



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES/CSBG

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

Community Services - CSBG Update

Agency Spotlight: Tompkins Community Action

Tompkins Community Action recently opened Amici House, with 23 apartments specifically for 18-25 year-olds who are currently homeless. The agency also opened a new Head Start center next door, named the Harriet Giannelis Childcare Center after their late Chief Financial Officer who was very involved in CSBG programming. Lee Dillon, Executive Director of Tompkins Community Action, hopes that the large commercial training kitchen in the new facility will help residents improve their cooking skills.

Said Dillon, "Kids are much more vulnerable than adults. They get trafficked, they get abused, they get used, they get things stolen, beaten up."

Office for New Americans: 21 New Opportunity Centers

Governor Cuomo recently announced the winners of two competitive bids put out by the NYS Office for New Americans (ONA). Through its statewide network of non-profit partners, ONA provides free and confidential services for all immigrants in need. The two programs that were highlighted are the Liberty Defense Project (LDP), which was launched by Governor Cuomo in 2017 to provide free legal services to all immigrants, particularly those facing deportation, and the ONA Opportunity Centers, which are nested within community-based organizations that assist immigrants with a variety of free services. The LDP will now include a Regional Rapid Response program to deliver urgent legal services to immigrants in all regions of the state. ONA has also selected 21 new Opportunity Centers to provide free services including naturalization assistance, community workshops, legal consultations, and civics education.

For a full list of the new LDP and Opportunity Center partners, please see the Governor's press release:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-measures-assist-immigrants-and-protect-them-ice>

Immigrants in need of services can contact the New Americans Hotline: 1-800-566-7636 (9am-8pm, Monday-Friday, all calls are confidential, and assistance is available in 200+ languages).

Welcome Ruth and Judy!



Ruth Senchyna, Community Services Program Analyst 1

Ruth Senchyna comes to DOS-DCS with experience in both the non-profit and government sectors, including five years in southern Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer and NGO Consultant, contributing to efforts to contain the HIV epidemic in that part of the world. She has also worked for the NYSDOH AIDS Institute, as well as for a number of non-profits in both New York State and Northern California, with a focus on HIV, homelessness, mental health, and victim services. An Albany resident, she holds a BA in History and Journalism, as well as an MSW with a concentration in Non-Profit Management.



Judy Miller, Community Services Program Analyst 1

Judy Miller lives in Rochester NY and comes to the Division of Community Services with a varied background in human services, recruitment, training, and financial management. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and a Master's in Business Administration, both from St. John Fisher College. Judy enjoys traveling to the Adirondacks and spending time with family. She looks forward to assisting the CSBG network of agencies as a Community Services Program Analyst.

Upcoming Events:

Office of New Americans Webinar: New York Regional Immigration Assistance Centers (RIACs)

Tuesday, March 26th at 10:00am. This one-hour training on the [New York Regional Immigration Assistance Centers \(RIACs\)](#), is directed towards staff who work with New Americans. **Please RSVP here:** <https://goo.gl/forms/Ecli6v9rLV2SxbxK2>

CSBG Advisory Council Meeting

March 26, 2019, at 10:00 am – This meeting will be held at our Albany office located at **One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave, Room 505**, with video conferencing available at **65 Court St. Room 208, Buffalo and 123 William St, New York City**. We plan to provide drafts of our revised 2020-21 Monitoring Guide and CSBG State Plan. Please let DOS know if you plan to attend at: dos.sm.DCS@dos.ny.gov

NYSCAA Regional Meetings

April 25: **Capital District** @ Schenectady Community Action

May 8: **Western NY** @Wyoming Community Action

May 14: **North Country** @Adirondack Community Action

June 12: **Central NY** @ Cayuga Seneca Community Action

TBD: **NYC** @ DYCD

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