



OFFICE OF FAITH & NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

February 2026 Newsletter

Greetings and welcome back! Please use this newsletter for information on upcoming events, funding opportunities, and resources to ensure your organizations can thrive.

Governor Hochul's State of the State



Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the New York State Office of Faith & Nonprofit Development Services E-newsletter. This month, we're spotlighting key priorities from Governor Hochul's 2026 State of the State - including strengthening community safety through grant opportunities, expanding mental health supports, advancing affordable housing, boosting hunger relief, investing in clean water infrastructure, and moving forward on universal childcare and universal free school meals. Throughout this newsletter, you'll find timely updates, upcoming events, and practical resources to help faith-based and nonprofit organizations thrive, plus information on our February 11th webinar, "Serving Beyond the Sanctuary," highlighting new partnership opportunities through the New York State Department of Health's Social Care Network. In addition to our partnership with the New York State Office of Cannabis Management on February 9th.



GOVERNOR STATE OF THE STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Safety

- \$35 million for the next round of Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes (SCAHC) - grants that strengthen safety/security for organizations at risk because of their ideology, beliefs, or mission.
- Additional safety investments:
 - \$115 million continued funding for Joint Task Force Empire Shield (detering/preventing terrorist activity in the NYC area, including transit and commuter hubs).
 - \$50 million for Law Enforcement Technology (LETECH) grants to help agencies acquire technologies/equipment that support crime prevention and community engagement.

Public Safety

- Budget framing: expanding services, improving access to care, protecting vulnerable individuals; overall Mental Hygiene system spending \$15.0B in FY 2027 (6.5% annual growth).
- Subway crisis engagement model (replicable conceptually): \$25 million for SCOUT, pairing MTA police with clinical staff to connect people in crisis to care/treatment/shelter; expanding teams by 50% (10 to 15).

Housing

- Continued funding for the final year of the \$25 billion five-year housing plan to create/preserve 100,000 affordable homes (including 10,000 supportive homes).
- More than 70,000 units created/preserved to date and “on pace” to reach the 100,000 goal.
- Additional “next phase” signals: \$250 million to accelerate new affordable housing construction; \$100 million for factory-built/modular construction technologies; continued support for a \$1 billion State contribution to NYC’s “City of Yes for Housing Opportunity.”



GOVERNOR STATE OF THE STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Universal Childcare

- \$1.23 billion additional for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) - a 40% year-over-year increase, bringing more than \$3 billion available for subsidies.
- NYC 2-Care: \$73 million to begin a contract-based childcare program for two-year-olds (first year expected to enroll 2,000 children; fully implemented anticipated 30,000).
- Creation of a new Office of Child Care and Early Education to coordinate universal childcare and related initiatives.

Free School Meals

- \$395 million to continue Universal Free School Meals, requiring participating schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of family income.

Local Cops, Local Crimes Act

- Governor Hochul today announced the introduction of comprehensive legislation to protect New Yorkers, strengthen constitutional safeguards, and prohibit local law enforcement from being deputized by ICE for federal civil immigration enforcement. The legislation would eliminate 287(g) agreements, barring state and local police from acting as federal agents or using taxpayer-funded resources or personnel to carry out federal civil immigration enforcement. It would also prohibit federal agents from using local detention centers for civil immigration enforcement, mass raids, or the transportation of detainees.



GOVERNOR STATE OF THE STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Hunger Relief

- Continued \$106 million support for nutrition programs, including HPNAP and Nourish New York, plus \$15 million to expand HPNAP funding.
 - \$10 million for PLATES capital grants to strengthen emergency food providers' capacity.
-

Clean Water

- A new five-year \$3.75 billion commitment (\$750 million/year) to support clean water infrastructure - drinking water distribution, filtration, wastewater treatment - with stated goals including creating more housing and spurring growth.



Highlighting Nonprofits Specializing in Child Care of New York State – In relation to Governor Hochul’s State of the State



Region: Central New York | County: Onondaga

Since Fall 2018, PEACE, Inc., the Community Action Agency for Onondaga County, in partnership with Child Care Solutions of CNY, has offered the Early Childhood Career Pathways Program (ECCPP) to strengthen the local childcare workforce. ECCPP supports aspiring professionals through three pathways—Entrepreneurship, Education, and Employment—by providing case management, training, and technical assistance. Since 2019, the program has helped open 73 licensed in-home daycares, created up to 1,040 childcare slots, and supported credentialing for dozens of providers, helping address critical childcare gaps across Onondaga County.

Email: info@peace-caa.org | Phone: 315-470-3300



Region: New York City | County: NYC

For over 170 years, Children’s Aid has supported families and children in some of New York City’s most under-resourced neighborhoods. As part of this continuum of care, Children’s Aid provides home- and center-based early childhood programs, serving more than 1,000 children from birth to age 5 annually. Grounded in research-based curricula, these programs help children develop confidence, respect for others, and a love of learning during their most critical years. Children’s Aid’s early childhood programs also engage families as partners and connect them to resources such as food assistance and medical care.

Visit childrensaidnyc.org or call 212.949.4800 to learn more.



Region: Finger Lakes | County: Monroe

Action for a Better Community, Inc. (ABC) has served as the federally designated Head Start and Early Head Start grantee for Monroe County, New York for nearly 60 years.

Established in 1964, ABC provides high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive family support services to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from low-income households. Using evidence-based curricula and a Whole Family Approach, ABC integrates early learning with health screenings, nutrition, and family coaching. By engaging parents as partners and leaders, ABC helps children enter school ready to learn while strengthening families and building healthier communities.

Phone: 585-325-5116 | Email: caa@abcinfo.org



Region: Western New York | County: Erie

For more than 60 years, the Community Action Organization of Western New York (CAO of WNY) has strengthened families by addressing the root causes of poverty and expanding access to opportunity. Through its Head Start and Early Head Start programs, CAO provides comprehensive early childhood education and family support services to infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children across Buffalo and Erie County. Services include early learning, health and developmental screenings, nutritious meals, mental health supports, and family goal-setting—helping children enter school prepared while supporting working families and building stronger, more equitable communities.

Phone: 716-881-5150 | Website: caowny.org



February 2026 OFNDS WEBINAR: Serving Beyond the Sanctuary: Opportunities Through NYS DOH's Social Care Network

Date: Wednesday, February 11th, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM

REGISTRATION LINK: [Register Here for FREE](#)

This webinar will provide an overview of the Social Care Network (SCN) program and how it creates new or expanded opportunities for community-based organizations to support health related social needs. Participants will learn about the types of services supported through SCN- including nutrition, housing, transportation, and social care management who is eligible to participate, and how organizations that provide at least one health-related social needs service can join a Social Care Network. The session will also highlight opportunities for collaboration, referrals, and coordination with healthcare partners, along with practical guidance on next steps and time for questions.



Martina Ahadzi

Unit Director within the Bureau of Social Care and
Community Supports (BSCCS)

Martina is the Unit Director at the Bureau of Social Care and Community Supports (BSCCS), part of the New York State Department of Health's Office of Health Insurance Programs. Since joining in 2017, she has led initiatives that integrate clinical healthcare with social services, focusing on improving outcomes for vulnerable Medicaid members dealing with housing instability, high-risk pregnancies, pediatric asthma, and behavioral health challenges. As a leader in healthcare reform, Martina successfully implemented the New York State Value-Based Payment (VBP) initiative, transforming the delivery system to emphasize value-based care and address social determinants of health. Her unit is now overseeing the latest 1115 Waiver Amendment, which allocates over \$3 billion to strengthen social care infrastructure and provide essential Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) services. With over 20 years of healthcare experience and a master's degree from the University at Albany, Martina also enjoys podcasts and is inspired by foreign cinema, particularly the Italian drama "My Brilliant Friend."



Upcoming Events

TRUSTED MESSENGERS, REAL SOLUTIONS FAITH IN THE BLACK & BROWN COMMUNITIES PANEL DISCUSSION



CO-SPONSOR:

Department of State
Office of Faith & Nonprofit
Development Services

Saturday • Feb 14, 2026 • 2:15PM - 3:30PM
Legislative Office Building (Meeting Room 1)
Albany, NY 12210

MODERATOR: CAURA RICHARDSON,
DIRECTOR OF THE NYS OFFICE OF FAITH AND NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
**American Sign Language will be available*



BISHOP RAYMOND
RIVERA



REVEREND A. R.
BERNARD

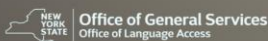


ASHLEY
SHARPTON



DR. MICHAEL
PRATTS

PARTNERSHIPS:



Host:
Dr. Al Taylor
Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore
Member, New York State Assembly



FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER AL TAYLOR



Upcoming Events

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebration

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

10am - 2pm • Free • Empire State Plaza Concourse

A Century of Black History Commemorations

Performances by **Cool Universe** and
the Barnhill Movement Collective

Food provided by **Allie B's Cozy Kitchen (\$)**

Explore moments in history with exhibits
all month long

Sponsored by:

M&T Bank

Coca-Cola

 Department of State
Office of Faith & Non-Profit
Development Services

THE PLAZA

 Office of
General Services



Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar – New Date!

FEB | 25 | 2026 | 1-3 PM

Integrating Faith Leaders into Elder Abuse Services

Virtual (via Zoom)

When older adults face abuse or mistreatment, many seek support from their faith communities—places they trust for guidance, comfort, and care. This training equips clergy, lay leaders, and congregants with the tools to recognize signs of elder abuse, understand its impact, and respond with compassion and clarity.

[Register Here](#)

Questions? Ask Rev. Susan M. Frawley – sfrawley@lifespanrochester.org

Need help registering? Ask Emily Rozek at 585-287-6444 or erozek@lifespanrochester.org

- ASL interpreting available upon request. We kindly ask that those in need of interpretation register at least one week in advance.
- Contact hours for CEUs are available for LM- and LCSWs. Lifespan of Greater Rochester SW CPE is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0089.





Resources for YOU!

FREE!!

Youth & Teen Mental Health First Aid Training Opportunity

The NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) has contracted with the Mental Health Association in NYS (MHANYS) to provide Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid trainings at no cost throughout the state.

The Office of Faith and Nonprofit Development Services (OFNDS) is partnering with OMH to ensure faith-based and nonprofit organizations are aware of and able to access these valuable trainings.

If you are not already familiar with these training programs, please visit the links below for more information:

- [Youth Mental Health Training in Mental Health First Aid](#)
- [Teen Mental Health First Aid Training](#)

If you are interested, please complete the survey below by **Friday, February 13th**.

[MHFA Interest Survey](#)

You may also direct any questions to ymhfa@mhanys.org.



GRANT INFORMATION

All of our grant information and grant application assistance information can be accessed by visiting our website.

Please click [HERE](#) for further details OR visit <https://dos.ny.gov/ofnds>

Book a 1:1 with our Grant Program Manager Xamayla Rose to enroll in SFS:

<https://calendly.com/xamayla-rose-dos>

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**GET READY, GET SET:
GRANT
READINESS 101**

LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLYING FOR NYS GRANTS
FOR COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS &
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 AM

BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL
209 JORALEMON STREET • BROOKLYN, NY 11201

RSVP with OCM at bit.ly/ocmgrantsbrooklyn
*Link is case sensitive. Please enter URL in all lowercase.



Recent Highlights





CONNECT WITH US!



Important Interfaith Dates in February

- February 2: (Christian/Catholic) Candlemas
- February 15-16: (Hindu) Maha Shivaratri
- February 17: (Islam) Ramadan begins
- February 18: (Christian/Catholic) Ash Wednesday

Does your organization have public events coming up?

[Fill out our form](#) to have your event included in our next newsletter.

Need to be added to our database of Faith Leaders?

Please fill out [THIS](#) form.