

Ericker Onaga, LCSW
Community Health Action of Staten Island (CHASI)

Ericker Onaga serves as the Executive Director of Community Health Action of Staten Island. Ms. Onaga leads an executive team and staff of over 130 workers serving 19,000 Staten Islanders annually. CHASI provides outreach, education, prevention, and direct support services for populations most affected by health disparities. Ms. Onaga ensures the organization's work is trauma-informed and responsive to emerging needs across Staten Island neighborhoods and communities. Current areas of focus include domestic violence, harm reduction and recovery services, HIV/ HCV and other chronic disease education, screening, and care coordination, insurance enrollment, SNAP and benefits access, community, and mobile food pantry services, and addressing health equity through research and practice.

A lifelong Staten Islander, Ms. Onaga holds a master's degree in social work from New York University and is a NY State Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Her work as Executive Director began in 2024 upon the retirement of CHASI's longtime executive director. Ms. Onaga's leadership over her first five years as Chief Program Officer helped pivot programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing virtual and unconventional service delivery to meet the needs of people facing serious health obstacles. She restructured the organization's programs in the early days of COVID to allow for best function and engagement with target populations. These now include individuals and families engaging with a larger substance use disorder portfolio of services and community-driven programming that serves NYCHA residents. She created a new Data and Quality department and implemented a collaborative incident management policy and procedure to support the needs of this growing client base.

Ms. Onaga's leadership portfolio includes career service with Project Hospitality and Comunilife as well as board service with Seaman's Society for Families and Children. She was appointed to the Mayor's HASA Advisory Board in 2016. Before joining Community Health Action in May 2020, Ms. Onaga most recently served at Comunilife as the VP for Programs, where she focused on developing quality assurance and incident management systems for their 2,100 housing units throughout the other four boroughs of New York City. Ms. Onaga worked in HIV services for over twenty years at Project Hospitality, where she progressed from a case manager to an executive position as Chief Program Officer. Ms. Onaga's experience includes Medicaid case management (Health Home), OASAS programming, and DSRIP program supervision