



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ONE COMMERCE PLAZA
99 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, NY 12231-0001

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

CESAR A. PERALES
SECRETARY OF STATE

May 1, 2012

Dear Community Services Network:

Today marks the first day of Community Action Month. On behalf of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, I would like to thank everyone in the New York State Community Action Network who has worked diligently for the last 48 years on behalf of these most vulnerable residents of our State.

As we commemorate Community Action Month, I want to share my vision for enhancing and targeting community services in New York. Our great State is known as a place of promise and prosperity for newcomers. New Americans bring determination, new skills and cultures to our State. Like so many other immigrants who came before, today's new Americans strive to join the middle class; yet many live in deep poverty. Some live in the shadows of exploitive forces that undermine their ability to prosper. New Americans are often underemployed, more likely to be living in or near poverty, less likely to receive food stamps or other supportive services, less likely to have access to health insurance, and are at an educational disadvantage that prevents their movement toward more competitive employment.

To ensure that new Americans can positively contribute to our State, I will issue 2012 CSBG discretionary funds for services targeted to this vulnerable population. Where no significant new American population exists, discretionary funds will again be set aside to focus on needed workforce development services.

During these difficult economic times, it is important that we renew our commitment to fighting poverty and strengthening our State's economic and civic life. It is important that we continue to focus attention on the needs of our underserved community.

I commend you for your work thus far, and urge all of you to join the DOS in meeting the challenges that lie ahead in 2012, and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cesar A. Perales".

Cesar A. Perales
New York Secretary of State