



NASCSP 2025 Annual Training Conference

CSBG Core Conference

September 24 - 26, 2025

Preliminary Agenda

(Agenda subject to change)

Wednesday, September 24th

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Opening Plenary**

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **National Partner Update**

Our collective voice is strongest when we lift it together. In this session, national partners will share key updates on federal policies, funding opportunities, and advocacy efforts that are shaping the landscape for CSBG and WAP. With a focus on collaboration and alignment, presenters will highlight how our shared priorities and partnerships are *amplifying our impact* at the national, state, and local levels. Attendees will leave with timely information, strengthened connections, and a deeper understanding of how national advocacy translates into tangible outcomes for communities across the country.

Presenter(s): **David Bradley**, *Chief Executive Officer, National Community Action Foundation (invited)*; **Denise Harlow**, *Chief Executive Officer, National Community Action Partnership*; **Allison Ma'luf**, *Executive Director and General Counsel, CAPLAW*; **Katrina Metzler**, *Executive Director, National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (invited)*; **Cheryl Williams**, *Executive Director, NASCSP*; **Mark Wolfe**, *National Energy Assistance Director's Association (invited)*

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Networking Break**

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS:**

Annual Business Meeting (MEMBERS ONLY)

Join us for NASCSP's Annual Business Meeting, where members will receive key updates on organizational priorities, board activities, strategic initiatives, and financials. This meeting is an opportunity for members to engage with leadership, participate in decision-making processes, and help shape the direction of the association. Your voice and vote matter so don't miss this critical session.

Partnerships for Advancing Results Oriented Work

CSBG state offices and associations play a vital role beyond grant administration and training and technical assistance. They are key partners in helping local Community Action Agencies adopt a results-oriented approach. When state and

association staff actively engage with management practices and implementation strategies, the perceived value of these efforts increases, motivating local agencies to do the same. This session will present a practical framework for identifying core areas of operation and suggest actionable strategies to strengthen the focus on results-oriented work across the CSBG network.

Presenter(s): Carey Gibson, Deputy Director, Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers

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, covering critical topics around CSBG operations and administration. This session is reserved for NASCSP members only.

From Passion to Action Youth on Civic Leadership

Today's youth aren't next in line. They are already at the table. This dynamic panel brings together young people who are actively shaping civic life through community organizing, advocacy, and public service. They'll share what drives them, the strategies they use to create change, and their visions for a better future. Come ready to hear directly from the next generation of changemakers and to reflect on how we can better support and amplify their voices.

Presenter(s): Machel Anderson, Director of Special Projects, Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Networking Break

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

CSBG Member Planning & Action (Members Only) Cont'd

Community Service Centers - Servicing Chicago's Most Vulnerable

This session explores the evolution of CSC services, with a focus on reimagining post-pandemic service delivery, case management, and community engagement. Presenters will share strategies for building a citywide trauma-informed network that connects residents to stability, support, and long-term empowerment.

Presenter(s): Daniel Cassell, Director of Field Operations, Andrea Chatman, Deputy Commissioner, Kourtnee Palamore, Manager of Family Support Programs, Mark Sanders, Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Department of Family & Support Services

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Beats, Bites, and Bowling: The NASCSP Welcome Reception

Get ready for a night of food, fun, and friendly competition hosted by our state members at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,

Office of Community Assistance. We're taking over Pinstripes for an unforgettable evening. Whether you're hitting the lanes, shooting pool, or just relaxing with colleagues, this is your chance to unwind and connect with your colleagues.

Thursday, September 25th

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

SWMG 2.0 Progress Report

Over the past two years, the State Management Work Group 2.0 (SMWG 2.0) has completed research identifying promising practices to strengthen CSBG management, particularly for rural agencies and communities. Their research focused on three high-impact areas: Streamlined Administrative Procedures, Standardized Tools and Templates, and Specialized Rural Strategies. In addition to uncovering a number of promising practices, the group is also developing tools, trainings, and resources to support state offices strengthen management in these areas. Join this session to hear from state leaders about what they've learned, share your own insights, and walk away with fresh, practical ideas to improve management across the network.

Presenter(s): *Kate Blunt, President, KMB Associates; Beverly Buchanan, CSBG Manager, Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services and NASCSP Board President; Genevieve Fields, CSBG Program Manager, Louisiana Workforce Commission; Lauren Johnson, CSBG Program Manager, Hugh Poole, CSBG Director, NASCSP; Alicia McDaniel, Social Services Administrator, Office of Community Services, Delaware Department of Health and Social Services; Amy Parker, Community Action Grant Manager, Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families; Elizabeth Rackham, CSBG Program Specialist, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare; Mark Tremblay, CSBG Administrator, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Lindsay Whittin, CSBG Program Director, Tennessee Department of Human Services*

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Networking Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

CSBG Federal Perspectives I - Annual Report Changes

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

CSBG Federal Perspectives II - Performance Management Updates

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 pm

Networking Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

The Mic, the Message, and the Movement

Get ready for an energizing and interactive session with Chicago's own Kendall Moore, radio personality, truth-teller, and tireless community advocate. As host of *The Kendall Moore Show* on WVON 1690AM, Kendall

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has become a trusted voice for the people, tackling everything from housing and education to justice and joy with grit, humor, and heart. Through candid conversation, Kendall will invite us to reflect on the power of voice, visibility, and accountability in driving meaningful change. He'll explore how trusted messengers, bold storytelling, and community-rooted action can fuel movements and why centering people over policy is key to lasting impact. This session is a space for reflection and recharging and will remind you why the work matters, and why *you* matter in it.

Presenter(s): Kendal Moore, CEO, Moore Enterprises, LLC.

Friday, September 26th

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Leading with Purpose

What makes you an effective leader? This session is all about uncovering what you naturally bring to the table and how to use it with intention. You'll kick things off with a self-assessment, then dive into real conversations about leadership, growth, and team dynamics. Through practical exercises, attendees will learn how to align personal strengths with organizational goals, enhance team engagement, and foster a culture of excellence. You'll leave with new insights, useful tools, and a clearer sense of how to lead with confidence and purpose.

Presenter(s): Leticia Meitzen, Training & Public Relations Coordinator, Community Action of Nebraska

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Jesse White Tumblers – Flipping the Script on Youth Empowerment

Prepare to be inspired and energized as the world-renowned Jesse White Tumbling Team takes the stage! Founded in 1959 by former Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, this high-impact acrobatic team has dazzled audiences across the globe while transforming the lives of thousands of young people from underserved communities. Their electrifying performance combines athletic excellence with a powerful message about discipline, education, and leadership. More than just entertainment, this session showcases the power of community investment and reminds us all of what's possible when young people are given the support and structure to soar.

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Closing Plenary

As we bring this year's conference to a close, join us for a dynamic and reflective final session designed to recharge your spirit and refocus on your purpose. This plenary will celebrate the collective impact we've made, highlight key takeaways from the week, and inspire us to carry the momentum forward.