



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

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

## August 2020

### State Plan Amendment

DOS invites you to review the Draft CSBG CARES Act Supplemental State Plan.

The draft plan is available for review and comment through **August 26, 2020**.

It is due for submission to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services on September 1, 2020.

1. [Draft CSBG Cares Act Supplemental State Plan](#)
2. [Attachment 2, 2020-21 Monitoring Guide Revised](#)

Please submit comments to [dos.sm.dcs@dos.ny.gov](mailto:dos.sm.dcs@dos.ny.gov)

### Agency Photo Shout-Out: Albany Community Action Partnership & Schenectady Community Action Program



*ACAP Executive Director Neenah Bland, Hannaford Supermarkets Director of Operations Andy Willette, SCAP Executive Director Deb Schimpf (Left to Right)*

*Photo courtesy SCAP Facebook*

Congratulations to ACAP and SCAP! Each received a \$50K donation from Hannaford Supermarkets to continue their work supporting their communities during these unprecedented and challenging times.

## Agency Spotlight: Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.

In its COVID-19 Pandemic Update to its Community Needs Assessment, **Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.** identified *food insecurity* as the greatest need in its service area. Knowing that proper nutrition is the most basic human need, the agency is striving to promote nutrition programs and engage in community efforts to alleviate the food insecurity concerns of its customers.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March, the agency ramped up efforts in response to the food insecurity. Pro Action modified its programs and expanded partnerships with area organizations to ensure the food needs of the communities it serves. The agency's response was thorough and the impact to the community is commendable. Here is a summary of their efforts:

**Senior Nutrition** – Pro Action provided senior nutrition programs in partnership with Steuben and Yates County Offices for the Aging. 677 people were served 41,992 meals in both Steuben and Yates counties combined. In Steuben County, 558 people were served 34,130 meals. In Yates County, 119 people were served 7,862 meals.

**Farmers Market Coupons** were distributed by the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program and the Office for the Aging (OFA) in Yates County. Since June, 317 WIC participants received a \$20 booklet of Farmers Market coupons (a value of \$6,340) that can be used to purchase locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables at any participating Farmers Market in New York State. 242 packets of Farmers Market coupons were distributed through the OFA, for a total value of \$4,840.

The **Hope Center Keuka Food Pantry** serves as the main food pantry for Yates County. It helps stabilize families experiencing economic hardships and provides support as they strive for self-resilience. The pantry served a total of 806 families through June 30<sup>th</sup> and distributed 44,365 pounds of food.

Through a partnership with Steuben County Department of Social Services, Pro Action distributed 11,058 pounds of food in 3 weeks to 145 youth enrolled in its **Summer Learning Experience**. The program helps youth with social/emotional difficulties or disabilities by providing social, education and recreational opportunities along with weekly food deliveries.

Emergency funding from **Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) discretionary funds** are being used by Pro Action for direct assistance for customers whose needs have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant allowed the agency to provide 69 boxes of food to date, including diapers, formula and cleaning supplies.

Pro Action partnered with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and FoodLink to **conduct community wide drive-thru, no-touch distribution of emergency food supply boxes** in Steuben and Yates Counties. There were 6 distributions in Steuben County, which assisted over 2,500 households and 10 distributions in Yates County. Pro Action worked with Yates County DSS to deliver food boxes to 300

customers of the Hope Center Keuka Food Pantry, Home Delivered Meals recipients, Yates County DSS, Adult Protective Services, residents of senior housing and/or low-income housing. Between the distributions and deliveries, over 2,600 households were served.

Pro Action assisted 1,342 participants of the **WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program** with monthly food benefits; of those assisted, 1,020 were infants and toddlers.

Laura Rossman, Executive Director of Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. said, “I am incredibly proud of the Pro Action staff. Their dedication to our community’s health and well-being has been demonstrated by their quick adaptation to program changes, all while experiencing many of their own fears and anxieties. Their resourcefulness resulted in new ways to ensure all members of our communities have their basic needs met. As an agency we have demonstrated that we are quick to adapt and respond to the changing and growing needs of our communities during this unprecedented crisis.”

Keep up the great work, Pro Action!

## **Agency Spotlight: Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.**

Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc. (SCAP) was recently awarded a \$849,892 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Reentry Employment Opportunities’ (REO) Pathway Home program. The program will assist incarcerated individuals, aged 18+ transition back into communities and reenter the workforce. The individuals will receive employment and training assistance, legal assistance, counseling, career exploration and job preparation services through the reentry program. Chari Jones, SCAP’s Director of Employment Services, partially attributed the agency’s receipt of the award to the success of its CSBG funded Family Reunification Reentry Program. SCAP received \$190,000 through NYS DOS from 2018-2020.

“The success of SCAP’s Reentry programs is a result of the commitment of dedicated staff and community partners who work persistently to help our returning citizen customers reunite with their families,” said Jones. “Now is the time, like never before, to show empathy and understanding, provide access to resources through education and training, break down longstanding and unjust barriers, to level the playing field in employment so everyone has the same opportunities to not merely survive, but thrive.” SCAP will use the grant to assist individuals from Schenectady’s local jail transition back into the local community.



## NYS Census Update

The Census Bureau has begun their process to complete the count through their enumeration workers. These workers are focusing on the non-response follow-up by knocking on the doors of the residents that have yet to respond to the Census. The new Census deadline for data collection is September 30, 2020 to be able to comply with the statutory deadlines. The deadline for the data collection means the self-response options will no longer be available and there will be no Census workers collecting data after said date ([Press release](#)). All follow up response will be conducted by trained Census workers, Mon-Fri, 9am-9pm until September 30, 2020.

The Census workers will be identifiable through their employee ID (which must include their name, expiration date, and a [Department of Commerce watermark \[seen on top of page\]](#)), Census Bureau-issued electronic device (laptop or smartphone) bearing the Census Bureau logo ([Graphic to share](#)). All workers will be trained on social-distance protocols, must wear masks, and will adhere to the safety protocols per state and county. To confirm a Census worker's identity call your [region's Call Center](#).

If households are unavailable through the door knocking method, Census workers will also be calling households through their landlines or cell-phones, using information provided to the Census Bureau and third-party purchased data, on an as-needed basis ([Press Release](#)).

The Census Bureau is also sending reminders via mailing the week of July 27, email the week of July 29, and upcoming, text messages. The electronic reminders will have a link to self-response website and instructions on how to respond to the Census without your Census ID (which is not required to complete the Census).

### FAQs:

- Q. How do I know the Census email isn't fraudulent?
- A. All Census Bureau communications will be through their official email: [2020census@subscriptions.census.gov](mailto:2020census@subscriptions.census.gov) and will have an "opt-out" option at the bottom of the email. They will also never ask for personal information (such as, social security number, citizenship status, or passwords) nor for financial payments.
- Q. How did they receive these email addresses? I never provided my email.
- A. The Census Bureau understood under these unprecedented times they needed to react to complete the count in unprecedented ways which include emailing individuals. They created this list through three methods: past survey responses, third-party purchased data, and government program enrollment.

- Q. I received an email/text, but I already filled out the Census. Why is that?
- A. These emails/texts are being sent on a large scale without a check comparison of who has responded. Individuals should use these reminders to share with their families and friends who haven't completed the Census.
- Q. How do I know if I've been counted?
- A. There is no "easy" way to confirm if you've been counted, but there are two ways to be certain. One—call the Census Bureau and ask if your household questionnaire has been received (this might take more than a few minutes since operations are focusing on assisting others with completing the Census). Two—Complete another Census questionnaire (more explanation on #6).
- Q. What if I'm not sure if I was counted? Can I submit a second Census questionnaire?
- A. Yes, if you're unsure if your household was counted correctly or if at all, please submit a second questionnaire. The Census Bureau has systems in place to ensure all duplicate questionnaires are vetted and the correct one is counted.
- Q. How is my college-bound child meant to be counted?
- A. Count all individuals to the location where they were expected to be on April 1<sup>st</sup>. If your college student dorms at their university and would not have been home on April 1<sup>st</sup>, do not include them in your questionnaire since they would be counted under their university's population.
- Q. What should I do if the Census worker that comes to my house doesn't speak my language?
- A. Simply let the Census worker know what your preferred language is and they'll accommodate by sending another Census worker that speaks your language.
- Q. What if I don't want to fill out the Census?
- A. Filling out the Census ensures your community has what it needs for the next ten years with just 10 minutes of your time. 10 minutes to fill out the Census can increase the federal funds your community receives for different programs or increase the number of congressional representatives for your state.

Completing the Census over the phone takes approximately ten minutes once connected with a representative. The call center is open from Monday-Sunday 7am- 12am (midnight).

For English speakers, call 844-330-2020.

You can complete the Census in over thirty languages. If language other than English is needed, visit the Census website for the direct line:

<https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html>

Answering the census via phone, online, or mail does not impede the data, it's important to ensure you and your household is counted to ensure your voice is heard.

## Uniform Guidance Training Materials

NYSCAA hosted a Uniform Guidance Training July 21-22, 2020.

Materials are available on the NYSCAA website to members [here](#)

Please reach out to NYSCAA if you have any issues accessing the materials.

## Upcoming Events

[Community Action Partnership 2020 Virtual Annual Convention August 24-28, 2020](#)

[NYSCAA Reconnect and Recharge Annual Conference September 23-25, 2020](#)

[Community Action Angels 13th Meeting of the Minds: September 24, 29 & 30, 2020](#)

[NASCSP 2020 Annual Training Conference September 28- October 2, 2020](#)

## Resources for responding to COVID-19

[Community Action Partnership: COVID-19 Community Needs Assessment](#)

[CAPLAW: Coronavirus Updates for the Community Action Network](#)

[NASCSP Coronavirus Resources](#)

[NYSCAA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources](#)

Click [here](#) to see the NYS coalition of CAAs and other neighborhood-based organizations working for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient.

Please practice social distancing and wear a mask whenever possible for your safety and the safety of others.

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