



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

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

## Community Services - CSBG Update

### Happy Fall 2019

I hope that you will take a moment from your hectic schedules to pause and take in the colors of the season. This is an especially beautiful time in our state, and it goes by too quickly, so enjoy the scenery, and take a nice picture or two.

I want to thank our colleagues from the Community Action Agencies network, the CSBG Advisory Council, the New York State Community Action Association, and DOS colleagues for the extraordinary teamwork, guidance and support exhibited during the drafting of the New York State CSBG Plan for 2020-2021. We now await final approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Our Plan underscores the collaboration that has been developed over the years to help serve our neighbors who depend on CSBG services. We look forward to our continuing partnership.

Finally, I want to congratulate Ms. Tina Zerbian and her colleagues at Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. for its successful and informative Annual Community Training Conference, the Wyoming Action Angels and Ms. Pat Standish for its inspirational Meeting of the Minds Conference, and Ms. Jackie Orr and the NYSCAA team for its hard work in putting together a very comprehensive and throughout Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia Conference in Binghamton. It was a pleasure to participate at all three events.

Manuel A. Rosa, Director

### DOS Quarterly Update Calls:

The first call will take place on December 4th, 2:00-3:00 pm. An email invite was sent to all Executive Directors with the call-in information. Please reach out to Kristopher at [dos.sm.dcs@dos.ny.gov](mailto:dos.sm.dcs@dos.ny.gov) if you did not receive an invite.



The Division of Consumer Protection and Division of Community Services urges New Yorkers to follow these safety tips to ensure a safe and happy Halloween:

#### **Costumes**

- Look for fabrics labeled “flame resistant” such as nylon or polyester when purchasing costumes, beards, wigs and masks. Flame resistant fabrics are not flame proof but they will resist burning and can be extinguished quickly.
- If using a mask, make sure it fits securely, provides adequate ventilation, has eye holes large enough to allow full vision and does not limit hearing.

#### **Treats**

- Examine any toys or small items for young children under three years of age that may pose a choking hazard or may separate while in use and present a choking hazard.

#### **Decorations**

- Use battery operated tea-lights, LED lights or glow sticks instead of an open flame candle for your Jack-o-Lanterns. Keep your decorated Jack-o-Lanterns away from curtains, decorations or other flammable objects that could be ignited. Do not leave an open flame candle unattended.

#### **Pedestrian Safety**

- Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult while trick-o-treating. Older, responsible children should review their route with an adult and agree on a time to return home.

***The New York Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection and Division of Community Services wishes New Yorkers a Safe and Happy Halloween!***

For more consumer protection safety and guidance, go to [www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection](http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection).

The New York Division of Consumer Protection is committed to addressing the concerns of consumers in the marketplace through educational programming, consumer advocacy, Do Not Call Law enforcement and representing State utility ratepayers. The Division also provides direct assistance to consumers aggrieved in the marketplace through its voluntary mediation program. Complaints vary from appliance warranties and gift cards to unscrupulous business practices and more. The Division encourages New Yorkers experiencing a marketplace dispute to call the Consumer Helpline or file a complaint.

The Consumer Helpline 1-800-697-1220 is available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, excluding State Holidays, and consumer complaints can be filed at any time at [www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection](http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection). The Division can also be reached via [@NYSConsumer](https://www.facebook.com/nysconsumer) or [www.facebook.com/nysconsumer](http://www.facebook.com/nysconsumer).

## Agency Highlights:

### Qualitas of Life Foundation hosts culturally competent Financial Literacy workshops at ABC Monroe and Saratoga EOC



Over the last few months, the Qualitas of Life Foundation (QoLF) has been able to partner with Action for a Better Community and Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. to provide financial literacy workshops to immigrant communities. It is well documented that immigrant communities face more barriers to financial stability. Therefore, DCS designated a small portion of CSBG funds to assist CAAs in getting targeted, tailored and culturally competent information out to the customers.

The workshops include a variety of topics on financial management, including budget, banking system, taxes, use of Individual Taxpayer identification Numbers (ITINS), and homeownership. They also give information to help families prepare for emergencies if the family is separate due to detention, deportation or voluntary travel. QoLF also provides useful publications on a wide variety of topics (in various languages). They were able to customize a guide of local resources for the customers at Saratoga EOC.

QoLF's contract to provide workshops at CAAs is ending soon – November 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in having them host a workshop or webinar, please email [charlene.griffin@dos.ny.gov](mailto:charlene.griffin@dos.ny.gov). Availability is limited.

**PEACE Inc in Syracuse currently has 13 clients enrolled in the Family Reunification Pilot Program, part of the Reentry program.** Twelve of the clients have secured employment at local employers, including Syracuse City School District and United Auto Supply. Director of Family Services Mary Beth Welch credits the success of the program to the collaboration they have with Syracuse Housing Authority, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Center for Community Alternatives, Onondaga County Re-Entry Task Force and the Center for Court Innovation- Peacemakers.

**ProAction of Steuben and Yates, Inc.** was featured nationally in the September Office of Head Start Blog by Dr. Deborah Bereron- see the video [here](#)

## MWBE: New Forms & New Address

Some grantees are still using old versions of the forms and sending them to the wrong office.

**Please use the new Form C and Form F.**

An email with instructions and the new forms was sent to grantees on September 10<sup>th</sup>

Electronic copies **must** be sent to [dos.sm.dcs@dos.ny.gov](mailto:dos.sm.dcs@dos.ny.gov) within 10 days of the close of each quarter.

If you send in a hard copy, please address it to:

NYS Department of State  
Division of Community Services  
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1020  
Albany, NY 12231

If you use old versions, your report may be rejected, and you could be asked to resubmit the report on the latest version of the form. Please contact your program analyst or the Fiscal Management office (518-474-2754) should you have any questions.

## Census 2020

There are many misconceptions about the Census, and part of ensuring a Full Count depends on getting the right information out there. Find out more at <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/rumors.html>

## Upcoming Events:

*Click the links below for more information*

### [Certified Community Action Professional \(CCAP\) Orientation Webinar](#)

2:00 - 3:30 pm

October 16, 2019

### [NYSCAA Regional Introductions to ROMA Training](#)

Central NY- October 29, 2019

Capital District- October 30, 2019

### [NYSCAA CEO/ED Orientation and Seminar](#)

Corning, NY

November 13-15, 2019

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.