NEW YORK STATE

Department of State
Community Services

CSBG ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2026
10:00 AM
ALBANY – BUFFALO – NYC - VIRTUAL

THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO ATTEND THE MEETING AT ANY OF THE LOCATIONS, ATTEND REMOTELY, OR VIEW THE RECORDING LATER ON THE WEBSITE: HTTPS://DOS.NY.GOV/COMMUNITY-SERVICES-BLOCK-GRANT-ADVISORY-COUNCIL

24 FEBRUARY, 2026

CSBG Advisory Council Members Roll Call

Mike Bobbitt
Alan Jones
Michael Martin
Andrea Ogunwumi
Charles Quinn
Maurice Reid
Greg Richards
Laura Rossman
Miguel Santos
Yves Vilus
Denis E. Wilson
Tina Zerbian

Welcome and Introductions

- Advisory Council members
  - Name
  - Agency/Region

NYSCAA

New York State Community Action Association

Helping People. Changing Lives.

NCAP MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

NASCSP WINTER CONFERENCE

NYSCAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NYSCAA CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEMINAR

CSBG GRANT

EMERGING LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (ELI)

ROMA TRAININGS

Division of Community Services (DCS)Updates - Staffing

- Leah Bartlo resigned in January
  - Her CAAs were reassigned to
    - Jessica Sweet
    - Theresa Walsh
    - Sean Tulumello
- Kerry Shermer, Administration, is leaving at the end of the month.

Division of Community Services (DCS)Updates

- CSBG Funding
  - As you are aware, we received the first FFY2026 NOA on 12/15/2025. It covered the period of 10/1/2025-1/30/2026.
  - We have not received another NOA and have no updates as to the timing.
- CSBG Annual Report
  - The Smart Forms were released to the network last month. The ARU staff are reviewing them and will reach out to CAA staff if they have questions.
  - Following the ARU review, the Program Analyst will contact each CAA to schedule a meeting to review the data.

Division of Community Services (DCS)Updates - STAR

State Triennial Assessment and Review (STAR)

- DCS and fiscal are continuing to review monitoring requirements, addressing outstanding items, and updating the draft.
- There will be an internal review with legal and executive.
- DCS will follow up with the NYSCAA monitoring workgroup.
- The intent is to have a comment period, and we are considering conducting pilots with a few CAAs.
- If we maintain the time frame, we expect to have training over the summer for staff and CAAs.

Division of Community Services Updates – Needs Survey

The ***intention*** for discretionary funding is to issue a call letter after reviewing the needs identified in the recent survey: (25 responses)

1. **Transportation**
   - Lack of reliable transportation to access food, work, and healthcare
   - No public transportation in rural areas
   - Need for vehicle repairs/emergency repairs and maintenance to keep people working
   - Transportation to medical appointments (especially for rural/migrant populations)
2. **Housing & Utilities**
   - Rental assistance and mortgage support
   - Utility bill assistance (especially heating costs in winter)
   - Security deposits for housing
   - Mobile home repairs (owners rent land, ineligible for traditional programs)
   - Small home repairs for older adults

Division of Community Services Updates – Needs Survey

3. Food Security

- Food assistance programs stretched thin
- Mobile food distributions with reduced capacity
- Food cards/vouchers
- Increased demand during school breaks, holidays, and summer

4. Education and Employment Supports

- School supplies/back-to-school assistance (backpacks, notebooks, calculators, clothing)
- Vocational education/certification and exam fees
- Work attire and tools
- Financial literacy/financial management skills training

Division of Community Services Updates – Needs Survey

5. Child Care

- Childcare assistance to support employment
- Summer camp scholarships
- Daycare payments (May-September)

6. Support Services

- Mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Youth-focused services and supports
- Case management services

Changes to Community Action Plan/CSBG Work Plan

- DCS is working on updating/revising Attachment C
  - The look/design
  - Streamline narrative questions (fewer tabs)
  - Include drop-downs, etc.
- Hoping to conduct a pilot with a few CAAs

Old Business Council Membership

- Update on filling vacant Advisory Council members
  - Candidacy Withdrawal
    - Maureen Abbott, retired CAA Executive Director
  - Assembly Candidates
    - Brenda Soto, PathStone: waiting for Assembly Speaker's letter
  - Gubernatorial Candidates:
    - Jean Sexton, Retired banking official, CAA board member: submitted appointment documents earlier this week

- Attendance

Current Challenges/New Business

What are current challenges you want DOS to be aware of?

Next Meeting – Save the Dates

2026 Meeting Schedule

- Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 10:00am
- Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 10:00am
- Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 10:00am

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