



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES/CSBG**

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

## Community Services - CSBG Update



Greetings!

Almost four months ago, I joined the New York Department of State, as Deputy Secretary for Economic Opportunity, overseeing the Division of Community Services, the Office for New Americans, and the Division of Consumer Protection. I had the privilege of meeting some of you at the regional meetings and witnessed your commitment to the mission we share in ensuring each New Yorker achieves self-sufficiency and fully participates in our state's civic and economic life. As I continue to work with our various partners, I continue to notice the possibilities of combining the resources of the Economic Opportunity divisions I help direct. And, I invite you, to join me in thinking of creative ways

to expand on the remarkable work you do daily to directly and positively affect the lives of those in your community. Every New Yorker should know of services available to them through all of our state agencies. Every New Yorker should know of their consumer rights. You are our guides as to what our CSBG community needs. You are strong partners the state can count on to have significant impact in the lives of so many. You are our direct link to the varied communities that call New York State home. I look forward to continuing the hard work that is never ending and is more than ever forcing us to think creatively to reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities, and empower our most vulnerable families to become self-sufficient.

At your service,  
Vilda Vera Mayuga

### ONA Funding Opportunity

The New York State Office for New Americans is pleased to announce a grant opportunity for organizations throughout New York State to comprise a network of neighborhood-based "ONA Opportunity Centers" to offer programming to help interested eligible new Americans through the naturalization application process, provide citizenship classes, provide community workshops on relevant topics to the immigrant communities being serviced, and host free legal consultations in conjunction with the ONA Legal Counsel.

The RFA can be found at: <https://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/rfa-18-ona-32/index.html>

All questions regarding this competitive grant program must be submitted in writing and received on or before November 19, 2018. Questions must be submitted via email to [NewAmericans@dos.ny.gov](mailto:NewAmericans@dos.ny.gov). All e-mails should clearly indicate in the subject line: "ONA Opportunity Centers Application 18-ONA-32, General Question". No responses will be provided to inquiries made by telephone or social media.

**Applications are due no later than December 17, 2018.**

## CSBG Annual Report Update

As we enter November, we have received many questions regarding when the Annual Report SmartForms will be released. Last Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> NASCSP hosted a webinar on the CSBG Annual Report. During the webinar it was announced the SmartForms for **Module 2 and 4 will be available mid-December into January**, as soon as the XML can be tested against OLDC. NASCSP will release the Module 3 SmartForm sooner and DOS will notify the network once it is available. A few select data points will be compared to previous year's data. The former Section F will be compared to the current Module 2, Section C. Below are useful links for your review:

- **CSBG Annual Report Instruction Manual** – [click here](#)
- **Information on the Annual Report** – [click here](#)

## Opportunities for Otsego Receives \$3 Million Grant to Provide Trauma-Informed Legal Services

[Opportunities for Otsego](#) is one of 61 victim assistance programs in New York State to be awarded funding to hire attorneys who will support crime victims with civil legal matters, such as divorce, custody, immigration and financial issues. Administered by the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS), the federally funded grant will allow the Violence Intervention Program to provide free legal help to the victims they serve.

Through the \$602,949 annual grant, Opportunities for Otsego will subcontract with a team of attorneys to address the legal needs of crime victims in Otsego, Delaware and Chenango Counties which are not effectively being met through existing community services. By combining resources with the victim assistance programs in Delaware and Chenango counties, Opportunities for Otsego is creating a cohesive legal network for victims in the tri-county region.

[Click here for a list of grant awards](#), including: Cattaraugus Community Action, Opportunities for Otsego, Westchester Community Opportunity Program.

## Program Spotlight: Dress for Success at Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County



Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, through their Dress for Success program, has added a new dimension to preparing women for the workforce. Dress for Success has always been “more than just a suit” and now with SIS (Stepping into Success) Boot Camp and BOSS (Building our Success in Steps) Club, women are learning skills for employment (SIS) and recently employed women are able to network with their peers (BOSS).

Stepping into Success (SIS) Bootcamp is a comprehensive and rigorous employment development program for unemployed and underemployed women who are actively seeking employment. Workshops are presented by local Managers and HR professionals who provide comprehensive insight into job search and employment strategies. Every session is highly interactive and filled with actionable content that will bring participants one step closer to obtaining sustainable employment. Session topics include: Identifying Employment Goals, Overcoming Obstacles, Identifying Transferable Skills and Core Strengths, Resumes That Open the Door to Opportunity, Cover Letters & Thank You Letters, Everything you Need to Know About the Interview, Personal Branding Basics, Mock Interview Skill Practice, and Career Panel/ Graduation.

Building our Success in Steps (BOSS) meetings are scheduled quarterly, on a Saturday morning, and provides opportunities for women to network with their contemporaries. The subject matter for the meetings is information nurtures their professional growth and new knowledge, expanding their abilities.