



Department of State
Community Services

September 2026 CSBG Newsletter

Highlights Around the Network

EOP Hosts CareerZone Workshop



The Economic Opportunity Program, Inc. of Chemung County (EOP) partnered with the NYS Department of Labor (DOL) and CareerZone to host an interactive workshop designed to assist youth in exploring career options, building skills, and setting goals for their futures. The fun and engaging experience provided students (grades 6-8 and 9-12) with an opportunity to discover career paths and in-demand jobs.

General Resources and Information

Homelessness Falls Statewide

The NYS Office of State Comptroller released a report in May 2026. The report indicates that homelessness in New York has declined by 7.9 percent. With an overall decline in the number of homeless individuals, the report shows that children remain high: at 31.7 percent, more than double that of the rest of the nation. Additionally, homelessness grew by more than 10 percent, with the highest increases in Columbia and Greene Counties, Rensselaer County, and Schenectady County.

The State continues to implement its multi-year housing plan and recently enacted statutory changes that will direct more school aid to districts with students experiencing homelessness. Comptroller DiNapoli [in a previously released report \(January 2025\)](#), called for additional efforts to mitigate evictions and provide housing assistance, particularly to families with children.

[Click here to read the full report and to view the data tables.](#)



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The High Cost of Housing

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) released [Out of Reach 2026: The High Cost of Housing](#). Published annually, the report highlights the mismatch between the wages people earn and the price of decent rental housing in every state, metropolitan area, and county in the U.S. This year's report highlights that, amid ongoing economic uncertainty and federal cuts to assistance, the lowest-income renters continue to struggle to afford housing. The report's central statistic, the Housing Wage, is an estimate of the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a modest rental home at HUD's FMR without spending more than 30% of their income on rent. [Click here to view New York's housing needs](#).

Supporting the Childcare and Preschool Workforce



As New York looks to expand universal, affordable childcare, it will need to build its workforce of childcare workers and preschool teachers. The latest analysis, provided by [Rockefeller Institute of Government](#), looks at who these workers are and potential policy strategies for expanding the workforce.

New York State's [Fiscal Year 2027 Enacted Budget](#) takes significant steps to move the state toward a true universal prekindergarten (UPK) program in which all four-year-olds (and many three-year-olds) and their families will have access to UPK within their district. The budget states that by the 2028/2029 school year, all school districts must provide a full-day prekindergarten program to all eligible four-year-olds in the district whose parents choose to enroll the child in the district's UPK program. While most districts already have some form of a UPK program, the mandate will require many districts to begin new programs and others to significantly expand their offerings. [Click here to read the full article and current capacity in New York](#).

Staffing Solutions for Nonprofit Organizations

Nonprofits across the country continue to report open positions. Surveys show nearly 75% of organizations have vacancies, and many say those openings are harder to fill than they were in the past. As a result, many nonprofits are turning to flexible staffing options. These approaches range from outsourced help to student placements and workflow improvements.

[Click here to read the full article](#), demonstrating how nonprofits are using flexible staffing models, options to outsource, use volunteers and student placements, and the most effective approaches to support workload patterns, internal capacity, and long-term sustainability.



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State Linkages & Partnership Highlights

NY ABLE

Do you know about NY ABLE? NY ABLE is a smart, flexible way to save and invest in disability-related expenses while protecting the essential benefits you depend on. NY ABLE allows individuals with disabilities and their families to save for qualified disability-related expenses, without limiting their ability to benefit from federal benefit programs such as SSI, SSDI, and Medicaid. NY ABLE offers multiple investment options, including a checking account and debit card option allowing individuals with disabilities to maintain their independence and have quick and easy access to their own money. Earnings on investments can grow tax-deferred and are tax-free if withdrawals are used for qualified disability expenses. For additional information about NY ABLE, or to open an account, please visit [the NY ABLE homepage](#).

Supporting Our Local Communities – Webinar

The NYS Office of Faith & Nonprofit Development Services is hosting a webinar on **September 10, 2026, at 10:00am** to provide an opportunity to learn more about Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs). COADs play an important role in supporting communities following disasters, particularly during localized emergencies that may not qualify for a federal disaster declaration. COADs bring together nonprofits, local agencies, faith-based organizations, and other community partners to coordinate resources and help meet the immediate and long-term needs of affected residents.

This webinar focuses on COADs across New York State, how they are organized, and how faith-based and nonprofit organizations can work together to support their communities before, during, and after disasters. [Click here to register](#).

CSBG National Partners & Trainings

CAPLAW: Updated CSBG Organizational Standards Guide

CAPLAW has released an updated CSBG Organizational Standards Guide, that offers a streamlined resource to navigate the Organizational Standards for both public and private Community Action Agencies. The updated version includes a new background on the history and legal foundations of the Organizational Standards and helps the Network better understand the purpose and context behind the requirements. [Click here for more information and to explore the guide](#).



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The Economic Mobility Toolkit

Join the [National Community Action Partnership \(NCAP\)](#) on **September 17, 2026, at 2:00pm** to discover a new comprehensive resource from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility. The toolkit is designed to support Community Action Agencies in planning, designing, and implementing innovative approaches to advance economic mobility. It compiles promising practices, highlighted initiatives, and tools and resources for implementation. Attendees will learn how the toolkit can be used to enhance services, align partnerships, and improve outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. [Click here to register.](#)



Top Employment & Personnel Policies for Nonprofit Employers



Operating a mission-driven organization introduces unique compliance and cultural needs, particularly when considering volunteers, donors, and public accountability. Nonprofit employers are subject to the same state and federal labor laws as for-profit businesses.

[Click here to register](#) for a live presentation on **September 24, 2026, at 2:00 pm**. Topics include: Foundational Legal and Compliance Policies, Sector-Specific Nonprofit Policies, Modern Operational and Digital Policies, and Compensation and Leave Benefits.



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Available Funding Opportunities

2027 Community Rides Pilot Grant

The Office of Community Services (OCS) is pleased to share that the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center (CCAM-TAC) is now accepting applications for the **2027 Community Rides Pilot Grant Program**. The program offers **up to \$100,000** for innovative projects that expand transportation access to healthcare, jobs, education, healthy food, and social services. All proposals must include **formal partnerships** with community agencies such as healthcare systems, workforce boards, social service organizations, or educational institutions. Register for the [Informational Webinar](#) being held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 1:00 pm**. Applications are due **Monday, October 19, 2026**.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title II and Welfare Education Program Funding RFP #290 (2027-2032)

The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), requires States to award multiyear grants or contracts on a competitive basis to eligible providers within the State. The purpose of this RFP is to provide adult education and literacy services that help out-of-school youth and adults develop literacy skills, achieve secondary credentials, and gain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and economic self-sufficiency. [Click here for more information](#), including the project period and eligible applicants.

NYS Office of Mental Health: Announced 4 Funding Opportunities

- **MH253023 – Crisis Intervention Teams and Adjacent Systems Transformation Programs**
[Click here for information, announcement details](#) and view [the Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#).
- **MH263034 – Teams to Promote Aging in Place**
[Click here for information, announcement details](#) and view [the Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#).
- **MH263035 – Older Adult Technical Assistance Center**
[Click here for information, announcement details](#) and view [the Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#).
- **MH263036 – Delivering Sources of Strength**
[Click here for information, announcement details](#) and view [the Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#).



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Division of Community Services Updates and Reminders

2027 CSBG Contract Documents

Attachment B (Budget) and Attachment C (Work Plan and Program Progress Report) required for your FFY 2027 CSBG Entitlement Contract are due back to DCS by close of business on **Thursday, September 10, 2026**. The completed electronic Excel versions should be returned to the DCS general mailbox dos.sm.dcs.ARU@dos.ny.gov or via the DCS SharePoint Document Portal with a copy to your assigned Program Analyst.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Advisory Council Meeting

Save the Date!

- **Thursday, October 8th, 2026, 10:00AM**

Locations and meeting links will be posted on dos.ny.gov prior to the meeting.

Division of Community Services Online Resources

The Department of State has a YouTube channel: YouTube.com/@nysdos

Check out the Division of Community Services' YouTube playlists:

- [CSBG Public Meetings](#)
- [CSBG Training](#)

Please reach out to your Program Analyst or dos.sm.dcs@dos.ny.gov for more information.

CSBG Eligibility Guidelines continue at 200% Federal Poverty Level

[Click for the 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)

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For more information, please visit the ACF website: [HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#)