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Region II News:

Region II Regional Convening, February 15, 2022 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

The Regional Convening will bring together representatives from Community Action Agencies in New York, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico. Participants will learn about Human Capacity & Community Transformation (HCCT) initiatives in the region. Join us and hear about the impactful work CAAs are making in their communities.

We are excited to come together as Region II around these innovative initiatives to connect, learn, collaborate, and identify opportunities for replication and capacity building.

Last call to register! [Click here to register today!](#)



Community Action Partnership of New Jersey (CAPNJ) News

The New Jersey groundhog predictor, Milltown Mel, passed away just before his big weather-predicting day. He was a relatively competent meteorologist with a 70% accuracy rating. There was no succession plan for Milltown Mel, so New Jersey had to rely on New York and Pennsylvania for a weather prediction, and of course, they had conflicting opinions. Milltown Mel serves as a reminder of the importance of succession planning!

February brings other reminders to the NJ CAA network, and agencies have provided a tremendous array of resources to the low-income community. Recently agencies viewed Ken Blanchard Drucker's Institute video on leading at a higher level, with a theme that Leadership is Love. Some highlights from New Jersey CAAs Leading with Love include:

- [Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation \(BEOF\)](#) - BEOF's Meals on Wheels program is a public-private partnership that promotes health and improves the quality of life for senior citizens. For those Bayonne seniors who cannot travel to the nutrition sites and do not have the assistance of an agency or individual to prepare their meals, this program delivers a nutritious, hot lunch every weekday. Staff members and volunteers also provide companionship, as many program participants live alone. They also conduct a safety check during the visit to ensure the resident's well-being. This program is available to homebound residents of Bayonne, age 60 and older.
 - CATA - The Farm-workers Support Committee will be on a radio show on February 8 for individuals affected by the pandemic who didn't receive federal aid. Individuals can tune in to the "If You Can" radio show Tuesday, February 8 at 7 PM. Jessica Culley, Coordinator-General of CATA, will talk about this topic and many more! You can watch it on Facebook Live @radiocata or listen on RadioCATA, the community radio of CATA. In [#Bridgeton](#) NJ, please tune in to 102.5 FM or visit the website located [here](#).
 - Perhaps the best demonstration of leadership is the collaborative efforts happening in the NJ network. [Ocean, Inc.](#) utilized funding offered by [United Community Corporation \(UCC\)](#) from a grant through NJDCA for the Outreach for Comprehensive Eviction Prevention (CEP) Program. Staff, volunteers, and community partners were also out on a cold winter day for a vegetable distribution event at Ocean Inc. In total, the group provided 315 boxes of vegetables to residents in need with assistance from Ms. Santiago-Public Relations Representative of the Puerto Rican Civic Association, Ocean Inc, South Jersey Gas, and many other volunteers. There are so many other examples of how the network is helping others and fulfilling the promise of community action. Gateway Community Action Partnership's four-acre Mill Creek Urban Farm includes vegetable crops grown year-round.
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New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) News

NYSCAA Supports Motivational Interviewing Training Cohorts

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based client-centered way of talking to people to elicit their own reasons and motivations to change. When people talk about why they want to change, they are more likely to follow through. MI teaches professional helpers such as Community Action Agency staff how to draw out a customer's motivation to change.

NYSCAA supports MI learning cohorts consisting of 20 participants from CAA's across the New York network. Participants complete a 10-week 3-hour online interactive class, completing about one hour of homework each week. Each cohort of participants receives small group coaching and support. Upon completing the 10-week course, participants join and connect to an ongoing practice community of other MI learners across NY Community Action Agencies.

Puerto Rico Community Action Association (PRCAA) News

Resume Building Workshop

Community Action Agency staff participated in a workshop focused on resume building. The workshop entitled, "Editing my Resume like a Pro" took place on February 8, 2022, at 10:00 AM.

Basic Commercial Repostery Workshop:

Participants from Community Action Agencies in the South Central Region of Puerto Rico participated in a workshop exploring different professions. The first workshop offered was "Introduction to Bakery" where participants learned how to develop business plans and put them into action.

Future workshops include:

- Computers
- Arts & Crafts
- Physical Activity
- Cosmetology
- Health & Wellness
- Kitchen & Cooking Skills



National Partner News & Resources:

National Partner Resources on COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on day-to-day life, the national partners have compiled available resources to assist the Community Action network and their customers.

- [The Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [CAPLAW](#)
- [National Association for State Community Services Programs \(NASCSPP\)](#)
- [National Community Action Partnership \(NCAP\)](#)



CAPLAW: All a-Board Series - 3 New Training Videos

CAPLAW has released three new training videos exploring the fiduciary duty of care, board terms and term limits, and the roles and responsibilities of a CAA board chair.

- **Duty of Care (Purpose):** This video investigates the fiduciary duty of care that CAA board members owe to the organization they serve. It identifies the source of the obligation for public and private CAAs and provides examples of how board members can fulfill that obligation. It also highlights the importance of written minutes and discusses how board committees can help the board meet its duty of care in an efficient, effective way.
- **Terms and Term Limits (Process):** Like pruning a plant to encourage growth and fruitfulness, a CAA board of directors can implement requirements to facilitate turnover and help keep itself fresh and energized. Establishing terms for board service and a limit on the number of terms a board member may serve are two such requirements. Observe the board's reasons for implementing terms and term limits, relevant sources of law and guidance, and how the transition works practically.
- **Board Chair Role and Responsibilities (People):** This video examines the roles and responsibilities of a CAA board chair. It highlights the vital leadership the board chair provides to the board and emphasizes the importance of the chair/executive director relationship to a vibrant, healthy organization.

[Find more resources from CAPLAW.](#)



National Community Action Partnership: The Child Tax Credit (CTC) - Inform and Engage Families with New Resources

It's not too late for families to take advantage of up to \$3,600 per child afforded by the [Child Tax Credit](#) - all they need to do is file their 2021 taxes. As a reminder, these new [social media graphics](#) from NCAP can help your agency spread the word about this important benefit!

This week, we have even more new outreach resources to share:

- Social media graphics from NCAP stressing the importance of keeping mail from the IRS, which is needed to access a variety of benefits, including the CTC - [graphic 1](#), [graphic 2](#)
- An [outreach toolkit](#) from the Get It Back Campaign, featuring messaging and media materials, social media templates, call and text scripts, newsletter copy, and flyer and postcard templates
- [Social media posts and a flyer template](#) from [GetYourRefund.org](#)

[Find more resources from NCAP.](#)

National Professional Development Opportunities:

CAPLAW:

- [2022 National Training Conference](#): June 28 - 30, 2022 - Chicago, IL

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP):

- [2022 Virtual Winter Training Conference](#): February 28 - March 3, 2022

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP):

- [2022 Management & Leadership Training Conference](#): February 2 - 4, 2022
 - [2022 Annual Convention](#): August 29 - September 3, 2022 - New York, NY
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Additional Resources



Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH): Celebrate Black History

When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the public's attention. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the

public's attention important developments that merit emphasis.

The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well.

Black communities must look to the past to provide the light for our future by embracing the rituals, traditions and healing modalities of our ancestors. These ways of knowing require a decolonization of thought and practice.

[Learn more about ASALH.](#)

United States Census Bureau: New Data - Community Resilience Estimates by Census Tract



Released by the United States Census Bureau in 2021, the Community Resilience Estimates display the number of perceived Risk Factors (RF) that individuals and households are facing within a given geography. Data are available for all census tracts, counties, and states. The data set is the first official data delivery of this indicator and reflects community conditions in 2019.

[View the Community Resilience Estimates.](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): Poverty Guidelines for 2022



The January 2022 poverty guidelines are calculated by taking the 2020 Census Bureau's poverty thresholds and adjusting them for price changes between 2020 and 2021 using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The poverty thresholds used by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes are complex and are not composed of standardized increments between family sizes. Since many program officials prefer to use guidelines with uniform increments across family sizes, the poverty guidelines include rounding and standardizing adjustments.

[View the HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2022- Please note, NYSCAA members have access to the Census resilience data through the *NYSCAA data hub*.](#)



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