



NASCSP 2026 Winter Training Conference

CSBG | Pre-Conference Agenda

February 2 - 3, 2026

Agenda (subject to change)

CSBG Pre-Conference Overview

The CSBG Fiscal Monitoring pre-conference will provide In-depth training on the fiscal section of the Org Standards, Uniform Guidance Changes, Cost Allocation & Use of CSBG Funds, and Systems Health and Financial Ratios. Encourage both your fiscal and programmatic staff to attend this engaging discussion!

NASCSP At Your Service!

Welcome to NASCSP! We understand that many of you might be new to your roles or this network, and this could be your very first NASCSP event. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a fresh rookie, we've got you covered. On Monday morning, from 8:30 am – 9:00 am, we've set aside time for you to drop in and meet the NASCSP staff. We'll be there to answer any questions you have about registration, navigating the hotel and surrounding area, what to expect, and how to best prepare for the week.

Monday, February 2nd

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

NASCSP At Your Service (OPTIONAL)

12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Joint Welcome

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Beyond Compliance: Mastering the Financial Section of the Org Standards

Monitoring CAAs on the financial section of the CSBG Organizational Standards requires both a solid understanding of the standards themselves and a clear picture of what compliance looks like in practice. This two-part workshop will provide an overview of the financial operations and oversight directives outlined in Category 8 of the CSBG Organizational Standards. Participants will learn the financial requirements for both private and public CAAs and become familiar with standards related to audits, reporting, budgeting, fiscal policies, and more. We will explore the expectations, discuss examples of compliance, and highlight how mastering these standards strengthens accountability and supports effective, high-performing organizations across the CSBG Network.

Presenter(s): **Jonathan Cohen**, *Deputy Director and Senior Counsel*,
Allison Ma'luf, *Executive Director and General Counsel, Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc.*

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Networking Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Beyond Compliance: Mastering the Financial Section of the Org Standards (Cont'd)

Tuesday, February 3rd

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The Dollars and Sense of CSBG: Applying Uniform Guidance and Cost Allocation/Allowability Principles

Recent changes to the Uniform Guidance have led many states and CAAs alike to wonder what's the same and what's different. In this context, questions continue to arise related to rules around cost allocation and cost allowability. Specifically, how these rules apply in the context of the purposes, goals, and allowable uses of CSBG funding. In this two-part session, participants will learn about the Uniform Guidance rules related to cost allocation, including allowable methods of shared cost recovery, as well as general and specific cost principles. From this framework, we will discuss more specific questions of cost allowability, including how to think about allowable uses of CSBG funding in the context of Uniform Guidance.

Presenter(s): **Jonathan Cohen**, *Deputy Director and Senior Counsel*, **Allison Ma'luf**, *Executive Director and General Counsel*, *Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc.*

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Networking Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Dollars and Sense of CSBG: Applying Uniform Guidance and Cost Allocation/Allowability Principles (Cont'd)

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Beyond the Balance Sheet: Assessing Financial Health for Stronger Community Action

A sound financial system is the backbone of every effective Community Action Agency. This session will explore how CSBG State Offices can assess the overall financial health of their eligible entities beyond just compliance. Participants will learn what to look for in key financial reports, how to interpret trends that may indicate risk or resilience, and how financial practices impact the organization. Using real-life scenarios and interactive discussion, we'll examine red flags, best practices, and strategies for fostering long-term financial sustainability within the Network.

Presenter(s): **Kay Sohl**, *Owner and Proprietor*, *Kay Sohl Consulting*

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Networking Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Beyond the Balance Sheet: Assessing Financial Health for Stronger Community Action (Cont'd)