



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES/CSBG

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

Governor Cuomo's 2020 State of the State: Making Progress Happen

The Governor's Agenda includes the following initiatives to be achieved by working with the legislature, proposing reforms and issuing regulations. Below are some highlights that may be of interest to Community Action Agencies.

Establishing Paid Sick Leave for Working New Yorkers: all working New Yorkers will have access to sick leave.

Retrofitting Homes and Businesses to Lower Carbon Emissions: NYSERDA will launch a \$30 million Empire Building Retrofit Challenge to demonstrate scalable and replicable solutions. The Challenge will solicit proposals that can be scaled and replicated.

Expanding Access to Safe and Affordable Banking Services, Credit and Financial Education: The Governor will propose the creation of a statewide office of financial inclusion and empowerment to meet the financial services needs of low- and middle- income New Yorkers across the state.

Investing in Round 10 of the Successful Regional Economic Development Councils:

Since 2011, the State has invested over \$6.9 billion through the Regional Economic Development Councils, funding more than 8,300 projects and supporting more than 240,000 jobs across the state.

Streamlining MWBE Certification Process and Create Statewide Integrated Application Portal:

Governor Cuomo will direct Empire State Development's Division of Minority and Women's Business Development to establish a Statewide Integrated MWBE Application Portal.

Read the 2020 Agenda in its entirety here:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/2020StateoftheStateBook.pdf>

Agency Highlights

John Jay College Prisoner Reentry Institute

For three years, the Department of State has contributed to funding the Prison-to-College Pipeline (P2CP), a college program at Otisville Correctional Facility operated by the Prisoner Reentry Institute (PRI) of John Jay College (CUNY). The program allows men incarcerated at Otisville to take credit-bearing courses taught by John Jay instructors, in addition to providing academic and reentry supports for students to continue their degrees in the community upon release. P2CP also includes a “learning exchange,” through which students from John Jay’s Manhattan campus travel to the facility once a month to study with their Otisville counterparts. While numerous studies show that college-in-prison programs are among the most effective approaches for reducing recidivism, this month we wanted to share the personal stories of some P2CP graduates:

Dale spent over 20 years in New York State correctional facilities. His father was a high school dropout, and no one in Dale’s family expected him to attend college; some even scoffed when he started taking college classes behind bars. For Dale though, college offered a sense of hope and respite from prison life. After participating in P2CP at Otisville, Dale worked with PRI to enroll at Hostos Community College, and he later transferred to the City College of New York. In the six years since he was released from incarceration, Dale has not only avoided further justice system involvement, he has earned a bachelor’s degree and landed a job as a research assistant at a prestigious university. He also remains an active member of PRI’s community—regularly attending events and volunteering his time to support this work.

Theron was accepted to John Jay College as a high school student, but an unexpected turn resulted in his incarceration upstate before he enrolled. Years later, P2CP offered him a second chance. When Theron started in P2CP, he felt recognized as an individual, not just as his prison identification number. “It put me in a different space, and I never wanted to come out of that space again,” Theron says. After excelling in P2CP classes and being released from

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Otisville, Theron earned an associate degree from Hostos Community College. He currently works full-time as a certified recovery peer advocate, counseling individuals struggling with addiction, and he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Institutional Theory and Practice at John Jay College. [Click here to learn more about Theron's story.](#)

Chaz was released from Otisville in the spring of 2019. Within a few days, he reunited with his fellow students from the “learning exchange” at John Jay’s Manhattan campus. The students gave Chaz a tour of campus and answered his questions about enrolling and studying there. Upon release, Chaz also promptly participated in PRI’s Tech 101 course to learn fundamental technology skills he missed while incarcerated. He was accepted and enrolled at John Jay College in the fall 2019 semester, and he was offered a work-study position with the school’s admissions department. Chaz plans to major in English at John Jay and aspires to work with youth.

Opportunities for Otsego, Inc

Opportunities for Otsego’s VIP Crisis Intervention Director Will Rivera worked with Otsego County Court Judge Brian Burns and other community partners to bring an Integrated Domestic Violence Court to Otsego County. The objective is to streamline the court process and reduce the number of times a victim will have to appear in court to face their abuser, as well as connect the victim and their families to resources available in the community. Other community partners include Mind Matters which provides neurofeedback treatments and the New York Model Domestic Violence Program for Batterers to help abusers take responsibility for their actions.

“Having this court will increase awareness of all the services. A local court might not know about the services we offer, so this is a way we can help,” Rivera shared. “It’s about public safety. We believe this will reduce the escalation of violence.”

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

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

February 24-28, 2020
Arlington, VA

[National Community Action Foundation](#)

2020 Annual Conference
March 17-20, 2020

[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.