



NASCSP 2026 Annual Training Conference

CSBG Pre Conference Agenda

September 21 - 22, 2026

(subject to change)

Monday, September 21st

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

NASCSP At Your Service!

Whether you're new to your role, new to this network, or attending your very first NASCSP event, we'd love to meet you. Stop by, grab a coffee, and say hello to the NASCSP staff. We'll be on hand to answer questions about registration, navigating the hotel and surrounding area, what to expect, and how to make the most of your week. Veterans are welcome too! We never turn away a familiar face.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Community Learning Tours

Explore innovative local programs through guided educational tours highlighting the impact of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Participants will have the opportunity to observe programs in action, learn from practitioners, and gain ideas that can be adapted in their own communities. A sign-up link will be shared soon. Space may be limited, so be sure to reserve your spot once registration opens.

Community Impact Experience

Make a meaningful impact by joining fellow conference attendees in our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) volunteer project at the Gulf Coast Community Services Association (GCCSA) Food Pantry. Volunteers will assist with a variety of activities, which may include sorting and organizing food donations, preparing items for distribution, and supporting food distribution to individuals and families in the community. This hands-on service opportunity helps expand access to nutritious food while supporting GCCSA's mission to strengthen and empower local communities.

A volunteer sign-up link will be shared soon. Space may be limited, so be sure to reserve your spot once registration opens.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Navigating the Final Uniform Guidance Rule: What CSBG State Offices Need to Know

The final Uniform Guidance rule brings the most significant changes to federal grant administration in over a decade, and CSBG State Offices need to be ready. Join CAPLAW for a timely, high-level overview of what these changes mean for you. Rather than a line-by-line crosswalk, this session will focus on the legal and policy implications for states, highlighting key regulatory changes, potential impacts on grant administration and oversight, and practical considerations for

implementation. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the updates, the broader political climate shaping potential outcomes, and possible resources and approaches to support compliance.

PRESENTER: **Allison Ma'luf**, *Executive Director and General Counsel, CAPLAW*

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

New Member Reception (*Invite Only*)

The New Member Reception is a special gathering to celebrate and connect NASCSP's newest members. This event offers first-time attendees the chance to meet NASCSP leadership, network with fellow new members, and learn about the resources and benefits available through our national community. Join us for this special hosted reception as we officially welcome you into the network.

Tuesday, September 23rd

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

The Cohort Model: How State Associations are Scaling AI Across Member Agencies

What does it actually take to bring AI tools to multiple community action agencies at once without overwhelming them? VACAP built a cohort model to find out. By coordinating a group of member agencies through a shared six-month implementation, they reduced per-agency cost, distributed the risk, and created a feedback loop that improved outcomes for the whole network. This session shares what worked, what they learned, and how the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies is already looking at the model for replication. Attendees will leave with a concrete framework they can bring back to their own state association or agency.

PRESENTERS: **Tammy Breski**, *Grants Project Manager, Virginia Community Action Partnership*; **Chip Kennedy**, *Founder, Civic Reach*; **Amanda Shelton**, *Executive Director, Texas Association of Community Action Agencies*

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Networking Break

Take a moment to connect and recharge during our networking break. This is your chance to mingle with fellow attendees, exchange ideas, and build valuable professional relationships. Enjoy refreshments and engage in stimulating conversations that could spark new collaborations and opportunities.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Reducing CSBG Annual Report Cleaning Memos: Innovative State Strategies That Work

What if you could submit your CSBG Annual Report with fewer cleaning memos and less back-and-forth? In this session, several CSBG State Offices share the strategies, processes, and tools they implemented to improve data quality before submission. They'll walk through what reduced the number of cleaning rounds, what didn't work, and how they built better habits into their reporting cycle.

Attendees will leave with practical approaches they can adapt to streamline their own Annual Report preparation.

PRESENTERS: **Adrian Angel**, *State Program Administrator, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development and NASCSP Board Treasurer*; **Melissa McClain**, *CSBG/RPIC Program Administrator, Community Action Kentucky, Inc.*; **Amanda Patchin**, *CSBG Program Specialist, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare*

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

From Challenge to Innovation: Innovative State Practices – Part I

The best State Office innovations didn't come from a playbook. They came from persistent problems that demanded creative solutions. In this session, hear how State Offices identified recurring issues, developed new approaches, and implemented changes that improved program administration and network support. This two-part series will discuss lessons learned, implementation strategies, and measurable outcomes. Attendees will leave with real examples and actionable ideas they can bring back to their own states.

PRESENTERS: **Adrian Angel**, *State Program Administrator, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development and NASCSP Board Treasurer*; **Tawny Chapman**, *Social Services Program Specialist III, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services*; **Kelsey DeMerlis**, *Director, Center for Community Services, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development*; **Karen Keith**, *Program Specialist, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs*

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 pm

Networking Break

Take a moment to connect and recharge during our networking break. This is your chance to mingle with fellow attendees, exchange ideas, and build valuable professional relationships. Enjoy refreshments and engage in stimulating conversations that could spark new collaborations and opportunities.

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

From Challenge to Innovation: Innovative State Practices – Part II