



NACS NEWS

*A Tradition
of Caring!*

September 2017
Volume 21, Issue 4

Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.

- 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York, 14207, (716) 874-4460, Fax (716) 874-1874
- 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York, 14305, (716) 299-0914, Fax (716) 299-0903
- 76 West Avenue, Lockport, New York, 14094, (716) 302-3035, Fax (716) 302-3037

NACS Workforce Development Services

submitted by Colleen Casali, Economic Self-Sufficiency Director

Well it's that time of year again. Summer is winding down and school is starting. For many it's going back to your old school with old friends or starting high school with old friends and meeting new ones. But what if you're one of those people going to college for the first time? New school, new friends, new environment and a new way of living. This all sounds scary, but nothing compared to all the prep you need to do before college.

Now most of you in this situation have already filled out all your college applications, been accepted to an institution and have completed your FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and know how much of your tuition has been covered and what you and your parents are responsible to pay. If this has not happened yet, then you won't be able to start this semester.

Much of this process is started while you are a junior and senior in high school. Your Guidance Counselor should be helping you with the process. If you feel you need more help or are looking for specific Native American Scholarships to help cover the cost of your education, then please contact NACS' Workforce Development Services at (716) 874-2797, ext. 314 or 317.

If you are a Native American who is enrolled in a state or federally recognized Tribe/Nation or from Six Nations in Canada living in the United States and have explored all financial aspects but still need assistance with tuition or books, please contact NACS' Workforce Development Services. We have limited assistance for qualified participants.

If you were unsure of what you wanted to do in life

and didn't apply for college, but want to do so now, please contact NACS' Workforce Development Services.

Maybe you feel that college is not for you. How about a Certification course or maybe you just want to work. NACS' Workforce Development Services can help with that too.

We assist with resume development, employment search, mock interviewing and work ready assessments. We have computers to submit on-line applications and we have a recruiter who comes from the Casino to help fill out applications. If you're not sure what you need help with, just call us and talk. Tom and Colleen will do their best to help you make those important life decisions.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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Unfilled at this time.

Newsletter Editor:

George T. Ghosen, Sr.

PROGRAM DATES:

- Regular HEAP opens 11/13/17. **No** emergency situations can be addressed until this date and no payment promises can be made before this date.
- Denials cannot be data entered prior to 11/13/17.
- Emergency HEAP opens 1/2/18.
- Both Regular and Emergency HEAP are tentatively scheduled to close on 3/15/18.
- The Heating Equipment Repair & Replacement component (furnaces) opens on 11/6/17 and will close when funds are exhausted.
- The Cooling Assistance Component will run from 5/1/18 to 8/31/18 or whenever funds are exhausted.
- The Heating Equipment Clean & Tune program will run from 7/2/18 to 11/2/18 or whenever funds are exhausted.

REGULAR HEAP

REGULAR HEAP OPENS 11/13/17.

- Maximum income guidelines have increased for 2017 – 2018. See page 5 for new guidelines.
- There are two changes to the Regular benefit amounts from 2016 – 2017 in **bold** below:
 - Minimum heater's benefit (natural gas, PSC electric, municipal electric) = \$350
 - **Minimum heater's benefit (oil, kerosene & propane) = \$675**
 - Minimum heater's benefit (wood, coal, other deliverable) = \$525
 - \$26.00 add-on for Tier I

- \$25 add-on for Vulnerable household member
- Maximum heater's benefit (natural gas or electric) = \$401
- **Maximum heater's benefit (oil, kerosene & propane) = \$726**
- Maximum heater's benefit (wood, coal, other deliverable) = \$576
- Municipal electric heat benefit rates are the same as PSC electric heat rates.
- Renter's benefits remain at \$30 or \$35 (Tier II or Tier I)
- The \$21.00 "Heat & Eat" benefit is unchanged for clients residing in subsidized housing with heat included in the rent.
- Non-heating (utility only accounts) may be eligible for a renter's benefit only if the customer does not reside in subsidized housing and is not a room & boarder.
- If a household moved during the HEAP season, they may be eligible for a supplemental regular benefit if they received a renter's benefit but are now responsible for the heating bill.
- A telephone interview may be used in place of an in-person interview for all households applying for regular benefits with the exception of furnace repair or replacement.

- An application and all relevant documentation is still required.

- Clients may apply for regular HEAP online via myBenefits and online applications will be processed in the myWorkspace system.

MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If you are planning on moving or changing your address, please contact NACS so we may update our mailing list. Call (716) 874-2797, ext. 378 or send an email to: gghosen@nacswny.org

EMERGENCY HEAP

EMERGENCY HEAP OPENS 1/2/18.

- Applications for emergency HEAP may not be accepted before this date and no promises of emergency HEAP payment or promises of non-utility fuel delivery may be made until 1/2/18. The household must have already received a regular HEAP benefit and be resource tested before emergency HEAP may be issued.
- Applicants may apply for emergency HEAP by phone and the Emergency HEAP telephone application process is unchanged from the 2016 – 2017 season.
- Applicants may not apply for emergency HEAP via myBenefits.
- There is one change to the Emergency HEAP benefit amounts from 2016 – 2017 levels for clients heating with oil, kerosene & propane only. See in bold below:
 - Heat-related domestic: \$140 (PSC and municipal electric)
 - Natural gas heat only: \$350
 - Natural gas & electric utility: \$490
 - Electric heat: \$490 (PSC and municipal electric)
 - **Non-utility fuel (oil/ kerosene & propane): \$675**
 - Wood, coal, other deliverable fuel: \$525

The presence of a vulnerable household member has no effect on the benefit rate for emergency HEAP.

- **Renter's benefit households are normally not eligible for an emergency benefit.** In order to be eligible for the emergency benefit, the household must have an electric service that is necessary to run the furnace or thermostat (heat-related domestic).
- There continues to be no tenant of record requirement for emergency HEAP. As with regular HEAP, the client must only prove that they reside in the residence and that it is their primary residence. They must be customer of record for emergency HEAP.
- Applicants must have a termination notice or have a heating fuel supply that is less than one-quarter of the household's fuel tank or less than a 10 day supply and be unable to obtain a delivery.
 - A household that has already received both regular and emergency HEAP for non-utility fuel heat may still be eligible for a heat-related domestic emergency benefit if electric service is necessary to operate the furnace or the thermostat.

- Resource limits continue to be the same as those for Temporary Assistance. Applicant households may not have more than \$2,000.00 in available liquid resources in order to be eligible for emergency HEAP.
 - If the household contains a member age 60 or older, the resource limit is \$3,000.00.
- Resource exemptions include the deduction of any penalties or costs incurred to withdraw funds from IRAs, stocks, bonds, CDs or other types of countable resources and also include the cash value of life insurance.
- Allowable exemptions for monthly living expenses only include essential expenses, to include shelter (rent/mortgage, homeowner's insurance, mandated fees, water/sewer, trash removal, taxes), out of pocket medical expenses, food, employment-related transportation, child care, court-ordered payments, and the cost of one phone. Other essential living expenses may be allowed on a case by case basis.
- Emergency resolution – some action must be taken, regardless of eligibility, within 18 hours of the filing date if household is without heat or within 48 hours if loss of heat is imminent. Actions can be referral to emergency housing, pro-

viding the household with safe, supplemental heat, alternate housing, etc.

must change vendors, as the tanks are owned by the propane company.

- Prior to 11/6/17, homeowners in need of furnace repair/replacement may apply under emergency assistance guidelines and the 200% Federal Poverty Level income guidelines apply. Any and all available resources must be applied towards the cost of repair or replacement and all applicants will be required to sign a lien against their home.
- All furnace applications under emergency assistance guidelines will be handled at 111 Westfall Rd. again this season. Appointments may be scheduled at 753-6477.
- Anyone applying for a furnace between 11/6/17 and 11/13/17 will have to apply separately for regular HEAP on or after 11/13/17 when the program opens.

NON-UTILITY FUEL HOUSEHOLDS

- HEAP payments for non-utility fuel may not be applied against past-due accounts. They may only be used toward a current or future delivery. Clients must receive one dollar's worth of fuel for every HEAP dollar issued.
- The vendor that accepted the regular benefit must also accept the emergency benefit unless the client is no longer a customer.
- Households in good standing on a budget plan and/or on automatic delivery may not be eligible for emergency HEAP.
- HEAP can assist with payments for propane tank deposits when the customer

Note: This is only for customers who are required to change vendors due to service termination, etc., and this benefit is not available until 1/2/18.

TAN/SNAP AUTOPAY

- The Temporary Assistance autopay is scheduled for 9/9/17. SNAP autopay is scheduled for 9/16/17.
- There is no second autopay at this time.

FURNACE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT

- The HEAP furnace repair/replacement component will open on 11/6/17 and will run until funds are exhausted.



2017 – 2018 Monthly Income Eligibility Guidelines

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income limit</u>
1	\$2,318
2	\$3,031
3	\$3,744
4	\$4,457
5	\$5,170
6	\$5,883
7	\$6,017
8	\$6,150
9	\$6,284
10	\$6,418
11	\$6,733
12+	+\$523*

**Add this amount for each person after the total number of people exceeds 11 persons in a household.*

BUNDLED ARROWS YOUTH AWARD 2017

Native American Community Services is accepting nominations until **Friday, September 8, 2017**, for its **seventh** annual youth recognition award to be presented this year at the NACS Gala on October 5, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Niagara Falls.

The award will honor a Native American youth between the ages of 13 to 20 residing in Erie or Niagara Counties who actively works to make a difference in their family, school and/or local community while serving as a positive role model for other Native youth.

Previous Youth Award winners include: Jake Van Every, Zach Cruz, Robert Van Every. Kiana Marshall, Quinna Hamby and Sierra LaBorgne.

For further information on award criteria and to receive nomination forms, please contact Norine Borkowski at 874-2797, extension 304 or e-mail: nborkowski@nacswny.org



ESS/Elders Picture Page



Verona Wable, Brenda Bradley, Treva Smith, Doris Patterson, Vivian Bradley, LLeWlyn Sayn, Jean Carpenter taken at Doreen Rickard's 80th Birthday party at the Community Hall on Tuscarora Rez.



Vivian, Brenda, Gwen, Doris, Verona taken at John Duke Senior Center in Niagara Falls NY removing the Quilt from the loom. Edges still needed to be completed.



Youth and Community Involvement: Opinion by PEEPS

The Peer Educators Empowering People (PEEPs) are the Stages of Life Empowerment Program's youth-led peer education program. The PEEPs are a youth-centered adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection prevention program that doesn't discriminate, opens communication, and creates safe spaces without judgement in order to empower the youth in the community to become self-advocates for sexual health. Recently, our PEEPs have been learning about social determinants of health in order to better understand our Buffalo community and how to help make sustainable changes for healthier youth. Here are their opinions on why youth are not involved in their communities.

Opinions: Why is there a lack of community involvement by our youth?

In not just one community but in multiple communities throughout Buffalo, New York there is a lack of community involvement. There is no guidance. There aren't enough people intervening between the streets and our youth. They tear up and destroy their own communities and environments because they weren't taught otherwise. They weren't taught to cherish what you have until you have something better. We all should be working together, building up our community, making it prosperous. There aren't enough role models in these communities. A standard needs to be set by our youth for our adults and guardians. We need to be met halfway. How can we possibly voice our opinions if we have no one to talk to, or if we don't know who to talk to, or who will listen, or who will help?

-Devona Loder

Gun violence, police brutality, skyrocketing teen pregnancies and STD rates. Why is this happening? Why is there a continuation of these events? We as a community are to blame for these events continuing in our society because we're not as involved as we should be. We should be more involved in our communities' activities and it's problems. We see lots of disturbing news in our media, yet we choose to sit idly by and remain silent. The idea that social issues are "not my problem" or "this has nothing to do with me" is not an excuse and is not helping. It's theorized that if we, the parents or elders, take part in community affairs, then our children would do the same. Just think about it- if our children spend more time participating in community functions versus playing video games or on their phones, the percentage of teen pregnancy and STDs would go down right along with gun violence. Teens would be so involved in the community that they wouldn't have time to engage in such risky behaviors. Instead, their time would be devoted to helping their neighborhoods to become a better place to live.

It could be argued that many people refuse to help out in the community because of the problems they've suffered at home, however, we should not let that affect the chances of our children to make the right decisions of getting involved in positive influences in our community. Many programs have been created to help our children remain on this positive path in the community like Boys and Girls clubs, summer and after school program, our mentoring program here at NACS (that'll be starting soon), basically anything that's youth friendly other than drugs, violence or risky sexual behavior.

-Destiny Jackson

If the community or elders in the community showed more involvement in their community, then the gun violence, police brutality, and the increasing rates of teen pregnancy and STDs wouldn't be so high. If parent or people surrounding youth showed a more positive way of living, youth wouldn't be

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

so at-risk. Youth are inspired by many things which are positive and some negative based on their community or environment. Some youth want to save people's lives and help people or want to leave their community through sports because they've seen people from their community do the same and that has had a positive impact, while some communities don't show a positive impact which in turn has had youth turning to drugs and violence. For example, you can't blame the drug dealer on the corner for being a drug dealer if that's all he's learned from his community growing up because his community didn't expose him to a positive way of living. Someone I look up to, LeBron James, once said, "The best teacher in life is experience." So we as a community have to be more involved in giving youth the opportunity to experience making a positive impact and building from that experience so they can learn how violence and negativity aren't the only things we can do with our lives, which will in turn teach the ones younger than them- if not by talking to them, then by showing them, which in itself can create domino effect of an endless cycle of youth teaching youth the right path, all by starting through the involvement of the community elders in the community.

-Mohamad Nor



NEW PROGRAM AT NACS

submitted by Colleen Casali, Economic Self-Sufficiency Director

In April NACS started a new program called Seasons. It is funded by The Administration for Native Americans and is geared towards our Native American community members. Seasons is designed to teach Haudenosaunee culture, tradition, financial education and economic growth in a hands-on manner, and how they can relate to each other. In our workshops participants learn how their finances fit into the teachings and how they can use their own talents and the skills they've learned to become more economically stable.

The first three modules and first family night have been completed and we are well under way with the fourth module. During the craft portion of the program we have already learned daisy chain beading, beaded picture frames, sweet

grass weaving, dream catcher making, strawberry ornaments and basket weaving. During the history portion we have learned beading history, how reeds are made from ash trees and medicinal properties of berries, particularly Strawberries. We also do cooking instruction and so far we have learned to make Strawberry jam, homemade biscuits for shortcake and fresh whipped cream.

On the financial side we have covered budgeting, spending plans, obtaining a free credit report, how to read it, how to correct errors and how to start repairing your credit. I have included some pictures so you can see the fun people are having learning about their culture, and even the financial part isn't so bad...hahaha!

Classes are offered once a week in both Erie and Niagara Counties for individuals 18 and older. Each person needs to register for the module they wish to attend, as topics change every five weeks. There is a maximum of 20 slots available for each module. Registration is on a first come first serve basis, however 5 slots will be held exclusively for first time registrants. After two modules we have a family night where participants will have the opportunity to showcase what they learned and made. Dinner is included. Priority is given to Native Americans.

If you are interested and would like to join us, please call to register. You can call Jill Morris at (716) 874-2797, ext. 315 or Colleen Casali at (716) 874-2797, ext. 314.



Trauma Stewardship: Strengthening Our Capacity to Help Others

A day-long workshop for professionals serving justice-involved people with behavioral/mental health needs

This program is brought to you by the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

A Compelling Mix of Personal Insight and Cutting Edge Research

The cumulative impact of daily exposure to the suffering and trauma of the individuals we work with can take a toll on our personal and professional lives. Laura van Demoot Lipsky, Founder and Director of the Trauma Stewardship Institute, will offer a compelling mix of personal insight and cutting edge research to help us gain a deeper understanding of vicarious trauma/ compassion fatigue, and offer tools to help us regain our strength, focus and purpose.

We welcome your participation in this day-long workshop offering a practical approach to sustaining ourselves professionally and personally in the face of challenging work while serving our stakeholders.

This workshop is Free of charge and is intended for:

- Behavioral/mental health and other service providers
- Police, probation, parole and corrections officers and law enforcement
- Victim service providers and advocates
- Individuals receiving services
- Family members
- Defense lawyers and prosecutors
- Any individuals working with justice-involved people with behavioral/mental health needs

Special thanks to Hilbert College and the Department of Justice for their assistance in coordinating the event.

October 27, 2017
8:00am - 1:00pm
Hilbert College
(Swan Auditorium)
5200 South Park Ave
Hamburg, NY 14075

[Click to Register >>](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES "All Our Relations" Project

Thursday
9/14/17
6-8 PM
1005 Grant St
Buffalo NY

Monday
9/18/17
6-8 PM
1522 Main St
Niagara Falls
NY

TO RSVP
AND
FOR MORE
INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT

LEANA MARACLE
716-874-4460 *344
LMARACLE@NACSWNY.ORG

Light Refreshments

Door Prize



Creation in Historical Context

Explanation & discussions of various versions
of the Haudensaunee Thanksgiving Address

Presented by Kevin White

Akwesasne Mohawk
Ph.D Director of Native American &
American Studies Program at SUNY-Oswego



The "All Our Relations" Project is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation,
as well as businesses, foundations and caring individuals.

Introducing Our Newest Members at NACS!

Marissa Haring is a new Health Educator in the SOLE program and will be implementing the Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) program along with other workshops. She earned her Bachelors in Science from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania with a concentration in Community Health; she is also a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Marissa's main interests are disease prevention and health education especially focusing on underserved populations. Before working at NACS she was a CAPP Health Educator at ACR Health in Syracuse, a Domestic Violence Victims Advocate at Liberty Resources in Oneida NY, and an Activity Leader at the Cattaraugus Community Center. Marissa enjoys playing and coaching lacrosse and hiking in her free time.

Sara Weinstein is a Health Educator in the Stages of Life Empowerment Program under the Health and Wellness Department. She has a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Albany, and a Master's degree in Health Education with NYS Teacher Certification from The College at Brockport. Before joining NACS, Sara worked as a Graduate Assistant for the Department of Public Health and Health Education at The College at Brockport, as a paramedic, and as a substitute teacher for Buffalo Public Schools. In her spare time, she enjoys weightlifting, traveling, reading, and listening to podcasts. She has a strong interest and passion for comprehensive sex education, with a focus on LGBTQ+ inclusivity. Sara lives in Lancaster with her husband and two cats.

News from the NACS Native American Elders Group

submitted by Vivian Bradley, Elders Program Manager

Hello, in case you weren't aware NACS has two Elders groups. One in Erie County and one in Niagara County.

The **Erie County Elders** group does several activities such as a luncheon on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month (unless it falls on a holiday) at the Buffalo Office 1005 Grant St., Buffalo NY 14207. Anyone 60 years of age or older is welcome to attend at no cost. Activities start around 11:30am and continue until about 2:30pm. During this time we have lunch, draw for door prizes and play bingo for prizes.

The Erie County Elders also have a Euchre Club that meets one evening a week, usually from 5:30pm-8:00pm. Light refreshments are served. Euchre club is happy to include anyone

who wants to come visit with their Elders and play a few hands.

We are currently examining the needs of the Elders of Erie County and will be developing new ways to assist and engage them. One option may be to provide transportation to attend community events. We will keep you updated on our progress.

The **Niagara County Elders** group meets every Tuesday from 11:30am – 2:30pm at the John Duke Senior Center, 1201 Hyde Park Blvd., Niagara Falls NY 14301. Participants can order lunch for \$3.50 at the center or bring your own. The group typically does some type of Native Craft after lunch. In the past we have made quilts, beaded

collars, gustowahs, weaved baskets and baby moccasins. This group is also open for Elders 60 years of age or older.

The group goes on field trips several times per year to places like, Native Centers in our area and Canada, Casinos, State Fair and Ganondagen. Birthdays are celebrated by choice of restaurant or a pot luck at John Duke. Both groups also participate in other NACS programs and activities.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining one of the Elders groups, please contact the Elders Program Manager - Vivian Bradley at 716-874-2797 x316 or the Economic Self-Sufficiency Director - Colleen Casali at 716-874-2797 x314.





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www.nacswny.org

Michael N. Martin

POSITION AVAILABLE

Equal Opportunity Employer

Posting Date: June 2017
Position: **SEASONS Program Specialist**
Type: Full-time (40 hours) / Hourly / Non-Exempt
Salary: \$13.70 hourly
Site: Niagara & Erie Counties

Summary: SEASONS is a three (3) year financial literacy program designed to strengthen the economic activities of the local Native American community while infusing cultural teachings and activities. The Specialist will provide instruction / workshops in all aspects of financial literacy. The Specialist will also arrange for cultural presentations / workshops by recognized Native American community leaders, blending financial literacy with cultural teachings. This position may work from both Erie and Niagara Counties.

Duties / Tasks

- † Effectively work to plan & promote community programming & cultural activities
- † Assist on developing strategies for addressing the social & economic challenges of the NA community
- † Coordinate and provide instruction / workshops in all aspects of financial literacy including, but not limited to, financial self-improvement, life skills, credit / debit differences & advantages, leadership & business opportunities
- † Foster & maintain community partnerships
- † Attend staff meetings and mandatory trainings
- † Promote safety at all times
- † Be a positive role model
- † Enthusiastically encourage an optimistic atmosphere
- † Ensure contract compliance
- † Complete any paperwork and reports on time

*Qualifications:

- Bachelors in related field (e.g. business, finance, economics)
- Comfortable & effective public speaker
- Analytical & detail orientated
- Strong communication skills & ability to influence others
- Knowledge of the local Native American community & resources
- Computer savvy
- Commitment to performance
- Outgoing, upbeat, able to get things done, can-do attitude
- Solid interpersonal skills
- Capable of lifting at least 25 lbs.
- Clean valid NYS driver's license w/ own transportation and auto liability insurance coverage of 100/300k
- Acceptable outcome of background investigations
- Able to successfully perform in a tobacco-free environment
- *All hires at the discretion of the Executive Director

For Consideration (REQUIRED):

Send Cover AND Resume

Email (only): ccaalder@nacswny.org

Subject: **SEASONS PS**

Closing Date: when filled

SEASONSProgramSpecialist.docx

