



Did you know?

Grantees are reminded to take steps to ensure that individuals with Limited English Proficiency have meaningful access to programs and services.

Information Memorandum #50 from HHS has important and useful guidance to consider: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/im-no-50-policy-guidance-on-serving-persons-with-limited-english>

Agency Spotlight

Columbia Opportunities

Columbia Opportunities, Inc. partnered with Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood to establish the “Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing” campaign. This program aims to help enhance brain development, language and social-emotional skills of children ages birth to 5. Parents and caregivers will be provided materials, including books, to encourage communication with their child by talking, reading and singing. Talking is Teaching is being promoted community wide through billboards and posters. For more information, please visit the website www.talkingisteaching.org.



New Staff at the Division of Community Services

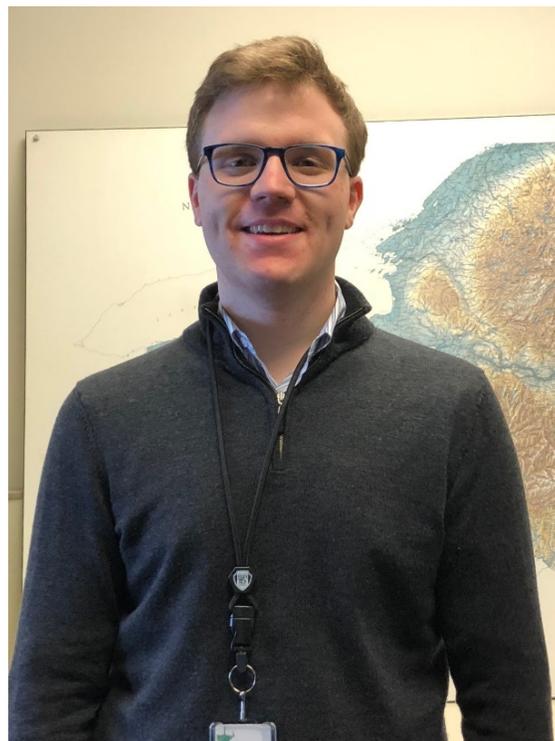
Jessica Garneau, Community Services Program Analyst 1



Jessica came to the Department of State with 15 years of employment at Rensselaer County. Most recently she administered economic development and homeownership grants and coordinated a job development revolving loan fund. She previously worked as a caseworker for the Department of Social Services by training and certifying foster and adoptive parents, assessing suitable resources for children entering foster care, and conducting court ordered home studies. Jessica earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, CO and a master's degree in school counseling from Sage Graduate School in Troy, NY. Jessica's favorite activities are spending time with her family and camping. Jessica is eager to learn more about community action agencies in New York State and to assist with their grant programs.

Matt Ciotti, Community Services Program Analyst 1

Matt Ciotti comes to DOS with a background in contract management and national service engagement. He previously worked as an intern with the division before moving onto an Excelsior Fellowship with the Commission on National and Community Service. While at the Commission he was primarily engaged in AmeriCorps community outreach, grantee training, policy advocacy, and AmeriCorps member experience. Matt holds a bachelor's degree in management from Siena College and a master's degree in International Affairs from Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. Matt enjoys spending time with his family, going on weekend trips, and volunteering in his local community. He hopes to one day pursue a career with the U.S. State Department. Matt appreciates the importance of the Community Services Block Grant and the positive impact it has on communities. He is happy to be back working to the support of the work of Community Action Agencies across New York State.



ONA Webinar: Accessing Services for New Americans with Developmental Disabilities

February 25, 2020 – 11am – 12pm

The New York State Office for New Americans invites you to participate in a webinar which will outline available services for new Americans with developmental disabilities and discuss the impact of immigration status on eligibility. An overview of the services an individual with a developmental disability may access throughout the course of their life will be presented, including the Early Intervention Program, School-based Services, and Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) services. The importance of individuals with developmental disabilities being counted in the 2020 census will be discussed as well.

This presentation will be led by Cynthia Stewart, M.S., the June Ramirez Developmental Disabilities Navigator at the New York State Office for New Americans.

Please RSVP for this presentation here: <https://forms.gle/YL2oJTvbBj5Ng5dF7>

Census 2020 Complete Count Outreach Grants

New York State is committed to ensuring all New Yorkers are counted during the 2020 Census. Governor Cuomo has dedicated \$60 million in funding a statewide campaign that allow for local government to work with not-for-profits to ensure a complete count.

Eligible 503(c) organizations may submit applications **no later than March 2, 2020 @5pm EST.**

For more information: <https://www.ny.gov/2020-census/census-2020-complete-count-outreach-grants-not-profits>

To apply: <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>

Division of Consumer Protection (DCP): Data Privacy Survey

Be part of the conversation to ensure all New Yorkers protect their data privacy. By taking the survey you're helping DCP understand the current digital habits and future digital needs of New Yorkers.

Take part in our statewide #DataPrivacy Survey: <http://ow.ly/JzFV50yIAyq>

Upcoming Events:

Click the links below for more information

[National Association for State Community Services Programs: Winter Training Conference](#)

February 24-28, 2020
Arlington, VA

[CAPLAW National Training Conference](#)

June 30-July 2, 2020
Chicago, IL

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.