



New York State Community Action Association

2 Charles Boulevard, Guilderland, New York 12084

518-690-0491 (p) 518-690-0498 (f)

www.nyscaaonline.org

Contacts: Denise Harlow, CEO
(518) 690-0491 ext 24
cell: (518) 330-0874

Sean Wyse, Communications Specialist
(518) 690-0491 ext 28
swyse@nyscaaonline.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Poverty Hits Home *New Report Provides Statewide Look at Poverty in New York State*

Albany, NY March 17, 2010 – More than 2.6 million people, including 852,000 children live in poverty in New York State. This alarming statistic, among many others is included in today's release of the New York State Community Action Association's *2010 New York State Poverty Report*. This report provides data in a comprehensive statewide, county-level and city-level format, offering statistical insight into how poverty in New York State affects education, employment and health, as well as its impact on women and people of color.

"Community Action has championed the war on poverty for decades, but the harsh realities of poverty have remained a constant for many," said Amy Turner, Board President for the New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA). "What the 2010 New York State Poverty report reveals is that poverty is truly a statewide concern. The economy is creating extreme challenges for both low-income and middle-income New Yorkers like we have never seen before. New York's 52 Community Action Agencies are working every day with struggling families to help them through these difficult times."

The *2010 New York State Poverty Report* is designed to be a resource for community-based organizations, policy makers, advocates, community coalitions, and members of the general public working to address poverty in New York State. This *Poverty Report* adds value to the larger discussion around how to eliminate poverty in our communities, as well as how the much needed economic stimulus funds flowing into the State benefit the neediest New Yorkers.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 marked a crucial step forward in getting the economy back on track. "The recession has hit all New Yorkers hard and while parts of the economy are beginning to recover, we still have more families struggling to keep their heads above water every day," said Denise Harlow, NYSCAA CEO. "The current poverty levels are unacceptable and we know the number of families struggling is even greater, especially when a family of three making more than \$18,310 is not considered poor and therefore uncounted in the rates on poverty our report discusses."

“However, without real numbers, it can often be difficult to frame the issues, structure solutions and work to create change,” said Harlow. “This report offers the public an easy-to-use resource that is readily available. We know that many New Yorkers live in communities where the cost of living far exceeds the national average. The stress of our struggling economy only increases the burden facing New Yorkers, who face the daily struggle to feed and house their families.”

This third edition of the *New York State Poverty Report* once again provides a variety of data on numerous poverty indicators, such as unemployment rates and the percentage of households living below the poverty line. New to this year’s report are data highlighting the plight of the working poor and families headed by single women. Statistics of note in the report include:

- The State’s unemployment rate is 9%, up from less than 7% this time last year
- Nearly 50% of all families in poverty are headed by single women with children
- African Americans (1 in 5) and Hispanics (1 in 4) live in poor households at a disproportionately high rate
- 2.6 million individuals under the age of 65 do not have health insurance

The New York State Community Action Association is the state association representing a statewide network of 52 Community Action Agencies in New York. Community Action Agencies form a service delivery system that connects individuals and families to the services they need in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency.