



Schenectady Community  
Action Program

*Creating Opportunity in Partnership*

## 2018 SCAP Advocacy Agenda (approved by BOD 3/21/18)

### State Advocacy:

#### **Early Care and Education:**

Access to quality child care and early education allows parents to focus on their jobs, supports early brain development and readies children for success in kindergarten and beyond. Research shows that 80% of brain development occurs in the first 3 years, 90% in the first 5 years.

#### **Child Care:**

**SCAP supports** the [Empire State Campaign for Child Care](#).

- Invest \$100 million to restore the investment in child care subsidies to 2016 levels, account for inflation, restore last year's \$7 million cut, reinstate the 75% market rate percentage and assist providers who must comply with increased minimum wage increases.
- Economic development money should be used to fund child care. This will remove a barrier to broad workforce participation.
- Implement a state-wide co-payment in the calculation for child care subsidies, up to 200% of poverty and fully fund local social services districts. Schenectady County's co-payment is at 35% of income over the poverty level, the highest in the state (along with 23 other counties).

#### **Universal Pre-k:**

**SCAP supports** community-based early education programs that provide high quality services in a cost-efficient manner. High quality programming exists in Schenectady County and can be expanded with additional UPK resources directed to community providers above the state-mandated 10%.

- Expanding funding for universal pre-kindergarten (currently not a universal program); increasing the state-mandated 10% pass-through to community based providers in current UPK legislation; creating a consistent state-wide reimbursement per child for community providers; reforming Pre-k financing by conducting a cost-study of quality pre-k as recommended by the Board of Regents to establish appropriate compensation and support for qualified and effective teachers in community programs.

Find out more





Schenectady Community  
Action Program

*Creating Opportunity in Partnership*

## K- 12 Education:

SCAP's 2015 Community Needs Assessment highlighted the increase in the number of economically disadvantaged students in every school district except the Schenectady City School District.

SCAP supports the [Fiscal Policy Institute's recommendations](#).

- Support the Executive Budget proposal of a 3% increase over last year.
- Recognize it is nowhere near the required amount to meet the State obligation under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity which seeks to create parity in school funding for districts with higher needs students. Meeting the state's obligations would dramatically improve equity in funding for Schenectady City School District, and potentially provide local tax relief.

Find out more



---

## Homelessness:

While the rate of homelessness in the US in 2015 was 17.7 per 10,000 people, New York's rate of homelessness was 44.7, among the highest in the nation with only Hawaii and Washington D.C. coming in higher (53.7 and 110.8 respectively). Housing is vital and studies have shown that preventing homelessness reduces trauma in children as well as the lasting impact of poverty on children and adults. Without a stable home, it is difficult for families to maintain employment and provide for their young children. It is challenging for people to address health, mental health, and addiction issues.

SCAP supports the [Supportive Housing Network of NYS](#) and the [Capital Region Coalition to End Homelessness](#)

- SCAP supports increasing the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Shelter allowance to 50% of HUD Fair Market Rent and doubling the fuel allowance, which has not been increased in 28 years.
- \$3.4 million Increase for the NYS Supportive Housing Program – This includes NYSSHP and STEPH which remain under funded, but this will go to restoring prior year cuts.

Find out more





Schenectady Community  
Action Program

*Creating Opportunity in Partnership*

## Workforce Development:

Workforce development is an economic development catalyst, and flexible resources are necessary to invest in high quality education, training and employment efforts customized to the diverse needs of jobseekers and businesses. SCAP recognizes the links between jobs and the other issues facing low-income communities and strives to be an intermediary to support employer recruitment and retention with flexible and responsive services meeting the comprehensive needs of job seekers and employers.

**SCAP supports** the [New York Association of Training and Employment Professional \(NYATEP\)](#) and the NYS Displaced Homemakers Association

- Direct 10% of the \$175 million for REDCs to workforce solutions aligned to economic development projects, prioritizing the use of funds for low wage or unemployed workers.
- \$3.5 million for Displaced Homemaker Programs. The DHP is a cost-effective, comprehensive program with a return on investment of \$14 for every \$1 spent.

Find out more



---

## Community Services:

According to the Talk Poverty Project by the Center for American Progress, NY ranks as having the highest income inequality in all fifty states. Jobs with low wages, pay based on variable hours, the pressures of increased cost of housing (44<sup>th</sup> in the nation for affordability), child care (NY ranks 45<sup>th</sup> for cost) and health care costs, and the reduction in the social safety net are combining to make it harder for Americans to manage their finances. Wages have been stagnant and in areas where minimum wage has increased such as New York, Federal Poverty Guidelines have not kept pace creating an eligibility issue for people accessing important supports.

**SCAP supports** the [Talk Poverty Project](#), [ALICE](#) and the [Fiscal Policy Institute's](#) and Strong Nonprofits for a Better NY recommendations.

- SCAP applauds efforts to date to raise the minimum wage, however NYS must ensure contracts increase commensurate with the minimum wage AND ensures a reasonable parity to support skilled workers (ensuring less wage compression) and reflect the skill and education levels that they require.



Schenectady Community  
Action Program

*Creating Opportunity in Partnership*

- SCAP supports increasing state investment in the sector's workforce and infrastructure including: \$23 million to fund the minimum wage increase for state contracts not yet adjusted to reflect the increased cost of service provision; \$65 million in salary increases (an equivalent 3.25% increase) for workers who have not seen an increase in over 8 years, and were not covered by the FY2018 increases for direct care workers; \$100 million in Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program (NICIP).

**Expansion of the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI)**– SCAP supports the 16 ESPRI communities selected for this important poverty reduction initiative and support further expansion of this initiative to Schenectady.

Find out more



---

## Federal Advocacy

The recent 2 yr. budget deal reached by Congress and signed by the President calls for an increase to non-discretionary spending of approximately \$63 billion in 2018 and \$68 billion in 2019. Because the individual spending bills have not been completed, this does not guarantee that local priorities will be met. Thank Congress for approving the budget deal. Then share your priorities as follows.

For the second year in a row the President has proposed deep cuts to federal programs and elimination of many of the programs provided by SCAP and others. While Congress has enacted a 2-yr budget deal, the Administration's budget is an indication of priorities, including cuts to vital programs. Experience shows us that when an administration has a priority to cut vital programs, erosion over time does in fact occur.

SCAP supports the [National Community Action Foundation's recommendations](#).

- **Federal Community Services Block Grant funds**: Maintain FY2016 funding levels at \$715 million.
- **Federal Li-HEAP**: Maintain FY 2016 levels of \$3.39 billion.

SCAP supports the [New York Association of Training and Employment Professional's \(NYATEP\) recommendation](#).



Schenectady Community  
Action Program  
*Creating Opportunity in Partnership*

- Level funding for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) at \$842.4 million for Adults Account, \$1.3 billion for the Dislocated Worker Account, and the WIOA Title II for \$635.2 million.
- Fund The Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) at 2017-18 levels of \$68 million. HPOG provides education and training to low-income individuals for occupations in the health care field.

### **Tax Plan and the Repeal of the Individual Mandate in the Affordable Care Act:**

The individual mandate required every person to acquire health insurance to decrease the overall cost of health care by increasing the number of healthy people within the pool of insured. The creation of the health care marketplaces to accommodate this requirement enabled millions to purchase insurance at more affordable prices.

There continues to be efforts in Congress to reduce Medicaid spending and the Administration is allowing States to impose work requirements on Medicaid enrollees. While a majority of people receiving Medicaid who can work do, this is not supported by SCAP. There is no requirement, or funding authorized, to support expanding child care (further exacerbating our child care crisis), and no additional funding for work preparedness or training. For states that support this, additional costs will be incurred that will further pressure existing resources.

**SCAP supports** the [recommendations of the National Alliance to End Homelessness](#).

- \$2.6 billion (increase of \$217 million) for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. This will provide additional housing to 40,000 people; and there is a 15% cut in the President's budget.

### **Other areas impacting low income people:**

- College less affordable – the President's budget eliminated subsidized loans
- Deep cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) – The President's budget cuts SNAP by \$190 billion over the next 10 years.

Find out more



---

Questions can be addressed to: Debra L. Schimpf, Executive Director @ dschimpfceo@scapny.org

**There are over 2.8 million NY residents living in poverty (15.7%). In Schenectady County the rate is 12.6% and in the City of Schenectady it is 22%. The Child Poverty Rate in Schenectady County is 20.9% and in the City of Schenectady it is 40.1%.**