

Community Services - CSBG Update

February 15, 2017

HHS ACSI Survey to be Administered Soon.

The CFI Group administering the survey for HHS is expecting to issue the survey link to each CAA in the second quarter (Before March 31st). We would like NY to have 100% participation from the 49 CAAs. DOS will use the survey information to continue to improve our administration of the CSBG program.

Plan now to attend a DOS and NYSCAA Regional Meeting



Thursday April 13: Western Regional Meeting at ACCORD Corporation
Address: 84 Schuyler Street, Belmont, NY 14813

Tuesday April 18: Hudson Valley Regional Meeting at Ulster CCAA
Address: Children's Learning Center 175 Colonial Drive, Kingston, NY 12401

Thursday April 20: Capital District Regional Meeting at CEO,
Address: Large Conference Room, 2328 Fifth Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

Wednesday April 26: Central Regional Meeting at Cortland CCA
Address: 32 North Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045

Thursday April 27: NYC Regional Meeting (NEW DATE)

Where: Virtual Webinar
Address: Go to webinar

Wednesday May 3: North Country Regional Meeting 1 at CAPC Jefferson County
Address: 518 Davidson Street, Watertown, NY 13601

Thursday May 4: North Country Regional Meeting 2 at Adirondack Comm. Action
Address: Heaven Hill Farm, 302 Bear Cub Lane, Lake Placid, NY 12946

Go to the NYSCAA website to register and to complete a short survey:
<https://ams.nyscommunityaction.org/Events>

DCS Welcomes Wendy Marks

Wendy joins the DOS Division of Fiscal Management. Wendy is the new Fiscal Representative based in the Albany Office. We are happy to have you on our team.

Why Should a CAA Become BIA Accredited?

Here at the Department of State, we feel the more Community Action Agencies become Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited, the better. It is a powerful decision that benefits the vulnerable people of our community and inevitably our nation. Nyanda Sam-King, our MSW intern thought it would be a good idea to get an interview with an agency that is in the process of becoming accredited. We appreciate having John Savage, Chief Executive Officer, shed light on the journey WestCOP made to become a BIA recognized and accredited agency.



1. Why is WestCOP interested in becoming BIA accredited?

"We are always looking for ways to better serve the residents in the communities we serve. We have been made aware that many immigrants in our target area have fallen victim to immigration scams that have cost them both money and heartache. We believe that BIA recognition will allow us to offer a needed service in the communities we serve to people who are prime targets for immigration scam artists. BIA recognition is a natural extension of the services we provide to the most vulnerable residents of our communities. We believe that such recognition will also further solidify the relationships we have built in the communities we serve."

2. How does the community benefit?

"We believe that BIA recognition will help us to strengthen the communities we serve by allowing us to be a vehicle through which people can apply to live in the U.S. legally. Given all of the attention that is being paid to immigration reform, we believe that it is imperative that people of good will step up to the plate to help those who desire to live in the U.S. legally. The community benefits by being able to keep good people as neighbors."

3. Was the process difficult?

"The process is somewhat arduous and we have wondered at times whether it is worth it. The thought has been rather fleeting because as a proud member of a network that believes in "Helping people. Changing lives," BIA recognition will allow us to once again make this motto a living and breathing reality."

Thank you John for your input. We hope this inspires other CAAs to become BIA accredited.

Coming Event: There will be a 40 hour BIA training on Long Island at Sisters of St. Joseph from April 3rd to April 7th. For more information, please contact Hallam Tuck at htuck@nyic.org.

WIOA and Community Action

Chris Pinheiro, Employment Service Manager for the Department of Labor, and his team provide a description of how The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is beneficial to our community. This connection is especially advantageous to our CAAs.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 re-defines the national Workforce Development System. WIOA emphasizes interagency collaboration and communication, and in doing so, requires numerous shared responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is the development of the local area Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

New York State's Local Workforce Development Boards (local boards) develop the MOU and work with the other WIOA-required one-stop partners, 19 in all, to execute it. Community Services Block Grant providers carrying out employment and training activities are one of these required one-stop, or NYS Career Center System ("System"), partners. As a required System partner, CSBG providers must participate in the local area MOU process.

System partners and local boards are now convening to establish an understanding of MOU requirements such as referrals between partner programs, system access, and career services. **Per WIOA, all partners must complete and sign the local area MOU by July 1, 2017. Local boards will contact CSBG providers for their programmatic perspective and expertise to assist in executing the MOU.** This collaboration opportunity will help improve services for the System customers in your region. If you would like additional information on the local area MOU, contact information for the local boards in your area can be found at <https://labor.ny.gov/workforcenypartners/lwda/localboards.shtm>.

DOS provided a list of CAAs with contact information to DOL. Executive Directors may receive a call soon to begin the conversation for WIOA services at the local level.