



Department of State Community Services

November 2025 CSBG Newsletter

Resources to Support During the Continued Government Shutdown

Impacts of the Government Shutdown on Federal Nutrition Programs

[Hunger Solutions NY](#) is monitoring the impact of the government shutdown and what that means for nearly 3 million New Yorkers that receive assistance. [The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance \(OTDA\)](#) continues to provide updates regarding SNAP benefits as of November 1, 2025. All households receiving SNAP should continue to complete all SNAP requirements (including recertifications, periodic reports, and reporting changes). Applications for SNAP will continue to be accepted, however households approved after November 1st may not



receive benefits until the federal shutdown ends. Click here to access FAQ on the [Federal Government Shutdown: November SNAP Benefits](#).

Currently, WIC remains open and operational, states are expected to continue to accept WIC benefits, and WIC offices are expected to remain open. Updates are available on [NYS Department of Health](#) website and review the [FAQ](#) for more details.

Have You Heard of DOL's Shared Work Program?

The NYS Department of Labor offers the Shared Work Program. The Shared Work Program has helped thousands of businesses and not-for-profits in NYS save money, avoid layoffs and retain workers. It is a definitive solution for businesses experiencing a slowdown or a shutdown. With Shared Work, employees can work reduced hours while collecting some unemployment benefits, allowing businesses to save money and retain knowledgeable, productive staff.

This isn't just for salaried employees. Full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees are eligible. Since everything is done online, applying for, and managing plans is fast and easy. Shared Work plans are approved within 48 hours, can be adjusted weekly, and take just minutes to certify. The flexibility of the program, which has been a trusted resource for decades, allows businesses to ramp up quickly when conditions improve.

Need help with your plan? No problem. Every participating business gets a dedicated representative to answer questions and guide you through the process – they're always just a phone call away. For more details check out the [Department of Labor/shared Work Program](#).

Did you know November is American Diabetes Month?

On November 14th, join the [American Diabetes Association](#) by wearing a **blue ribbon**, to raise awareness and promote prevention of diabetes. This month also works to fight the social stigma surrounding diabetes and build empathy for those managing to live with the condition. Research shows a direct correlation between poverty and diabetes. Low-income households often face barriers, such as having access to healthy food and quality healthcare, which likely increase the risk of developing and/or present challenges with managing the diagnosis. Decades of research have demonstrated that diabetes disproportionately affects low-income populations. Additional information and resources can be found in the following publications: [Diabetes Care](#) and [Social Determinants of Type 2 Diabetes in Rural vs. Urban Communities](#).



Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) Rolls Out Move-In NY Initiative

HCR rolled out a new initiative entitled Move-In NY that was funded with \$50 million in the 2025-26 State Budget. Eligible applicants are municipalities, land banks and nonprofit organizations. Fifteen communities will be chosen to receive the funding, and applicants must build a minimum of 10 manufactured (cross-mods) homes for low-moderate income households on land the applicant has site control and is properly zoned. Selected participants will receive zero-interest, partially forgivable loans to bulk-purchase and install CrossMod from pre-approved vendors.

CrossMod homes emerged from a partnership between the Manufactured Housing Institute and Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac to create a new class of manufactured homes that combine the affordability of off-site construction with the features, financing, and appraisal methods of site-built homes. The term "CrossMod" signifies a "crossover" of these two types of construction, expanding the use of manufactured homes and enabling homeowners to build wealth through property appreciation.

To register and get the application [click here](#). HCR will **start accepting applications on November 15th and the deadline is January 30th, 2026**. RHC Executive Director Michael J. Borges was quoted in recent [NYT article](#) on the roll out of this new initiative.



The American Affordability Tracker: Data on Americans' Finances

Americans are struggling to afford essentials like food, childcare, and housing. Everyday Americans are worried about the cost of living, and more than 60% feel prices are heading in the wrong direction. To solve this affordability crisis, policymakers need clear, actionable data and policy solutions. The [URBAN INSTITUTE](#) has released a tracker that monitors the most recent available data on earnings, housing, healthcare, childcare, gas, groceries, and various types of loan delinquency. To find the key takeaways and additional information visit [The American Affordability Tracker](#). This data tool was first published in October 2025 and will be updated as new data is available.

Highlights Around the Network

Congratulations to New York's Certified Community Action Professionals

The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) credential recognizes individuals who have demonstrated knowledge and application of the core competencies required to effectively carry out the vision, mission, and values of the Community Action movement. Let's congratulate the following candidates: **Ashley Elias** (ACCORD, Inc.), **Amanda Straight** (Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.), **Sue Rosa** (CEO for the Greater Capital Region, Inc.), **William Nicholson** (CAP for Madison County, Inc.), **Greg Richards** (CAPCO, Inc.), **Karima Wines** (MVCCA, Inc.), **Melissa Wines** (MVCCA, Inc.), **Holly Green** (SCAP, Inc.), and **Kevin Slimmer** (Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.)!

For more information on becoming a CCAP visit: [National Community Action Partnership \(NCAP\)](#).

CAP Cayuga/Seneca gears up for Christmas Elf Program



CAP Cayuga/Seneca's Christmas Elf Program has been serving Cayuga County children and their families for over 37 years. A volunteer-driven multi-partner program funded by community donations provides holiday assistance to over 1,200 children and their families annually, with toys, books, gifts, and help with holiday meals. The Elf Committee is actively involved in raising funds to fill every enrolled child's wish list through various campaigns, including Christmas in July. The Doug's to Go fundraiser provides the opportunity to raise money and engage the community in collaborating with a popular local restaurant. The Elf Volunteers spend the day greeting customers, picking up food, and providing information on how to make the holidays brighter for those who need it the most. The program raised over \$500 and received many donations of new toys that will help families make lifelong memories. CAP is grateful to Doug's Fish Fry, the volunteers, and the kindness of the community. To learn more about Christmas Elf, visit

<https://caphelps.org/elf/>.

WCCAA Shines Light and Lifts Spirits this Fall



Wyoming County Community Action Agency, Inc (WCCAA) is celebrating the season with two inspiring events that reflect the agency's spirit of compassion, creativity, and community partnership. On November 8 at 5 p.m., WCCAA will host "For Love, Light, Luminaries, and Freedom" at the Perry/Warsaw Airport (rain date: November 15). The event invites residents to honor veterans, first responders, and loved ones with personalized luminaries in a breathtaking patriotic display, featuring a helicopter formation flyover by the New York State Troopers, performances by the WNY Drum Corps, and a live rendition of the National Anthem. Each luminary, sold for \$20, supports veteran services through WCCAA. "Our goal is to bring love, light, and to illuminate those who have contributed to the freedoms we enjoy one way or another," said Victoria Tiebor, WCCAA's Chief Executive Officer.

Later this month, WCCAA will launch "Cover the Girls – The Bra-Ha-Ha," a three-part initiative born from one woman's story that inspired a countywide movement. After helping a single mother obtain clothing needed for a job interview, Tiebor discovered an unmet need for some in the community: undergarments. The woman shared that she had been wearing the same worn-out bra for more than ten years, and Tiebor knew something had to change. Tiebor took the woman to Walmart to buy a new bra. "She came out of the dressing room visibly changed—not just physically, but in confidence," and the woman was offered the job following the interview! Tiebor said. "Right then, I knew we had to make sure other women didn't have to face that kind of need." The initiative begins November 10 with a bra giveaway for women in need and free mammograms provided by the University of Rochester's Mammogram Bus. All 19 mammogram appointments have already been filled, and more than 75 women in Wyoming County are signed up to receive new bras. WCCAA is partnering with the U of R Breast Health Division, CJ Country Radio, the Arts Council for Wyoming County, and Wyoming County Veteran Services to reach as many women as possible. The effort continues with a Bra Design Contest in December and concludes with the Bra-Ha-Ha Fundraiser on January 31 at Pizano's in Warsaw, featuring music, comedy, and live auctions of the artist-designed bras. "Our goal is to raise enough money to keep this program active in perpetuity," Tiebor shared, "and eventually to offer undergarments to men and children in need as well."

Tiebor's advice to other agencies looking to make an impact is, "No idea is ever too big or too small." She added, "If you have an idea, throw it out there and see how people react. Partner, partner, and partner—and lean on your Board. That's where success lies."

State and National Partner Resources & Training Opportunities

New York State Weatherization Directors Association (NYSWDA)

NYSWDA has classes starting in November 2025. For further information and registration details click on the links below:

- **[OSHA 10 Hour Construction Safety Certification](#)**
- **[BPI Building Analyst Professional \(BA-P\)](#)**
- **[Boot Camp for Weatherization Installers](#)**

Save Money and Keep Homes Comfortable with NYSERDA

With colder weather approaching, NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) is sharing ways to save money and energy while keeping homes comfortable and energy efficient. Federal tax credits, which **expire December 31, 2025**, can be combined with New York State incentives for maximum savings.

For detailed information, click [here](#)

OCFS New Funding Opportunity – RFP 1206: Family Resource Centers

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) announced the release of this Request for Proposals (RFP). This funding opportunity is provided by the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Program to operate Family Resource Centers (FRCs). This initiative is designed to support community-based FRC programs with the goal of strengthening and supporting families to prevent abuse/maltreatment and/or the recurrence of abuse/maltreatment and improving outcomes for families at risk of/or experiencing child abuse. Applicants must operate in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations in the provision of these services. The deadline for submission of proposals is 12/12/2025 (by 4:00pm). For more information and access to the documents are available here: [RFA 1206 - Family Resource Centers](#)

New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)

2025 New York State Annual Poverty Report

NYSCAA released the [2025 NYS Annual Poverty Report](#). The report provides a statewide look at poverty and is designed to be a comprehensive resource for NY's Community Action Agencies, community-based organizations, policy makers, advocates, community coalitions and the general public. For past reports and further information please visit [NYSCAA's website](#).

2026 Region II Training & Technical Assistance Needs Survey

NYSCAA needs your input to help identify trainings, resources, and technical assistance opportunities that will support the growth and success of the network. This annual survey will directly shape regional planning and professional development opportunities throughout the year.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE NY SURVEY](#), no later than January 5, 2026.

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP)

NCAP 2026 Management & Leadership Training Conference (MLTC)

Orlando, Florida | **January 28 – 30, 2026 (Pre-Con: Jan. 27th)**

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

National Association for State Community Services Program (NASCSPP)

Winter Training Conference

Arlington, VA | **February 2-6, 2026**

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc. (CAPLAW)

2026 CAPLAW National Training Conference

Phoenix, AZ- Sheraton Phoenix Downtown | **June 2-3, 2026, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM each day**

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Division of Community Services Updates and Reminders

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Advisory Council Meeting

2026 Meeting Schedule:

- **Thursday, February 5th, 2026, 10:00AM**
- **Thursday, April 23rd, 2026, 10:00AM**
- **Thursday, July 23rd, 2026, 10:00AM**
- **Thursday, October 8th, 2026, 10:00AM**

All CSBG Advisory Council meetings will be held at the following locations and open to the public:

1. Albany- One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave, 15th Floor, Room 1510, Albany NY 12210
2. Buffalo- 295 Main Street, 8th Floor, Room 821, Buffalo, NY 14203
3. New York City- 123 William Street, 20th Floor, Room 2008, New York, NY 10038

Meeting links will be posted on dos.ny.gov and shared prior to the scheduled meetings.

Division of Community Services Online Resources

The Department of State has a YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@nysdosvideos/playlists>

Check out the Division of Community Services' playlists: [CSBG Public Meetings](#) and [CSBG Training](#)

Please reach out to your Program Analyst or dos.sm.dcs@dos.ny.gov for more information.

CSBG Eligibility Guidelines continue at 200% Federal Poverty Level

[Click for the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)

This publication is supported by Grant Number 2501NYCOSR from the Office of Community Services within the Administration for Children and Families of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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