

ROMA Practitioners Meeting | Summary

September 20, 2016, 2:00pm – 6:00pm | September 21, 2016, 8:00am – 4:00pm | NASCSP Office, 111 K St, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002

MEETING CALLED BY

Community Action Partnership (the Partnership)

National Association of State Community Services Programs (NASCSP)

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Bring together a small group of ROMA practitioners to consider both strengths and concerns surrounding ROMA Next Generation and the current version of the proposed CSBG Annual Report.

FACILITATOR

Christine Westerlund, Director of Professional Development, Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies

PARTICIPANTS

LOCAL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Aaron Wicks, Action for a Better Community, NY; **Chris Seiber**, Action for Boston Community Development, MA; **Daniel Ofori-Addo**, United Planning Organization, DC; **Debbie Markman**, Economic Security Corporation, MO; **Erin Trenbeath-Murray**, Salt Lake CAP, UT; **Jim Stark**, Fayette County Community Action, PA; **Kris Rowe**, Community Action Agency of South Alabama, AL; **Lil Dupree**, People, Inc, VA; **Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev**, Louisville Metro Government, KY; **Maureen Abbott**, Tioga Opportunities, Inc, NY; **Patsy Mbughuni**, CAP Services WI, WI; **Robert Ellis**, Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc, CA

STATE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES:

Jim Schuyler, Virginia Community Action Partnership, VA; **Josh Summer**, Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies, OH; **Tiffany Keimig**, Iowa Community Action Association, IA

STATE CSBG LEAD AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Freeman Denton, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, NC; **Laura Saintey**, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, TX; **Sylmia Britt**, California Department of Community Services and Development, CA; **Sarah Phillips**, State of Vermont, Office of Economic Opportunity, VT

NATIONAL AND FEDERAL PARTNER REPRESENTATIVES:

Barbara Mooney, Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers and Consultant for NASCSP; **Denise Harlow**, Community Action Partnership; **Jackie Orr**, NASCSP; **Jarle Crocker**, Community Action Partnership; **Jeannie Chaffin**, Administration on Children and Families, Office of Community Services; **Jenae Bjelland**, NASCSP; **Kate Blunt**, Consultant for OCS and NASCSP; **Kimberly Clum**, Administration on Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation; **Seth Hassett**, Administration on Children and Families, Office of Community Services; **Tara Clark**, National Community Action Foundation

NOTE TAKERS

Cashin Yiu, Community Action Partnership; **Jonna Holden**, Administration on Children and Families, Office of Community Services; **Josezetta Alexander**, Administration on Children and Families, Office of Community Services; **Kyle Gasser**, NASCSP; **Lauren Cook**, NASCSP; **Lindsay Marsh**, Administration on Children and Families, Office of Community Services; **Tiffney Marley**, Community Action Partnership

MEETING AGENDA

Over the course of the ROMA Practitioner meeting, participants discussed the following topics in small groups and/or as a large group:

- Review of 60-day Comment Period Feedback (from the Network at large and the National Partners) on CSBG Annual Report
- Community Measures (i.e. Social Indicators, Rates, Percentages, Baseline)
- Community Initiative Status Page
- Organizational Standards Reporting in Module 1
- National Goal on Agency Capacity
- Analysis
- Estimated Burden
- Training and Technical Assistance

To see the full agenda, [click here](#).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016: ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION SUMMARY

MEETING OPENING

Jenae Bjelland, Executive Director of NASCSP and Denise Harlow, CEO of the Partnership, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Ms. Bjelland and Ms. Harlow discussed the purpose of the meeting and roles of the participants, stated as follows:

1. Review the major concerns raised during the 60-day comment period;
2. Recommend adjustments or replacement of elements that may not be adequate to our purpose in their current form; and
3. Recommend changes to language or focus for elements that are strong, but need improvement to be most useful to the entire network.

Jeannie Chaffin, Director of the Office of Community Services (OCS) gave opening remarks that highlighted the progress the Network has made over the past fifty years. Ms. Chaffin discussed how the organizational standards, state and federal accountability measures, and the newly Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cleared CSBG State Plan are a set of reforms that will invigorate our movement. Additionally, ROMA Next Generation and the CSBG Annual Report will measure our impact and place the Network in a powerful position with the new Administration, new congress, and new partners. Participants were urged to provide their wisdom to find solutions to address concerns related to the CSBG Annual Report.

REVIEW OF FEEDBACK FROM THE 60-DAY COMMENT PERIOD

Participants reviewed the top areas of concerns and recommendations identified in feedback received during the 60-day comment period. The top areas of concern are as follows:

- **Module 1, Section B: Statewide Goals and Accomplishments**
 - B.2 and B.3: Eligible Entity Overall Satisfaction Targets /Eligible Entity Feedback and Involvement
 - B.7: Summary Analysis
- **Module 1, Section D: Organizational Standards for Eligible Entities**
 - D.2: Organizational Standards Performance
- **Module 2, Section A: Local CSBG Expenditures**
 - Placement of Administration in Table 1
- **Module 2, Section B: Local Agency Capacity**
 - The current proposal does not include a national goal for agency capacity
- **Module 3, Section A: Community Level Initiatives**
 - Community Initiative Status Page
 - Inclusion of Collective Impact
- **Module 3, Section B: Community Level NPIs**
 - Use of Social Indicators
 - Use of Percentages and Rates
 - Baseline
- **Module 4, Section A: Characteristics for NEW Individuals and Households**
 - Unduplicated count
 - Concerns related to the addition of this report
- **Module 4, Section B: All Characteristics**
 - Unduplicated count
- **Module 4, Section C: Individual and Family NPIs**
 - 90/180 day follow up
 - Stability indicators

The top concerns identified to be discussed by the ROMA Practitioners are as follows:

- Community Measures (i.e. Social Indicators, Rates, Percentages, Baseline)
- Community Initiative Status Page

- Collective Impact
- Reporting on Organizational Standards Performance
- National Goal on Agency Capacity

DISCUSSION OF TOP CONCERNS

Participants were provided with discussion questions for every topic and met in small groups to discuss the top concerns stated above. Each group prepared notes on the major talking points to report out to the full group of ROMA Practitioners during the large group discussion on the following day.

To see the powerpoint presentation reviewing the areas of concern, recommendations, and discussion questions, [click here](#).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016: ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The ROMA Practitioners convened to continue the discussion from the previous day.

COMMUNITY MEASURES & COMMUNITY INITIATIVE STATUS PAGE

The ROMA Practitioners discussed the community measures, the status page, and use of the term collective impact. They identified several potential solutions, as well as areas for training and technical assistance. More time was spent on “community” than any other individual topic over the two days. The group reviewed challenges, assessed opportunities, and dialoged in small and large groups.

REPORTING ON ORGANIZATIONAL STANDARDS PERFORMANCE

The current proposal in Module 1 asks the State CSBG Lead Agency to “provide the percentage of eligible entities that met all State-adopted organizational standards in the reporting period.” The discussion of the group was largely centered on identifying revisions to ensure this question is no longer formulated with an “all or nothing” approach.

NATIONAL GOAL ON AGENCY CAPACITY

In the documents proposed during the 60-day comment period, the Theory of Change did not include a national goal on agency capacity and the CSBG Annual Report did not include indicators of agency capacity. The discussion focused on a variety of possibilities to ensure the concept of agency capacity is better incorporated.

ANALYSIS

The ROMA Practitioners met in small groups and reviewed the questions related to state reported analysis of data that is currently proposed in Module 1, Section B7, and considered how best to capture data analysis in the CSBG Annual Report and address it through T/TA. To see the powerpoint reviewing analysis, burden, and T/TA, [click here](#).

ESTIMATED BURDEN

The group reviewed the hourly burden estimate that was included in the [Federal Register Notice](#), as well as feedback from the 60-day comment period on the burden estimate.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (T/TA)

The group discussed the transition to ROMA NG/CSBG Annual Report and the need for targeted T/TA across all levels of the Network. The ROMA Practitioners considered the different kinds of T/TA efforts that will support this transition.

NEXT STEPS

OCS and NASCSP will assess the recommendations made from the 60-day comment period and the suggestions from the Practitioner Meeting and revise the CSBG Annual Report. The revised CSBG Annual Report will be submitted for the final, OMB Clearance 30-day comment period in mid-October.