



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

COMMUNITY SERVICES/CSBG

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

Community Services - CSBG Update

From the Director

Happy Summer Everyone!

I want to thank you for your service to the community and especially for families and individuals who have come to trust your organizations with their most pressing challenges. As we head into the summer months, it is important that we take time to enjoy those moments that underscore the importance of family, friends and community.

I also want to thank everyone who has submitted testimony and comments regarding the new CSBG State Plan for 2020-2021. These comments, concerns and recommendations are crucial to ensuring that our plan is reflective of the partnership we seek to create and sustain while delivering vital services and assistance to the most vulnerable of our communities. Our next step is to complete the final document for submission to the US Department of Health and Human Services prior to September 1, 2019.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer,
Manny Rosa

NYSCAA North Country & Central Regional Meetings



Agency Spotlight: Madison County Code Blue Warming Sites

Community Action Partnership for Madison County (CAP) collaborated with local libraries, churches, and organizations to host warming sites for the homeless this past winter. The warming sites had refreshments, a telephone, hygiene supplies, and information on assistance during the cold weather. This innovative initiative is especially important in Madison County where there is no homeless shelter. Local libraries worked with CAP Housing Coordinator, Sandi Bain, to house 3 individuals who were using the warming sites. 75 bags of cold weather essentials along with resource booklets were handed out. CAP's housing team is grateful to have such caring community partners and hope to continue their collaborations for years to come.



Agency Spotlight: Opportunities for Otsego Partners with Oneonta City School District for Summer Meal Program

Students enrolled in the Oneonta City School District and their families will have access to free lunch this summer in part to a collaboration between Opportunities for Otsego and the Oneonta City School District.

Opportunities for Otsego and the Oneonta City School District have teamed up to offer bus transportation to Neahwa Park for the Summer Meal Program from July 8th through August 23rd. Buses will pick up children and their parents from three mobile home villages in Oneonta (Lantern Hill, Mountainview, and Oneida Village) and bring them to Neahwa Park for lunch and free playtime. Buses will drop families off to their homes by mid-afternoon. “Overall, 38% of children in the Oneonta City School District are considered economically disadvantaged”, said Megan Martin, Opportunities for Otsego Planning and Research Director. “The summer months are financially challenging, particularly for low-income families, when school-based meal and recreational programs are not available. We hope through this initiative to ease the burden on families and promote healthy childhoods”. The Summer Meal Program, operated by Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties, provides free lunch in Neahwa Park to children up to age 18 and their parents. Meals are served Monday through Friday from noon until 1:00PM. To find meal sites in other communities, visit www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks

NYS Office of New Americans (ONA)



Meet ONA's North Country Navigator: Kimberly La Reau

Kim La Reau joined the ONA team at the start of the year as the North Country Navigator, representing the area where she grew up. Following undergraduate studies in Sociology at Ithaca College, she served two years in the national service program AmeriCorps. Kim just returned to the North Country after spending three years in northern Tanzania, where she was the program director of a nonprofit working with the Maasai. Kim is excited to bring that experience back home, where she is implementing the ONA navigator program- the first initiative of its sort to reach out to and broadly serve immigrant communities in the North Country.

In Clinton and Franklin counties, two rural counties along the Canadian border, immigrant populations exist on smaller scales than in other urban areas where most ONA navigators are located. In the very northeast corner of our state, the immigrant communities are hidden and there are not immigrant-serving organizations-- making it difficult to find and access populations.

Kim's outreach strategy has been to cast a wide net in the community to get the immigrant conversation started. She's started a partnership with another local organization, Literacy Volunteers, which does not serve immigrants exclusively but is well known as the go-to place for any new Americans in the community.

At the end of March, Kim hosted her first ONA navigator event, a roundtable meant to start a larger conversation in the community. At the roundtable, Kim presented information uncovered so far and key characteristics of the North Country that are important to consider—including migrants passing through to cross into Canada, the prevalence and importance of farms and migrant farmworkers in the area, and what the immigrant experience looks like in a rural context.

To continue the dialogue and spark more conversation in the community, Kim will bring volunteers together to spotlight Immigrant Heritage Month in June. They are working with the local library to have a display that celebrates immigrants and the importance of hearing immigrant narratives. There will also be a resource table to share relevant information, connect people to local resources, and continue outreach to immigrant communities. They hope to supplement this with a range of programming, including a film screening, a conversation exploring the myths and facts of immigration, and food/cultural celebration.

ONA Webinar: Census 2020

July 30, 2019, 2pm to 3pm

This training will be led by the Hispanic Federation.

To join the meeting, please use this link:

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=mdf579237d152799cb54441a1cdb54007>

If a password is required, enter: DHMKyjE6. To join the audio conference, dial 1-844-633-8697, followed by the meeting access code: 642 725 586.

**Immigrants in need of services can contact the New Americans Hotline: 1-800-566-7636
9am-8pm, Monday to Friday, all calls are confidential, and assistance is available in 200+ languages**

New York State Address Confidentiality Program www.dos.ny.gov/acp

The NYS Address Confidentiality Program is a way for victims of domestic violence to shield their address in order to stay safe. Grantees may be interested in becoming Application Assistance Providers (and some already are!). Find out more by contacting Director Tom Napierski at Tom.Napierski@dos.ny.gov.

New York State Mentoring Program www.ny.gov/mentoring

Does your agency have a mentoring program? Do you know a local school that would like to host a mentoring program? Contact Brad DiPietro or Melinda Sanderson at the New York State Mentoring Program to see how they can support you, including recruiting volunteers!

Brad.DiPietro@ocfs.ny.gov

Melinda.Sanderson@ocfs.ny.gov

New York 2019 Healthy Rankings Report

The Healthy Rankings Report can be helpful when completing the Community Needs Assessment, access it here <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/rankings/data/NY> along with NYSCAA's Poverty Data Report: <https://nyscommunityaction.org/poverty-in-new-york/povertydata/>

Census 2020: Complete Count

Community action agencies, you know your communities. As the census approaches, information on how you can get involved to help make sure there is a complete count, visit: <https://2020census.gov/en>

Upcoming Events:

Click the links below for more information

CAP 2019 Annual Convention

Chicago IL, August 28-30

RPIC Region II Conference

Binghamton NY, September 18 & 19, 2019

NASCSP Annual Conference 2019

Little Rock AR, September 23-27, 2019

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.