National Partners Webinar on CARES Spending
July 14, 2022

00:36:51	Willie Mae Butler - Pointe Coupee Community Advancement
00:37:41	Jessica Troxclair and Trina Bryan St Bernard Parish Government
00:37:42	Cappri Le Beaux: JeffCAP
00:38:00	Amy Reyes - SOCAG
00:38:06	Melisha Johnson - CSBG State Office
00:38:08	Melissa Wingate: Courtney Cox - Vernon Community Action Council, Inc.
00:38:20	Alicia Ashford- CACEHR
00:38:24	Julie Lockhart - Natchitoches Parish Government Office of Community Services
00:38:31	Andrea Olson - CAP North Dakota
00:38:32	Shannon Vaughan - Douglas-Cherokee CSBG Manager
00:38:33	Christie Baldridge, Deep Fork CAF, Inc.
00:38:36	Colleen Cullen - MASSCAP
00:38:38	Lacey Swamp Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation
00:38:39	Amanda Matis - Lafourche Parish Council Office of Community Action
00:38:39	Julie Davis-Jaffe SETA Sacramento County
00:38:44	Teena Smith, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council
00:38:52	Cheryl Oglesby-Townes:Cheryl Oglesby-Townes - NWTEDC
00:38:54	Hester Brown, Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People
00:38:56	Mike Williams, Mountain Community Action Program
00:39:00	Marisa Semense, Long Beach Community Action Partnership
00:39:03	Michelle Mogck-South Dakota/Rural Office Of Community Services
00:39:04	Staci Johnston: Staci Johnston, Calaveras-Mariposa Community Action Agency (CMCAA)
00:39:05	Jessica Wederski, Kansas Association of Community Action Programs
00:39:08	Patricia Kelleher, Waldo Community Action Partners, Belfast, ME Director of Community Services
00:39:12	Pattye L. Sawyer, Pinellas Opportunity Council, Inc. (St. Petersburg, FL)
00:39:14	Beauregard Melissa Wingate: Melissa Wingate
00:39:15	Janelle Wuoristo, Penquis, Bangor, Maine
00:39:18	Ana Gregg - Carson City Health & Human Services, Carson City Nevada.
00:39:19	Mary Jo Terrance
00:39:20	Chelsey Clay- Delta Human Resource Agency
00:39:21	Jeannie Chaffin:Great to see who is here. Thanks for letting us know
00:39:22	Sharon Harris-Natchitoches Parish Office of Community Services
00:39:27	Nilda Olmeda - CAP Accion Social de Puerto Rico
00:39:30	Rebecca Gage, Western Maine Community Action
00:39:32	Amber Bridges: Carole Bolden - Pinellas Opportunity Council, Inc.
00:39:37	Melissa Wingate Beauregard Community Action
00:39:37	Heidi LeBlanc: Penquis, Bangor, Maine.
00:39:39	Leslie A Rivera, Gateway Community Action Partnership
00:39:40	Hugo Giron County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services
00:39:41	Kelsie Shaffer- Rural Office Of Community Services
00:39:44	Jerome Underwood - ABC Rochester, NY
00:39:44	Carla Flynn, Opportunities, Inc. CAA
00:39:45	Kathie Flanery, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, Pontiac Michigan
00:39:47	Lyndsey Schoelzel - Nevada Community Action Association
00:39:47	Lora Papachek - Dakota Prairie CAA, ND
00:39:52	Mary Jane Ostrander, Carson City Health and Human Services--Carson City, Nevada

00:39:52 Margo Fowler and Marilyn Lee, ACTION, Inc. Georgia
00:39:53 Cheryl Butz with CAP -Ramsey and Washington Counties
00:39:54 Jade Sun, Wildfire AZ
00:39:55 Nicole Jacob WBR Parish council
00:39:56 David Knight, CalCAPA
00:39:57 Mike Burnett - Concho Valley Community Action Agency - San Angelo TX
00:39:57 Andrea Werner - CAP North dakota
00:39:59 Erina Delic with Pima County CAA
00:40:01 Erik Johnston, Virginia Community Action Partnership
00:40:04 Rachel N. Washington- Ouachita Multipurpose Community Action Program (Monroe, LA)
00:40:07 Biz Steinberg, CAPSLO in CA
00:40:10 Jordan Herald with UCHRA, Putnam County TN
00:40:14 Teresa Runyon, CFO MountainHeart Community Services WV
00:40:18 Terri Cole Deep Fork Community Action Foundation
00:40:22 Alex Lynch, BRAD Corporation, Arkansas
00:40:27 Carolyn Coleman, Planning Department, CAP OC Orange County, CA
00:40:46 John Ann Thompson, Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency
00:40:49 Amy Loeffelholz, WISCAP
00:40:55 St. Louis - Newcap
00:40:57 Annie Shapiro, MinnCAP
00:41:02 Cindy Stephens, CSBG, Northwest TN Economic Development Council
00:41:04 Mike Davis - Big Five Community Services - Durant, OK
00:41:10 Kristen Keck, Fiscal Officer, Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group, Altus Ok
00:41:12 Kathen Caldwell with Quin Rivers Inc dba Thrive Virginia
00:41:14 Kathleen Donahue, ABCD, Inc. Boston
00:41:20 Erin Jacobson: Erin Jacobson, Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association--good day all!
00:41:25 Brenda Nettles, Mobile Community Action, Inc., Mobile, AL
00:41:28 Brian Wainwright, Director of Coordinated Access at Harford Community Action Agency in Harford County Maryland. Bwainwright@harfordcaa.org
00:41:29 Lori Pahvitse, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Idaho
00:41:30 Richard Robichaud Greater Lawrence Community Action Council. Inc. Lawrence Massachusetts
00:41:33 Ryan Gelman (he/him), NCAP
00:41:39 Karla Benford, OKACAA
00:41:42 Rhonda Williams, Community Action Council, Lexington, KY
00:41:44 Misty Spurlock and Pam Safford Northeast KY CAA
00:41:45 Maureen Nelson, GROW South Dakota
00:41:55 Shannon Sattler, Opportunities, Inc. Oklahoma
00:42:16 Leslie Dunn, Self Help Inc. (Brockton, MA)
00:42:17 Leslie Taylor, greetings from California
00:42:23 Terry Bearden, Executive Director at Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association
00:42:27 Sheryl Andrews: Central Piedmont Community Action, North Carolina (Chatham, Durham, Orange & Randolph counties)
00:42:41 Deb Polun - Connecticut Association for Community Action (CT's state association)
00:42:44 Jane Drapeaux HACAP in Hiawatha, IA
00:43:19 Maureen Murphy, MVCAA
00:43:40 Shannon Loyd, Coastal Plain Area, E.O.A.
00:43:41 Linda Marshall-Mobile Community Action
00:43:51 Manuel Rosa: Hello from New York

00:43:56 Natasha Pauling, South Carolina Association of Community Action Partnerships npauling@scacap.org (Representing CEO Jessica McMoore. jmcmoore@scacap.org)
00:44:25 Traci Lawrence, Melissa Hocker with Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri
00:45:16 Lorie Suddath, Northwest TN Economic Development Council
00:45:21 Regina Lawrence, Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. Shreveport, Louisiana
00:46:28 Amanda Shelton, Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA)
00:46:29 Everlena Ross, Pittsylvania County Community Action,
00:48:03 Sheri Oneto, Chairperson CAB San Joaquin County - hello from Northern CA.
00:49:11 Annette Collins, Caddo Community Action Agency, Inc. Shreveport, Louisiana
00:49:44 Lana Shope: **There is no carryover. There is NO carryover.**
00:50:31 Crystal Kirkham- United Community Action Program, Inc. Pawnee OK
00:50:36 Lilian Romero, LEO Inc. Lynn, MA
00:50:39 Stacy Miller C.A.R.D. Coweta Okla
00:50:53 Wyo Help - Wyoming
00:51:32 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: CARES funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022. Small states have until September 30, 2023 (for their second allocation). List of small states forthcoming.**
00:52:05 **Jeannie Chaffin: And any training rendered by the end of September 30, 2022 unless you are a small state and have the extended time.**
00:52:19 Conchita Malone- Pine Belt MPCAA in Louisiana - Region 6
00:52:23 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP If you are not one of these states, you must obligate your CARES funds by September 30, 2022:**
Alaska
Delaware
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Hampshire
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Wyoming
00:53:45 **Lana Shope: Increasing attention and oversight on all CARES funding, not just CSBG CARES.**
00:54:15 **Skylar Walker: Our agency is working towards online applications and paperless/digital service access, especially with the transportation barriers we are seeing. We intend to use DocuSign and want to sign and purchase a 2-year contract with CARES dollars, paid in full, before the end of the CARES period. Would this be an allowable expense?**
00:59:24 **Mike Burnett: Hi Skylar - we have developed online applications and mobile apps (for use on phones/tablets)...shoot me an email if you want to see our stuff (mburnett@cvcaa.org)**
00:59:36 Lana Shope: If we do well, setting up for a very exciting time.
00:59:43 Theresa Walsh: Universal Basic Income
01:00:08 Carol Childress, Janet Cook here from CSBG TN State office out of Nashville.
01:00:08 Lisa Gautreaux - ACTION, Inc. (Athens, GA)
01:00:12 Lana Shope: **This is an important test and we can do this! Quote from David Bradley**.

01:01:11 Jeannie Kraft - CAP VII, Inc, Bismarck ND

01:02:56 **Rachel Washington: I thought that we weren't requiring anymore documentation for the assistance because everyone was technically affected by Covid???**

01:03:35 Ana Gregg: I Ditto Rachel question.

01:08:54 Lana Shope: @rachel Washington, an explanation as why the service/ product is needed. Showing the inflation rate, the average cost of gas, noting the increased food costs and the increased CARES SNAP benefits ending have caused additional hardship on people experiencing poverty.

01:10:35 Rachel Washington: ok then, thanks for the clarity.

01:12:46 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: @ Stephanie - Small States received two allocations -- an initial allocation that was received in 2020, and then a second allocation that was received in 2021. The funds that were received in 2020 need to be expended by September 30, 2022. If you have questions, you should clarify with your state to ensure you are fully expending your funds according to the required timeframes. There will not be additional allocations of CARES funds from the federal level.**

01:15:37 **Jeannie Chaffin: If you are utilizing disc/ and admin at the state, association, CAAs same conditions apply**.

01:17:12 PJ Estep- Mountain Heart Community Services, Program Director

01:17:22 **Ditzah Wooden-Wade: What is the * for Mortgage? Since as far as I am aware there was never any guidance provided related to mortgage and as such we have not deemed it permissible.**

01:17:58 **Leslie Dunn: Are gas giftcards an allowable cares expense?? Huge need for that!!**

01:18:51 cindy stephens:Yes we would love to do that but we don't know how to document how it was spent....monitors!

01:18:59 Patricia Estep: How are agencies providing gas since gift cards are not allowed? Also, with the Mountaineer Rental Assistance we have not been able to help with rent.

01:20:23 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: @Ditzah, hi! Mortgage is complicated, but some states have determined that the cost is allowable. Agencies should refer to their state for guidance on if the cost is allowable or not in their state -- not every state allows for mortgage assistance. No federal guidance has been released just yet on the allowability of mortgage assistance.**

01:21:12 David Knight: Can someone help by asking OCS to approve our RPIC CARES funding carryovers?!

01:21:28 Erin Jacobson: Ditto to David!

01:21:36 David Knight: Our money has been spent months ago but can't get the draws!

01:21:58 Leslie Dunn: Thank you Hugh, I will check, we have a lot of cleints struggling to buy gas to get to work :-(

01:23:39 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: @ Patricia, gift cards are not disallowed in CSBG at the federal level, but your state may have rules around gift cards. Check in with your state, and states - reach out to NASCSP if you need help with thinking through gift card processes!**

01:23:57 **Leslie A Rivera: Can you please clarify whether or not gas gift cards are an allowable expense under the CARES Act. Thanks.**

01:23:59 **It is my finance department that is not very willing to take the risk it could be. I would do it in a heartbeat, but we are very gunshy about not having everything documented when it comes to spending $**

01:25:16 **@leslie A Rivera They are allowed within the federal guidance but some states have other rules. you need to check with your state office but let them know the CSBG CARES does allow it**.

01:25:55 **MIHC2: what household appliances could be purchased under cares?**

01:27:14 Leslie A Rivera: @ Lana Shope, thanks for clarifying.

01:28:35 **Finance Directors need to know that simply not spending is not a successful result.**

01:29:12 **Natasha Pauling: Could you guys do a focused regional/national training on gas cards, and other similar issues, Jeannie? That way, maybe they could hear the success stories, and get the same information at the same time.**

01:30:01 **Ditzah Wooden-Wade: Even States are a little gun-shy on some appropriate CARES uses because of seeking clarification from our Federal colleagues; e.g. mortgage**

01:31:30 **Lana Shope:@natasha Pauling, yes we can do a focused regional training on spending issues. NASCSP, CAPLAW and NCAP will do it jointly with agencies, state association and state office staff.**

01:31:34 **Sherrie Gillespie: If we have approve a utility payment on 9/28 and will be submitting payment to the utility company a few days after 9/30 is that OK**

01:31:58 **Skylar Walker: We assist with tuition for STEM school for children and pay on a semester basis, starting in August for Aug - December. Can we only pay Aug/Sept orrrr for the full semester?**

01:34:26 **Erica Johnson: What about offering bonuses to staff that work directly with the public throughout COVID? Shelters, Pantry, etc?**

01:34:54 Natasha Pauling: @Lana Excellent! Thank you. I will inform my CEO. Please contact Jessica McMoore for additional scheduling needs (jmcmoore@scacap.org)

01:35:08 **Leslie Dunn: With significant increases just implemented in MA for electricity rates, and many cleints already in arears. If we were made utility payments, could we pay enough to leave a credit on the client account?**

01:36:24 **Carl Olian: What about freezers, refrigerators, etc. for food pantries due to the enormous increase in the need for food?**

01:36:55 **Heidi LeBlanc: Appliances: wage loss and increased costs might prompt payment. Also, not having these appliances could impact health increasing the likelihood of negative experiences if sick.**

01:37:25 **Leslie Dunn: We have also had many families coming to us in need of child car seats. Is that something we could buy for families? The cost of them has significantly increased**

01:38:11 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: If you missed our last webinar, we ran through a top 10 list of ways to use CARES funds - you can check out that webinar recording, slides, and list of ideas here: https://communityactionpartnership.com/webinar/csbg-cares-spending-network-conversation-with-ocs-ncap-nascsp-caplaw-ncaf/**

01:40:00 Skylar Walker: Clients!

01:41:17 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: Several questions about using CARES for incentive pay or benefits for the amazing folks who have provided services throughout COVID -- CAPLAW has a great resource that dives some of the considerations and nuances that you can check out here: https://resources.caplaw.org/resources/building-blocks-of-employee-compensation/**

01:41:50 Kathen Caldwell: Thank you, Maribeth, for these links!

01:42:04 Erica Johnson: Thank you, Maribeth!

01:42:50 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: @Leslie, car seats are certainly an allowable cost -- just be clear about the tie to COVID-19 and its impacts.**

01:42:59 **Natasha Pauling: Excellent argument. You may also be able to use final drop dates for the course(s) as a part of that argument.**

01:43:39 Leslie Dunn: @Maribeth, thank you!
01:43:42 **Mary Jo Terrance: What type of summer learning programs would qualify?**
01:44:11 We gave all staff a COLA COVID bonus of $1,000 in April.
01:45:43 **Cora Lucero: If we helped someone with rent assistance December 2020 a would they be eligible again?**
01:46:04 **Rachel Washington: What's a COLA COVID bonus???**
01:46:31 **Caroline Santilli, CAPLAW: https://resources.caplaw.org/resources/building-blocks-of-employee-compensation/**
01:46:32 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: @Cora, this depends on your local policies.**
01:47:16 **Rachel Washington: Could it be for the employees that had covid and were off without pay???**
01:47:33 **Anna Cardarella: Sorry. Cost of Living Adjustment. Because the Cost of Living rose so much during the pandemic. Our state (Wisconsin) approved this bonus.**
01:48:13 **Anna Cardarella: Now many of our Wisconsin CAPs have used CARES dollars for this purpose.**
01:48:39 **Veronica Zhang, CAPLAW: @Rachel yes, this would essentially be paid leave, which is fringe benefit. You just have to have a policy that provides that you'll pay employees for a certain # of days of COVID leave**
01:49:42 **Natasha Pauling: Is there a limit on the amount we can spend on car seats, or can we choose one of the safer, more expensive, versions?**
01:50:02 **Chelsey Clay: Would this be for all employees or just CSBG employees as it relates to the incentives mentioned above?**
01:51:06 We gave the bonus to all of our employees.
01:52:37 Leslie A Rivera: **Can incentive payments be justified because of the surge in gas prices due to COVID?**
01:53:15 **Elizabeth Ridgeway: Is setting up food pantries allowable?**
01:54:00 **Carl Olian: What about overtime costs due to employees and the high number of new cases due to COVID?**
01:55:56 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: In case you missed it … there is NO CARES carryover!!!**
01:56:01 **Sheryl Andrews: Did someone say purchasing computers for clients is an allowable CARES cost?**
01:57:01 **Kathen Caldwell: Appliances, carseats, a vehicle all in a similar category? As long as we can justify...**
01:57:27 **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: @Sheryl, computers can be allowable for the people you serve. Be sure to be clear about the connection to COVID-19 and its impacts, and check with your state about any specific requirements for technology purchases. Also, be mindful of date of purchase -- not as justifiable September 30th as July 30th!**
01:57:46 Sheryl Andrews: thank you @maribeth!
01:58:59 **Veronica Zhang, CAPLAW: @Carl, overtime payments are required under federal + state law, so they are definitely allowable costs (you just have to allocate properly to CARES CSBG based on benefit to that grant). If you're thinking about awarding bonuses to employees for serving more families during COVID, that's an incentive payment, and the incentive criteria would be related to # of families served**
02:00:06 **Amanda Matis: Just a suggestion..... we have been helping the elderly by providing Boost, Ensure, Undergarments if they meet CSBG guidelines and have a prescription for these items.**
02:00:24 **Natasha Pauling: Could we tie it to the work from home opportunities that are available, if they have a reliable computer?**

02:00:49 Leslie Dunn: **We have families that have had little to no change in their income over the last 2 years, but are struggling so much more because of rent increases, food cost, fuel costs, everything etc I think we all just want to help anyway we can**

02:01:14 Denise Waits: We want to hear from you! Please provide us your feedback for today's webinar: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCAPJuly14

02:02:01 **Amanda Shelton: At 150% or below, there are several needs that are already "unmet." On top of that is a layer of COVID, these were unmet needs before covid and remain unmet through covid. People make the decision between food v. medicine; paying for gas v. paying for a job interview suit. Meeting the needs of the family is broad and can be applied widely**.

02:02:27 Rachel Washington: It was very informative!!! Thank ya'll

02:02:27 Leslie Dunn: @Amanda agreed!

02:02:28 Kim St. Louis: Thank you!

02:02:32 Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, NCAP: Thank you all!