



NYSCAA
Newsletter
September 2015



FROM THE CEO

Hello-

This year, for the first time the US Census Bureau has released updated data on the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) and the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) on the same day. The SPM is more comprehensive than the OPM, taking into account many of the safety net programs designed to raise people out of poverty, as well as expenses such as out of pocket medical costs. This is the fifth year that the Census Bureau has released SPM Data. The Official Poverty Measure (national) for 2014 is 14.9% and the Official Supplemental Poverty Measure is 15.3%. However, for children under 18 years, the Official Measure is 21.5% and the SPM is significantly lower, at 16.7% - showing clearly that safety net programs are effective in reducing childhood poverty. The Official Poverty Measure for adults 65 and older is 10.0%, much lower than the general population, illustrating the effectiveness of Social Security in reducing poverty among older Americans. In contrast, the SPM, which includes out of pocket medical expenses, shows a poverty rate for that age group of 14.4%. The SPM, by including more information is a more accurate measure of the poverty rates and impacts of safety net programs.

It is important that we understand these different measures and share this information with our elected officials, the media and our community partners. You can find much more about the SPM on NYSCAA's [website](#). We would be happy to help you understand and explain this data and its importance as we advocate for policies and services to support our shared goal of promoting economic stability and security.

Karla M. Digirolamo

[E-mail me](#)

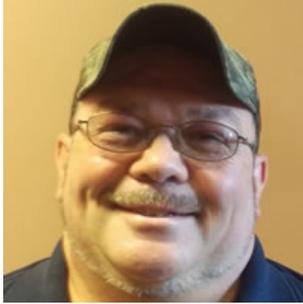
Karla Digirolamo, CCAP
NYSCAA



Another important source of information to share with your partners and the media is Virtual CAP. Ken Ackerman, Virtual CAP Project Manager, will be

joining us at the [ED Seminar](#) to talk about the valuable services and resources that Virtual CAP provides and recent changes in how to access it. [Click here](#) for more information about the ED Seminar.

A COMMUNITY ACTION SUCCESS STORY



David Spencer is a Navy combat veteran, who served during the periods of the Malta hijacking, Beirut/Lebanon campaign, Line of Death and Operation Iraqi Freedom exercises, Desert Storm, Desert Shield and more. He returned home from the military and worked full time for over a decade at a local factory making \$20.00 an hour with health insurance, medical benefits, profit sharing and a 401K. He lived in a three bedroom house with a nice deck, pond, garage, and gazebo.

He and his fiancé owned two vehicles, a motorcycle, 4-wheeler, and a boat and they even had an emergency fund set aside for those unexpected life events. Life was good.

Then those unexpected things started to happen. His mother died, then, eight months later, his father. Neither had life insurance and Dave's emergency fund was used to pay the funeral and other expenses. A few months later David and his fiancé lost their jobs on the same day when the local factory closed. By the time the unemployment benefits arrived, they were already struggling to pay their bills and ultimately David even cashed in his 401k to pay for rent, utilities and other monthly bills. And then David's fiancé fell ill and unexpectedly passed away. Over the course of fourteen months David's entire world collapsed. A few months later Congress and the President cut unemployment benefits - pulling the rug right out from under him. At this point David sold most of his worldly possessions just to stay afloat. His landlord sold the building Dave was living in and he was evicted.

Frustrated and running out of options, David needed a job and a place to live. He was forced to go to the Department of Social Services and apply for financial assistance. He recalls, "having never needed help before in my life and being a combat veteran, this was not only embarrassing and humiliating, but I had no idea about the 45 day waiting period for a case to open and start receiving benefits. I needed help and I needed it yesterday, not tomorrow... much less 45 days from now." When both of his vehicles needed repairs he couldn't afford and the dismal job market grew even worse, "I was at risk of homelessness and really losing hope at this point," says David.

This was when his journey took him to Cattaraugus Community Action (CCA), where Jane Folts helped him find a safe, clean apartment and Christina Ehlers helped him find a job. David explains, "I must tell you what a wonderful group of people they have working there! So many helpful, caring individuals with smiling and happy faces... something I NEVER saw in a factory." Currently David is the Site Assistant at CCA's Kinley Hill Emergency Shelter in Salamanca.

"I can now pay my bills and survive on my own again, maybe not as plush and luxuriously as I once had, but I'm not out in the streets, either. I would like to add that I consider myself to be a much more humble soul and appreciate the little things in life, like family, a good friend, a roof over my head, a shower and

my favorite... a good hot cup of coffee. I have a much greater empathy and understanding for those who go without food, shelter or vehicle and have no safety nets." David says. And what does he have to say about Cattaraugus Community Action? "Talk about changing lives and making a difference, this is where it all happens."

NYSCAA is a statewide association that provides services and advocacy to strengthen the ability of its members to improve the quality of life for low-income people throughout New York State.

Two Opportunities For New York's Community Action Leaders:

Emerging Leaders Institute:



The application process for Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) is now open! We will be accepting applications until November 20, 2015. We anticipate a very busy year!

The ELI schedule is as follows:

- An Introductory webinar on January 12 to provide an overview of the program
- Three in-person seminars:
 - February 4th & 5th at the Embassy Suites in East Syracuse
 - May 12th & 13th at the Craftsman Inn in Fayetteville
 - We expect to hold the third Seminar in conjunction with the RPIC Conference which we anticipate holding in Binghamton again in 2016 -- September 15/16 or 22/23.

The Seminars will include:

- Skill-building workshops
- Facilitated leadership discussions
- Reading and discussing leadership-related articles/white papers
- Leadership Activities
- Networking to develop relationships with colleagues across the state

Additionally, there will be an ELI track at the June Conference. Similar to the last two years, we plan to offer a discount conference registration fee for ELI participants. The cost to participate in ELI is only \$225.00. More information, application and the schedule can be found on the NYSCAA website: <http://nyscommunityaction.org/about-the-emerging-leaders-institute-eli/>

A recent ELI participant offered this comment: "I can't tell you how much I enjoyed ELI. Definitely the best training I have ever been to."

Please consider having a staff or two join ELI.

Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP)



The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) program is a national, peer review based recognition of Community Action leaders based on two pillars of Community Action. The first pillar is the body of knowledge and skills necessary for Community Action Leadership and the second is the Community Action Code of Ethics. [Click here for more information](#) about this professional credential. NYSCAA will support a cohort through the 2016 process, beginning with a conference call for interested Community Action management staff on October 1, 2015.

The cohort also receives a reduced price based on the number of people participating. Contact Kim McMann at kcmann@nyscommunityaction.org or 518-690-0491, extension 30 for more information and to register for the call/cohort.

NYSCAA News

CAP WEBINAR FOR NEW YORK STATE ELIGIBLE ENTITIES ON THE NEW ACROS TOOL TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 2PM -

[Click here to register](#) for the webinar Denise Harlow will be conducting on the assessment tool for the Organizational Standards. Please share this with staff and board members who will be responsible for preparing the supporting documentation for the Annual Compliance Review of Organizational Standards (ACROS).

2015 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS SEMINAR -

The Executive Seminar will be held on November 5 & 6, 2015 at the Inn on the Lake in Canandaigua, New York. [Click here](#) for more information.

THE BASICS OF EXCEL -

This one hour free webinar will take a look at elements of Excel you need to

know to get started. Click on one of the dates below to register and view the full agenda.

- [October 27 from 10 am-11am](#)
- [November 17th from 10 am -11am](#)

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Member News

WINSTON ROSS

Former NYSCAA Board Member, Winston Ross, passed away on September 6, 2015. Winston was Executive Director of Westchester Community Opportunity Program (WestCOP) from 1984 until his retirement in August 2013. He served for several years on the Community Action Partnership Board of Directors, including in the position of First Vice-President and was on the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Commission since the inception of the program in 1993. Winston contributed immeasurably to the content and caliber of the CCAP program for over 20 years. At the time of his passing he was the President of the CAPLAW Board of Directors. Winston was also a member of the Westchester County African American Advisory Board, the Westchester County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute and the Rotary Club of Yonkers. He was the former Chairperson of the NYS Social Work Board and past First Vice-President of the National Association of Social Workers.

In lieu of flowers, The Rev. J. Loren Russell, president of the Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers said donations are asked to be made to: Westchester ACT-SO Coalition (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics), P.O. Box 57, Elmsford, NY 10523.

ALBANY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE WK KELLOGG FOUNDATION:

The Albany Community Action Partnership has received a grant from the WK Kellogg Foundation as part of a nationwide initiative to "increase employment, workforce mobility and family economic security across the country." The agency will participate in the foundation's Supporting Transitions to Employment for Parents (STEPS) Pilot Study. "Through the program, unemployed mothers will complete job training and earn the credentials needed for employment," explained ACAP Executive Director, Neenah Bland. "In order to help both parents and children thrive together, we will use a two-generation approach to remove child care barriers while advancing employment outcomes."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTSEGO MEETS WITH CONGRESSMAN GIBSON:

Recently Congressman Chris Gibson met with executive management and board members of Opportunities for



Otsego to discuss the issues impacting Otsego County and the families served by OFO. (pictured: Alan Donovan, Board President, Congressman Gibson, Dan Maskin, CEO)

POVERTY: BARRIERS TO SCHOOL READINESS AND POSSIBILITIES



Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. partnered with the United Way of the Southern Tier and Catholic Charities Steuben. (pictured: Laura Rossman introduces Dr. Donna Beegle).



This training is designed to deepen participants' understanding of poverty's effects on early childhood development, school readiness, relationships with education systems, toxic stress, and adults' (parents') attitudes towards education. (pictured Dr. Donna Beegle)

PICTURES FROM THE RPIC REGION II 2015 FINANCE, HUMAN RESOURCE & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Kent Rader presents the Keynote at the RPIC conference.



Veronica Cruz welcome participants to the RPIC Conference.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that four out of five Americans experience economic hardship by age 60! Find more information here:

<http://nonprofitquarterly.org/2015/08/24/the-importance-of-social-safety-net-programs/>.

Click on Name of Agency to Visit Website: Action for a Better Community, Inc. * Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. * Albany Community Action Partnership * ACCORD Corporation * CACHE (Community Action Commission to Help the Economy Inc. * CAPC of Jefferson County * Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc. * Chautauqua Opportunities Inc. * Columbia Opportunities, Inc. * Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Capital District Region, Inc. * Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc. * Community Action of Greene County, Inc. Community Action of Orleans & Genesee * Community Action Partnership for Madison County, Inc. Cortland Community Action Program, Inc. (CAPCO) * Delaware Opportunities * Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Inc. * Economic Opportunity Program Inc. of Chemung County EOC of Nassau County - Hempstead * EOC of Suffolk - Patchogue * Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. * JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties * Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. * Livingston County Planning

Department * Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. * NYC Department of Youth and Community Development * Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. * Opportunities for Broome, Inc. * Opportunities for Chenango, Inc. * Opportunities for Otsego, Inc. * Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. * Path Stone PEACE, Inc. * Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. * RECAP * Saratoga County EOC, Inc. Schenectady County EOC, Inc. * Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc. * St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc. * Tioga Opportunities, Inc. * Tompkins Community Action, Inc. * Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. * Warren/Hamilton Counties ACEO, Inc. * Washington County EOC, Inc. * WestCOP * Wayne County Community Action Program, Inc. * Wyoming County Community Action, Inc. * Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.<



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