NYSCAA
New York State Community Action Association
www.nyscommuityaction.org · 518-690-0491
2 Charles Boulevard, Guilderland, NY 12084

NYSCAA Report
CSBG Advisory Council Meeting
Submitted by Tim Nichols, CEO

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Annual Professional Development Conference

NYSCAA's annual professional conference was held last month (September 16th – 18th) at the Niagara Falls Convention Center in Niagara Falls. Over 200 people attended, less than last year due mostly to the conference not being held with the NYS Weatherization Directors Association (NYSWDA) as in the past. The conference agenda included two full days of workshops, keynote addresses, opportunities to hear from our national partners and our state partners, including and especially NYS Department of State. Workshops included trainings in Human Resources, Finance, and Management & Leadership. We also had workshops related to Head Start and Weatherization. We are collecting survey responses to help inform us for next year's conference planned for September 22 – 25 in the Hudson Valley region. We are gathering responses to our survey on the conference and will use this feedback when we plan next year's conference.

Emerging Leadership Institute

Our Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI 1.0) class of 2026 completed their work by attending the Annual Conference following two virtual sessions that were held in July. On the last day of the conference, ELI 2.0 candidates made presentations of the projects they have been working on at their agency as part of their 2.0 requirements. Following the presentations, we held a graduation ceremony for both ELI 1.0 and 2.0 participants.

Introduction to ROMA Trainings

We held a virtual Introduction to ROMA training at the end of July. NYSCAA staff Ryan Flynn joined other trainers as part of his own ROMA training. The course included 27 participants from across the network. Ryan is now a certified ROMA trainer, and as previously mentioned, additional trainings are planned later this fall.

ROMA Alliance

In conjunction with Barbara Mooney, NYSCAA held a ROMA Alliance meeting in May. The Alliance is a group of certified ROMA Trainers and Implementers and provides an opportunity to meet and discuss various topics and updates regularly. The group will be meeting again in October.

NYSCAA Learn

Over the last year in transition, NYSCAA has ensured NYSCAA Learn remains available to the network as an on-demand, online learning platform that houses both eLearning interactive courses and other resources designed specifically for Community Action staff and board members. All of the courses are free and open to all New York CAA board members, staff, and volunteers. Learners receive a certificate of completion at the end of each course in most cases.

Trainings

NYSCAA held three virtual training courses provide by NCAP in mid-September and is working with WIPFLI to offer additional trainings I,ncluding a web series in accounting. NCAP offered Community Action 101; Leveraging Internal Feedback for Organizational Excellence; and, Beyond the Crisis: Strengthening Resilience for the Road Ahead

Additionally, a six-part series being presented by WIPFLI entitled: “Grant-Funded Accounting 101 Fundamentals”. This can provide up t 12 CPE credits.

Affinity Groups

NYSCAA continues to support peer-group list-servs in the areas of finance, human resources, executive assistants, and information technology (IT), including groups of CAP 60 and CAP Systems users. The groups meet on a schedule they determine.

NYSCAA Bi-Weekly Executive Directors Call

NYSCAA continues to offer bi-weekly calls for CEOs and Executive Directors, providing a regular forum for CAA leaders to discuss common issues, share information, and exchange experiences. We also often have guests join the call to cover pressing items or offer new solutions or ideas to the network. Planning is underway for the 2026 Executive Directors/CEO Retreat, which will be held November 4–6 in Glens Falls, NY.