



Schoharie County

Community Action Program, Inc.

SCCAP News

January 2021

2020 in Review



Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.

Adapting Services, Supplying Resources, & Connecting with Community Partners

Schoharie County Community Action Program staff was hard at work responding to the needs of families and individuals in their communities:

1. Staff stockpiled donated items to be distributed to families in need.
2. Backpacks were "stuffed" with back to school supplies for the children in the community.
3. The Highway Superintendent Association generously made a donation to support the outreach efforts in the community.
4. Schoharie County Community Action Program's Employment Training Center was safely setup and students practiced proper social distancing while in class.

New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) 2020 Annual Report

SCCAP Mission:

Building stronger, healthier communities and empowering families that experience economic and social challenges through strategic partnerships, education, services and compassion.

Pre-Pandemic

Debbie Palmatier, Assistant Finance Director, led the Administration Department in compiling documents for the Annual Compliance Review of Organizational Standards (ACROS). The comprehensive Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Standards were developed to ensure that all agencies have appropriate organizational capacity in both critical financial and administrative areas, as well as areas of unique importance to the mission of the Community Action network.



Staff volunteers from the Blenheim-Gilboa New York Power Authority assisted the Community Services team with a pick-up of food from the Regional Food Bank truck. With wind chills below zero, they helped unload 3,000 lbs. of food, transferred it to SCCAP, and helped restock the Food Pantry.



Employment Training Center Director, Marcy Holmes, had the opportunity to meet with Assemblyman Chris Tague at his office in Schoharie, where they discussed the importance of continued funding for the NYS Displaced Homemaker Program. Assemblyman Tague was very impressed with the 2019 DHP employment success rate of 50%, and promised his future support for the program. He also expressed his gratitude to SCCAP for the much needed services provided to the citizens in our community.



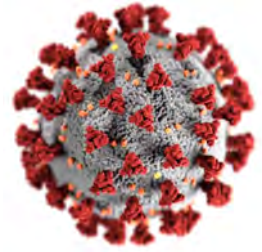
Child Care Resource & Referral offered CPR and First Aid training, in which ten participants received certification.



Melissa Bevins and Dawn Garvey of the Creative Connections for Youth and Child Care Resource & Referral Departments have become certified Safe Sitter® Instructors. The mission of Safe Sitter® is to provide life skills, safety skills and child care training to all youth in order to build safer communities. Through the newly offered SCCAP Babysitting Course, Melissa and Dawn will provide hands-on training to Schoharie County youth.

Pandemic News

Executive Director, Jeannette Spaulding, immediately established and implemented safety protocols for staff and clients. Remote work schedules were quickly put in place and staff were provided with equipment and the tools needed to work from home while maintaining virtual contact with their clients. Service plans were communicated regularly on the website.



The administration team procured hard-to-find sanitization supplies and PPE for staff and clients, which included plexi sneeze guards for work areas, so that the agency could continue to provide services while being compliant with COVID-19 regulations.

The finance team administered CARES funding, Payroll Protection Plan, and other pandemic related funding.

As plans were made to begin allowing clients back into the agency, a screening area was established and two part-time individuals were hired as Community Greeters to screen clients before they moved on to their appointments with staff.

SCCAP's Board of Directors moved to Zoom meetings so that they could maintain contact with the agency and its day-to-day operations.

As schools and businesses shut down, essential workers throughout Schoharie County struggled to find quality care for their children. SCCAP's Child Care Resource and Referral Department stepped up to help in numerous ways:

- Became the referral channel for essential workers who weren't previously using child care.
- Assisted daycare providers as they navigated through new regulations to remain open.
- Administered CARES Act Scholarships to assist essential workers with daycare expenses.
- Purchased and delivered nearly impossible-to-find cleaning and sanitizing supplies to daycare providers.

"All of my families are very pleased that they had the opportunity to save money. Whatever the dollar amount or the amount of time, that they were covered. I and they are very grateful. So thank you SO much from all of us at Morning Star Learning Center."

"Just wanted to say thank you for all the supplies we received from you and really just all the help and support you've given during this trying time, to let you know we appreciate all that you do and how grateful I know I am to the both of you. God Bless and stay healthy." Laura & the entire Sprout Team



The SCCAP Food Pantry has been available to clients throughout the pandemic. For the safety of staff and clients, the food is prepackaged and available with curbside pick-up.

As quickly as Covid-19 safety protocols allowed, the Parent and Child Connections Center resumed supervised visitation, allowing parents to be reunited with their children.



Pandemic News



Lacking the ability to see clients in person didn't slow down the Breastfeeding Peer Counselors. Beginning in May they offered live virtual breastfeeding classes, as well as an online breastfeeding support group. Both of which have been well received.

SCCAP's Employment Training Center put COVID-19 safety protocols in place to continue assisting community members with job transitions. Other employment training centers throughout the state looked at SCCAP's protocols as a model for their programs.



At the beginning of the pandemic, the Weatherization crew were pulled from doing any on-site work at client's homes. That time was used to put new protocols in place, attend on-line trainings and procure PPE that would protect both crew and clients. Donning Tyvek suits, masks and gloves they went back out to the field and continued their work to make client's homes more energy efficient and cost effective.



Utilizing methods such as online filing and phone meetings, the Community Services Department processed 277 free tax returns through the VITA program, and 339 HEAP applications.

One of their many success stories involved a client who was in a difficult situation with the IRS that spanned several years. Through a multi-step process, the Community Services team resolved their tax problems, which helped them achieve financial independence and ultimately led to them purchasing a new home.



There was an outstanding response to SCCAP's annual fundraiser—Brook's Barbecue—which was cooked and served in the parking lot. With COVID-19 restrictions in place the barbecue was served on a drive-through basis and staff worked tirelessly to keep the line of vehicles moving as they snaked through the parking lot and on to Main Street. The event sold out in just 1-1/2 hours with sales of 650 chicken halves and 144 orders of ribs, and was a tremendous success. Thank you to the community for their support!



While the County Courthouse was closed, the Family Support and Resource Center maintained contact with their clients by holding family team conferences virtually. By utilizing Zoom, they



continued to support their clients when court resumed and a new phrase was coined—Zoom Court!

For more information call about SCCAP's many services call: (518) 234-2568, visit our website www.sccapinc.org or email jeannette.spaulding@sccapinc.org

2020 Honors

SCCAP was recognized by the NYS Community Action Association for showing exemplary dedication and perseverance to its clients, and being a guiding light throughout the pandemic.



Congratulations to SCCAP employees on their years of service milestones during 2020.

Jeannette Spaulding, Executive Director, 20 years (Award presented by Richard Lape, Board Chair)

JoAnn McCann, Skill Builder, 5 years

Heather Fretto, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, 5 years

Adam Smith, Building Analyst, 5 years



Donate to Support SCCAP's Work—3 easy ways!

1. Stop by our office located at 795 East Main Street, Suite 5, Cobleskill, NY 12043
2. Mail a check to SCCAP at the address above.
3. Visit our website at www.sccapinc.org and click the donate button.