

The New York State Cash Assistance Reform Network

About Us

The Cash Assistance Reform Network is a new statewide coalition dedicated to changing the narrative around cash assistance and its recipients. **The Network will focus on narrative change as its primary advocacy strategy because historically cash assistance has been stigmatized and used as a tool to perpetuate racist and sexist stereotypes and harmful misinformation about its recipients.** More broadly, conversations about poverty in the U.S. continue to frame the issue as a personal failing rather than a systemic injustice.

We aim to uplift the voices of cash assistance recipients and generate public awareness about both the importance of cash assistance as well as the flaws in the existing program. In doing so, we hope to transform the program into one that promotes equity and helps recipients achieve their goals.

What We Do

✓ **Creating opportunities for directly-impacted people to share their experience:**

The Network's Steering Committee is building a platform for recipients of cash assistance to share their experience and their vision for a more equitable program.

✓ **Raising awareness about the importance of cash assistance:**

We aim to educate New Yorkers about why cash assistance matters through resources like one-pagers and fact sheets and proactive media placement.

✓ **Changing the narrative around who "deserves" assistance:**

The design of the program as well as the recent federal Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 reflect a belief that people with low incomes should only receive assistance if they work. We hope to raise awareness about how work requirements and other barriers to access do not promote economic security.

Get Involved

If you would like to join the Cash Assistance Reform Network, please fill out [this brief Google form](#).



If you have any questions, reach out to Julia Casey, FPWA Policy Analyst, at jcasey@fpwa.org.



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