

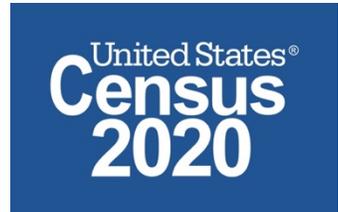


DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES/CSBG

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

July 2020

NYS Census Update



The Census Bureau has begun their process to complete the count before the October 31st deadline. The next stage in this process is following up with non-response households. The process started will start in 35 Census Offices, including Buffalo, NY, on July 30. All other Census offices will begin processes on August 11 ([Press release](#)). All follow up response will be conducted by trained Census workers, Mon-Fri, 9am-9pm until October 31.

The Census workers will be identifiable through their employee ID (which must include their name, expiration date, and a [Department of Commerce watermark](#)), Census bureau-issues electronic device (laptop or smartphone) bearing the Census Bureau logo. 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](#).

A [final paper reminder](#) to complete the Census will be sent to households the week of July 27. Households can still complete the Census via online and phone to be counted before the non-response follow-up begins.

Completing the Census through 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>

Upon calling your direct language line some operators may have a long wait time, so feel free to request a callback when it is your turn.

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.

Agency Spotlight:

I am a Young Lady, Let Me Be Great #44 – PEACE, Inc.

On July 7th, PEACE, Inc. of Syracuse began a unique program "Let Me Be Great." Developed by Rasheada Caldwell, a PEACE employee and mother whose son died from gun violence, the program name is a tribute to her son who used to say, "Let me be great."



There are approximately 30 high school-aged ladies, ages 14 – 19, enrolled in the program, which is part of the #LetMeBeGreat44 movement. The 4 week program (15 hours weekly) provides the young women with career exploration opportunities and leadership skills. The program's virtual workshops will offer an introduction to a variety of activities and topics including etiquette, cooking class, financial literacy, career and goals setting, resume writing, mock interviews, holistic health, waist beads, sewing class, vision boards, virtual college tours to historically black colleges and universities, and field trips.

PEACE, Inc. received a \$235,489 grant to fund the program from the Department of Labor. "Rasheada is an excellent role model and leader. The "Let Me Be Great" Program she developed provides young ladies with social, intellectual, and educational experiences designed to assist them on their unique journeys to self-sufficiency" said Joseph O'Hara, Executive Director of PEACE, Inc.

Bright News from EOC of Suffolk County:

Jessica Garcia is a single mother of 2 young boys, Giovanni, 2 years old, and Damian, 1 year old. When Ms. Garcia found herself impacted by the pandemic, she requested assistance from her landlord. Despite the challenging times, she learned that her rent needed to be paid on time, and when her lease ended her monthly rent would increase by \$400.

During this crisis, Ms. Garcia is very grateful for the childcare assistance she has received. With rising costs of food and living expenses during the pandemic, and the worry about her rent, having a safe place care for her children without charge has been a saving grace. The cost of quality childcare in Suffolk County for two children is very expensive and knowing that her children are in good childcare gives Ms. Garcia peace of mind.

The assistance offered by the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk during this unprecedented crisis has been a huge benefit and financial relief to Ms. Garcia and her family. Ms. Garcia continues to look for a new apartment with the help of the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk.



Has your agency been **shining** in these somewhat dreary times? We'd like to hear about it! If you would like to share your success story, please contact Jessica Garneau at Jessica.Garneau@dos.ny.gov to inquire about being featured in the DOS Division of Community Services newsletter.

Agency Spotlight:

COVID19 UPDATE provided by the ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION OF NASSAU COUNTY, INC.

The Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County, Inc. (EOC of Nassau County, Inc.) continues to put the health and safety of our staff and community first during this global health crisis. We continue to take the necessary measures and safety precautions to protect and educate our staff and communities, mitigating the spread of COVID-19 under the guidance of the Center for Disease Control, the New York State Governor and Nassau County Executive.

Programs and Services:

Community Action Programs

Our Community Action Programs have taken a leading role in providing one of the highest needed services based on our community needs assessment related to the impact of COVID19, food insecurity. Since March we have serviced 3,192 individuals and provided 28, 656 meals to residents in our target and catchment areas. Gift cards for local supermarkets in increments of \$25.00 were also provided to clients. Services provided by our Community Action Programs included pick-up and delivery of pre-packaged and non-perishable food items, unemployment assistance and wrap around services referrals.

Due to this global health pandemic, the EOC of Nassau County, Inc.'s Community Action Programs will institute the organization's first hybrid summer youth employment program, employing twenty youth. The Summer Youth Employment Program will provide relevant and valuable work experiences, including; workshops and trainings focused on job readiness, computer coding, banking & finance and entrepreneurship. This program was made possible through partnership and collaboration with various local government entities. Through our partnership with the Department of Social Services, our Community Action Programs will provide "Grab & Go" lunches through its Summer Feeding Program.

COVID19 Community Specialist

In June, the EOC of Nassau County, Inc. hired a Community Specialist to address needs, concerns and the impact of COVID19 in our Communities. The Community Specialist provides daily outreach to community residents, specifically our youth by disseminating information and providing referrals to services offered by the EOC of Nassau County, Inc. and partnering agencies. The Community Specialist provides outreach in communities hardest hit and impacted by the COVID19 virus in Nassau County.

The Community Specialist has developed relationships with various community organizations and is in the process of scheduling virtual forums to providing education on the impact of COVID19 and protests in our communities.

In June, the Community Specialist held a social distancing forum at our corporate headquarters. There were approximately 20 youth and community members who attended. The youth were educated regarding the seriousness of COVID19, the impact on our communities and the importance of social distancing and personal protective equipment (PPE). The Community Specialist also facilitated an open and honest conversation regarding distant learning, resources, tools challenges and assistance. The Mayor of Hempstead and key staff were present at the forum to address the youth. All youth and community members in attendance were provided with information on all of EOC's services.

NYSCAA and DOS 2020 Regional Meetings

The 2020 Regional Meetings were held via webinar in May and June. Presentation materials are available online [here](#)

Highlights:

- Online trainings for board members and staff through <https://nyscaalearn.org/>
- NYSCAA Communities of Practice and Affinity Groups
- Community Action Angels Child Needs Assessment & Parenting Education
- NYS DOS Fiscal Updates

Contract Updates

As of July 22, 2020, the Division of Community Services has processed and approved forty-five Discretionary Contracts and twenty-one 2020 Amendments.

Upcoming Events

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

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

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.

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.