



NASCSP 2022 Annual Training Conference

CSBG Core Conference Agenda (subject to change)

WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 26, 2022

7:30 am – 8:00 am Continental Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:00 am Opening Plenary

Join us for opening remarks from the NASCSP Board president, executive director, and local officials as we kick off the start of our conference.

Presenter(s): **Grace Arnold**, *Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Commerce (invited)*; **Beverly Buchanan**, *CSBG Grants Manager, Arkansas Department of Human Services and NASCSP Board President*; **Melvin Carter**, *Mayor, City of Saint Paul (invited)*; **Jeannie Chaffin**, *Interim Executive Director, NASCSP*; **Peggy Flanagan**, *Lieutenant Governor, State of Minnesota (invited)*

9:00 am – 9:45 am Federal Partner Update

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) play a critical role in alleviating the causes and conditions of poverty. Changing the face of poverty across the nation requires the effort of many. Join us for a message from our federal partners at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Energy as they share some of their top priorities within the administration as it relates to the CSBG and WAP.

Presenter(s): **AnnaMaria Garcia**, *Director, Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office*, **Henry McKoy**, *Director, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, U.S. Department of Energy*; **Dr. Lanique Howard**, *Director, Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

9:45 am – 10:15 am Networking Break

10:15 am – 11:30 am Annual Business Meeting (members only)

State/State Association Relationships (non-member session)

In this session, attendees will break into roundtable discussions to deep-dive questions about the value of state office/state association relationships and what helps them thrive. Facilitated by NASCSP, NCAP, and state office/state association pairs with demonstrated experience in this area, participants will come away with actionable steps to help develop and/or improve their own network relationships following this discussion.

Presenter(s): **Cynthia Bryant**, *Lead Program Manager, Georgia Department of Human Services*; **Alex Diaz**, *CSBG Program Manager, Colorado Department of Local Affairs*; **Ben Faul**, *Program Administrator, North Dakota Department of Commerce*; **Bill Grant**, *Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Partnership*; **Josiah Massingale**, *Executive Director, Colorado Community Action Association*; **Francie Mathes**, *Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, Minnesota Department of Human Services*; **Andrea Olson**, *Executive Director, Community Action Partnership of North Dakota*; **Consuela Thompson**, *Interim Executive Director, Georgia Community Action Association*; **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev**, *Director, Organizational Capacity Building*, **Lana Shope**, *Project Director*, **Aaron Wicks**, *Vice President, Organizational Capacity Building, National Community Action Partnership*

11:30 am – 12:45 pm Lunch (*on your own*)

12:45 pm – 2:45 pm CSBG Member Planning and Action (*members only*)

NASCSP staff and board regional representatives will facilitate discussions on critical CSBG topics related to program administration. The Planning and Action session is an important peer-to-peer networking opportunity to highlight developments and innovations in your state. Come meet your peers and connect with this amazing network of CSBG professionals!

Non-member Sessions

Pathways to Excellence (12:45 pm – 1:30 pm)

Every community deserves the best possible Community Action Agency (CAA). Excellence requires a strong foundation built on the Organizational Standards, but it also requires going beyond them and institutionalizing best-in-class practices from fellow CAAs. This session will describe the journey from compliance to excellence and provide useful resources to support CAAs on their journey to excellence.

Presenter(s): **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev**, *Director, Organizational Capacity Building*, **Aaron Wicks**, *Vice President, Organizational Capacity Building, National Community Action Partnership*

Telling the Community Action Agency Story (1:45 pm – 2:45 pm)

The work of CCAP is necessary as it complements the history, trajectory, and impact of the mission and purpose of the Community Action Network. How we lead, why we lead, and when we lead are tied to our history and our impact on the lives of the communities that we serve.

Presenter(s): **Brenda Nettles**, *Case Manager, LaKeisha Williams, Community Outreach Coordinator, Mobile Community Action, Inc.*; **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev**, *Director, Organizational Capacity Building, National Community Action Partnership*

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm Networking Break

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm ASCI Linkages

The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) provides data and information helpful in identifying areas for operational improvement. Linkages are a "driver of satisfaction" on the ACSI and were identified as an area of improvement for many states. A small group of CSBG administrators who scored high on the ACSI in this area have conducted research over the last few months to identify promising practices regarding linkages. Come learn about these promising practices and how you can implement them at your State Office.

Presenter(s): **Kate Blunt**, *Consultant*; **Beverly Buchanan**, *CSBG Grants Manager, Arkansas Department of Human Services and NASCSP Board President*; **Matt Fitzgerald**, *Director, Virginia Department of Social Services and NASCSP Board Vice President*; **Lauren Johnson**, *CSBG Program Manager, NASCSP*; **Megan Meadows**, *Chief, Community Services Division, Ohio Department of Development*; **Karen Quackenbush**, *Program Manager, Utah Department of Housing and Community Development*

THURSDAY – OCTOBER 27, 2022

8:00 am – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:45 am – 10:00 am Workforce, Talent Management, and Leadership

In today's workforce, finding and keeping high-performing talent is a challenge. Every work industry has been hit hard and state CSBG offices and eligible entities are no exception. In this session, you will learn some tips and tricks on how to combat these challenges.

Presenter(s): **Bill Grant**, *Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Partnership*; **Liz Kuoppala**, *Executive Director, MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership*; **Erick Garcia Luna**, *Regional Outreach Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis*; **Andrea Olson**, *Executive Director, Community Action Partnership of North Dakota*

10:00 am – 10:30 am Networking Break

10:30 am – 11:30 am Performance Management Topics with OCS

OCS will host this session focusing on Performance Management topics, which will also include a demonstration of their new CSBG Performance Management website.

Presenter(s) **Monique Alcantara**, *Management and Program Analyst*, **Verna Best**, *Program Operations Branch Chief*, **Charisse Johnson**, *Division Director*, **Norris Phillip III**, *Financial Analyst, Division of Community Assistance, Office of Community Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* **Muska Kamran**, *Research Director, NASCSP*

11:45 am – 1:00 pm NASCSP Awards Luncheon

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm Aligning Systems to Advance Equity at the Federal, State, and Local Levels

America's racial inequities are often on display and fuel social isolation and economic instability for families and communities across the country. In response, many states and communities are making progress towards understanding the root of racial disparities across various domains and redefining and aligning their systems to make them equitable for everyone. During this session, you will hear and learn from partners at all levels who are engaged in leading the charge on centering their work more deeply in racial equity.

Presenter(s): **Verna Best**, *Program Operations Branch Chief, Division of Community Assistance*, **Angela Green**, *Regional Administrator, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*; **Tikki Brown**, *Assistant Commissioner, Children and Family Services, Minnesota Department of Human Services*; **Denise Harlow**, *Chief Executive Officer*

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm National and State Perspectives on CSBG and WAP Leaders as Agents of Change

Join us as national and state leaders share their perspectives on future opportunities and challenges for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). This panel will hold a dynamic discussion about how leaders spring forward from the pandemic and embrace new opportunities to coordinate and integrate funding streams and programs to achieve greater impact and success for the families and communities served by CSBG and WAP.

Presenter(s): **Tikki Brown**, *Assistant Commissioner of Children and Family Services, Minnesota Department of Human Services*; **Jeannie Chaffin**, *Interim Executive Director, NASCSP*; **Sandy Fazeli**, *Senior Managing Director, National Association of State Energy Officials*; **Denise Harlow**, *Chief Executive Officer, National Community Action Partnership*

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm Networking Break

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm Efficient and Effective State Practices for CSBG Grant Contracting

Efficient and effective grant contracting is a key role for state offices. In this session, you will learn from other states that have shown strength in this area. The session will particularly highlight how they prepare, develop, and administer their CSBG grants and amendments.

Presenter(s): **Karen Dunn**, *Federal/State CSBG Program Manager, Washington State Department of Commerce*; **Francie Mathes**, *Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, Minnesota Department of Human Services*; **Anna Sainsbury**, *CSBG Contract Manager, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families*

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm NASCSP Reception

Come out and join your colleagues at The Local – Minneapolis (931 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN), for an evening of magic, music, food, and fun! Costumes are highly encouraged, and prizes will be awarded for the best costume.

FRIDAY – OCTOBER 28, 2022

8:00 am – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:45 am Engaging the Network in State Office Policy and Procedure Development

Clear, concise policies and procedures are important elements of an effectively run CSBG State Office. This session features peers who took a creative approach to revise their program's policies and procedures with an emphasis on reducing the administrative burden on eligible entities while ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local laws and requirements.

Presenter(s): **Clint Cottam**, *Executive Director, Community Action Partnership of Utah*; **Alex Diaz**, *CSBG Program Manager, Colorado Department of Local Affairs*; **Josiah Massingale**, *Executive Director, Colorado Community Action Association*; **Karen Quackenbush**, *Program Manager, Utah Department of Housing and Community Development*; **Lauren Johnson**, *CSBG Program Manager*, **Hugh Poole**, *CSBG Director, NASCSP*

9:45 am – 10:15 am Networking Break

10:15 am – 11:30 am State CSBG Funding

Do you get State CSBG funding? Are you interested in learning how some states have achieved this? Are you curious to know what it could do for your network? Washington State and Minnesota garnered significant wins with their state legislatures awarding
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annual state funding to augment their annual federal CSBG award. Hear how this additional funding has impacted their ability to serve their communities and how you may be able to work with your State Association, other key players, and the State legislature to establish a CSBG State award that could be in effect for years.

Presenters: **Karen Dunn**, *Federal/State CSBG Program Manager, Washington State Department of Commerce*; **Bill Grant**, *Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Partnership*; **Francie Mathes**, *Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, Minnesota Department of Human Services*; **Lauren Johnson**, *CSBG Program Manager*, **Hugh Poole**, *CSBG Director, NASCSP*

11:45 am – 12:30 pm Closing Plenary

Before you grab your boarding passes and Ubers, reconvene and hear from your peers as we discuss takeaways from the week and share next steps. Oh, and don't forget to keep your fingers crossed to win some great raffle prizes!