



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

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

## Community Action Month, May 2020

### A message from the Director:

Every May we celebrate Community Action Month, and this year is no exception. This May, our New York State Community Action Network has been instrumental in meeting the needs of individuals and families living with low incomes during this global pandemic. New York State has been the hardest hit by COVID-19, and our Community Action Network has responded with food, rental and utility assistance, and hope.

Community Action Agencies understand the unique needs of our communities and have played an important and pivotal role in providing services through this crisis, in many cases developing new and innovative ways of providing this assistance. Many agencies have provided information through social media, including sharing updates from the Department of Labor and highlighting collaborations with community partners that provide food, even offering reminders to complete Census forms.

While we celebrate the extraordinary work of our CAA Network, we also mourn a great loss with the passing of Mr. Ed Fancher the Executive Director of Community Action of Orleans and Genesee. As many of you may know, Ed was the type of Executive Director who was a strong leader. His impact on the community and the NYS Community Action network is evidenced by the shock we all feel at his loss. At DOS we appreciated that Ed had always been receptive to our referrals of new Executive Directors who sought his assistance in dealing with what is oftentimes a cumbersome CSBG process. Ed often greeted new DOS changes with humor ("It is what it is") and with much appreciated wisdom and counsel. His respect, concern for and pride in his staff and colleagues was always foremost in any decisions that would impact agency operations. Like many of you who have had the pleasure of working, and laughing, with Ed, he will be truly missed. We will be forever grateful for his services.

As always, we thank the NYS CAA Network for its dedication in providing critical services around New York State every day, and especially during this time of increased need.

## Western NY

**Action for a Better Community** has been working to support their community through food delivery and early childhood services via videocalls.



*Photo courtesy ABC Facebook page*

**Cattaraugus Community Action** is the county distribution site for the local food bank and has also distributed donated “Stock the Freezer” meals that are prepared by a local restaurant.

## Central New York



*Photo courtesy CAP Cayuga/Seneca Facebook page*

**Community Action Programs (Cayuga/Seneca)** has partnered with staff from Cayuga Onondaga BOCES and Cayuga Milk Ingredients to provide 1000 bags of powdered milk to families in Cayuga & Seneca Counties.

**PEACE, Inc.’s** “Meals-to-Go” collaboration with the county continues to grow and delivers meals for 130 homebound and isolated seniors as well as 5 Head Start families.

## North Country

**Joint Council for Economic Opportunities of Clinton and Franklin Counties (JCEO)** opened a new food bank on April 8, 2020 in partnership with the Saranac Lake Central School District. Photo courtesy JCEO newsletter.



*Photo courtesy JCEO newsletter*

**Warren Hamilton Counties Community Action** started a mobile food pantry in Hamilton County to distribute food throughout the community.

## Capital Region



*Photo courtesy L.E.A.P. Facebook page*

**L.E.A.P. Services** (serving Washington County) used their school buses to pick up 2,700 pounds of food from the Regional Food Bank to restock their food pantry.

**Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council** worked with community partners Food Pantries for the Capital District, Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY and BOCES CTE to increase the amount of food purchased, donated and delivered to the agency- and provided nearly 30,000 meals in 3 weeks!

## Mid-Hudson

**RECAP in Orange County** has been working with community partners to unload food donations, pack food boxes and deliver them to families. In addition, the agency's Fresh Start Café has been preparing meals for the Office for the Aging.

**Ulster County Community Action Committee's** kitchen at the Kingston office has been headed by a local chef who has volunteered to prep and cook donated food and produce into meals delivered to Healthy Way Senior Residences in Ellenville.



*Photo courtesy RECAP Facebook page*

**Yonkers Community Action Program** has been providing dinner to their community nearly every day since the crisis began.

Employees of the **Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County** have kept the agency's food pantries open and almost 900 meals have been delivered to families and seniors.

**WestCOP's** New Rochelle Office became an operating point for the National Guard in March, even making the national news! They have been ensuring their community has been taken care of by providing a take-out soup kitchen, meals to students, diaper donation, and toilet paper and food bag distribution. Over 52,807 families have been served by the agency since March 1, 2020.



*Photo courtesy WestCOP Facebook page*



*Photo courtesy WestCOP Facebook page*

## Long Island

**The Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk** is working in collaboration with Long Island Cares to provide food for Long Island residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Long Island Cares is providing unlimited food to The Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk's food pantry, enabling weekly food deliveries to individuals and families in need.



*Photos courtesy Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk*

**Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County** has responded to the community's loss of jobs by giving free resume and interview assistance. This ensures the possibility of finding another job during or after this crisis. They have also created a COVID-19 Taskforce that ensures of all the disinfection of all facilities and enforce the safety and health guidelines. They have also restocked and resumed food delivery.

## New York City

**The Department of Youth and Community Services** has numerous delegate agencies providing CSBG services across New York City. Fourteen of DYCD's Opportunity Youth programs have modified their services and have made arrangements with NYC Census to retain youth in virtual work assignments helping to promote completion of the Census.



The Census Bureau has been working with national and state offices to ensure all the procedures will be in the best interest for all residents. As of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the bureau has announced the opening of thirteen state offices: Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia. These states have created their own plans to reinstate hiring, begin non-response efforts and remote Census delivery. All of these efforts will be completed in compliance with the CDC's recommendations. Each state will continue to create their own timelines to ensure a complete count within a timely manner. To see a complete timeline for the current National Census Bureau timeline, visit:

<https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html>

In addition to the adjusted timeline, the Census Bureau has also ensured the Census phone line is available in fourteen languages, including Telephone Display Device (TDD). The full list and phone numbers of each language line is available at: [https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2019\\_18.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2019_18.pdf)

To subscribe to Census 2020 updates via SMS/Email, visit

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new>

and click on all of Census 2020 Categories to ensure you'll receive all available updates.

## Contracts

The FFY 2021 contract documents have been released and sent to eligible agencies. Please contact your Program Analyst if you have questions.

**Contracts are due Friday, June 5, 2020.**

## Upcoming Events:

### **CAPLAW: Policies in Practice Webinar Series**

Register here for [Record Retention Policy](#)

June 4, 2020, 1- 2 pm

### **Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) Webinar**

[Extending the Benefits of Nonresidential Energy Efficiently to Low-Income Communities](#)

June 17, 2020 1:30-2:30 pm

### **NYSCAA Regional Meetings: Now via webinar! New dates below**

Register at <https://www.nyscommunityaction.org/upcoming-events>

June 9, 2020 – Western New York, 10 am- 1 pm

June 25, 2020– Capital District, New York City and Long Island, 10 am- 1 pm

### **Reconnect and Recharge: NYSCAA & NYSWDA's Annual Conference**

More information at <https://www.nyscommunityaction.org/upcoming-events>

September 23-25, 2020 (*rescheduled date*)

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.