



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES/CSBG

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Rossana Rosado, Secretary of State

Wishing you safe and happy holidays from the DCS staff!



First Executive Director Conference Call

On December 4, the Division of Community Services (DCS) held the first Statewide Conference Call for Community Action Agencies and DOS staff. There were 53 individuals representing CAAs, including Jackie Orr, Executive Director of the New York State Community Action Agency (NYSCAA). DOS staff joining the call included LuAnn Hart, Bureau Director of Fiscal Management and Robert Vanderbles, DCS General Counsel. The meeting consisted of discussing program and fiscal updates, as well as addressing individual concerns. The next call is scheduled for April 22, 2020.

New Executive Director Introduction



Traci Ross, L.E.A.P.

Email: traci.ross@leapservices.org

Phone: 518.746.2393

Traci has over twenty years of experience working in human services, specifically child welfare and non-profit business administration. Since joining L.E.A.P. in 2015 as the Director of Head Start/ Early Head Start programs, she has instituted a professional development model for all staff that is strength based, builds on skills, and allows for mentoring opportunities within the leadership pyramid of Head Start. Traci has led her team to develop five-year program goals that are data driven and focus on community and family engagement. She has built collaborative partnerships with local area school districts to assist in efficient delivery of services. Traci spearheaded her team to build a program based on current community assessment data that meets the needs of children and families today. Traci secured grant that allowed the program to teach effective health literacy skills in the areas of physical, dental and mental health. Traci instituted a leadership project which led to the renaming and rebranding of the agency to improve the agency's exposure in the community.

Previous to Traci's work with L.E.A.P., she created a mentoring program that assists middle school children with successful transition to high school culture. Traci's volunteer accomplishments include serving on the executive committee of three non-profit boards: The Council for Prevention of Saratoga County, Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health, and the Tri-County United Way. Traci also serves on an ad hoc fundraising committee for Make a Wish of Northeast, New York.

Traci holds a baccalaureate degree in psychology and health services from State University of New York College at Oswego. Traci is also a fellow with the UCLA Anderson School of Business Management. Traci resides in Washington County with her husband, Michael, and dog, Bella.

December Agency Highlights

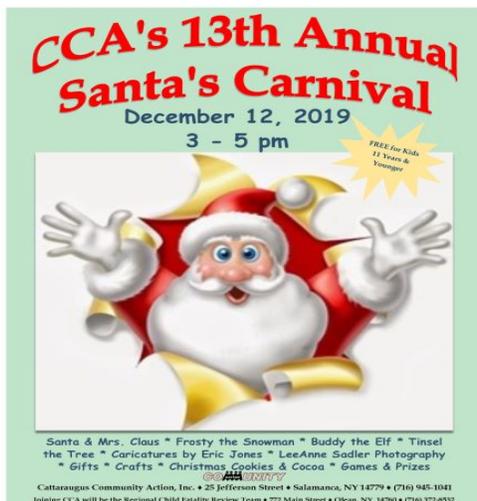
Action for a Better Community participates in Share The Warmth Coat Drive



Photos Before and After Event

Action for a Better Community (ABC) joined Fidelis Health Care, News 8 WROC, Julian's Dry Cleaners, for the 5th Annual Share the Warmth Coat drive. The Coat Giveaway took place at Lake Ave Baptist Church with the help of many community volunteers on November 18th. With the assistance of the Rochester community, over 2,700 coats were donated, cleaned and distributed to families in need. The coats were for every age from children to senior, and covered every size, style and color. At the end of the day all coats had a new home and plans for next year's drive are already in motion. ABC and the Share Warmth partners are very thankful to the community for all the support and we look forward to next year increasing the amount of coats and volunteers to make 2020 an exceptional year.

Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.'s 13th Annual Santa's Carnival



This Holiday event is held annually at the Cattaraugus Community Action main office in Salamanca, NY and is free for all children in the community. Activities include face painting, pictures with Santa, crafts, games and a raffle for a giant filled stocking. Every child receives a gift, holiday decorations, treats, hot cocoa and homemade Christmas cookies to take home.

Welcome to New Department of State Staff



Cynthia Stewart, Ramirez June Developmental Disabilities Navigator

Cynthia Stewart, M.S. is the Ramirez June Developmental Disabilities Navigator for the Office for New Americans in partnership with the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Cynthia has a Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling from the State University of New York at New Paltz and has provided therapy for youth and adults with developmental disabilities. As a direct support professional for the ARC Mid-Hudson, Cynthia has supported individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their goals. Leading the Ramirez June Developmental Disabilities Navigator Initiative, Cynthia will strengthen the capacity of service providers across New York State to connect new Americans with developmental disabilities and their families to necessary resources and services.

Please call 518-242-0402 to speak with Cynthia about working with your agency.



Stephanie Calderon, Student Assistant

Stephanie Calderon, B.A. is the Student Assistant for the Division of Community Services in New York City. Stephanie received her Bachelor's in English from John Jay College where she was a Rossana Rosado Fellow. Being a fellow, she was first introduced to the Department of State and worked with the Office for New Americans doing research and taking lead on various projects. After her graduation, she began her position as a Student Assistant with DCS while working on her Master's at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her support in DCS has been focused on Census outreach, departmental research, and programmatic assistance. You can reach her at stephanie.calderon@dos.ny.gov.

Reminder: Quarterly Reporting Documents are due:

- January 10, 2020- MWBE Forms F and C
- January 30, 2020- PPR and PPR Narratives, Fiscal and Program Attestation

ACROS Submission Reminder

For agencies that do not have a TRACS Assessment in FFY 2020

The 2020 ACROS Self-Assessment Tool was released and tips were provided for grantees to review as you prepare documentation.

The **ACROS is due to your assigned Program Analyst by Friday, January 31st** at 5:00 pm.

REMINDER: ACROS Electronic Submissions/Links

DOS can now accept CDs or DVDs that contain scanned ACROS files. Please contact your Program Analyst directly if you wish to use an alternative device. NOTE: DOS Staff are no longer authorized to access third-party sites (i.e. Dropbox, Google Docs, etc.) to download documents.

Please remember to scan **Category 8** separately from all other sections.

Upcoming Events:

Click the links below for more information

2020 Management & Leadership Training Conference- Community Action Partnership

January 8-10, 2020
San Juan, Puerto Rico

National Association for State Community Services Programs: Winter Training Conference

February 24-25, 2020 (*Pre-Conference*)
February 26-28, 2020 (*Winter Core Training Conference*)
Arlington, VA

CAPLAW National Training Conference

June 30-July 2, 2020
Chicago, IL

National Association for State Community Services Programs- Annual Training Conference

September 28-October 2, 2020
Grand Rapids, MI

The Newsletter Team invites everyone to share stories and pictures of interest via email. When sharing photos for the newsletter or for DOS social media, please also send completed Photo Release and Consent form.