

# Nonprofit CAA Board Training Tool

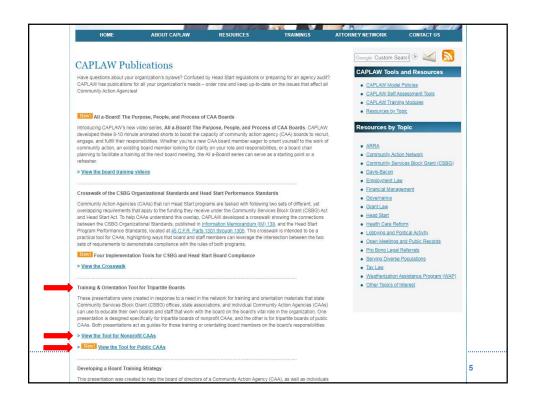
#### **CSBG Organizational Standard 5.8**

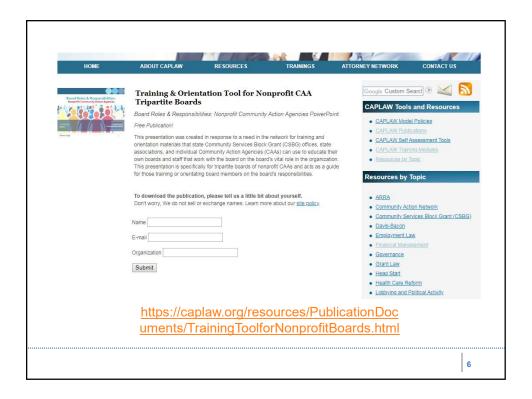
#### **Private**

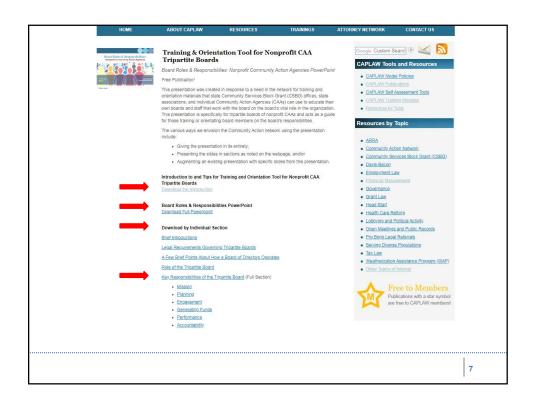
Governing board members have been provided with training on their duties and responsibilities within the past 2 years.

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Introduction to and Tips when Presenting:
Board Roles & Responsibilities: Nonprofit Community Action Agencies

This presentation was created in response to a need in the network for training and orientation materials that state Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) offices, state associations and individual Community Action Agencies (CAAs) can use to educate their own boards and staff that work with the board on the board's vital role in the organization. This presentation is specifically for tripartite boards of <u>nonprofit</u> CAAs and acts as a guide for those training or orientating board members on the board's responsibilities.

All of the slides include quizzes and scenarios and are all annotated in the notes section of the PowerPoint. The annotation provides the presenter with an understanding of the information that CAPLAW strives to convey when presenting on the topic addressed in the slide. The various ways we envision the Community Action network using the presentation include:

- Giving the presentation in its entirety;
  Presenting the slides in sections as noted on the webpage; and/or
  Augmenting an existing presentation with specific slides from this presentation.

The slides do not include all of the information that is important for tripartite boards to know. The slides are and the short of t

Here are a few points to think about when working with the presentation:

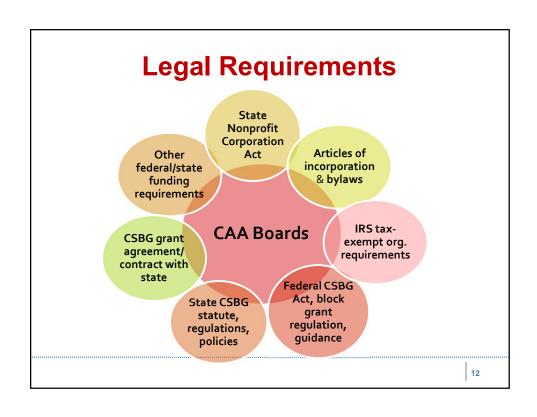
We intend for CAAs to use the PowerPoint in ways that will be most responsive to and effective for a particular CAA, state association or state CSBG office. Depending on the training and educational needs, the presenter may use all or some of the slides and may present the slides in an order that makes the most sense for the training. On the webpage, we make the slides available as a full presentation or via sections to help presenters recognize the flexibility we tried to build into this resource;

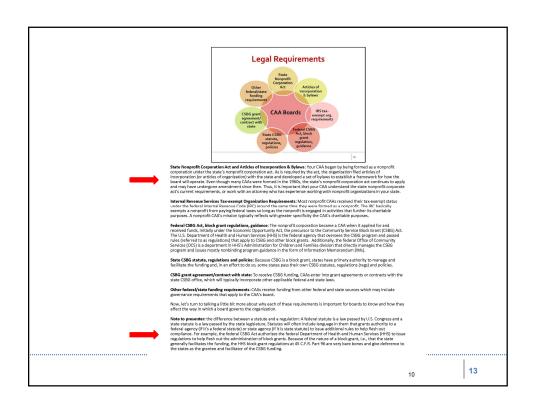


# **Agenda**

- Legal Requirements Governing Tripartite Boards
- A Few Brief Points About How a Board of Directors Operates
- Role of the Tripartite Board
- Key Responsibilities of the Tripartite Board

# Legal Requirements Governing Tripartite Boards





# **State Nonprofit Corporation Act**

- Generally, sets minimum standards of compliance and "default rules." True or False
  - For example, may establish vote requirements for certain actions; removal provisions; committee composition requirements, etc.
- Articles filed and bylaws created pursuant to the Act
  - If provisions of articles or bylaws are not consistent with the Act, then they will have no legal effect

#### **Federal CSBG Act**

 The tripartite board composition is a suggested practice and not required by the federal CSBG Act. True or False

1/3 elected or appointed public officials

At least 1/3 low-income representative Remainder individual or group from private sector

Requires tripartite board to be fully engaged in the development, planning, implementation and evaluation.
42 U.S.C. § 9910



# A Few Brief Points About How a Board of Directors Operates

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# **Board Operations Scenario Two**

Tony has been on the board for two years and L♥VES it! His fellow board members are very personable and friendly but Tony is continually confused about the vote that is required to take actions as well as the number of meetings board members are required to attend.

What should Tony do?

What should the Executive Director do?

# Board Operational Guide Bylaws serve as an organization's operational guide Bylaws See bylaws for

Article I
Thou shall read the bylaws.

- See bylaws for information about:
  - Board member composition
  - Meeting frequency, notice
  - Officers
  - Committees
  - Votes, quorum
  - And more....

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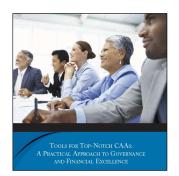
# **Role of Tripartite Board**

# **Fiduciary Duties**

#### NONPROFIT BOARD MEMBERS

#### Duty of Care – Diligent

- Acting with the care of a prudent person in similar circumstances
- Asking hard questions
- Reading materials
- Deliberating the decision



See page 9 of the Toolkit for more on fiduciary duties

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#### **Role of Tripartite Board Scenario**

The board is considering whether to begin an afterschool college prep program. Its board chair asks board members, Larry, Marsha, and Devon to review the staff's preliminary research and make a recommendation to the full board on the program's potential impact and financial viability.

As a committee, they examine proposed budgets, a needs assessment, staffing and training requirements, and survey data from CAAs with similar programs. They question staff and then prepare a 10-page report for the full board, recommending the program. At its next meeting, following a 90-minute discussion, the board unanimously votes to fund the program.

Unfortunately, after a year, the program is much more expensive than the initial projections and youth participation lower than expected. The board has no choice; it must end the program.

# **Duty of Care Scenario**

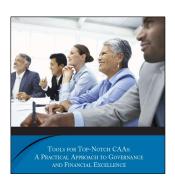
- Did the board fulfill its duty of care? Why or why not?
  - Board committee tasks
    - Review mission
    - Review needs assessment
    - **Examine** proposed budgets
    - Assess staffing and training requirements
    - Collect data from others with similar programs
    - Question staff
    - Prepare report for the full board, with a recommendation
  - Full board:
    - Engage in discussion prior to vote

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# **Fiduciary Duties**

NONPROFIT BOARD MEMBERS

- Duty of Loyalty Faithful to CAA
  - Act in good faith and in the best interests of CAA
  - Disclose and avoid conflicts of interest
  - Not engage in self-dealing



See page 9 of the Toolkit for more on fiduciary duties

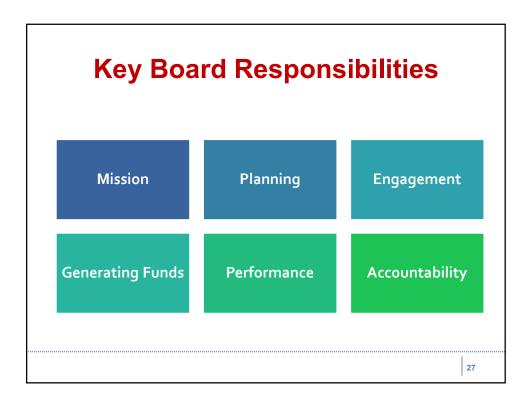
#### **Who Does What Around Here?**

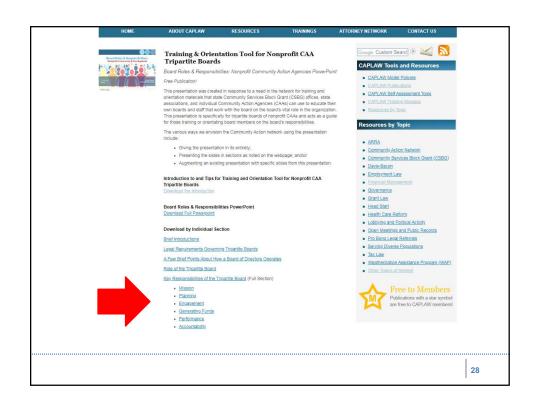
FILL IN THE ACTION

Role	Board of Directors	<b>Executive Director</b>
Policy Action: establish, execute	Establishes	Executes
Mission Action: set, accomplish, review, update	Sets, Reviews, Updates	Accomplishes
Performance Action: sets targets, evaluates, updates, executes, accountable for	Sets targets, Evaluates, Updates. Accountable for	Executes, Accountable for
Employees Action: supervise executive director, supervise staff	Supervise executive director	Supervise staff

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# **Key Responsibilities of the Tripartite Board**





# **Key Board Responsibility**

**Mission** 

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#### **Know Your Mission Exercise**

- 1. Write down your organization's mission
  - ➤ If you don't know it exactly, write down the gist
- 2. Briefly describe 3 ways in which your board works with your organization's mission
  - For example, we discuss it in relation to new proposals or recite it at every meeting
- 3. Think about 1 way in which your board could better incorporate the CAA's mission in its board meetings and activities

# **Why Mission Matters**

- Why mission matters:
  - Provide clarity of purpose to stakeholders
  - Guide major decisions
  - Prevent "mission creep"
- Why do you think mission matters?

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#### **CSBG Organizational Standards**

**Mission** 

#### CSBG Org. Standard 4.1:

 Governing board has reviewed the organization's mission statement within the past 5 years and assured that: (1) The mission addresses poverty; and (2) The CAA's programs and services are in alignment with the mission.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 3.1:

• Organization has conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 3.5:

Governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.

# **Key Board Responsibility**

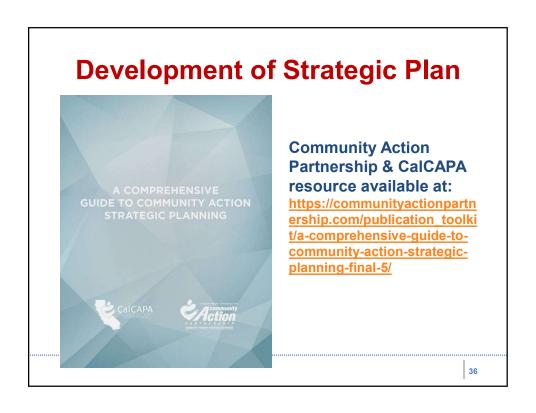
**Planning** 

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# **Planning Exercise**

- Name at least one of each of the following in relation to your CAA:
  - **-S**trength
  - -Weakness
  - $-\mathbf{O}$ pportunity
  - -**T**hreat





# **CSBG Organizational Standards Planning**

#### CSBG Org. Standard 6.1:

• Organization has an agency-wide strategic plan in place that has been approved and accepted by the governing board within the past 5 years.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 3.1:

 The organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 3.5:

• The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.

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# **Consent Agendas**

- Used for routine, procedural, informational, and self-explanatory non-controversial items
- Helps streamline meetings
- If use, should educate board members on:
  - Purpose, i.e., not used to ramrod decisions through
  - Process, i.e., allows for removal of item upon request



#### Compare Traditional and Strategic Board Agendas

#### Traditional Board Agenda

- 1. Welcome and approve minutes of last meeting
- Executive Director's Report
   Verbal report on web site redesign update
- Finance Committee Report
  Circulation of quarterly financial statements,
  Treasurer or Finance Committee Chair points out a
  few variations between budget and actual, which
  are briefly discussed. Asks for a motion to approve
  change of signature authority on bank forms due to
  change in officers.
- Nominating Committee Report Update on new candidates and who has had lunch with whom to cultivate relationships
- Program Committee Report Chair of Program Committee asks staff to provide a 10 minute verbal report on various programs that are being implemented to increase the community's awareness of the agency's programs and services. Discussion is curtailed because time is running out.
- Fundraising Committee Report Update on plans for Gala and reminder to purchase tickets
- 7. New Business?
- Adjourn
   Meeting lasts two hours

#### Strategic Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Thoughts
   (Different board members offer opening thoughts each meeting)
- Consent Agenda
   Approval of minutes of last meeting, and acceptance
   of items listed on consent agenda: previously
   oriculated written report from ED on web site
   redesign; dashiboard of revenue/expenses from
   Finance Committee, ACTION: approve change of
   signature authority on bank forms; Accept reports on
   board member prospects from Board Development
   Committee and from Fundraising Committee.
- 3. Discussion of Strategic Initiative #1 Expand Community Awareness Full board discussion facilitated by board chair. Are goals being met? What are board members hearing in the community? What are the barriers? What other avenues could be used to increase awareness? Consensus is to convene a communications task force to recommend how web site, annual report, and partnerships with other agencies can expand awareness.
- What's keeping you up at night? (Use this brainstorming session to develop future issues for board attention.)
- Adjourn
   Meeting lasts one hour
   Outcome: rich discussion on a strategic priority for the organization.

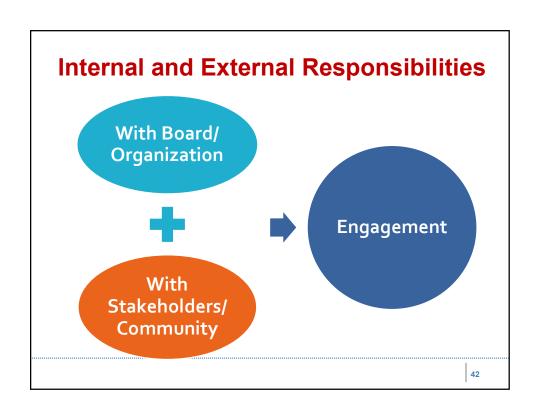
# **Key Board Responsibility**

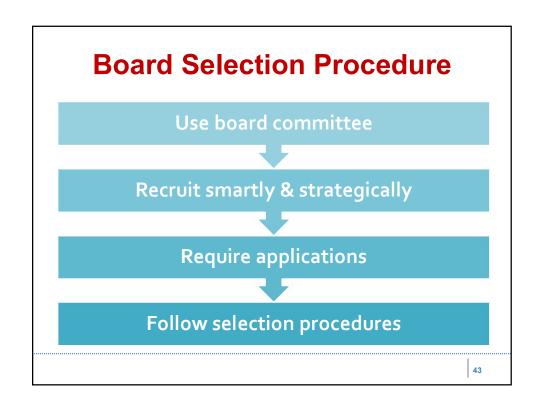
**Engagement** 

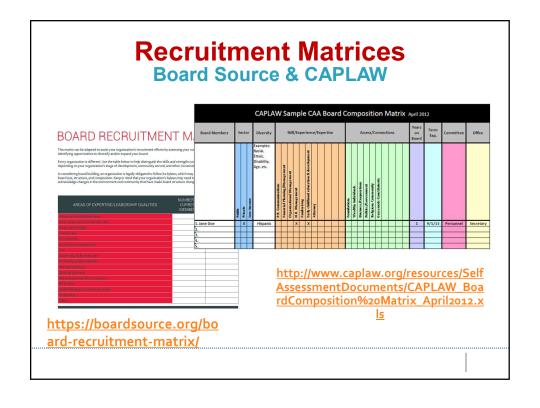
#### **Engagement Scenario**

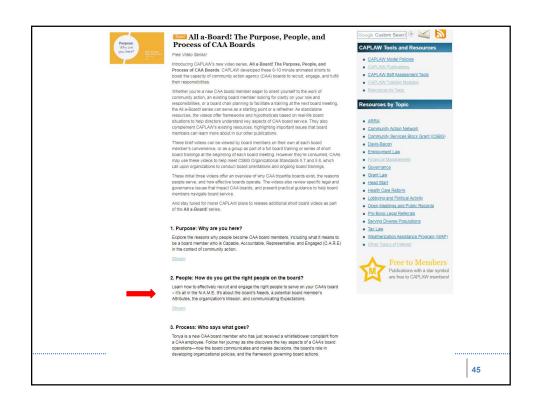
Jack, a recently retired school superintendent, joined the CAA board 10 years ago and continually gets re-elected to the private sector. He assumes he is on the board because the CAA operates a Head Start program. He is tired of attending community gatherings and interacting regularly with others – he did it for over 30 years with his school job. He likes his fellow board members and makes a real effort to attend board meetings focused on early education matters, but doesn't worry if he can't make other meetings.

Is Jack an engaged board member? Why or why not?









People: How do you get the right people on the Board?

#### **Training & Orientation Exercise**

What Would You Do?

- List the five most pressing topics for a board member orientation.
- List the five topics that you think are essential to be covered in board trainings.
- List three methods for providing training to the board.

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#### **CSBG Organizational Standards**

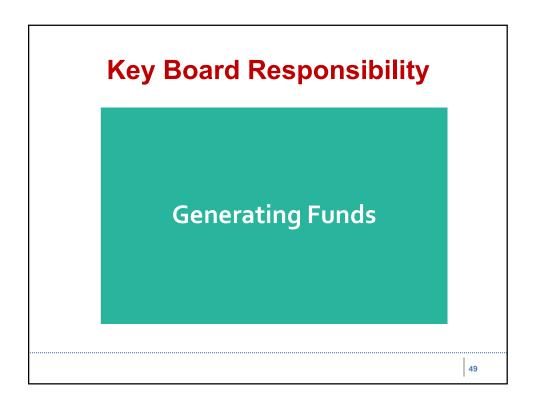
**Board Orientation and Training** 

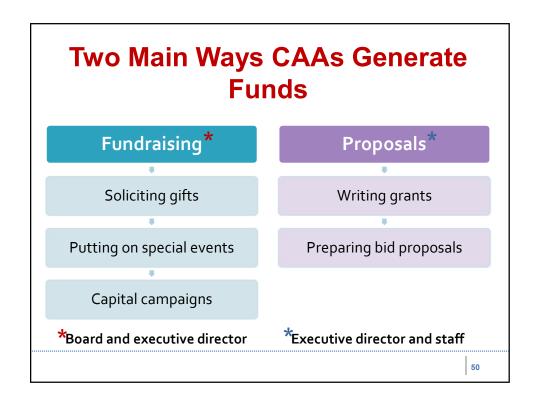
#### CSBG Org. Standard 5.7

• Org. has a process to provide a structured orientation for governing board members within 6 months of being seated.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 5.8

 Board members have been provided with training on their duties and responsibilities within the past 2 years.





# **Generating Funds Quiz**

A CAA <u>cannot</u> rely solely on its state and federal grants and should engage in efforts to generate unrestricted funds. True or False

- Why?
  - > State and federal grants restrict use of funds
  - Diversification of funding often essential for sustainability and flexibility
  - **►** Match requirements!

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# **Generating Funds Quiz**

Generating funds is mainly the executive director's responsibility, not the board's. True or False

- Why?
  - ➤ Joint effort both bring different resources/skills
  - ➤ If <u>no</u> unrestricted funds, board <u>must</u> spearhead fundraising efforts

# **Generating Funds Quiz**

Tripartite boards <u>cannot</u> require members to give financially to the CAA because low-income representatives may be low-income themselves. True or False

- Why?
  - ➤ No legal prohibition against soliciting funds from <u>all</u> board members
  - Allow for varying levels of giving and non-financial ways to give
  - Foundations often want to see 100% board giving

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# **Key Board Responsibility**

Strategic & Programmatic Performance

# **Program Performance Exercise**

- List 3 reasons why a tripartite board should have a framework in place for reviewing the performance of the CAA's programs.
- 1. Community Services Block Grant organizational standards require it.
- 2. <u>ALL</u> funders expect organizations to demonstrate how programs and services are making an impact.
- 3. It is the best way for the organization to know what's working and what's not.

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# Regular Strategic and Programmatic Reviews 5-Year Review (Strategic) Annual Review (Milestone / Programmatic/ Strategic) Review at Every Board Meeting (Milestone / Programmatic)

# **CSBG Organizational Standards**

**Strategic and Program Performance** 

#### CSBG Org. Standard 6.1

 Organization has an agency-wide strategic plan in place that has been approved and accepted by the governing board within the past 5 years.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 6.5

• Governing board has received update(s) on progress meeting the goals of the strategic plan within the past 12 months.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 5.9

• Organization's governing board receives programmatic reports at each regular board meeting.

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# **Key Board Responsibility**

**Accountability** 







#### **Additional Policies**

Adopt org. policies, ensure they are being followed, and review/update them periodically

#### CSBG Org. Standard 8.10

• The fiscal policies have been reviewed by staff within the past 2 years, updated as necessary, with changes approved by the governing board.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 7.1

• The organization has written personnel policies that have been reviewed by an attorney and approved by the governing board within the past 5 years.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 8.11

• A written procurement policy is in place and has been reviewed by the governing board within the past 5 years.

# **Additional Filings**

#### CSBG Org. Standard 8.8

• All required filings and payments related to payroll withholdings are completed on time.

#### CSBG Org. Standard 8.6

• The IRS Form 990 is completed annually and made available to the governing board for review.



# **Questions?**

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This training material was created in collaboration with Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc. (CAPLAW) and the Community Action Partnership (Partnership). The publication was created by National Association of Community Action Agencies - Community Action Partnership in the performance of the U.S. Department of Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services Grant Number 90ET0465.

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