

Community Services - CSBG Update

January 3, 2017

ACROS Question from a Grantee

Question: “I have a question about the ACROS as it relates to the Board Attendance & Quorum Tracking Sheet. My understanding is that the ACROS is used as an annual assessment which would follow our CSBG reporting year (10/01/15 - 9/30/16), yet the ACROS is due in January and on the tracking sheet referenced above there are 14 cells included to report board meetings. Should all of these cells be filled out, even if it means duplicating information that was in the 2016 ACROS, or should it only include the information relative to the 2016 year (which would mean some of the cells would be blank)?”

Response: Please complete the ACROS Board Tracking Sheet for the last 12 month period (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016). This will ensure new information is reviewed each year.

Reminder - ACROS binders are due to your assigned program analyst by January 31st.

Funding Opportunities

❖ DOS Funding Opportunity

The NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) is pleased to issue a new request for applications titled "Workforce Community Education, Community Navigator and Welcoming Communities Program." **CAAs are strongly encouraged to apply.** Applications due March 6, 2017.

Detailed information on this request can be found in the following link:
<http://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/rfa-16-ona-24/index.html>.

❖ CNCS Funding Opportunity

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has [available funding](#) for both the *September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance* and *Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service* through a combined *Day of Service* Notice of Funding Opportunity ([Notice](#)). Applicant organizations may apply for either September 11th, MLK, or both.

September 11th funding will mobilize more Americans to engage in service and remembrance activities that meet vital community needs and honor the sacrifice of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and who rose in service as a result of that tragedy. MLK funding will mobilize more Americans to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday as a day of service in communities, to encourage those who serve on this holiday to make a long-term commitment to community service, and to bring people together to focus on service to others.

- Submission of a *Notice of Intent* to apply is highly encouraged and **due before February 8, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. ET.**
- Applications for funding are **due on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.** Successful applicants will be notified in May 2017.

Access technical assistance including upcoming calls and contact information for questions specific to this funding opportunity. Visit <https://www.nationalservice.gov/dayofservice> for more information.

SCCAP hosts a Winter Coat Drive

The Schoharie County Community Action Program (SCCAP) in partnership with sponsors WXXA\WTEN (Albany, NY), Mart Cleaners (Cobleskill, NY) and The Laundry Basket (Cobleskill, NY) collected gently used and new coats. More than 150 children will be warmer this winter as a result of the generous donations of coats, gloves, hats, scarves and other winter clothing distributed. Hats off to SCCAP!



A Family Success Story

Submitted by Tina Sharpe, CEO of *Columbia Opportunities, Inc. (COI)*

Hudson Family Literacy Program – Long Term Solutions – 2016

Several years ago, an immigrant family approached the Hudson “Even Start” Program – a partnership between *Columbia Opportunities, Inc.* and the *Hudson City School District* – regarding two of their daughters. The older girl had not attended school since the fifth grade in her home country. Her younger sister, entering sixth grade, was not going to be allowed to continue her education in the public school because her parents felt that being in classes with boys was in conflict with their religious beliefs.

The school district was concerned about educational neglect, especially concerning the younger girl. Our *Hudson Family Literacy Program* was able to make accommodations for both sisters. Program staff tutored the girls, reporting to the superintendent monthly on their progress. In less than a year, the parents decided that the older sister could attend school. The school district made accommodations for her, allowing her to attend summer school and enter high school as a freshman at the age of almost 17. She excelled, making the high honor roll by the end of her freshman year. She graduated with many advanced placement classes, a Regents Diploma, and as a member of the Honor Society. She attended a local Community College receiving dual certifications in Ultrasound Technician and Respiratory Therapist. She is married, living in Albany and is now considering enrolling in college to become a nurse practitioner. The younger sister continued along the same path, graduating with high honors. She is currently attending medical school, along with her younger brother in another state.

This family always acknowledges the role that COI and its literacy program played in shaping their lives and giving them opportunities they could only dream about. They are the personification of how lives can be changed through Community Action. (There is so much more to this story: Mom, who was illiterate in her home language, attended classes with her daughter. She learned to read and write in English, became a citizen and has a NYS driver’s license. This is the same Mom that told the Secretary of State and Department of State representatives that visited the program. that she was a “zero before *Even Start*.”)