



## New York State Community Action Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Symposium Addressing Poverty Attracts Leaders Across the State and Nation to Albany**

Albany, NY February 22, 2010 –Leaders from across the nation gathered at the Holiday Inn, Wolf Road for the New York State Community Action Association's **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security**, addressing the growing concerns of our economic stability.

"This important symposium will help raise awareness of the struggles facing New Yorkers in today's economy and how we as a community of service providers, policy makers and advocates can work together to strengthen economic security," said Amy Turner, Board President of the New York State Community Action Association.

Denise Harlow, Chief Executive Officer for the New York State Community Action Association sees this symposium as a platform to further strengthen the role of Community Action.

"It has become more important than ever that Community Action be at the forefront of providing the advocacy and tools needed to improve the quality of life of low income individuals across the state," said Harlow. "The speakers and panelists who will gather today at the Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security will offer a great deal of knowledge and insight into how the state can address poverty and boost economic security for all New Yorkers."

The day began with a welcome message from Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, New York State's Secretary of State and a keynote address from David Hansell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Presentations ranged from a panel discussion focusing on Governor Paterson's economic security agenda, with Kristin Proud, Deputy Secretary for Human Services, Technology and Operations, to a plenary session regarding the need to update the federal poverty measure featuring Trudy Renwick of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Several other presentations on programs and policy took place with Michael Burgess, Director of the New York State Office for the Aging; Andrea Levere, President of the Corporation for Enterprise Development; Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs; Don Mathis, President/CEO of the National Community Action Partnership, Daniel Buyer, Assistant Commissioner of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, as well as many other experts presenting on topics related to economic security.

*More information is available from Sean Wyse, Communications Specialist at (518) 281-5127 or email [swyse@nyscaaonline.org](mailto:swyse@nyscaaonline.org). Visit us online at [www.nyscaaonline.org](http://www.nyscaaonline.org)*

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

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