriguez
Secretary of State**

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with § 159-n of the Executive Law, the New York 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.

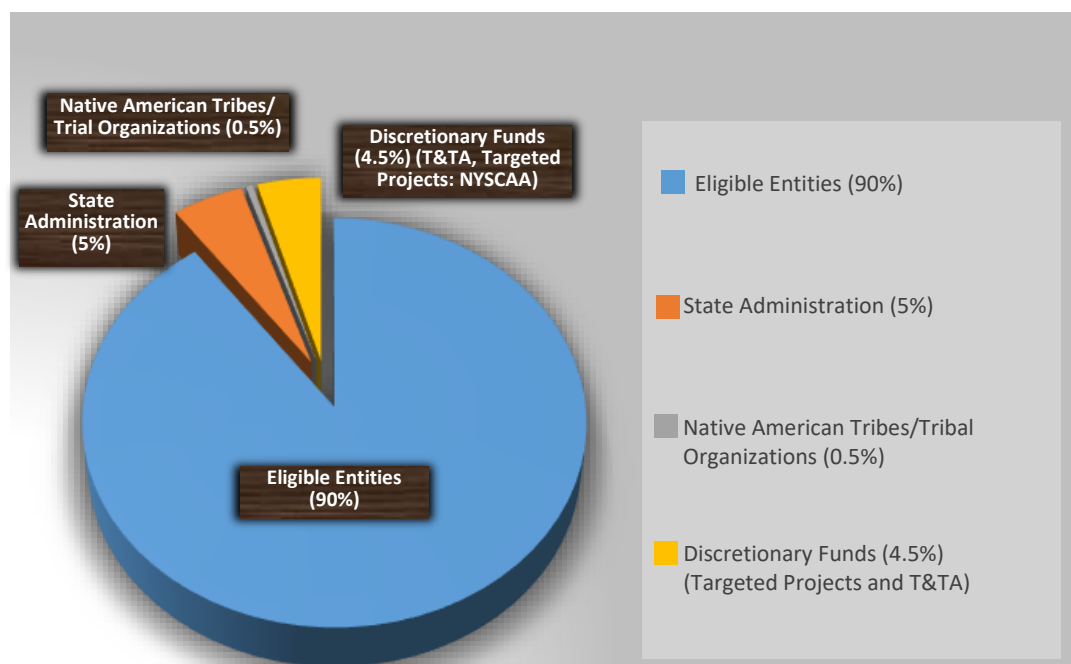
This report summarizes the accomplishments of the New York State CSBG network, and the actions taken to facilitate and monitor the work of CSBG providers throughout Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023, which covers the period October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. When reviewing this report, please keep in mind that the service outcome data reported is from FFY 2022 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022). The CSBG program reports outcome data on a one-year lag, as the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) review of the data delays final verification until the following Federal Fiscal Year.

DISTRIBUTION OF CSBG FUNDING FFY 2023

For FFY 2023, New York State received an annual CSBG allocation of \$66,561,863. The Federal CSBG Act requires the State to distribute at least 90% (\$59,905,709) of the CSBG allocation directly to designated eligible entities (also known as Community Action Agencies or CAAs) in pre-determined proportionate amounts (see 42 USC § 9907). Additionally, 5% (\$3,328,060) of the CSBG allocation may be used for the State's administration of the program.

Of the remaining FFY 2023 CSBG allocation, 4.5% (\$2,995,284) was made available to support innovative initiatives in migrant assistance, financial literacy, housing assistance, and specialized technical assistance. CSBG funds were also utilized to establish pilot projects to assist individuals re-entering the community from incarceration, and deliver training and technical assistance, including Federal Uniform Guidance, throughout the CAA network.

Annually, up to 0.5% of the annual CSBG allocation is made available to Native American Tribes/Tribal Organizations, as required by New York State Executive Law § 159-i.



DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES (CSBG)

| County/ Area Served | Program Name | FFY 2023 Allocation |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Emergency Housing Assistance | | |
| East Buffalo | Community Action Organization of Western New York, Inc. | \$100,000 |
| Technical Assistance | | |
| Genesee and Orleans Counties | Community Action of Orleans and Genesee, Inc. | \$50,000 |
| Re-entry/Early Release | | |
| Wyoming | Wyoming County Community Action, Inc. | \$50,000 |
| Migrant Assistance | | |
| Statewide | Multiple | \$1,359,298 |
| Financial Literacy | | |
| Statewide | Multiple | \$1,036,960 |

EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE (Community Action Organization of Western New York, Inc.)

In FFY 2023, the New York Department of State, Division of Community Services provided up to \$100,000 in funding to the Community Action Organization of Western New York, Inc. This funding was used to implement an Emergency Housing and Rental Assistance Program and to help low-income individuals with rental assistance. This program assisted over 100 low-income families.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (Community Action of Orleans and Orleans)

In FFY 2023, the New York Department of State, Division of Community Services provided up to \$50,000 in funding to the Community Action of Orleans and Orleans. This funding enabled the agency to prepare for a federally mandated audit and successfully complete the audit with no findings.

RE-ENTRY/EARLY RELEASE (Wyoming County Community Action, Inc., Wyoming Shield Project)

In FFY 2023, the New York State, Department of State, Division of Community Services provided up to \$50,000 in funding to the Wyoming Community Action, Inc. for the Wyoming Shield Project. This project focused on addressing the high rate of incarceration resulting from crime associated with substance abuse as well as the adverse impact on the families within Wyoming County. To participate in the Wyoming Shield Project, the families acknowledged a history of instability due to incarcerated family members. Families received support to address the associated trauma with transitioning back to their communities and preventing recidivism.

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

In FFY 2023, the New York Department of State, Division of Community Services provided up to \$1,359,298 in funding to seven Community Based Organizations statewide. This funding was used to respond to the immediate needs of newly arrived asylum seekers that entered New York State. This program assisted 17,770 participants.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

In FFY 2023, the New York Department of State, Division of Community Services provide up to \$1,036,960 in funding to eleven Community Based Organizations statewide. This funding is used to assist and educate low-income individuals and families to better utilize their financial resources, allowing them to address and manage the challenges of long term and situational poverty.

THE CSBG NETWORK: PROGRAM AND FISCAL OVERSIGHT

Routine monitoring of all CSBG-funded entities is conducted by DOS staff. The chart below provides a snapshot of the monitoring activities conducted by DOS in association with virtual and on-site visits to CAAs and other CSBG-funded subrecipients during FFY 2023. These activities include attendance at board of director meetings and review of related documents, program and fiscal monitoring, and assistance in the development of work plans and required reports.

| Oversight Activities | FFY 2023 |
|--|-----------------|
| Site visits (both on-site and virtual), board reviews, program and fiscal assessments, contract assistance, and annual desk review for compliance with organizational standards. | 226 |
| Training and technical assistance (T/TA) including compliance with national standards which encompass planning, governance, human resources, fiscal management, data management, and service delivery. | 53 |
| Annual Reviews (via Annual Compliance Review of Organizational Standards (ACROS)) | 31 |
| Triennial reviews conducted (via Triennial Review and Assessment for Compliance with Standards (TRACS)) | 16 |

Federal law requires CSBG States to conduct one full on-site review of each designated CAA at least once every three years (42 USC § 9914). For this purpose, DOS developed the Triennial Review and Assessment for Compliance with Standards (TRACS) tool. Based in part, on the national CSBG 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 Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) developed by DOS and the monitored CAA.

In FFY 2023, DOS continued to use a 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 in achieving compliance. A major focus for technical assistance in FFY 2023 continued to be compliance with national CSBG Organizational Standards (instituted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2016).

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, and/or during a triennial assessment. In addition to the training and technical assistance provided directly by DOS staff, subrecipients are offered training and technical assistance through the State's contract with the New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA). This year, NYSCAA focused on facilitating collaborative workgroups with the network. The primary goal of the workgroup was to develop the 2024-2025 NYS CSBG State Plan and revise the DOS monitoring framework. NYSCAA hosted five regional meetings and the Annual Professional Development Conference. NYSCAA continued their work with the network on addressing social justice and racial equity issues, supporting the mental health of the Community Action staff by providing trauma informed care information and resources, and supporting motivational interviewing practices to assist with frontline service delivery.

Through the partnership with NYSCAA, the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Alliance workgroup, continued to improve and modify the Community Action Plan templates for the network to support their efforts in addressing the identified needs in their communities. NYSCAA continued to provide training opportunities to the network in Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA). Additionally, over the past year, 4 individuals became certified ROMA Implementers, and 4 individuals became certified ROMA Trainers. NYSCAA built

the framework to establish a Poverty Academy by providing trainings, webinars, and e-courses focused on issues regarding poverty and the work of Community Action Agencies. This partnership supports a significant initiative from HHS to integrate the use of data for analysis/ continual improvement of outcomes resulting from the use of CSBG funds. Continuous T/TA efforts are strengthened through calls with agency Executive Directors. These calls allow DOS staff to better assess the needs of the Community Action Agencies and offer direct support.

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. If legislative action permits New York State to adopt a percentage of poverty higher than 125%; DOS shall select the highest percentage of poverty permissible as a criterion of eligibility. 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.

Congressional action has allowed states to increase the eligibility threshold to 200% of the FPL through the end of FFY 2023, which DOS implemented accordingly. Pending any changes, the eligibility threshold remains at 200% Federal Poverty Level.

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 federally-administered CSBG Annual Report is a data reporting system, managed 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 2022 now includes the number of individuals served, along with those that achieved significant outcomes in each domain.

The statistics for FFY 2023 (October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023) are expected to be available later this year, which will be reflected in the FFY 2024 (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2022) Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

In this report, service counts are inclusive of both CSBG, and CSBG CARES funded initiatives (FFY 2022):

| Service Domain & Domain Outcomes | Description | Services Provided to Individuals in FFY 2022* |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 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. | 89,538 |
| 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. | 142,285 |
| 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. | 8,859 |

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| 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. | 32,562 |
| Health and Social/ Behavioral Development | Participants improved their physical, mental, and behavioral health. Metrics include increasing interpersonal skills, the ability to live independently and increase family stability. | 343,085* |
| 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 | 9,290 |
| Latest data available: FFY 2022 | | |

*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 2023

| County/ Area Served | Eligible Entity Contact Information | FFY 2023 CSBG Allocations |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Albany | Albany County Opportunity, Inc. 333 Sheridan Avenue Albany, NY 12206 www.albanycap.org | \$275,106 |
| Allegany | Allegany County Community Opportunities and Rural Development, Inc. 84 Schuyler Street Belmont, NY 14813 www.accordcorp.org | \$247,231 |
| Broome | Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, Inc. 5 West State Street Binghamton, NY 13901 www.greaterops.org | \$372,338 |
| Cattaraugus | Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. 25 Jefferson Street Salamanca, NY 14779 www.ccaction.org | \$252,253 |
| Cayuga and Seneca | Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. 89 York Street, Suite 1 Auburn, NY 13021 www.cscaa.com | \$437,675 |

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|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| Chautauqua | Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. 17 West Courtney Street Dunkirk, NY 14048 www.chautauquaopportunities.com | \$252,253 |
| Chemung and Schuyler | Economic Opportunity Program, Inc. of Chemung County 650 Baldwin Street Elmira, NY 14901 www.cseop.org | \$437,675 |
| Chenango | Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, Inc. 44 West Main Street Norwich, NY 13815 www.greaterops.org | \$252,253 |
| Clinton and Franklin | Joint Council for Economic Opportunity of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc. 54 Margaret Street Plattsburgh, NY 12901 www.iceo.org | \$544,510 |
| Columbia | Columbia Opportunities, Inc. 540 Columbia Street Hudson, NY 12534 www.columbiaopportunities.org | \$252,253 |
| Cortland | Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc. 32 North Main Street Cortland, NY 13045 www.capco.org | \$252,253 |
| Delaware | Delaware Opportunities, Inc. 35430 State Highway 10 Hamden, NY 13782 www.delawareopportunities.org | \$252,253 |
| Dutchess | Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, Inc. 77 Cannon Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 www.dutchesscap.org | \$481,023 |
| Erie | Community Action Organization of Western New York, Inc. 45 Jewett Avenue, Suite 150 Buffalo, NY 14214 www.caowny.org | \$2,185,529 |
| Essex | Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. 7572 Court Street, Suite 2 Elizabethtown, NY 12932 www.acapinc.org | \$252,253 |
| Fulton and Montgomery | Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. 20 Park Street, PO Box 835 Fonda, NY 12068 www.fulmont.org | \$379,299 |

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|---------------------|--|--------------|
| Greene | Community Action of Greene County, Inc. 7856 Rt. 9W Catskill, NY 12414 www.cagcny.org | \$252,253 |
| Jefferson | Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc. 518 Davidson Street Watertown, NY 13601 www.capcjc.org | \$252,253 |
| Lewis | Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. 8265 State Route 812 Lowville, NY 13367 www.lewiscountyopportunitites.com | \$252,253 |
| Livingston | Livingston County Board of Supervisors (Community Initiatives Council) 6 Court Street Geneseo, NY 14454 www.livingstoncounty.us | \$247,231 |
| Madison | Community Action Program for Madison County, Inc. 3 East Main Street, PO Box 249 Morrisville, NY 13408 www.capmadco.org | \$247,231 |
| Monroe and Ontario | Action for a Better Community, Inc. 550 East Main Street Rochester, NY 14604 www.abcinfo.org | \$1,856,171 |
| Nassau | Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County, Inc. 134 Jackson Street Hempstead, NY 11550 www.eoc-nassau.org | 2,454,380 |
| Niagara | Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. 1521 Main Street Niagara Falls, NY 14305 www.niagaracap.org | \$366,618 |
| New York City | New York City Department of Youth and Community Development 2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor New York, NY 10007 www.nyc.gov/dycd | \$35,200,713 |
| Oneida and Herkimer | Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. 9882 River Road Utica, NY 13502 www.mvcaa.com | \$689,927 |
| Onondaga | People's Equal Action and Community Effort, Inc. 217 South Salina Street, 2nd Floor Syracuse, NY 13202 www.peace-caa.org | \$1,636,436 |
| Orange | Regional Economic Community Action Program, Inc. 40 Smith Street Middletown, NY 10940 www.recap.org | \$578,849 |

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| Orleans and Genesee | Community Action of Orleans and Genesee, Inc. 409 East State Street Albion, NY 14411 www.caoqinc.org | \$437,675 |
| Oswego | Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. 239 Oneida Street Fulton, NY 13069 www.oco.org | \$247,231 |
| Otsego | Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. 3 West Broadway Oneonta, NY 13820 www.ofoinc.org | \$252,253 |
| Rensselaer | Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Greater Capital Region, Inc. 2331 Fifth Avenue Troy, NY 12180 www.ceoempowers.org | \$252,253 |
| Saratoga | Lifeworks Community Action, Inc. PO Box 169, 39 Bath Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020 www.lifeworksaction.org | \$252,253 |
| Schenectady | Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc. 913 Albany Street Schenectady, NY 12307 www.scapny.org | \$252,253 |
| Schoharie | Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc. 795 East Main Street, Suite 5 Cobleskill, NY 12043 www.sccapinc.org | \$252,253 |
| Steuben and Yates | Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. 117 East Steuben Street Bath, NY 14810 www.proactioninc.org | \$437,675 |
| St. Lawrence | St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc. One Commerce Lane Canton, NY 13617 www.slccdp.org | \$252,253 |
| Suffolk | Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. 31 West Main Street, Suite 300 Patchogue, NY 11772 www.eoc-suffolk.com | \$1,373,322 |
| Sullivan | Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. 70 Lindsley Avenue Kingston, NY 12401 www.uccac.org | \$252,253 |
| Tioga | Tioga Opportunities, Inc. 9 Sheldon Guile Boulevard www.tiogaopp.org | \$252,253 |

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| Tompkins | Tompkins Community Action, Inc. 701 Spencer Road Ithaca, NY 14850 www.tcaction.org | \$252,253 |
| Ulster | Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. 70 Lindsley Avenue Kingston, NY 12401 www.uccac.org | \$252,253 |
| Warren and Hamilton | Warren-Hamilton Counties Action Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. 190 Maple Street, PO Box 968 Glens Falls, NY 12801 www.wahacaa.org | \$379,299 |
| Washington | Washington County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. 383 Broadway, B003A Fort Edward, NY 12828 www.leapservices.org | \$252,253 |
| Wayne | Wayne County Action Program, Inc. 159 Montezuma Street Lyons, NY 14489 www.waynecap.org | \$252,253 |
| Westchester, Rockland and Putnam | Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. 2 Westchester Plaza, Suite 137 Elmsford, NY 10523 www.westcop.org | \$1,725,196 |
| Wyoming | Wyoming County Community Action, Inc. 6470 Route 20A, Suite 1 Perry, NY 14530 www.wccainc.org | \$247,231 |
| City of Yonkers | Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc. 20 South Broadway, Suite 420 Yonkers, NY 10701 www.yonkerscap.org | \$498,179 |
| Statewide Migrant & Seasonal Farm Worker Agency | PathStone Corporation 400 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14607 www.pathstone.org | \$372,393 |

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES/TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

| County/ Area Served | Contact Information | FFY 2023 Final Allocation |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| St. Lawrence | Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation PO Box 402 Rooseveltown, NY 13683 http://mohawkindianhousin.wixsite.com/apts | \$161,039 |

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|---------|---|-----------|
| Suffolk | Poospatuck Indian Nation P.O. Box 90 Mastic, NY 11950 | \$125,000 |
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DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERS

| County/ Area Served | Contact Information | FFY 2023 Final Allocation |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Statewide | New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA), Inc. 2 Charles Blvd. Guilderland, NY 12084 https://www.nyscommunityaction.org/ | \$350,000 |