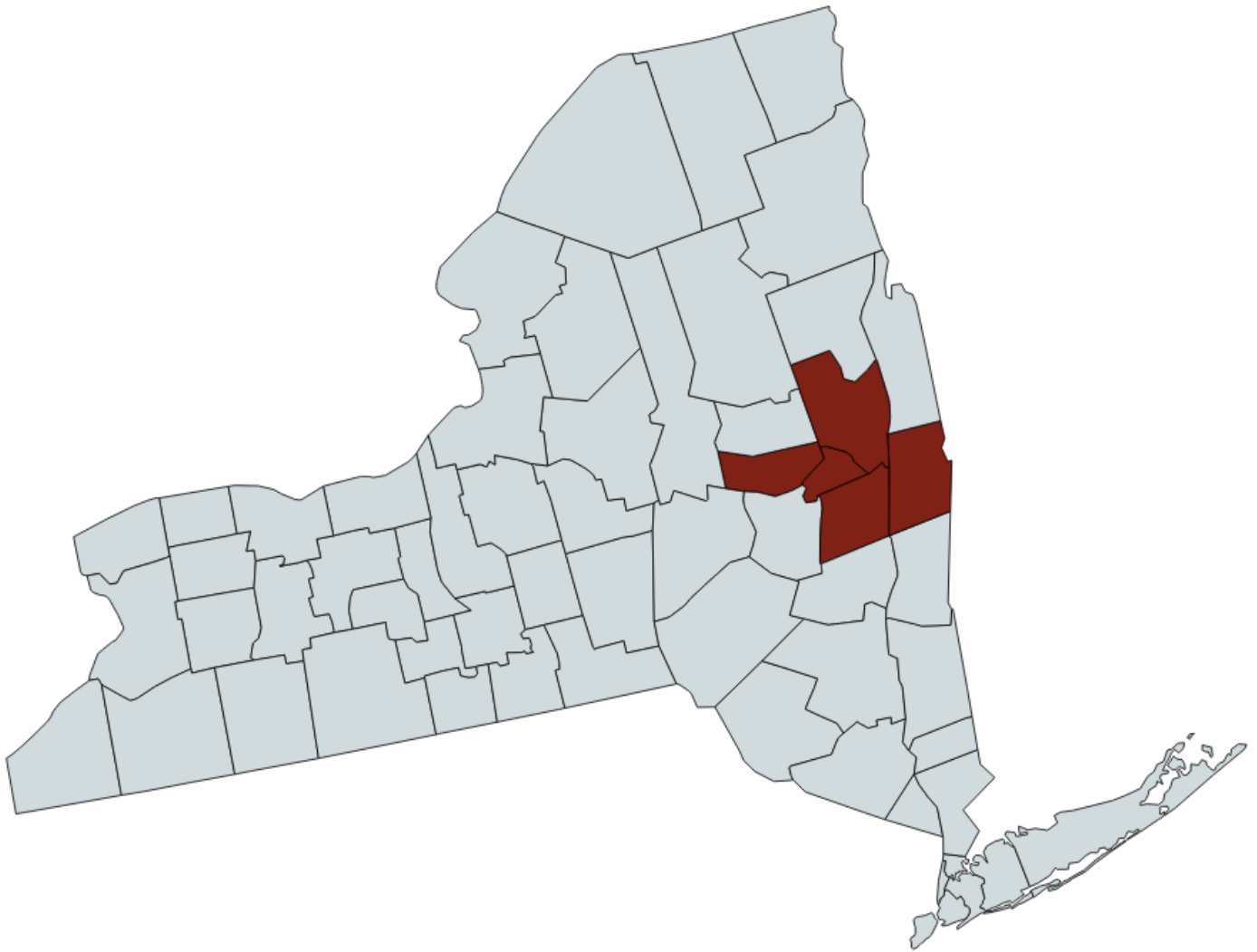


Northeast New York Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health

# NENYCOSH

## 5 year Impact Report 2016-2020



We are thankful for the hard work and dedication of our Board.

**2020 Board Members**

Maureen Cox, Board Chair  
Susan Zucker, Vice Chairperson  
Jean McMahon, MD, Treasurer  
Anne Marie Gibson, Secretary

**At-large members**

Dana Betts – NYS Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association  
Alex Dell, Esq – Law Firm of Alex Dell, PLLC  
Regina Keenan– Retired, NYS Department of Health  
Cody Netzband – Capital Region BOCES Literacy Zone  
Brian Pomeroy – Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA)  
Dave Stauber, Esq.– Partner at the Law Firm of Fine, Olin, & Anderman, LLP  
Geraldine Stella – OSH Specialist, NYS Public Employees Federation

**Staff 2020**

Rossana Coto-Batres , MSW, Executive Director  
Ángela Castrillo-Vilches, Health and Safety Program Assistant

## *A message from our Director*

Looking back on the last five years, there is a lot we have accomplished. Thanks to the dedicated group of health and safety professionals who recognized the need for safety and health resources in the Capital Region, we have been able to provide much-needed training, education, and advocacy in support of workers' health. Since our founding in 2014, we continue to grow our impact and reach to different groups of workers. Join us as we share some of our proudest moments in the last 5 years, and we invite you to get involved to continue our growth and increase our impact on Capital District workers.

This report is dedicated to our founding members who have helped NENYCOSH grow since 2014: Matt London, Director of NENYCOSH from 2014–2019. Maureen Cox, Board Chair from 2014–2020. Jean McMahan, Board Treasurer from 2014–2020. Dave Stauber, At-Large Board Member and co-facilitator in our Workers' Compensation trainings from 2014–2020. Alex Dell, At-Large Board Member and co-facilitator in our Workers' Compensation trainings from 2014–2020.

**Rossana Coto-Batres, MSW**  
**NENYCOSH Director**



## *NENYCOSH Mission Statement*

Formed in 2014 by a group of health and safety professionals, NENYCOSH seeks to ensure all workers have a healthy and safe place to work. We believe that most workplace injuries, illness, and deaths are preventable and all workers deserve a safe and healthy place to work. To that end, we use trainings, education, and advocacy to improve the health and safety conditions of our workplaces and communities in the Capital Region.

Our work focuses on training and advocating for the most vulnerable workers: women, immigrants, refugees, and youth who are often working in low-wage and temporary conditions, as well as workers in occupations with a high level of health and safety hazards. We offer our trainings in collaboration with community organizations that provide services to refugees, immigrants, youth, and individuals who are continuing their education and entering the workforce.

## *Our work with Immigrant and Refugee Workers*

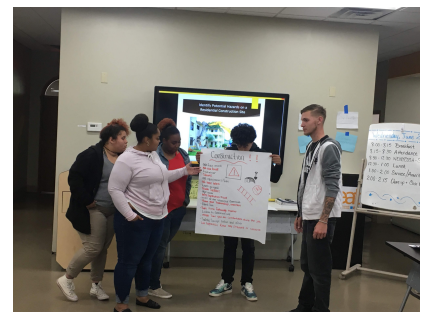
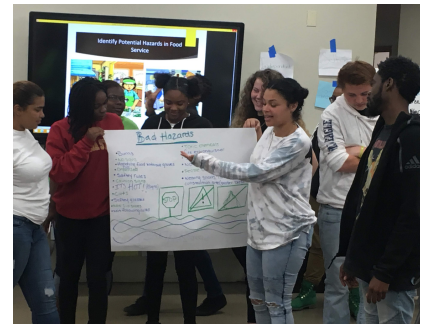
Immigrant and refugee workers experience workplace injuries and illnesses at an alarming rate. Many of these workers are employed in high-risk industries such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing, transportation, and waste processing. Latinx workers account for 18% of workplace fatalities. In 2018, 961 Hispanic or Latinx workers were killed on the job, with nearly two-thirds of these incidents occurring to foreign-born Hispanic workers.

NENYCOSH is proud to have worked with several groups and organizations that serve immigrant and refugee workers. These groups include workers in the following industries: racetrack employees, construction, restaurant work, childcare, homecare, cleaning/maintenance, healthcare, and waste processing. We strive to educate this population on the resources available for them, as well as how to keep themselves safe during seasonal work. Because we are able to lead bilingual trainings in English and Spanish, we have been able to reach a wide range of Latinx workers, and share local resources. NENYCOSH has also worked with the refugee population, training refugee workers through the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus (RISSE), and Trinity Alliance Refugee Community Health Partnership in Albany. We are able to train in the workers' preferred language thanks to translations and interpretation provided by community leaders.

## *Our work with Young Workers*

Young workers face occupational injuries and fatalities at double the rate of adult workers, and we focus many of our summer trainings on young workers entering the workforce. In 2018, 360 workers under the age of 24 died of work-related injuries, with 22 of these workers being aged 18 years or younger.

Our collaborations with the City of Albany and City of Schenectady Summer Youth Employment Programs have expanded, allowing us to train many young workers entering the workforce in the Capital District. In 2020 we began offering our young worker trainings to the Rensselaer Summer Youth Employment Program, reaching over 200 youth. Additionally, we have been called upon to provide training to job coaches and supervisors for the Summer Youth Employment Programs, and for Department of Recreation staff who service the parks and playgrounds in the City of Albany. We further prepare high school youth through our collaborations with Abrookin Career and Technical Center, which is part of Albany High School, as well as with Questar BOCES.



## *Our work with Adult Workers*

Adult workers in the Capital Region face serious hazards that can be detrimental to their health. Many of these workers are employed in the low-wage service sector, working in industries such as food service, landscaping, home health care, child care, hospitality, and manufacturing. For workers in our target population, the most common sources of the injuries they face result from exposure to other persons and animals, contact with structures and surfaces, use of tools, instruments and machinery, building and structural materials, chemicals, furniture and other containers, vehicles and other forms of transportation, and contact with scrap waste.

## *Union members/Conference presentations*

Through our partnership with several unions, we have been able to provide valuable health and safety information at conferences and presentation to specific groups of union members. We have presented at the following union conferences and meetings:

**United Steelworkers Health and Safety Conference:** Workplace Violence and Bullying Prevention, 2016 and 2019.

**Public Employees Federation Health and Safety Conference:** Preventing Trauma and Building Resiliency; Workplace Violence and Bullying Prevention, 2018.

**New York State United Teachers Work Experience Coordinators Association Conference:** Young Worker Safety and Health; Workplace Violence and Bullying Prevention, 2018.

**United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1:** Occupational Safety and Health Overview; Workplace Violence and Bullying Prevention, 2018.

## *Proud COSH Members*

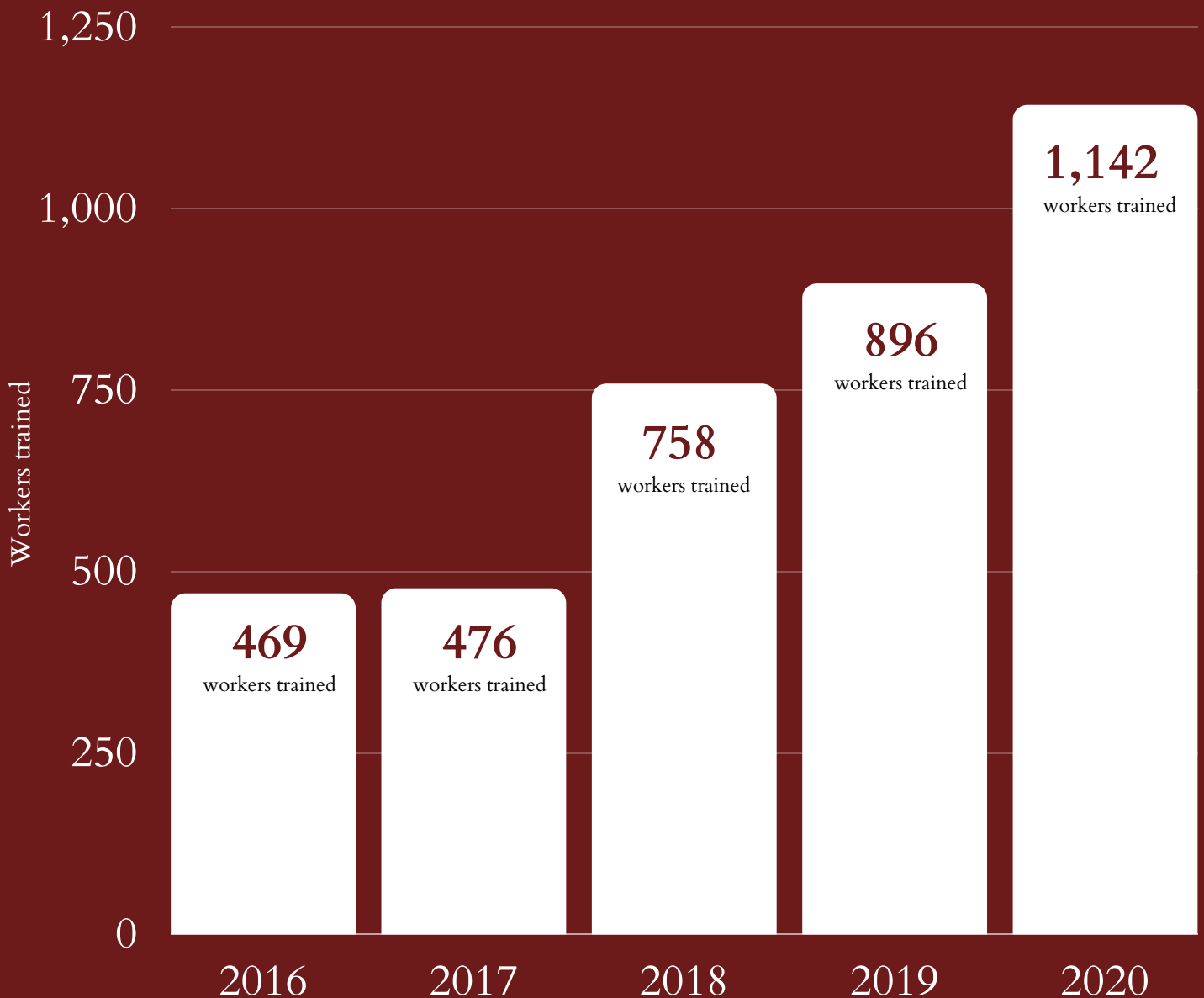
NENYCOSH is a proud member of the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (National COSH), a national network of 21 local coalitions of occupational safety and health.

The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health is dedicated to promoting safe and healthy working conditions for all working people through organizing and advocacy. National COSH believes that almost all work-related deaths and serious injuries and illnesses are preventable, and they work to encourage workers to take action to protect their safety and health, promote protection from retaliation under job safety laws, and provide quality information and training about hazards on the job and workers' rights.

National COSH provides health and safety resources through the Protecting Workers Alliance, an active forum of health and safety professionals, the Sexual Harassment Action Network that works to prevent all forms of harassment and discrimination in the workplace, and through the annual Conference on Worker Health and Safety.



# How many workers have we trained?



From 2016–2020, we increased our yearly training numbers by nearly **150%**

We have conducted over **180** training sessions throughout the Capital Region

# Special Projects

## 2017 Hurricane Harvey

Training community leaders in Houston around safe clean up and disaster relief. In 2017, when Hurricane Harvey devastated most of Houston, National COSH convened a group of health and safety trainers to provide much-needed information about safe clean up and reconstructing practices following a disaster. Many of the workers tasked with cleaning up and reconstructing the city were immigrant, Latinx workers, who were being hired for the day by private home owners and small businesses. In an effort to educate and protect these workers, the National COSH team provided a 4-day Spanish-English Train the Trainer program to 40 community leaders, who would then be able to train the community of construction workers and day laborers. NENYCOSH's Rossana Coto-Batres traveled to Houston to facilitate the Train the Trainer program.



## Sexual Harassment trainings in NYS

In 2019, Governor Cuomo signed legislation requiring that all employers provide training on sexual harassment in the workplace. In the fall of 2019, NENYCOSH expanded our Workplace Violence and Bullying Prevention curriculum to include information on preventing sexual harassment in the workplace. We were able to offer these trainings to a large group of workers and organizations, including the Backstretch Employee Services Team (B.E.S.T.) at the Saratoga and Belmont Race Tracks, UFCW Local 1, and RISSE.



## Personal Protective Equipment distribution to Latinx Essential Workers during COVID-19

Recognizing the need for effective personal protective equipment (PPE) training and education, and the lack of PPE supplies available to many Latinx essential workers, NENYCOSH was able to obtain a grant from the Hispanics in Philanthropy Essential Fund to provide much-needed Personal Protective Equipment supplies, education and training to Latinx essential workers throughout the Capital Region. The funds allowed us to provide PPE kits to 500 workers throughout the area, and train them on how to properly wear the equipment. NENYCOSH partnered with The Backstretch Employee Service Team, Saratoga EOC, and Capital District Latinos to distribute the kits and train workers on how to effectively put on and take off the personal protective equipment. We also distributed kits to Latinx restaurant workers in the Albany area.



# Workers Memorial Day

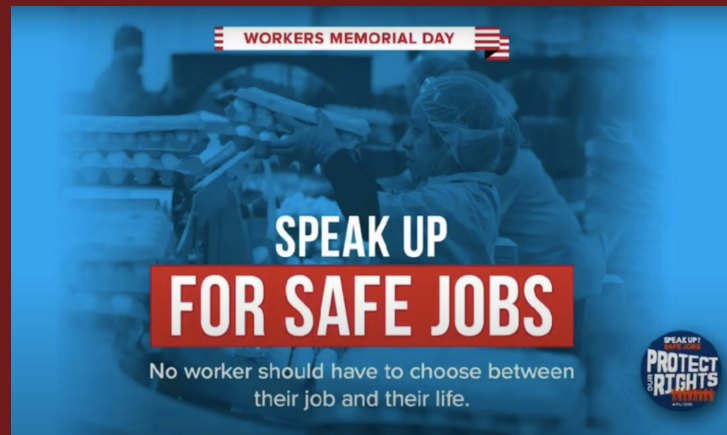


Picture by Earl Dotter©

Every year, on April 28, we honor and remember all workers who have died tragically on the job. Since our founding, we have worked with the local labor unions, Capital District Area Labor Federation, religious leaders, and workers' rights organizations to remember Capital Region workers who have died on the job. Below are some images from Workers Memorial Day events we have co-hosted in the past.

## 2020 Virtual Worker Memorial Day Video

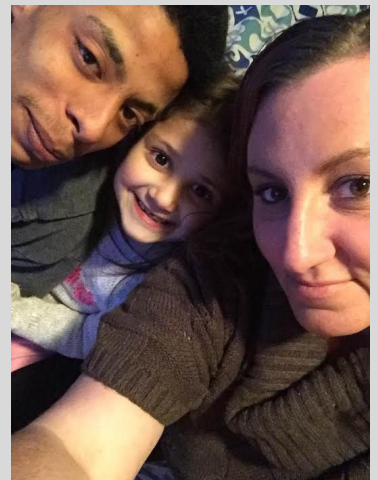
In 2020, given the COVID-19 pandemic, our Worker Memorial Day event looked very different. Working with the Capital District Area Labor Federation AFL-CIO, Public Employees Federation, Albany County Labor Council, Saratoga County Labor Council, and other labor partners, we released a commemorative video in honor of all workers whose lives were cut short due to a workplace fatality. The video also honors all essential workers who continued to report to work in person during the pandemic.



[Watch the 2020 Virtual Worker Memorial Day Video Here!](#)

## Workplace Fatalities- Remembering Justus Booze

On May 4, 2016, Justus Booze died tragically while feeding tree branches into a woodchipper. It was his first day on the job, and he was going to be paid \$60 for his work that day. Following the tragic death of Justus Booze in 2016, we have been advocating for criminal prosecution of employers who knowingly put their workers' lives in danger. We know fatal incidents like this can be prevented, and we continue to follow up with Justus' family, who is still mourning his death.





# 2019 Earl Dotter Photography Exhibit and Workers Memorial Day Event at Legislative Office Building

In 2019, we were excited to welcome renowned labor photojournalist Earl Dotter to the Capital Region. Earl, often referred to as the “American Worker’s Poet Laureate,” has been documenting workers on the job since 1968, when he photographed coal mine workers in Tennessee as a VISTA scholar. In 2019, we brought Earl Dotter’s 50-year retrospective exhibit “LIFE’S WORK: A Fifty-Year Photographic Chronicle of Working in the U.S.A.” His work was exhibited from April 22 to April 26, 2019 at the Empire State Plaza Legislative Office Building, in commemoration of Workers’ Memorial Week. Below are some pictures of the exhibit, all photographs are the intellectual property of Earl Dotter.



Picture by Earl Dotter©



Picture by Earl Dotter©



Picture by Earl Dotter©



Picture by Earl Dotter©



Picture by Earl Dotter©

*We would like to thank all of the programs and organizations that have supported us throughout this time*

**Latinx Workers**

- Centro Civico Albany
- Centro Civico Amsterdam
- Backstretch Employee Services Team
- Capital District Latinos
- Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

**Refugee Workers**

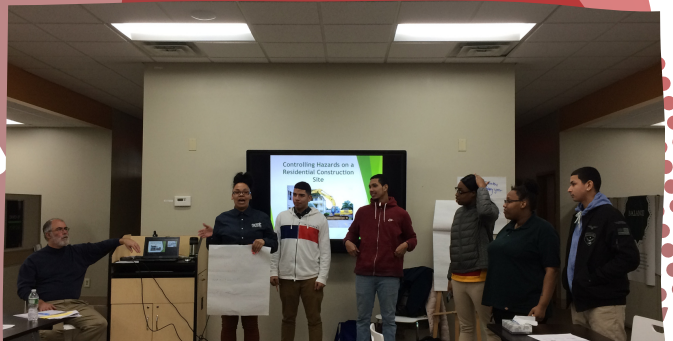
- US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
- Trinity Alliance
- Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc.

**Adult Workers**

- Pride Center-Albany
- The American Federation of Government Employees
- United Steelworkers
- Capital Region Campus Center
- YWCA of the Greater Capital Region
- Job Service Employers Committee
- Rensselaer Re-Entry Program
- Public Employees Federation
- Independent Living Center
- United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1
- Healthy Capital District Initiative
- The Civil Service Employees Association
- Citizen Action
- Rensselaer County Gainful Access to Meaningful Employment
- Maria College
- NYSUT Work Experience Coordinators Association

**Young Workers**

- YouthPower!
- Abrookin High School
- St. Anne's
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- City of Albany Summer Jobs
- Questar BOCES
- Schenectady YouthBuild
- Schenectady Job Training Agency
- Albany TrainUp!/SEAT Center



## *NENYCOSH Members and Supporters*

Thank you to all our members who have contributed to our growth in the last 5 years. Thanks to your contributions, dedication, and partnership, we have been able to grow our impact and protect workers in the Capital District.

### *Union/Organizational Members*

- Civil Service Employees Association
- Communication Workers of America Local 1118
- NYS Public Employees Federation
- New York State United Teachers
- New York State Nurses Association
- Sheetmetal Local 83
- Solidarity Committee
- United Food and Commercial Workers District Local 1
- United Steel Workers local 17
- United Steel Workers Local 9265
- Worker Justice Center of New York





For more information on our work, or to schedule a training session, please visit our website at  
**nenycosh.org**  
or contact us at  
**nenycosh@gmail.com**

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