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January 2017
Newsletter



Region II Information



2017 RPIC Region II: Finance, Human Resources & Leadership Conference

The 2017 RPIC Region II conference has been booked for September 21 and 22 at the [Heldrich Hotel](#) in New Brunswick, New Jersey. This conference brings in Community Action staff from New York, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico. The conference includes three tracks: Finance, Human Resources, and Leadership, all designed specifically for Community Action Professionals.

This year, the conference is being held in central New Jersey, at a location that we hope makes it accessible for everyone in Region II. Save the date now and stay tuned for further conference updates!

O.C.E.A.N, Inc. President/CEO, Theodore Gooding Retires After 22 Years

Ted began his leadership at O.C.E.A.N, Inc. in 1994. Over the past 20 plus years, the enterprise has moved forward in many directions including: the creation of affordable housing units; expanding from Ocean County into Monmouth, Atlantic, and Cape May; developing mutual relationships with organizations such as the Police Athletic League and the Boys and Girls Club; the creation of the Tiny Homes project for populations with special needs, seniors and veterans; and their successful achievements while overseeing the Super Storm Sandy Housing and Rental Assistance Program. During Ted's tenure, O.C.E.A.N, Inc., has been a solid community partner by applying and receiving grants to administer numerous programs in multiple counties including: The First Time Home Buyers & Rental Assistance Programs, Home Energy & Weatherization; Project based vouchers for Veterans, Seniors, and Persons with Disabilities; and many more. Ted also spreads his knowledge throughout the community by serving on many boards such as: The New Jersey Community Action Association; Community Medical Center, Human Services Advisory Council of Ocean County, and more. Please join us in congratulating Ted on his incredible journey in Community Action. We wish you the best in the next chapter of your life!

National Partner News

Results at the Community Level - Learning Community Group (LCG)

The Community Action Partnership has organized a Results at the Community Level LCG. The new LCG will lead and guide a discussion for the participants to establish a clear definition of what community level needs, outcomes, and strategies are. Participants will explore how to observe and document change at the community level and how to share the process with key stakeholders. Community level work gives agencies

the opportunity to understand and address various dimensions of the broader conditions that may be more directly tied to the causes of poverty. The group will meet in an intensive format from February to April 2017. After April, group members will have the opportunity to access one on one technical assistance and will culminate their learning process at the Partnership's Annual Convention in August 2017. [Click here](#) to learn more and register to be a part of this exciting group.

National Day of Racial Healing

The Community Action Partnership in collaboration with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) and more than 130 other organizations are taking part in a National Day of Racial Healing on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. The National Day of Racial Healing is an effort to advance racial healing in communities across the country to create an environment where all children can thrive. January 17 will kick off a year-long effort to bring healing to the country, build bridges, and ensure a more perfect union and oneness within our country. NYSCAA encourages all communities, organizations, and individuals to select a unique manner in which to acknowledge the National Day of Racial Healing. Visit the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) website to learn more. For further ideas on what your organization can do to participate, [click here](#).



CSBG Dear Colleague Letter FY 2017 1st Quarter Allocations

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this message is to provide you with an update on allocations of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding during the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 and to provide an update on the CSBG State Plan review process.

Based on the Continuing Resolution (CR) passed by Congress and signed by the President on September 29, 2016, CSBG funds will be allocated through December 31, 2016 based on the previous year's CSBG allocation. A chart outlining the amounts allocated to all States, Territories, and Tribes through December 31, 2016 is included in the letter. Final FY 2017 award amounts will be determined after passage of a full-year appropriation. [Click here](#) to read the full letter.

The State of Poverty

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS' (NASPCSP)
BLOG

Words from NASPCSP's Board President

"I'm delighted to have the opportunity to wrap up 2016 and reflect on the accomplishments of NASPCSP, our programs, and to address you, our members. As you saw in the message from our Executive Director, Jenae Bjelland, 2016 brought about a number of changes to the NASPCSP staff, as well as a renewed call for mobilization and education resulting from the 2016 presidential election. As we look back on 2016, we are reminded that we have a lot to be proud of; and as we look forward to 2017, we recognize that the opportunities abound.

Elections held during the September 2016 NASPCSP Annual Conference ushered in a new slate of executive board members, and I proudly accepted the nomination to serve as the President of the NASPCSP Board for a two-year term. I have been a member of the NASPCSP Board since 2010 serving as a regional representative, WAP Program Chair, Board Vice President, and now President. In my daily role at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development I oversee all the Department's affordable housing development, finance and preservation programs, including the WAP. I have proudly served at the VA DHCD since February 2000..." [Click here](#) to read the full article on the State of Poverty Blog.

In the News and Useful Information

It's Time to Take Action

It's the first few weeks of the new Congress and it's time to take action. [CFED](#) has put together a few ways you can get started to support low-income and moderate-income families.

1. **Make Home Ownership Affordable:** Home ownership is the single largest source of wealth for American households and is a key part of the American Dream. Congress will be considering reforms to federal programs and agencies that help make home ownership possible for millions of families.

2. **Support Working Families:** Important government programs like SNAP, TANF, Medicaid and SSI help protect vulnerable families from falling deep into poverty. These programs provide families and individuals the opportunity to reach financial security and eventually begin to build wealth.
3. **Sign up for a Virtual Regional Listening & Strategy Session:** CFED, in partnership with the Assets & Opportunity Network Steering Committee, will facilitate virtual listening sessions in eight regions across the country. Each session will include: peer to peer sharing about the risks facing vulnerable families; updates on CFED's perspectives on federal policies; and the opportunity to voice which types of support would be most valuable to you and your network. The Region II Virtual Regional Listening Strategy Session will be held January 13, 2017 at 1 PM (EST). [Click here](#) to register.

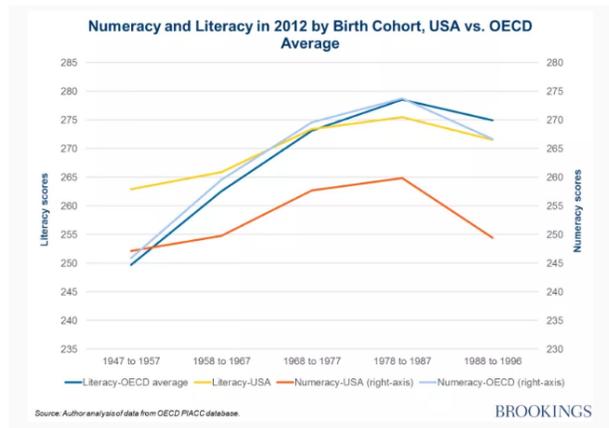
Transportation Toolkit

The Transportation Toolkit is geared toward members of the public who wish to learn how to engage in the transportation decision-making process at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. The Toolkit demystifies the decision making process and explains the transportation life-cycle: plan, fund, design, build, and maintain. The toolkit also defines key transportation acronyms and jargon using both text and graphics. [Click here](#) to download the toolkit.



The Declining Productivity of Education

U.S. Economic Development has stalled. We've recently learned that about only half of people born around 1980 earn more today than their parents did at a similar age and the nation's deteriorating education sector is one important factor; culpable for both weak economic growth and rising income inequality. The productivity of the education sector depends on the relationship between how much it generates in value (learning) relative to its costs. This Brookings Article reports that, education costs have soared, while learning has stagnated and that education productivity growth for the U.S. has been particularly weak. The United States ranks dead last among 26 countries tested on math gains, and second to last on literacy gains across multiple generations. (see chart below).



This weak performance is even more disturbing given that the U.S. spends more on education, on a per student basis, than almost any other country. [Click here](#) to read the full article and find out more.

National Training Opportunities



NYSCAA Training & Events

Advocacy Seminar

January 24 & 25, 2017

Cost: \$30.00 per person, discounts available for larger groups

[Click here](#) to register

IT Webinar: Basic Survey Monkey
February 8, 2017 - 10:00 - 11:00 AM
[Click here](#) to register

Intermediate Survey Monkey
March 8, 2017 - 10:00 - 11:00 AM
[Click here](#) to register

11th Annual Symposium on Poverty & Economic Security
March 29, 2017
Hilton Garden Inn - Troy NY
Registration will open soon!

2017 June Professional Development Conference
June 1-2, 2017
High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid NY
Registration will open soon!

IT Webinar: The Why & How of Social Media
July 18, 2017 - 10:00 - 11:00 AM
[Click here](#) to register

RPIC Region II: Human Resources, Finance & Leadership Conference
September 21 - 22, 2017
The Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick, NJ
Stay tuned for more information



WIPFLI Training Opportunities

Webinar: How Nonprofits can Save Money & Provide Financial Stability with the Cloud
January 26, 2017 - 12:00 - 1:00 PM (CST)
Cost: Free
[Click here](#) to register

Webinar: Davis Bacon Act for HS/EHS
April 25, 2017 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (CST)
Cost: \$195.00
[Click here](#) to register

18th Annual Wipfli National Training Conference
July 9-14, 2017
Las Vegas, NV
[Click here](#) for more information

Upcoming Events:

2017 NCAF Legislative Conference
March 14 - 17, 2017
Washington, DC
[Click here](#) to register

2017 NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference
March 27-31, 2017
Arlington, VA

2017 Anti-Hunger Conference, Hunger Solutions
May 17, 2017
Albany Capital Center, Albany NY

2017 CAPLAW National Training Conference
June 7-9, 2017
Denver, CO

Resources



NASCSP

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