



NASCSP 2025 Winter Training Conference

CSBG Core Conference Agenda

February 5 - 7, 2025

(Agenda subject to change)

Wednesday, February 5th

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Federal Partner Update

Dive into the latest updates on impactful federal initiatives that are driving change and empowering communities as we are joined by our partners at the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services who will unveil new opportunities, policies, and programs designed to support our shared mission. Don't miss this chance to stay informed and inspired by the innovations shaping our work

Presenters: **David Gipson**, *Deputy Director for Weatherization Assistance Program, Office of State and Community Energy Programs*; **Cheryl Zuni**, *Director, Office of Community Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Networking Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

National Partner Panel Discussion: The Road Ahead

As a new administration takes the helm, what challenges and opportunities lie ahead for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)? Join us for a moderated panel discussion featuring insights from our national partners. Through thoughtful dialogue, our panelists will explore potential policy shifts, funding priorities, and strategies to help your programs adapt and thrive in this evolving landscape. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with experts and prepare for the road ahead.

Presenters: **David Bradley**, *CEO, National Community Action Foundation*; **Denise Harlow**, *CEO, National Community Action Partnership*; **Allison Ma'luf**, *Executive Director and General Counsel, Community Action Program Legal Services*; **Katrina Metzler**, *Executive Director, National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition*; **Cheryl Williams**, *Executive Director, NASCSP*

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch (on your own)

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

CSBG Member Planning & Action (Members Only)

CSBG Member Planning and Action is devoted to in-depth peer exchanges facilitated by your elected NASCSP regional representatives. It covers critical topics related to CSBG operations and administration. This session is reserved for NASCSP Members only.

A New Approach to Assessment of Training Needs

Understanding the training needs of your audience starts with data—but the real magic happens when you dig deeper. In this session, discover strategies to analyze needs assessment data and translate it into tailored, impactful training and technical assistance programs. Learn how to uncover insights, prioritize topics, and design professional development initiatives that resonate with your audience and drive meaningful results.

Presenters: **Carey Gibson**, *Deputy Director*, **Barbara Mooney**, *Director*, *Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers*

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Networking Break

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

CSBG Joint Planning & Action

This workshop will focus on in-depth exchanges, facilitated by NASCSP's regional representatives, covering critical CSBG topics such as WIOA coordination and other requirements. This session will be a joint state office/state association/national partner collaborative discussion.

Social Return on Investment (SROI): Demonstrating the Social and Economic Impact of Community Action

The social and economic impact of Community Action Agency (CAA) programs often goes undervalued or misunderstood. As data collectors, we measure outcomes for clients and communities, but how can we use this data to show that Community Action isn't just a good cause—it's a smart investment? Enter Social Return on Investment (SROI), a proven methodology and tool that quantifies the value CAAs bring to clients and communities alike. This session introduces attendees to SROI and provides access to a free SROI Calculator, empowering you to highlight the true worth of your programs.

Presenter: **Fred Richmond**, *President*, *The Center for Applied Management Practices, Inc.*

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

NASCSP Welcome Reception

Thursday, February 6th

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Driving Social Change: A Conversation with Joan Trumpauer

Join Civil Rights icon Joan Trumpauer Mulholland as she shares her journey of courage and activism, including over 50 demonstrations such as the Freedom Rides, the Jackson Woolworth's Sit-in, and the Selma to Montgomery March. Her experiences alongside leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis offer timeless lessons on equity and justice. This session connects Joan's legacy to NASCSP's mission of empowering communities and advancing economic and social equity. Be inspired to drive meaningful change through the work we do today to transform lives and communities.

Presenter: **Joan Trumpauer**, *Founder, Joann Trumpauer Mulholland Foundation*

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 am

Networking Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CSBG PEAAK: Harnessing the Power of Automation through the CSBG Performance Management Website

Presenters: **TBA**

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

NASCSP Awards Luncheon

Join us for the NASCSP Service Awards Luncheon, a special event dedicated to honoring individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to NASCSP and the programs we represent. Don't miss this opportunity to applaud your peers and draw inspiration from their outstanding accomplishments!

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The State Management Workgroup's Focus on Rural Poverty

The State Management Work Group recently completed a year of research identifying issues, needs, and concerns experienced by small state offices, rural communities, and the agencies that serve them. Hear from some of the members about their findings, next steps in the discovery, and the development of promising practices in these areas.

Presenters: **Kate Blunt**, *President, KBA & Associates*, **Lauren Johnson**, *CSBG Program Manager*, **Hugh Poole**, *CSBG Director, NASCSP*

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 pm

Networking Break

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Fostering Peer Learning Through Collaborative Networks

Peer learning is a powerful tool for professional development and can be significantly enhanced through the collaborative efforts of state offices, state associations, and local community action agencies. This training will explore strategies to build and support systems that facilitate peer learning among all levels of the community action network.

Presenters: **Carey Gibson**, *Deputy Director*, **Barbara Mooney**, *Director*, *Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers*

Friday, February 7th

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Leader-Shifts: Supporting the State's CAA Network Through Leadership Changes

As seasoned leaders retire, a new generation of Community Action Agency (CAA) leaders is stepping up to continue the legacy while addressing emerging challenges. This session explores how Maryland's State Office and State Association collaborate to support and guide new CAA leaders. We'll discuss strategies to ensure new leaders stay grounded in Community Action's mission and are equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of anti-poverty work. Join us to learn how partnerships and mentorship can build a strong foundation for the future of the CAA network.

Presenters: **Angela Fraser**, *Deputy Director, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development*; **Angela Martin**, *Executive Director, Maryland Community Action Partnership*

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 am

Networking Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Communicating with Empathy in Times of Crisis

In our work with vulnerable communities, interactions are often influenced by trauma, systemic barriers, social determinants of health, and lived experiences. This workshop goes beyond standard crisis response, focusing on how empathy can transform challenges into opportunities for healing and dignity. Gain practical communication techniques that honor the whole person while fostering healthy boundaries and sustainable practices. Through interactive scenarios and guided exercises, learn to navigate difficult conversations with an equity lens, understand the impact of social determinants on behavior, and create spaces that prioritize the wellbeing of clients and providers.

Presenter: **Mona Jacobs**, *Co-Founder, MPOWERD Solutions*

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Closing Plenary