



NASCSP 2025 Annual Training Conference

CSBG Pre Conference

September 22 - 23, 2025

Preliminary Agenda

(Agenda subject to change)

Monday, September 22nd

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tour of Chicago's Community Service Centers

Get an inside look at how Chicago is streamlining support for its residents through a guided tour of the city's Community Service Centers that serve as dynamic, one-stop hubs offering case management and wraparound services for individuals and families in need. From housing assistance to food security, employment services to crisis intervention, these centers reflect a coordinated, community-centered approach to meeting people where they are. Participants will explore how this model brings multiple resources under one roof, fosters collaboration across agencies, and creates more efficient, person-focused pathways out of poverty. Come ready to ask questions, share ideas, and get inspired by what's possible when services truly connect.

Community Impact Experience

As part of NASCSP's commitment to service and community connection, we're offering a special opportunity for attendees to give back to our host city in a meaningful way. This hands-on experience is all about *Amplifying Our Impact* beyond the sessions, beyond the networking, and into the heart of the community. Join fellow attendees as we roll up our sleeves, build connections, and leave a lasting impression together. Full details to come!

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch (On Your Own)

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Uniform Guidance Changes

Join CAPLAW for a deep dive into the latest updates to the Uniform Guidance, with a special focus on changes to indirect cost rates and procurement processes. This interactive two-part session will break down what you need to know, how the changes may impact your organization, and what steps to take next. Whether you're navigating compliance or updating internal procedures, this session will help you make sense of the details and put them into action.

Presenter(s): Jonathan Cohen, Attorney, Allison Ma'luf, Executive Director and General Counsel, Community Action Program Legal Services

Tuesday, September 23rd

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

New Manager Orientation Part 1 - Nuts & Bolts of the Federal CSBG Act for State Administrators

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act is the legal cornerstone of Community Action. While the Act itself is short, it contains many important requirements that state administrators should understand. This session offers an introduction to the Act for Community Action newcomers and serves as a refresher for seasoned leaders. Participants will explore key elements of the Act, including an overview of laws and guidance relevant to state administrators of CSBG, uses of CSBG funds, tripartite boards, state plans, monitoring, and funding reduction and termination.

Presenter(s): Savanna Arral, Esq., *Staff Attorney, Community Action Program Legal Services*

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Networking Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

New Manager Orientation Part 2 - Overview of the State Plan, CNA/CAPs, and Contracting

This session provides new Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) managers with a foundational understanding of key components of the CSBG Framework. Participants will explore state administration requirements such as the State CSBG Plan and its role in guiding statewide anti-poverty strategies, learn how local Community Needs Assessments (CNAs) and Community Action Plans (CAPs) align with state and federal goals, and gain insight into the contracting process between state offices and local agencies.

Presenter(s): Angela Fraser, *Assistant Director, Division of Homeless Solutions, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development;* **Carey Gibson,** *Deputy Director, Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Professionals;* **Jill Giles,** *DHHS Program Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services;* **Lauren Johnson,** *CSBG Program Manager,* **Hugh Poole,** *CSBG Director, NASCSP;* **Chris Rowland,** *Program Manager, New Mexico Health Care Authority;* **Barbara Schachern,** *Contract Manager, Wisconsin Department of Children and Family;*

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

New Manager Orientation Part 3 - Risk Assessments, Monitoring, and TTA

This session equips new CSBG managers with a practical understanding of risk assessment, monitoring, and training and technical assistance (TTA) within the CSBG administrative framework. Participants will learn how states assess risk to prioritize oversight activities, the various types and phases of monitoring (including tools, timelines, and follow-up), and how monitoring supports both

compliance and continuous improvement. The session also highlights how targeted TTA is used to build capacity, address findings, and strengthen overall program performance across the CSBG network.

Presenter(s): *Jaimi Clifford, CSBG State Coordinator, Maine's Office of Child and Family Services, Maine Department of Health and Human Services; Lorie Easter, Director of Community Action Agencies, Division of Community Access and Eligibility, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services; Matt Fitzgerald, Manager, Virginia Department of Social Services; Lauren Johnson, CSBG Program Manager, Hugh Poole, CSBG Director, NASCSP; Beth Rackham, CSBG Program Specialist, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare; Becky Saad, CSBG Program Manager, Colorado Department of Local Affairs*

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 pm

Networking Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

New Manager Orientation Part 4 - Overview of the Annual Report Process

The CSBG Act requires that "each State shall annually prepare and submit to the Secretary a report on the measured performance of the State and the eligible entities in the State." This session will help you better understand how the CSBG Annual Report (CAR) helps you meet this regulation. You will leave with a better understanding of why CAR is important, what is being reported on, the available tools and resources that will help with CAR completion and submission, and the roles of the State and its CSBG Eligible Entities.

Presenter(s): *Tiffany Jarvis, Research Director, NASCSP; Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, Director, Organizational Capacity Building, National Community Action Partnership*