

**Dutchess County Department
of Community and Family Services**



**PATHWAYS
to SUCCESS**



Annual Report 2022

MISSION

Assist and protect vulnerable county residents with the aim of restoring each individual to maximum independence.



2022 DCFS ANNUAL REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE O'NEIL



Friends,

The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) serves more than one in 10 County residents every year, providing critical services, often to our most vulnerable populations. Comprising one of Dutchess County Government's largest departments, the employees of DCFS serve residents who transcend socioeconomic

demographic boundaries – men, women, and children of every background who rely on the department for everything from temporary assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance, to protective services and foster care.

Every year, thousands of Dutchess County residents receive exemplary service from our dedicated DCFS staff, and that trend continued in 2022. In the pages that follow, you'll read about the department's various accomplishments over the preceding 12 months. Just as important, you'll see of the faces and learn the names of many of our valued DCFS employees who serve their Dutchess County neighbors each day. Though too often public service takes place away from the public eye, I invite you to take notice of the employees whose dutiful service enhances the lives of so many in our community.

I encourage you explore this annual report, which will give you a comprehensive explanation of the varied services and programs our DCFS staff provides throughout the year. In so many ways, this department makes a real difference for the residents it serves, and this report brings to life – through text and photos – the impact DCFS makes on a daily basis. Dutchess County is a stronger community because of the tireless work of each member of our Department of Community and Family Services, and I hope you'll join me in my admiration for the staff and its contributions.

Sincerely,

William F.X. O'Neil
Dutchess County Executive

A MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER JAAR MARZOUKA



"NEVER SURRENDER YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS TO THE FATEFUL LIMITATIONS OTHERS HAVE PLACED ON THEIR OWN LIVES."

I came across this quote in December of 2022 while surfing the web for a good book to read during the winter holidays. It made me pause and think. Do we somehow place our limitations on the dreams and hopes of the people we serve?

Or do we offer hope and empower them to achieve their dreams? Are we successful in helping individuals achieve their full potential?

Our featured story in this annual report is a perfect example of how an agency like ours can be successful in giving someone the opportunity to realize their dream. It starts with an understanding that we need to invest in programs that empower people. Programs like Day One and Way to Work, like the Summer Youth Employment and the Strengthening Families programs, and the Youth and Police Initiative. That is what we do at the Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS). We may not always get the credit, yet we are the catalyst to great programs, and we are behind the scenes of incredible success stories.

As you read through our 2022 Annual Report, you will discover the work of many DCFS unsung heroes and the many programs we implement with our community partners. Together, we are advancing, facing the challenges head on, and expanding our reach to those in crisis. We are adapting, increasing our focus on addressing the comprehensive needs of those we serve, from physical health to mental wellness, from economic needs to independence and empowerment. We are breaking ground on new ways to influence attitudes and programs that protect the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.

It is easy to associate social service agencies with the problems we face in our society. That is why it is important that we acknowledge the impact of the work we do. During the pandemic, nurses and doctors were sung as heroes, rightfully so. Those who work in social service deserve to be seen this way too. They are the first responders when families are in crisis, when there is no food on the table, no shelter and no health insurance. They are the ones knocking on the doors to check on the safety of the children or adults who may be victims of neglect or abuse.

Yes, the challenges are great. But our DCFS team's determination is greater. I am proud to be part of this amazing group of heroes and I thank God every day for the privilege to serve with them.

Sabrina Jaar Marzouka, J.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

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DCFS Organization

OUR MISSION:

Assist and protect vulnerable county residents with the aim of restoring each individual to maximum independence. We do this through the provision of:

- Temporary assistance and supportive services necessary to sustain vulnerable and disabled persons in a courteous, fair, and efficient manner.
- Protective services to children and adults at risk of being harmed.
- Services that will strengthen the family unit, promote positive youth development, encourage stability in living arrangements, and provide a nurturing environment.

Commissioner



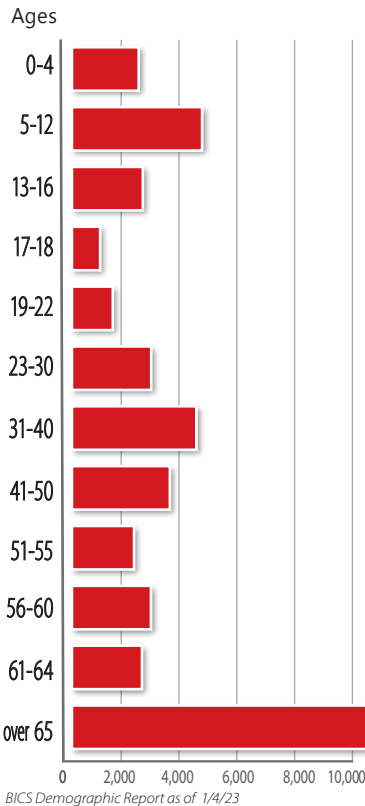
Facts At-a-Glance 2022

TOP MEDICAID PAYEES

Medicaid payments to local businesses in Dutchess County serve as an economic stimulus and multiplier.

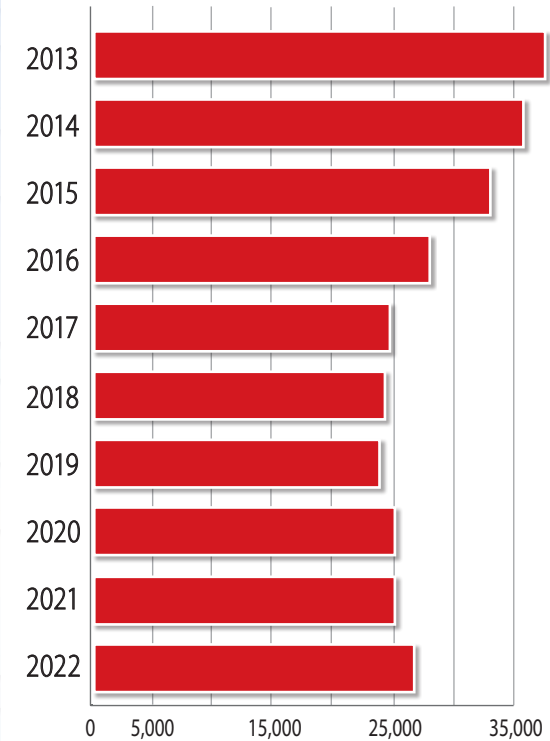
New York Catholic Health Plan	\$161,843,310
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	\$149,429,586
New York Quality Healthcare	\$27,942,346
Sullivan Co Chap NYSARC SPV	\$15,505,706
New Horizons Resources, Inc.	\$14,884,302
United Healthcare of NY, Inc.	\$14,244,552
Cardinal Hayes Home Millbrook	\$13,244,678
Westchester Medical Center	\$13,076,430
Taconic DDSO SPV/SPT	\$12,470,865
Health Advantage Plan, Inc.	\$11,779,962
Hamaspek Choice, Inc.	\$11,512,414
Anderson FND F/Autism SPV	\$11,053,705
Greystone Programs, Inc. SPV	\$10,727,918
Unlimited Care, Inc	\$9,345,435

ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS



DCFS CASELOAD SNAPSHOT

Unduplicated cases. Does not include HEAP, Services, or Child Support cases—from WST002, 12/2022



TOP NON-MEDICAID VENDORS

Hudson River Lodging	\$3,995,037.19
Central Hudson	\$3,384,202.98
Community Housing	\$1,863,513.79
Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth	\$1,487,373.55
DC Office of the Aging	\$1,399,098.00
Morgan Fuel and Heating	\$1,307,579.64
DC Attorney	\$1,246,149.00
Family Services	\$1,236,824.00
DC Probation	\$992,433.34
Astor Services for Children and Families	\$943,997.94

ACTIVE CASES

Cases as of	12/31/21	12/31/22
SNAP	10,446	10,761
HEAP	2,334	2,293
Medicaid	9,418	10,059
Medicaid SSI	5,329	5,245
Family Assistance	348	335
Safety Net Assistance	475	432
Services (Adult/Children)	1,498	1,549

2022 MODIFIED BUDGET

	Appropriations	Revenues
Administration (salaries, fringe, materials, other)	\$42,949,590	\$26,053,037
Non-Secure Detention	\$1,395,400	\$611,190
Child Care Subsidy Appropriations	\$5,953,217	\$6,356,567
Services for Recipients	\$8,542,975	\$2,975,670
Medicaid - Local payments	\$193,025	\$175,000
Medicaid - MMIS Payments	\$37,917,893	\$0
Special Needs Adults/Family	\$421,230	\$5,000
Family Assistance	\$8,149,085	\$7,782,867
Foster Care	\$30,448,409	\$25,794,746
Juvenile Delinquents/PINS	\$350,000	\$450
State Training Schools	\$3,600,000	\$0
Safety Net	\$8,670,000	\$2,960,000
HEAP	\$694,300	\$694,300
Emergency Aid to Adults	\$250,000	\$135,000
Youth Administration	\$445,714	\$246,549
Youth Services Unit	\$378,679	\$188,829
Youth Development Program	\$1,565,100	\$200,000
Youth Runaway & Homeless	\$100,091	\$75,068
Totals	\$152,024,708	\$74,254,273

2022

Commissioner's Office

The Commissioner's Office consists of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner for Financial and Supportive Services, Deputy Commissioner for Services, Director of Administrative Services, Assistant to the Commissioner for Program Planning and Evaluation, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Staff Development Director, and Confidential Administrative Assistants. The Commissioner's Office oversees the programs and operations of the department.



Theresa Giovanniello
Deputy Commissioner



Debra Bonnerwith
Deputy Commissioner



Sharon Avila
Confidential Administrative Assistant



Carol Domino
Confidential Administrative Assistant

HIGHLIGHTS

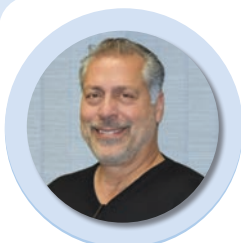
- Much of the delivery of services provided in 2022 continued to be affected by the pandemic. The Department took several steps to mitigate the situation and ensure that staff and clients were safe, and that service level was maintained. The phone booth installed in the reception area of the main office building was very popular among clients who appreciated talking with their workers without having to meet face to face. 8,636 contacts were made using the phone booth. In addition, 6,211 documents submitted through the NYDocSubmit mobile app.
- The Commissioner's Rapid Response team handled 1,761 inquiries through the DCFSinfo email on the County public website.
- On July 19, 2022, Medicaid presented "Modify 2 Modify: How We Twisted Our Internal Process to Implement the E-Mods" at The New York Public Welfare Association's 153rd Annual Summer Conference in Saratoga.
- On August 26, 2022, the Department offered a Navigating the DCFS System Workshop on Processing 1915(c) Consolidated Children's Waiver Environmental Modifications within Dutchess County for Health Home Representatives and Care Coordinators.
- On September 3, 2022, DCFS offered a Navigating the DCFS System hybrid workshop (both in-person and virtually) to bring providers up-to-date on the various benefits available, with a particular focus on Temporary Housing Assistance. Sixty-four individuals representing twenty agencies participated in the workshop (49 in-person and 15 virtual).
- Effective August 1, 2022, the income eligibility level for the Child Care Assistance Program were increased from 200% to 300% of the federal poverty level. In 2022, we provided childcare subsidies to 620 families for 995 children with no waiting list.
- In the fall of 2022, outreach letters were sent to all Dutchess County school districts to address educational neglect. A brochure was included with the correspondence, with an offer for in-person presentations regarding Child Protective Services and available Community Based Preventive Services. The response was positive, and several presentations were scheduled for the 2022-2023 school year. In 2022, 4 presentations were given to the following schools districts: Arlington, Wappingers, Weebutuck and Dutchess BOCES.



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

- Meeting the needs of the homeless population was a priority in 2022. The department handled a variety of programs to avoid evictions and serve the homeless, including:
 - o Providing emergency shelter services for the homeless at the temporary PODs located in the Law Enforcement Center and Jail campus, sheltering an average of 146 individuals per night.
 - o In addition to the PODs, the Department provided Temporary Emergency Housing to 649 adults and 412 children, with \$6,269,575 expended on emergency housing.
 - o Dutchess County was allocated federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds to assist households that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. While the program was administered by the State, the Department spearheaded an extensive outreach effort to get the word out and assist both landlords and tenants with the application process. As of December 31, 2022, there were 3,658 applications for rental arrears, of which 1,481 also included prospective rental applications, and 1,033 utility arrears applications from Dutchess County, and 2,025 applications were paid a total of \$20,689,003.24.





William Sanchez
Special Assistant to Commissioner

FAIR HEARINGS & QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Fair Hearing and Quality Assurance unit represents DCFS in requested fair hearings, serves as liaison for NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance audits, and completes Child Care Subsidy audits for NYS Office of Children and Family Services. This unit also ensures quality performance standards by compiling and tracking outcome data, including monitoring contracted agencies.

FAIR HEARING

The fair hearing process allows applicants and/or recipients to tell an Administrative Law Judge, assigned by the New York State Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance Agency, why they think a decision made about their case is incorrect.

The Office of Administrative Hearings reviews the findings of the hearing and render a written decision based on the facts, rules and regulations that govern benefits issued by Medicaid, Temporary Assistance, SNAP, and Child Care.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

- Completed 44 Fiscal Child Care Audits (DCFS is in full compliance) for NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS).

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

- Conducted 25 contract monitoring site visits.
- Completed 61 contract program desk reviews.

FAIR HEARING ACTIVITY	2022
Fair Hearings Requested	747
Fair Hearings Held	576
Appellant Defaults	85
Appellant Withdrawals	184
Agency Decisions Upheld	84
Agency Decisions Reversed	18
Percentage of Fair Hearings in Favor of the Agency	95%
Postponed/Pending	36
Other Agencies	58
Correct When Made	5
Agency Withdrawals	5



Bridget Goddard
Assistant to the Commissioner
for Program Planning and
Evaluation

CONTRACTS, POLICY & PLANNING

The Assistant to the Commissioner for Program Planning and Evaluation develops all Department of Community and Family Services plans, prepares funding applications for special programs, oversees the contracts, prepares and/or responds to requests for proposals and bids, and oversees the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General's Medicaid Compliance Audit demonstration Project in Dutchess County.

CONTRACT ACTIVITY	2022
Adult Foster Care Services	1
Auditing	0
Credit Reporting	4
Child Care	3
Detention/Foster Care Institutions	39
Domestic Violence Services	7
Employment/Training/Transportation Services	9
SNAP Nutrition Education/HEAP	4
Genetic Testing	1
Homeless Prevention	8
Interpreter Services	1
Interdepartmental Services	9
Legal Services	2
Medical Exams/Services	4
Memoranda of Agreement	107
Preventive Services	26
Resource Parents	98
Service Agreements	36
Special Needs	7
Totals	366

Value of Contracts \$54,500,000+

ThinkDIFFERENTLY

Dutchess County's ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative's purpose is to support and advocate for individuals and families with special needs. We promote local efforts for improving accessibility, fostering acceptance, and building inclusion.



Dana Hopkins
All Abilities Program Director

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & YEARLY STATISTICS

- Continued to collaborate with Dutchess Community College on the two-year job readiness program "Think Ahead" by going to a hybrid classroom system. Program has continued uninterrupted each year, with 9 students accepted for 2022-2023 academic year.
- Over 150 unduplicated individual calls were received regarding services/supports from community members seeking information.
- Anderson Center for Autism's (ACA) Autism Supportive Environment trainings were provided to 23 businesses, plus 11 previously trained businesses received Advanced Support Consultations in 2022.
- The ThinkDIFFERENTLY Website had 28,836 hits and has been viewed in all 50 states plus Washington DC!



- "Think Jobs" Round Table was held as a hybrid event in partnership with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board at DCC South. 21 businesses and 34 individuals attended in-person. Wendy Strobel of the Northeast ADA, presented on how hiring individuals with disabilities is beneficial, along with information on how it isn't actually costly to make accommodations. Cait Russell (Rosica) from Philadelphia, PA's Neurodiverse Network, presented about their work virtually.
- Shared information on ThinkDIFFERENTLY at Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health's Health Fair at the former JCPenny location in the Poughkeepsie Galleria in June 2022. Approximately 400 community members walked through the Health Fair.

- Attended 2 Community Based Services Transition Nights at Arlington High School in May 2022, and at Poughkeepsie HS in November 2022. We also attended Taconic Resources for Independence's Disability Awareness Fair and Haviland Middle School's Community Night in October 2022.
- Presented Dutchess County's 6th Annual "Collaboration of Services and Care Across the Life Span for People of All Abilities" at the Henry A. Wallace Center at FDR's Presidential Library and Home. Over 80 individuals attended the conference in-person or via Microsoft Teams.



ThinkDIFFERENTLY hosted the following events:

- 2nd Annual ThinkDIFFERENTLY Fitness & Field Day at Bowdoin Park, attended by over 200 people.
- Expanded "ThinkDIFFERENTLY" Day at the D.C. Fair to having a presence all week with a resource tent and sensory safe tent that was shared with D.C. Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H program, Flourishing Farmers, for youth of all abilities.
- ThinkDIFFERENTLY Partnered with DBCH's Dutchess LINC (Co-occurring system of care initiative- Leaders Integrating Networks of Care) network to provide a full-day clinical based training on Improving Treatment Outcomes for Individuals with Cognitive Challenges in May 2022 which was attended by 25 clinical staff from various provider agencies in the county.



- Taconic Resources for Independence's Special Education Advocates served 175 unduplicated youth/ families in 2022!

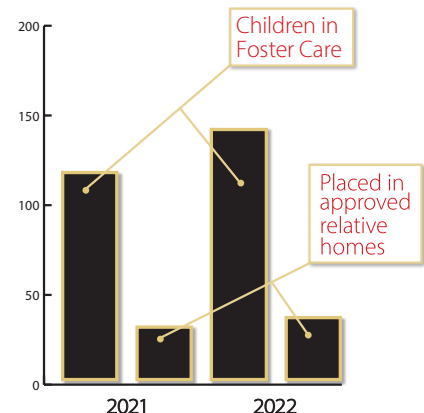


Commissioner's

HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D...

- The department continues to participate in several initiatives focusing on positive youth development, including:
 - Partnered with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board and Dutchess Community College to organize the Annual Youth Summit for 150 youth held on August 16th at the Poughkeepsie Galleria.
 - Coordinated outreach for Camp Nooteeming, a 272-acre camp located in Pleasant Valley. More than 1,000 youth throughout the county participated in a variety of educational and recreational summer activities. In addition, 19 public access and community events were held attracting more than 4,000 attendees.
- DCFS offered a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) through the Work Force Investment Board (WIB) for eligible youth from low-income households and foster care youth. 144 county youth participated, of which 7 were active on Temporary Assistance.
- Forty-six (46) youth completed the Dutchess County Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) Program. Five (5) law enforcement officers from the New York State Police, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, and the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department and 1 Youth Services Division staff member completed the YPI Train-The-Trainer Program. In addition, 18 probation officers participated in various training activities.
- In 2022, the Commissioner's Office transitioned the ThinkDIFFERENTLY Initiative to the Department of Behavioral and Community Health under a redesign for an All-Abilities Program. The All-Abilities Program consists of the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative, Early Intervention, Preschool, Children & Youth Services/CSPOA, the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coordinator, and is overseen by the All-Abilities Program Director.
- The number of children in Foster Care increased in 2022 and the percentage of children placed in approved relative homes increased. As of December 31, 2022, there were 140 children in foster care, with 32.85% of them placed in approved relative homes.

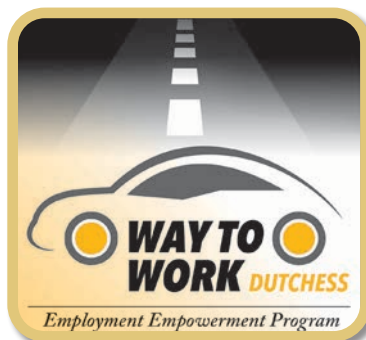
NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE INCREASED



COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE SERVED ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

- Agency Partner Grant
- Astor ECCSI Tier II and Removing Barriers to Case Committee
- Board member of the New York State Public Welfare Association (NYPWA)
- Chair of the NYPWA Deputy Commissioners' Leadership Network Steering Committee
- Child Advocacy Center's Leadership Committee and Multidisciplinary Team
- CoC Steering Committee
- Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies Region V Workgroup (COFCCA)
- Criminal Justice Council
- Department of Behavioral and Community Health's IDD Providers and Professional Advisory Committee
- Dutchess County's Domestic Violence Steering Committee
- Dutchess County's Housing Consortium
- Dutchess County's Human Trafficking Taskforce
- Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board
- Family Court Improvement Project
- NYS Fiscal Administrators Association
- NYS OCFS/OTDA Staff Development Advisory Committee (SDAC)
- Office for the Aging's Advisory Board
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Workgroup
- Removing Barriers to Care Committee
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Executive Committee
- Youth Opportunity Union Advisory Committee

Office



WAY TO WORK

In 2022 the County Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) and the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (DCWIB) provided five local families pre-owned vehicles after they completed the "Way to Work" program.

Started in 2001, the program is designed to help low-income Dutchess County residents get and keep a job, providing them reliable transportation to and from work. Qualified participants must come from a family that receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or whose family income is less than 200 percent of the poverty level.

DCFS's approach to help transition residents to work is a multi-faceted one that includes work skills training, daycare for eligible families, and the "Way to Work" program provided under contract by the DCWIB. "Way to Work" provides vehicles from local used car dealers to eligible individuals and provides participants training – such as car care and defensive driving – as well as assistance in obtaining a learner's permit or driver's license. The program also offers driver experience training, car maintenance instruction, and auto repairs.

These vehicles help families obtain and retain employment, acquire jobs with more hours or higher pay, gain access to higher education to increase the recipients' wage potential, or take their children to and from school.

The families selected to receive the vehicles were chosen based on specific program guidelines, including their work-related need for transportation. In addition, they have all displayed the perseverance and commitment necessary to continually move forward toward financial independence.

For every family that receives a car and avoids temporary assistance, Dutchess County saves \$1,614 a month; within a year, that savings equals the cost of a car.

Among the recipients is a single mother of three children with another on the way, who works full-time all hours of the night to support her family. Despite working a full-time job, it is difficult for this family to make ends meet.

Reliable transportation will give this mother of soon to be four the opportunity to choose different shifts, to look for different career paths, properly bring her children to school and give her time to spend with her children before bedtime. A vehicle isn't just transportation, but a chance to live a happy life as a family.



2022 WAY TO WORK STATISTICS

- 45 eligible Dutchess County residents were assessed for transportation needs and offered instruction in financial literacy; 5 participants received preowned vehicles. Six individuals received their learner's permit, 11 participants took driving instruction, and 6 earned their NYS driver's license.
- 5 Jobs Retained
- 5 Participants Provided with Car Maintenance Instruction
- 5 Participants Provided with Defensive Driving Classes
- 18 Participants Provided with Driver Education Training
- 45 Participants Provided with Financial Counseling or Budgeting Classes
- 5 Registration Fees Approved
- 5 Vehicle Insurance Payments Provided
- 8 License Fees Approved
- 1 Permit Fees Approved
- 5 Vehicle Recipients
- 6 Vehicle Repairs Approved

ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TEAM (ABCD)



In the 13 years that ABCD has been striving to improve the workplace and taking on initiatives to serve, the past three years have been the most challenging. This year, the ABCD Team surpassed all previous records for our "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty" (CROP Walk) initiative.

In 2022, we raised \$3,645 for the local DCIC CROP Walk. A portion of the funds raised was awarded to Dutchess Outreach, Community Action Agency, Beulah Baptist Soup Kitchen, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Food Pantry, and the Fishkill Food Pantry.

The Bright Stars program remained active under the leadership of the ABCD Team. Nominations were reviewed and individuals were selected for the monthly employee recognition award throughout the year. Likewise, the committee continued to collect and review employee suggestions, sharing all ideas with the Management Team. The Summer Fitness Challenge encouraged exercise in many forms and awarded 2 participants with gift cards to Adams' Fairacre Farms or Smoothie King. Our wellness offering of free half-hour lunchtime Tai Chi/Qi Gong classes has been successful and well attended. Our new community service project this year was sponsoring a DCFS Team for the Sparrow's Nest virtual race. Sparrow's Nest is a non-profit that cooks and delivers homemade meals to families facing cancer diagnoses. We also held our Turkey Bowl food drive for the APS "Karlson-Bixby Food Pantry".

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Created in 2010, the Leadership Development Program offers an opportunity for staff to develop their leadership skills. Each year of the program begins with an Achievement Awards event recognizing the work completed in the previous year. The subsequent session is a brainstorming meeting during which members generate ideas and prioritize the topics for the year. Volunteer members step forward to research and provide an hourlong presentation on the selected topics. Guest speakers from our community are also invited to share their knowledge on the topic of leadership.



One credit is earned for each session a member participant attends. If a member researches a topic and provides a presentation to the group, they earn an additional credit hour. After every 8 credit hours earned, the employee receives a certificate of completion for a Level at the next Achievement Awards Event. There are approximately 10 presentations per year. Attendance at each session is not mandatory, however, employees must sign-up in order to earn credit hours. Other requirements include: after completing Level 3, participants must present in order to earn a Level 4 certificate; after Level 5, a participant must co-present with another participant. Participants are expected to present at least once per Level after Level 5.

In 2022, we had two guest speakers and 5 staff persons present the following topics: "Inspiration & The Dutchess County Interfaith Council" by guest speaker

John McKenna, DCIC Executive Director; Leadership Achievement Awards keynote given by Sheriff Kirk A. Imperati; "Resiliency" by Christine Nastasi, Director of Medicaid; "Characteristics of a Good Leader" by: Kim Flasz (APS), Jeannine Guerra (MA), Kara Cerilli (ADM), Suzanne Howell (TA); "Ayurveda in the Workplace" by Wendy Baur (AFS); in addition, a brainstorming session was held to determine future topics.

Our 12th Annual Achievement Awards was held February 6th, 2023. The keynote speaker was Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado, Commissioner of DBCH who spoke about her personal leadership lessons and her leadership style.

At the event, certificates of achievement were given to:

Level V Kim Flasz (AFS);
& Christine Nastasi (MA)

Level IX Wendy Baur (AFS);
& Kara Cerilli (ADM)

Level X Suzanne Howell (TA);
& Theresa Giovanniello (ADM)

Employee Appreciation 2022



Employee Appreciation Day was held on December 7, 2022 with a football themed event. Employees could wear their favorite football jersey or shirt if they donated a non-perishable item to the DCFS Karlson-Bixby Food Pantry. The Divisions also competed in a cornhole tournament. Employees were appreciated for their hard work and commitment with fresh fruit, bagels, yogurt, and juice, and small DCFS tote bags containing an annual report and office supplies. Individuals were also congratulated for Years of Service Milestones, and the Commissioner's Hero Awards.

"Thank you to all of the people that work here." ~ K.M.



YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY & COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM



In August 2022, DCFS held two full days of training for our Youth Financial Literacy and Computer Skills Training Program. We served 8 local youth ranging in age from 13 to 18. DCFS

again partnered with Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board to coordinate the program.

All participants are from families who receive public assistance or foster care services through DCFS. Participants must achieve satisfactory attendance and satisfactory performance in school to qualify for the program.

At the successful completion of the program, each participant earns a laptop and printer. There were 4 trainers from the One Stop Career Center & Workforce Investment Office and one from DCFS Computer Information Services.

They trained the youth in: financial literacy; Microsoft programs such as Excel, MS Word, and PowerPoint; job readiness including job search, cover letter and resume writing, business marketing and held mock job interviews. Since its inception in 2007, the program has served 276 youth. Ninety-five percent of youth who have participated in the program from 2011-2021 are no longer on Temporary Assistance. This program has been recognized as a best practice for youth job preparation at the New York Public Welfare Association Conference.

Employee Generosity 2022

The **Administration Team** collected toys which were donated by staff for the **32nd Annual Salvation Army Toy Drive**.

Andrea Watson (AFS), **Barbara Ingram (CW)**, **Stephanie Perry (AFS)**, and **Marsha Morris (AFS)**, coordinated the annual **Salvation Army's Angel Tags' Collection** and received clothing, toys, and games for 75 children.

Andrea Watson (AFS), **Cheryl DeGroat (AFS)**, **Marsha Morris (AFS)**, and **Stacey Parrella (AFS)** managed the **DCFS Elizabeth Ann Karlson/Jennifer Bixby Food Pantry**.

Children's Services organized another successful Foster Care Picnic at Bowdoin Park. The children enjoyed the games, arts & crafts and a visit from a New Hamburg fire truck. Several staff members from various divisions volunteered at the picnic.

The **Child Support Unit** held their annual collection of hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for **Grace Smith House**.

Deputy Commissioner, Theresa Giovanniello, and the **ABCD Team's CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk Team at DCFS** raised \$3,645 to help fight hunger. Staff created unique raffle gift baskets, and sold fundraising chocolates.

Frank Farinacci (DPW) and the **Department of Public Works** carolers raised \$1,000 for **Hudson River Housing's VetZero Project**, and \$400 for the **John Flowers Christmas Wish** program.



Margaret Holzberger (ACCT) hung **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** ribbons in front of DCFS in support of "advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives."

The **Staff Development Team** coordinated the **Anemones Bouquet Fundraiser** and the **Holiday Wreath Fundraiser** to support **Mental Health America of Dutchess County**.

Temporary Assistance collected a variety of items such as towels, hats/gloves, blankets, apartment essentials, and more, for individuals utilizing **Pete's Place**.

ThinkDIFFERENTLY's 2nd Annual Fitness and Field Day was again held at Bowdoin Park. The day was filled with activities/games, crafts, socializing, animals, and ice cream from **Anderson Center for Autism's Ice Cream Truck!** All participants received a finisher medal and a bagged lunch, that they could take home or eat at one of the numerous tables set up under tents. **Dana Hopkins, All Abilities Program Director**, Administrative Assistant **Xiomara (Mara) Santiago** and the **ThinkDIFFERENTLY Event Planning Committee** helped make the day one in which over 200 individuals and families enjoyed.

Tom Tait (CPS) and **Monique Brennan-Tait (AFS)** volunteered at a local Emergency Housing Shelter's holiday party for residents and their children.

2022



Elizabeth Strelchun
Director of Staff Development
and Human Resources

The Director of Staff Development is responsible for ensuring that the Department of Community and Family Services' workforce receives the training that is necessary to provide objective, competent and professional services to our customers.

Staff Development & Human Resources

In Dutchess County, the Staff Development Division also encompasses the human resources and payroll functions. Elizabeth Strelchun is the Director of Staff Development and Human Resources.

The Staff Development and Human Resources Unit provides on-going personal and career development for DCFS staff members. This includes conducting needs assessments and planning for the delivery, scheduling and attendance of staff training programs that meet local, state, and federal mandates. We have contracts with Adelphi University and SUNY Empire College which includes Dutchess Community College.

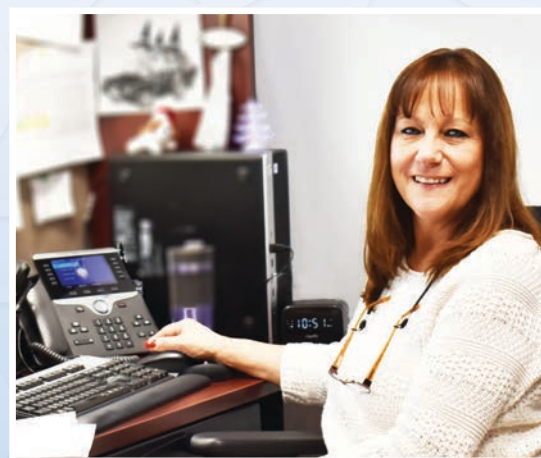
The goal of these programs is workforce professionalism and promotional advancement within the civil service system.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS COMPLETED

New Employment Interviews Conducted	76
New Employees Hired	53
Promotions and Reassignments Processed	37
Leaves of Absence Processed	35
Separations from Dutchess County Service	38

TRAINING HOURS COORDINATED

Temporary Assistance/Intake	2,437
Services (Adult, Children, Youth)	4,085
Medicaid	1,542
SNAP	609
Child Support	462
Special Investigations	57
HEAP	59
Total	9,251



Years of Service

AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES



30 YEARS

Thomas Delpizzo
Margaret Rovere



25 YEARS

Sharon Avila Alan Lewis
Karen Dirago Beverly Powers



20 YEARS

Kristin DeAngelo
Linda Orlando
Peter Simon
Matthew Singleton
Marsha Thomas



15 YEARS

Sheetal Bhushan Darci Levy
Cheryl DeGroat Sandra Lowe
Mary Demichiel Anne McNerney
Kimberly Flowers Jamie Miller
Josie Johnson Kathryn Molina
Christian Jones Chrystal South
Jennifer Keller



10 YEARS

Leah Bochar
Nicole Dahowski
Tyesha Ewing
Danielle Goldhammer
Carolene Johnson
Latesha Johnson
Robert Tortorella
Barbara Vena



5 YEARS

Sandrea Brown
Tracey Buckley
Elizabeth Califano
Ancil Dorsey
Leonardo Fernandez
Susan Flynn
Stephanie Fountain
Season Herlihy

Jodie Hovermill
Devaki Krishnan
Denise Lanzillotti
Corinne Lesko
Jonathan McPhee
Kayla Molnar
Marcella Morton
Destini Peluso

Michael Rusilas
Trina Singleton
Danielle Spaulding
Jade Sprauer
Susan Steinbach
Shekinah Suitt

Bright Stars

The ABCD Committee chooses Bright Star employees from those nominated by their peers. The Committee, made up of members from various units, examines and makes recommendations to the Commissioner on the monthly award recipient/s.

JANUARY



Nichole Dahowski
Temporary Assistance

FEBRUARY



Danielle Spaulding
Adult Services

MARCH



Courtney Aldrich
Adult Services

APRIL



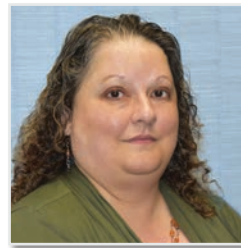
Sarah Menegio
Medicaid

MAY



Tashena Dixon
Temporary Assistance

JUNE



Beth Simmons
Child Support

JULY



Stephanie Kirker
Temporary Assistance

AUGUST



Margaret Holzberger
Accounting

SEPTEMBER



Alex Walleck
Administration

OCTOBER



Marie Fennessy
File Room

NOVEMBER



Latesha Johnson
SNAP

DECEMBER



Shirley Palermo
Reception

2022



Peter Simon
Director of
Administrative Services

The Director of Administrative Services helps develop and present the annual budget and is responsible for the supervision and coordination of the fiscal and operating functions.

Administrative Services

The following units are overseen by the Director: Accounting, Central File, Reception, Purchasing, Welfare Management System and Computer Information Services. The Director of Administrative Services serves as the agency's Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Officer.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Received and processed 20,944 calls at the switchboard (those callers who did not use the main menu options and chose the "operator")
- Completed 517 building work orders
- Processed payments/vouchers for
 - * 146 travel orders
 - * 32 cases for state auditors
 - * 87 DCFS contracts totaling \$12,878,203
 - * 29 Youth Services contracts totaling \$994,187
 - * 7 ThinkDIFFERENTLY contracts totaling \$92,317



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics



Brian Napoleon
Director of Budget and Finance

ACCOUNTING

Maintained accounts for 228 clients in receipt of Supplemental Security Income who need help managing their money. Deposits of \$954,895.52 and issuance of 5,753 checks totaling \$1,009,447.82 occurred on behalf of these clients.

- Collected over \$52,600,000 in state and federal reimbursements on DCFS expenses.
- Arranged and paid for 128 indigent burials in the amount of \$248,898.

ACCOUNTING TRANSACTIONS PROCESSED IN 2022

Services	Number	Amount
Title IV-D Assistance	1,300	\$121,000
Family Assistance	12,500	\$5,339,000
Adult Care and Emergency Assistance	200	\$257,000
Safety Net Assistance	15,400	\$8,251,000
Medical Assistance	100	\$9,000
Emergency Aid to Families	100	\$16,000
Title XX Services for Recipients	400	\$561,000
Non-Title XX Services for Recipients	9,900	\$8,726,000
Foster Care and Adoption Assistance	14,700	\$11,210,000
Child Care Assistance	7,300	\$5,057,000
Independent Living Program	400	\$87,000
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)	5,900	\$273,000
Total	68,200	\$39,907,000



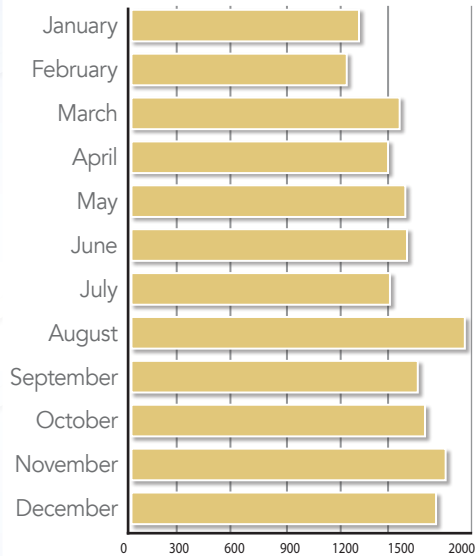
Administrative

RECEPTION

Reception is responsible for accepting program applications and receiving supporting documents as well as registering visitors.

NUMBER OF CLIENT TRANSACTIONS IN RECEPTION

(Poughkeepsie and Satellite Offices)

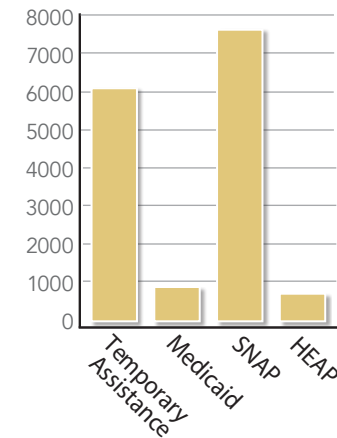


Total Transactions 19,432

My Full View tracking system data

APPLICATIONS/DOCUMENTS DROPPED OFF

My Full View tracking system data



THE CLIENT PRIVACY BOOTH HANDLED 8,636 CALLS DURING THE YEAR



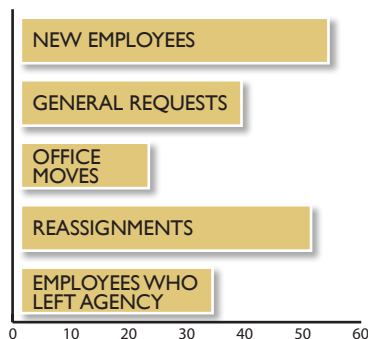
Services



COMPUTER INFORMATION SERVICES

- Completed upgrade to Windows 10.
- Initiated VDI deployment for workers.
- Upgraded Accufund to latest version and migrated database from Sybase to Microsoft SQL Server.
- Began transition to mobile computing to facilitate our capability to handle COVID/ Hurricane Sandy level disruptions.
- Aided in migration of copiers from Ricoh to Canon.
- Re-established Computer Training Room on 2nd floor.
- Assisted in the annual computer training programs for TANF youth.
- Opened a new office for DCFS workers in the Poughkeepsie Journal building.

2022 EMPLOYEE CHANGE REQUESTS



CENTRAL FILE

- Assigned 4,554 new case numbers.
- Managed USPS and interoffice mail for the entire DCFS staff.
- Processed 110,959 pieces of outgoing US Mail (not including inter-office mail).
- Prepared and imaged documents in I/EDR for the following units: Medicaid, Temporary Assistance, SNAP, HEAP, and satellite offices.
- Received and processed 154 Kiosk transactions.
- Recorded 9,346 incoming voter registration forms.
- Processed 110 Print Shop orders including forms, business cards, and specialty orders.
- Filled 5,855 supply requests for DCFS workers.
- Maintained supply inventory of 862 items.



PATHWAYS to SUCCESSES

It was after the chaos of the pandemic, one day in her car listening to a Zoom meeting, when Ms. Chavez learned of the DAY ONE Early Learning Community's Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP). She recalls what it was like listening to the group's guest speaker promoting the program (an intensive, full-time, ten-week apprenticeship program for teachers of varied experience and educational backgrounds).

"This is something I would like to do!" Ms. Jarette Chavez exclaimed enthusiastically over the cooing of a newborn she was holding. Describing how she felt when she first heard about TAP during the Zoom meeting of a women's empowerment group: "It felt like it was a calling for me to do it." Ever since she was a little girl, she liked helping her grandma take care of younger children. She enjoyed helping children in the summer bible school at a church in Mexico. She always dreamed of working with children.

Time passed and life circumstances got in the way of achieving her dream. As an immigrant, coming to the United States in 2009 was not easy. It was a drastic change in culture, language, and life in general. She explained that it changes one's personality and perspective as it creates worries and fears you have not experienced before. Ms. Chavez and her husband worked hard and eventually settled comfortably in Dutchess County. In 2012, they welcomed a son which made them very happy. As their son grew, they noticed differences in his development compared to others his age.



In 2016, their son was diagnosed with Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Ms Chavez and her family immersed themselves in learning more about childhood development and special needs education so they could help him.

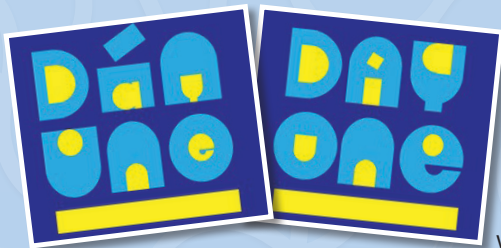
Ms. Chavez began the TAP program in December of 2021. She learned so much about early childhood education from her mentor, Dr. Julie Riess, DAY ONE Co-Founder. After graduation, she was offered the opportunity to join the entrepreneur program which allowed her to open a home-based childcare with their help. "I felt like this was my opportunity to make my dream to work with kids come true."



Ms. Chavez proudly opened her own licensed Group Family Daycare on November 2, 2022, in Poughkeepsie called "Love and Care Bilingual Child Care". She runs the business with her sister, who is also a TAP graduate, Jackelin Chavez, and their mother. Bilingual now, Ms. Chavez said parents are happy that their children are spoken to in two languages at her program. Ms. Chavez's advice for someone interested in DAY ONE and/or opening their own childcare program is "Just do it! It will help you grow personally and open doors. It will not be easy, but it's worth it. You can be someone who makes a footprint in a child's life."

"Every day I feel like this job is a gift from God to our family. We try to do our job with our hearts and the best that we can because we know that early childhood has a big impact on our life. We are extremely grateful to have this opportunity and have our little blessings come lighten up our day, every day."

~ Jarette Chavez, DAY ONE TAP Graduate



DAY ONE

In 2019, the DCFS Commissioner met with a few community leaders who were interested in the provision of high-quality early childhood education to the children and families of the community through the creation of a not-for-profit training school for day care workers; the school would be a lab school – i.e. also a day care center, so day care workers who enrolled in a 10-week session would be in the classroom learning hands-on techniques. The concept was in line with several of the Path to Promise principles/strategies including focusing on school readiness for the 0-5 age group and addressing capacity/quality of youth service providers by offering age-appropriate training. Out of the conversation the Day One Pilot program emerged.

Day One focuses on early childcare/education for children in the City of Poughkeepsie. Since its inception, there were 33 graduates in the teaching apprenticeship program. The Teacher Apprentice Program (TAP) Instructor observes the teacher apprentices in the classroom, taking notes of performance and giving feedback in weekly meetings with the mentor teacher. The Program also provides an Exchange Teacher who could serve as a replacement for a teacher employed in Dutchess County and enrolled in the apprenticeship program who then serve as an ongoing mentor when an apprenticeship teacher returns to regular classroom placement.

Ms. Chavez is one of the 2022 Day One apprentice teacher graduates.

2022



Tracy Connelly
Director of Adult Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) serves adults (age 18 and older) who, due to physical or mental impairments, are unable to protect themselves from abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or other harm and have no one who can assist them responsibly. This mandated service is available to all adults regardless of income and resources. Adult Services also provides Housing Services, Family Type Home Program administration, Foster Family Home for Adults inspections, and Domestic Violence Liaison assessments.

Adult Services

Case Managers investigate and assess safety and risk to adults residing in the community and assist in obtaining services to strengthen their ability to live in the community for as long as possible with the least restrictions. Adults have the right to make their own decisions, including whether to accept or refuse the services that Adult Protective provides. Services are voluntary except in cases of extreme need when the adult lacks capacity to make reasonable decisions on their own behalf.

- In 2022, DCFS received 740 Adult Protective Services referrals, of which 552 (75%) were for individuals ages 60 or older. At intake, 29% of cases had at least one risk factor indicating abuse or neglect from others. Adults who are age 60 and older comprised 82% of the cases which alleged abuse or neglect from another person. Financial exploitation was noted in 123 of all abuse cases for all age groups. Homelessness for vulnerable adults increased from 17% of cases in 2021, to 19% in 2022. Mental illness was indicated as a suspected impairment in 51% of all APS referrals.
- In 2022, we saw a 15% increase in requests for temporary housing assistance from 518 in 2021 to 594 in 2022. The number of single individuals provided temporary housing decreased by 9% and the number of families increased by 55%. The decrease in singles in temporary housing is largely due to single individuals utilizing the PODs, which averaged 119 guests per night in 2022.
- In 2022, the average length of stay in temporary housing was 13 weeks for families and 14 weeks for single individuals.

The overall cost of providing temporary housing increased by 14.8% from 2021 to 2022 (per Cognos temporary housing payment report).

- In 2022, APS received several state and federal grants as well as a grant from a community foundation. The Field Hall Grant assisted Dutchess County's APS clients aged 60 years and older by paying for goods or services they needed but could not afford. Examples of how some of the funds were spent included: transportation, medication, food, emergency housing, heating repairs and fuel, utility bills, Medicaid spenddown, clothing, pest control and cleaning services.
- Two American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants are being utilized for hoarding training for DCFS staff and community partners; conducting a county-wide Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation awareness campaign; providing emergency shelter placement and/or repairs to homes to keep our adult population from becoming homeless.
- NYS provided funding to assist in getting homeless individuals out of temporary emergency housing and into permanent stable housing. We have partnered with the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development to provide rental supplements for homeless individuals and families. This collaboration will make stable, affordable housing possible for our most vulnerable homeless residents. In conjunction with the supplement, awardees will receive comprehensive case management services through the program operator, Hudson River Housing.



The overall length of stay in temporary housing was 14 weeks, a decrease from 2021.

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PARTNERING AGENCIES

- Navigating the System Multi-Disciplinary Presentation
- Office for the Aging Senior Center clients
- Dover High School
- Office of the Aging Staff
- Lutheran Care Center
- Housing Teleconference with Ulster County DSS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Office for the Aging Senior Picnics
- Vassar Brothers Hospital's Community Health Day
- Office for the Aging's "All the Lonely People" event

DUTCHESS COUNTY COMMITTEES/TEAMS

Meetings were conducted via telephone or virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Council of Aging Serving the Elderly (CASE)
- Long-Term Care Council
- Coalition for the Homeless (Webster House Shelter for Single Persons)
- Housing Consortium Meetings
- Mental Health Dependency and Providers Group
- New York Division of Parole, Dutchess County Probation and Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH)
- Enhanced-Multi-Disciplinary Team (E-MDT)
- DBCH Mental Health Sub-committee
- Mental Health Community Challenges Meetings
- Community Solutions Meetings
- Greater Poughkeepsie CCT Meetings
- Hoarding Task Force
- Suicide/Overdose Fatality Review Committee

IN-SERVICE PRESENTATIONS OFFERED TO APS STAFF

- Vassar Warner Home
- Rebuilding Together
- Mobile Crisis Overview
- Job Corps Training
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
- APS/Housing Cross Training
- Foster Care Cross Training

Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

ADULT SERVICES 2021 2022

PSA Cases

PSA Referrals	750	740
PSA Assessments	473	480
PSA Open/Ongoing	347	329
Representative Payee	69	53
Guardianship	30	24
Emergency Housing Cases/Households	518	594
Total Persons Served in Emergency Housing	744	1,061
Licensed Family Type Homes	15	14
Domestic Violence Screenings	106	117

Statistics from Cognos and Adult Services Automated Project (ASAP)



TEMPORARY SHELTER EXPENDITURES

Year	Amount	Stay in Weeks
2013	\$2,168,106	*N/A
2014	\$2,212,208	*N/A
2015	\$1,540,523	9.1
2016	\$2,181,981	11.9
2017	\$2,493,962	12.7
2018	\$3,738,726	12.0
2019	\$6,082,441	13.0
2020	\$6,312,314	15.0
2021	\$5,461,802	15.0
2022	\$6,269,575	14.0

Statistics from Cognos and Adult Services Automated Project (ASAP) *Stay in weeks figure not available in 2013 and 2014.



2022

Children's Services



Amanda McGann-Watson
Director of Children's Services

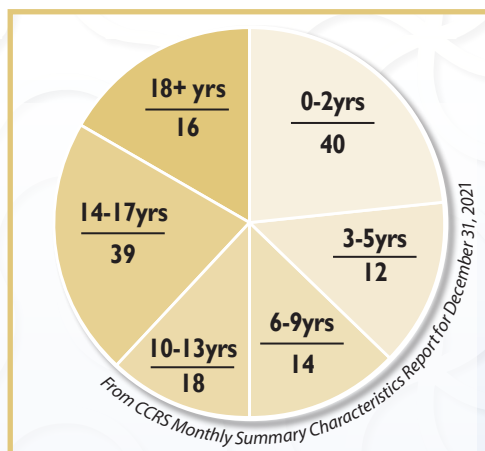
The Children's Services Division provides a wide array of services to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of Dutchess County children. Services are provided directly by staff members in the division and through contracts with many community agencies. Services address issues such as substance abuse, mental illness, developmental disabilities, domestic violence, sexual abuse, medical needs, and childcare. Contracts for a continuum of foster care services are also maintained, from foster home care through institutional care.



CPS CASE SUMMARY	2021	2022
Reports investigated by CPS	2,868	2,377
Abuse Petitions	6	2
Neglect Petitions	207	307
Termination of Parental Rights	51	40
Surrender Petitions Filed in Family Court	20	16
Foster Care Review Permanency Hearings	170	156
Investigations from Child Advocacy Center	283	202
Indicated	64	31
Unfounded	219	148
Pending	0	23

Dutchess County and NYS Office of Court Administration databases and logs, 2022

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY AGE



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Child Protective Services (CPS) investigates reports of alleged child abuse or maltreatment received through the State Central Register (SCR) 24 hours per day, seven days per week. CPS participates in the Multidisciplinary Investigative Team at the Child Advocacy Center, to conduct investigations with law enforcement regarding allegations of sexual abuse and serious physical abuse of children.

FOSTER CARE

The Foster Care unit ensures safe nurturing temporary care for each child, with the goal of returning the child to their family, if possible; adoption if the family cannot be reunited; preparation for living independently, or discharge to another resource as appropriate for each child. Whenever possible, children will be placed with relatives as foster parents.

- Opened 17 new foster parent homes and 12 new relative foster parent homes.
- Trained 17 new relative and non-relative foster families in Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP), Caring for Your Own, and/or Deciding Together. In the Spring, 9 non-relative foster families attended and completed MAPP, and in the Fall 14 families attended and completed MAPP.
- Held Orientation Meetings for 24 people on a one-to-one basis and held 9 foster parent group orientation meetings.
- Discharged 14 foster children to subsidized guardianships with relatives through KinGAP.
- Placed 5 children in direct custody of relatives.
- Held annual foster family picnic in August with a variety of activities and foods.

Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

FOSTER CARE cont'd...

- Conducted Parent-to-Parent meetings, to develop positive relationships between birth parents and foster parents.
- Since the inception of the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative, housing choice vouchers have been provided to 13 eligible youth, 9 of which have been able to secure housing.
- In 2022, 144 youth were outreached through phone calls, letters and in-person for the Chafee Direct Cash Assistance Award for young people ages 18 up to age 23 if they were in foster care at age 14 or older.
- Fostering Hope Together has continued to partner with Dutchess County to help families in the foster care system re-establish their lives. Each year Fostering Hope Together holds a breakfast with Santa and in 2022 they provided 50 backpacks with school supplies for foster children.
- They provide pizza and two no prep no clean meals to foster families in addition to diapers and wipes and Treasure Boxes to foster families for new placements, serving 22 families in 2022. They hold a virtual support group, Fostering Conversation, once a month. In July they held a foster care picnic with more than 20 families in attendance. They also held an Incredible Kid Day showing a movie and provided popcorn.
- Provided Family Team Meetings to 17 CPS, 8 Foster Care, and 35 Preventive families.
- Referred 5 families to the Coached Family Visitation program with Mental Health America of Dutchess County.
- Received a CAPTA/CARA Grant that allowed for a co-located Public Health Nurse to work with young children in families who have been impacted by substance use.
- Co-located domestic violence, substance abuse, guardian and adoption services, and a Wendy's Wonderful Kids working within the Children's Services division.
- Received 107 preventive referrals in 2022. 69 families were offered and received preventive services. 34 families declined services, 4 families were referred to other community-based services to better fit their needs, and there was one duplicative referral.



Children's

ADOPTION

Children available for adoption may be surrendered for adoption by their parents or may be freed for adoption through a Family Court decision to terminate parental rights. Often our foster parents become adoptive parents.

CHILDREN IN CARE	2021	2022
Foster Homes	113	55
Institutions	10	23
Group Homes	3	0
Group Residence	0	0
Agency Operated Boarding Homes	2	3
Supervised Independent Living	1	0
Approved Relative Foster Homes	37	42
Other	8	5
Total	174	128

From December 31, 2022 CCRS in Care Summary Report

ADOPTION ACTIVITY	2021	2022
Children Discharged To Adoption	18	29
Children with adoption as a goal at year end	38	21

From December 31, 2022 CCRS in Care Summary Report

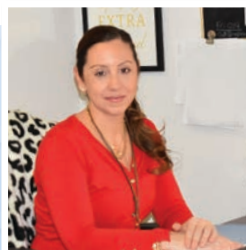
OPEN FOSTER HOMES (as of 12/31/2022)	
76	Foster/Adoptive Homes
18	Kinship Homes

OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTRACTS INCLUDE:

AGENCY	SERVICE
Abbott House	Homebased preventive services for families at risk of having their children placed in foster care.
Astor Services for Children and Families	Crisis intervention waiver services, homebased preventive services, forensic evaluations and the Enhanced Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (ECCSI).
Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth	Homebased preventive services for families at risk of having children placed in foster care and non-secure detention.
Child Abuse Prevention Center	Child Advocacy Center, Supportive Parenting Programs, and Community Education.
Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County	Parenting Skills Training.
Department of Behavioral and Community Health	Co-located Public Health Nurse. Co-located staff who can perform drug/alcohol screens and assessments as necessary.
Grace Smith House	Two domestic violence liaisons provide direct client services, training and consultation regarding domestic violence issues.
JFC Consulting	Medical consultation on child abuse and maltreatment cases.
Lexington Center for Recovery	Co-located staff who can perform drug/alcohol screens and assessments as necessary.
Mental Health America Dutchess Cty	Coached family visitation and court appointed special advocates.
Office of Probation and Community Corrections Dutchess Cty	Preventive services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, to avoid the need for detention or out-of-home placement.
Westchester Institute for Human Development	Child sexual abuse medical examinations.
Youth Advocate Program	Intensive preventive services to prevent out-of-home placement for juvenile justice involved youth and to youth discharged home from residential care.

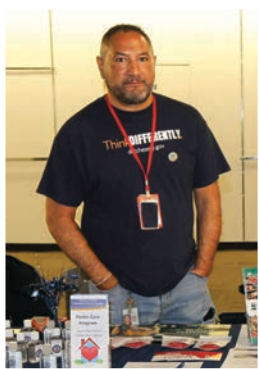
2022 JUVENILE JUSTICE PLACEMENTS	Pre-Dispositional Placements	Non-Secure Detention	Secure Detention	Foster Care
Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS)	2	N/A	N/A	0
Juvenile Delinquents (JD)	N/A	26	23	0
Juvenile Offender (JO)	0	0	0	---
Adolescent Offender (AO)	0	0	8	---

Dutchess County Data, CCRS and JDAS system



Services

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE / SAFE HARBOUR



The mission of the Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking is to prevent human trafficking by working collaboratively to raise knowledge and awareness in our county, to identify potential victims and to provide comprehensive trauma informed services. The task force is responsible for the countywide response to trafficking.

Safe Harbour is a partnership between DCFS, NYS Office of Children and Family Services, and the Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking whose responsibility is to identify trafficked or at-risk youth and offer prevention and intervention services. Safe Harbour works with youth up to the age of 21 whether or not they are involved with Child Welfare. Both initiatives are spearheaded by DCFS staff member, David Garcia, Dutchess County's Safe Harbour Coordinator and are listed in the referral directory at the National Human Trafficking Hotline. We currently have 22 organizations on our task force.

SAFE HARBOUR COORDINATOR

- Assists in identifying victims of labor and sex trafficking and coordinating trauma informed services.
- Provides case management for youth up to the age of 21, who are suspected of being trafficked or are at high risk of being exploited.
- Access to services to support the immediate safety needs of youth (food/clothing/shelter).
- Provides presentations to youth on various topics including Human Trafficking, Internet Safety, Sexting and Sextortion.
- Facilitates Prevention Education Programs for high school and middle school youth.
- Assists families with referrals to supportive services.
- Provides community and professional presentations on Human Trafficking.

Accomplishments

- Received 36 referrals of at-risk youth – Held six meetings of the full Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking (virtually).
- In 2022 we were able to facilitate the Love146 Prevention/ Education program to 4 different groups of youth.
- Trafficking presentations conducted for youth at Nubian Directions 2 (1), River Haven RHYS (2) and health classes in Beacon High School (5).
- Tabling events: Town Hall Forum (Red Hook), Dutchess County Fair (Rhinebeck), Dutchess County Health Fair (Poughkeepsie Mall), National Night Out (City Park PD), School Event for Spanish Speaking families (Dover).
- Safe Harbour Program as a resource- discussions were completed for ECCSI, Court Involved Youth, River Haven Staff & DC Pride.
- Child Welfare Staff, CVSS Advocates and Interns, Grace Smith House staff, Hudson River Housing staff at Hudson River Lodge, ITAP clients, Astor REACH (Recovery Education Addiction Care Hub).



FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-MAIL HumanTrafficking@Dutchessny.gov

VISIT THE WEBPAGE <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Community-Family-Services/Human-Trafficking.htm>

"Thank you so much for coming out and teaching us such important information. Thank you for helping so many youths."

~ A Green Teen Summer Crew Participant

2022



Karmen Smallwood
Director of Youth Services

The Division of Youth Services' mission is to ensure every youth has a fair and equal opportunity to attain his/her full potential by providing and encouraging services which strengthen family life and by supporting families in their essential function of nurturing the youth's overall development.

Youth Services

The Division provides a wide range of services, opportunities and supports for children, youth, and families within the four categories listed below:

- Grants and Scholarships
- Short-Term Supportive Services
- Dutchess County Youth Council
- Dutchess County Path to Promise Initiative

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

New York State Office of Children and Family Services funding is administered through the Division to promote positive youth development, decrease juvenile delinquency, and increase public awareness of youth issues. Members of the Dutchess County Youth Board and Coordinating Council work with Division staff to establish local criteria for funding allocations, review and analyze proposals for the creation or expansion of youth services and make recommendations for grant awards.

- Youth Development Program funding was awarded to 20 agencies and municipalities totaling \$208,075. \$99,806 was allocated for Runaway and Homeless Youth, Youth Sports, and Education Opportunity funding in the amount of \$15,542 was awarded to a local youth organization.
- Partial college scholarships were awarded to a Spackenkill High School student and a Dutchess Community College student.

SHORT-TERM SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Division staff provide short-term support services for youth ages 4 to 21 residing in the county. Referrals are made by school staff, family members, law enforcement officers, and others to help children/youth manage personal, family, or school challenges. Division staff also conduct in-person workshops for community-based organizations. Additional supportive services for families are provided through the Strengthening Families program. This seven-week program provides parents/guardians and youth between the ages of 10-14 strategies to build stronger family relationships.

- Short-term supportive services were provided for 162 children/youth. 131 of these cases were closed and 120 achieved at least one goal.
- 20 workshops were conducted on the following topics: Human Trafficking, Selfie Skills (communication skills) and Humankind (empathy + relationships). 165 youth and 25 adults attended these workshops.
- 1 Case Manager received Youth Mental Health First Aid Training certification.
- 13 families successfully completed Strengthening Families program sessions held in April and September 2022.



DUTCHESS COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

The Dutchess County Youth Council provides opportunities for youth with shared interests to make positive change in their communities through their involvement in service projects and outreach activities. Students throughout the county meet in a safe space where they learn about each other, lead activities, and discuss relevant issues.

- 48 Youth Council students enrolled. They created posters and conducted presentations on Discrimination and Violence, Environment and Conservation, and "Stressure" (stress and pressure) at an event held on June 10th.
- 6 individuals/agency representatives conducted presentations on the following topics: Dutchess County Path to Promise Initiative, Stress and Pressure, Pollinator Pathway Northeast, LGBTQ Issues, Mediation, and Human Rights.



Path to promise

FOR EVERY CHILD

Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

The Dutchess County Path to Promise initiative is a multi-year effort to ensure all young people in Dutchess County, from birth to age 19, have the assets they need to achieve their full potential as they grown into young adults. This multifaceted process brings together individuals and institutions from public and private sectors to create a cradle-to-career system of support for youth across various ages and stages of development.

To learn more about Path to Promise, visit the Dutchess County website at:
www.pathtopromise.net

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 46 youth completed the Dutchess County Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) Program. 5 law enforcement officers from the New York State Police Department, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department and 1 Youth Services Division staff member completed the YPI Train-The-Trainer program. 18 probation officers participated in various training activities.
- 1,000 youth throughout the county participated in summer activities at Camp Nooteeming, located in Pleasant Valley, New York.
- Dutchess County, City of Poughkeepsie, and Poughkeepsie City School District entered into an agreement with Harlem Children's Zone's William Julius Wilson Institute to receive technical assistance on cradle-to-career strategy development.
- 150 students attended the Annual Youth Summit held on August 16th.
- Over 100 elementary and high school students participated in the Youth Opportunity Union (YOU) banner project developed by The Art Effect and Small Stuff LLC, to amplify the voices of local youth and build public enthusiasm for the youth center.

"Thank you for all the laughs and moments throughout the trainings. We appreciate everything! You guys are amazing! Hopefully, I'll see you again!"
~ Green Teen Summer Crew Participant

"Thank you again for running such an important group (Dutchess County Youth Council) and providing our youth with a safe space in which they can be themselves, be among a diverse group of peers, and feel supported by leaders in our community."
~ A Grateful Parent



2022



Kevin McDonald
Social Welfare Manager II
Child Support

The New York State Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), within New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, is the agency responsible for administering the child support program through all the local social services districts.

Child Support Services

The Child Support Division works closely with Dutchess County Family Court to establish and administer child support under the New York State program. Upon request, services are provided to custodial parents, noncustodial parents, and minors under twenty-one years of age.

SERVICES CAN INCLUDE

- Establishment of child support and/or spousal support.
- Location of absent parents through a variety of computer matches available within state and federal systems.
- Establishment of paternity for those receiving public assistance (Medicaid recipients/ applicants are required to cooperate with child support to establish paternity and obtain medical support.)
- Modification petitions for change in circumstances, and cost-of-living adjustment of court orders.
- Medical benefit executions requiring enrollment of dependents in third party health insurance.
- Support collection and monitoring of payments until disbursement of monies associated with that order become the responsibility of the NYS Central Collection Agency.
- Enforcement of court orders.
- Income executions when a noncustodial parent is employed.
- Collection of arrears from federal and state tax refunds, OTB and lottery winnings, and bank accounts.
- Suspensions or denials of New York State driver's or professional licenses.
- Initiation of violation proceedings in Family Court.
- Referrals to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance's program for collection and seizure of assets, which targets individuals with child support payments over four months in arrears.



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

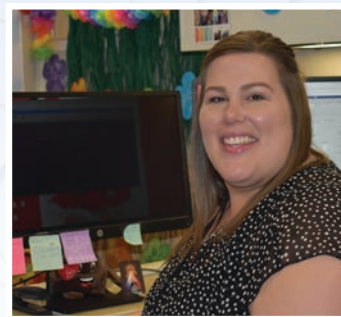
CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS

- Collected \$26,926,147 in child support (of this amount, \$26,367,589 benefited families that did not have an active Temporary Assistance case.).
- Due to restrictions of personnel in Family Court, onsite DNA samples were unable to be taken during 2022. A total of 84 samples were collected at offsite locations.
- Processed 3,908 Family Court petitions.

CHILD SUPPORT ACTIVITY	2021	2022
Child Support Cases Open	7,753	7,500
Children Open in Support Cases	6,836	6,484
Children Open Born Out of Wedlock	4,071	3,904
Children Open with Paternity Established	3,854	6,253
Children Open with Paternity Resolved	94.7%	94.6%
Children Needing Paternity Determination	226	240
Cases with Collections during Year (FFY 10/21 - 9/22)	5,498	4,887
Interstate Cases with Collections during Year (FFY 10/21 - 9/22)	304	259
Cases Open Where Medical Support is Ordered	5,124	5,014
Cases with Arrears Due during Year (FFY 10/20 - 9/21)	5,912	5,713

From NYS OCSE DCFS-157 Report, Statistical Trends Report, and Child Support Monthly Report

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS	
Year	Amount Collected
2013	\$30,876,366
2014	\$30,415,090
2015	\$30,110,004
2016	\$30,149,458
2017	\$29,324,983
2018	\$29,490,300
2019	\$29,905,140
2020	\$30,538,171
2021	\$28,575,167
2022	\$26,926,147



2022



Christine Nastasi
Social Welfare Manager II
Medicaid

Medicaid is a program for people who cannot afford to pay for medical care.

The Medicaid program provides services through membership in care plans as well as fee for service Medicaid. It is funded through federal, state and county appropriations. There are four plans to choose from in Dutchess County: MVP, Fidelis, Wellcare, and United Healthcare.

Medicaid

To qualify for the Medicaid program, applicants must meet income requirements and may have resource requirements depending on the program. Eligibility rules are based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The gross household countable income of a client must not exceed the prescribed percentages of the FPL to be eligible.

Locally, we process applications for individuals over 65 years old, disabled adults with Medicare, and disabled children with the Children's Consolidated Waiver. We also serve consumers who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). All others must apply directly with the New York State Department of Health.

MEDICAID SERVICES

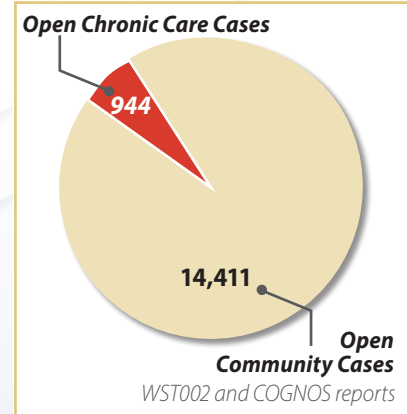
- Initiated 3 projects for the consolidated 1915c Children's Waiver from NYSDOH to LDSS for Environmental Modifications. These include two bathrooms, & one generator. We have completed two bathrooms, one stair glide, and one vehicle.
- On April 7, 2022, Medicaid participated at The Trolley Barn in a workshop with Office for New Americans and Developmental Disabilities Planning Council for families with disabled children to learn the process to access disability services.
- On May 25, 2022, Medicaid participated at Arlington High School in a Transition & Resource Fair for students in Dutchess County with IEPs and 504s to learn opportunities and steps involved with the process of planning for life after high school.
- On July 19, 2022, Medicaid presented Modify 2 Modify: How We Twisted Our Internal Process to Implement the E-Mods at The New York Public Welfare Association's 153rd Annual Summer Conference in Saratoga.
- On August 26, 2022, Medicaid presented Navigating the DCFS System: Processing 1915(c) Consolidated Childrens' Waiver Environmental Modifications within Dutchess County for Health Home Representatives and Care Coordinators.
- On November 1, 2022, Medicaid participated at Poughkeepsie High School in a Transition & Resource Fair for students in Dutchess County with IEPs and 504s to learn opportunities and steps involved with the process of planning for life after high school.

MEDICAID MMIS (MEDICAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM) – GROSS SHARES

2013	\$429,748,115
2014	\$457,109,963
2015	\$508,395,860
2016	\$542,058,647
2017	\$567,472,254
2018	\$604,607,576
2019	\$636,438,529
2020	\$664,392,812
2021	\$683,486,262
2022	\$747,023,824

MRP2190-R0019 report

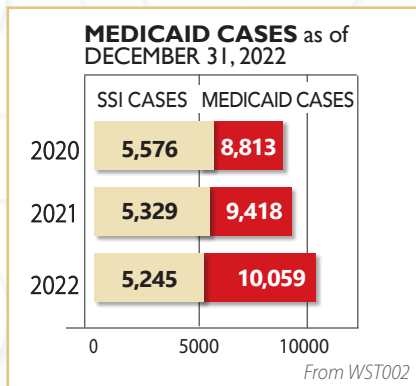
CASE TYPE COMPARISON



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

MEDICAID TRANSACTIONS	2021	2022
Applications Registered	2,781	2,917
Cases Opened/Reactivated/ Open-Closed	2,808	2,909
Cases Closed	2,498	2,294
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	22,826	22,034
Recertifications	280	239
Denied	1,270	1,439
Closed Case Maintenance/Forced Deletion	121	109
Other	---	3
Total Transactions	29,803	29,027

From WMS WST003



MEDICAL EXPENDITURES BY PROVIDER*	2021	2022	%Change
PROVIDER TYPE			
Hospital Inpatient Services	\$25,010,429	\$25,425,538	1.7
Hospital Outpatient Services	\$3,578,009	\$3,396,170	-5.1
Skilled Nursing Facilities	\$73,819,848	\$72,667,062	-1.6
Intermediate Care Facilities	\$19,366,805	\$18,870,043	-2.6
Clinics	\$18,753,727	\$13,414,609	-28.5
Hospice	\$1,844,763	\$1,768,327	-4.1
Physicians Services	\$2,273,144	\$2,335,541	2.7
Dental Services	\$226,325	\$164,629	-27.3
Other Practitioners Services	\$2,531,593	\$5,030,019	98.7
Child Care Institutional Medical Per Diem	\$664,888	\$77,500	-88.3
Personal Care Services	\$4,181,164	\$4,280,196	2.4
Home Health Services	\$579,805	\$903,588	55.8
Assisted Living Services	\$7,857,404	\$8,328,977	6.0
Long-Term Home Health Care Waived Services	\$9,120,668	\$11,498,266	26.1
Home and Community Based Waived Services	\$107,769,383	\$113,699,240	5.5
Rehabilitation and Therapy	\$126,063	\$213,945	69.7
Mental Hygiene Restorative Rehabilitation	\$10,113,183	\$12,376,942	22.4
Drugs and Supplies	\$5,307,509	\$4,906,852	-7.5
Eye Appliances and Durable Medical Equipment	\$375,202	\$352,311	-6.1
Prepaid Care	\$369,737,932	\$390,878,777	5.7
Case Management	\$9,269,687	\$8,807,769	-5.0
Health Insurance Premiums	\$2,386,688	\$3,433,308	43.9
Medical Transportation	\$13,048,542	\$17,736,070	35.9
Lab and X-Ray Services	\$541,786	\$507,541	-6.3
Other	\$116,427	\$452,326	288.5
Total	\$688,600,975	\$721,525,547	4.8

NYSDOH MARS MRP1010-R001



2022



Joanne Sinagra
Social Welfare Manager II
SNAP/HEAP

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Services (Satellite offices are included in this division.)

SNAP/HEAP Services

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP helps low-income working people, seniors and the disabled put healthy food on the table. SNAP benefits are issued electronically monthly. SNAP eligibility is based on household income, household size, and other factors.

For fast, easy and confidential service, which is available 24 hours a day, visit: www.mybenefits.ny.gov.

You can check to see if you are eligible, apply for SNAP/HEAP benefits and track your application. You can also apply at all Dutchess County Community Action and DCFS locations. Seniors may apply at Dutchess County Office for the Aging.

- NYS oversight issued waivers, were extended during 2022. This included relaxed interview and recertification interviews, as well as certain reporting requirements.
- The SNAP maximum benefit allotment was extended during 2022.

SNAP TRANSACTIONS	2021	2022
Applications Registered	8,215	9,972
Cases Opened/ Reactivated/Open-Closed	6,152	6,593
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	164,218	170,068
Recertifications	5,514	6,121
Denied	3,200	4,495
Closed Case	5,540	6,013
Closed Case Maintenance	107	140
Total Transactions	184,731	193,430

From WMS WST003

SNAP CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

2013	13,087	2018	10,353
2014	12,892	2019	10,385
2015	12,142	2020	10,221
2016	11,146	2021	10,446
2017	10,680	2022	10,761

From WMS WST002



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

HEAP assists low income people pay the cost of heating their homes. Eligibility is based on household income. Program components include: Regular, Emergency, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement, Heating Equipment Clean and Tune, and Cooling Component.

FUEL DEPOT

Dutchess County Community Action Partnership is our contractor that administers the Emergency Fuel Program. Households accessing the emergency fuel depot are required to apply for HEAP benefits. The emergency fuel depots are located throughout Dutchess County and operate after 5:00 PM Monday – Friday and weekends through HEAP season.



SATELLITE OFFICES

EASTERN DUTCHESS GOVERNMENT CENTER



The EDGC Satellite Office is on 131 County House Road 3rd Floor, Millbrook, New York.

This office accepts all financial program applications (Temporary Assistance, SNAP, Medicaid, and HEAP). The workers in this office are responsible for determining eligibility and the maintenance of the case for ongoing services.

Due to the size and staffing of this office, the EDGC office operates on an appointment only schedule. This location is not equipped to take care of housing emergencies. If an individual or family find themselves needing this type of service, they are referred to the main office in Poughkeepsie.

BEACON CENTER



The Beacon Center Satellite Office is located in the Southern County Office Building, 223 Main Street, Beacon, New York.

This office services SNAP and HEAP customers. If consumers need to relay or submit information to a different DCFS office, they may utilize the Beacon site to drop off their documents.



2022



Christian Jones
Social Welfare Manager II
Temporary Assistance

Temporary Assistance Intake determines eligibility and screens all applicants for domestic violence, drug, and alcohol abuse, and any other physical or psychological barriers to employment. The Temporary Assistance unit works with employable individuals, persons with barriers and child-only cases focusing on employment as a priority while promoting self-sufficiency and personal responsibility.

Temporary Assistance Services

Due to the pandemic, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) waived the requirement to hold face-to-face interviews with Temporary Assistance applicants, allowing us to conduct telephone interviews instead.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Family Assistance provides benefits for families with children. Cash benefits are limited to five years in a recipient's lifetime. After five years, a Family Assistance case may continue to receive benefits if an adult is disabled and cannot work, or by applying for assistance through Safety Net.

SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE

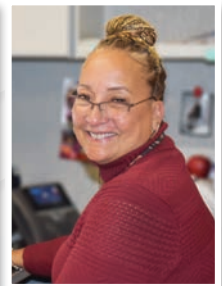
Safety Net Assistance provides benefits for basic living expenses for single adults and childless couples or families who have used up their 5-year limit of Family Assistance.

Cash benefits are limited to two years including any cash benefits received through Family Assistance. After two years, the non-case Safety Net Assistance voucher system provides benefits.

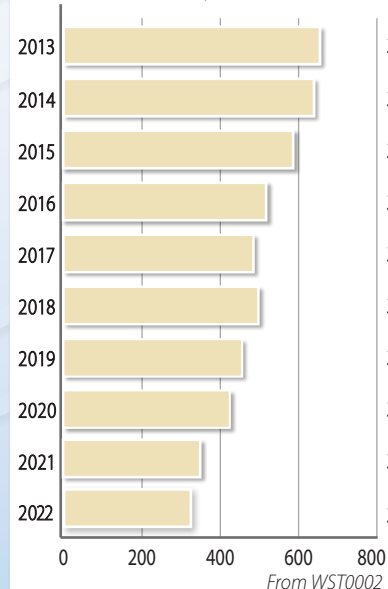
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TRANSACTIONS

	2021	2022
Applications Registered	4,354	5,657
Cases Opened/Reactivated/ Open-Closed	2,359	2,740
Cases Closed	1,346	1,388
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	12,642	12,917
Recertifications	1,043	920
Denied	2,599	3,598
Closed Case Maintenance	146	141
Total Transactions	20,135	21,704

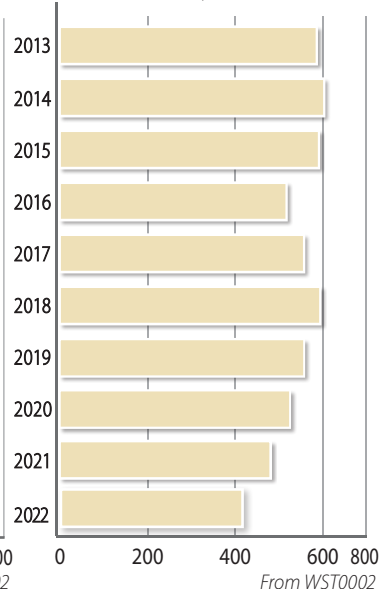
From WST0003



FAMILY ASSISTANCE CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022



SAFETY NET CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

EMPLOYMENT UNIT

The Employment unit assists able-bodied clients attain self-sufficiency and helps those who are incapacitated obtain necessary treatment and rehabilitation services. Staff conduct an assessment with each individual and work with them to develop an individualized employment plan.

- Through our partnership with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, 35 TANF and/or Safety Net recipients participated in the Workforce Connections Program; 16 became employed.
- Through our partnership with Dutchess County BOCES: 19 individuals completed the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) intake assessment; 6 were enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes and/or the High School Equivalency program; 4 individuals enrolled in other training programs such as Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA) and Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) and 3 completed their training.
- Through our partnership with Exodus Transitional Community, a re-entry program serving formerly incarcerated individuals, involving comprehensive job seeking, job retention, job training and career planning. Of 16 who are employed, the average work hours per week is 30 hours, the average hourly wage of \$15.00.
- Through a partnership with DCWIB, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) engaged 144 eligible youth including homeless, low income and foster care youth, with seven receiving Temporary Assistance.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Child Care Subsidy program is designed to help low-income families meet their child care needs. Eligibility is based on income. The Child Care Subsidy unit processes applications, monthly payments to providers and works with the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam Counties, which is contracted to provide inspection of child care providers and assist clients in locating a child care provider.

- The Department was granted a NYS waiver to provide additional benefits under the Child Care Assistance Program due to COVID-19. The waiver expanded the income eligibility standards to serve families with incomes up to 85% of the State Median Income and allowed the family share to be waived for those families impacted by COVID-19.
- Provided services to 620 families and 995 children.



2022



Jessica Cady
Supervisor of
Special Investigations

Special Investigations unit is responsible for public assistance program integrity and investigates possible welfare fraud, assists with eligibility determinations, and recovers overpayments/ repayments of assistance where appropriate.

Special Investigations

COST AVOIDANCE FOR PROGRAM INTEGRITY

Initiatives	Description	Number of Application Denials, Case Closings or Grant Reductions	Estimated Cost Avoidance
Front End Detection System (FEDS)	Detecting fraud at application	234	\$2,677,224
Intentional Program Violations (IPV)	Disqualification sanctions for those found guilty	1**	\$1,716

*From NYS OTDA Cost Avoidance Program Calculations ** Successful IPV was granted through a prosecution, currently all administrative disqualification hearings were placed on hold as of February 2021 and have not yet resumed.*

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT ACTIVITY

	2021	2022
Completed Investigations	114	123
Confessions of Judgment	41	52
Value of Repayment Agreements Signed	\$144,773	\$136,965
SNAP Disqualifications	4	1**
Value of SNAP Disqualifications	\$10,418	\$4,276
TA Disqualifications	3	0**
Value of TA Disqualifications	\$21,898	XXXXX
Duplicate Case Reviews	311	314
Incarcerated Case Reviews	30	14

PARIS and Prison Match Reports



COLLECTION ACTIVITY

	2021	2022
Lottery Intercepts	\$20,829	\$10,342
Fees (parking, guardian, adoption, home study, phone, postage, confessions of judgment, copies and subpoenas)	\$8,835	\$15,319
Cash Collections (TANF, SN, MA, Services, SNAP, SN-SSI and CSE Repayments)	\$7,661,056	\$8,174,627

From Cash Management System



2022 Legal Services



Susan Flynn
Bureau Chief

The Legal Unit at DCFS handles cases involving adult protection, child abuse and /or neglect, foster care, and termination of parental rights. It also prosecutes support collection cases and offers legal advice to the various divisions and represents DCFS in Family Court cases and in related matters in other court and legal forums.

This unit is active with these innovative programs:

Permanency Hearing Part; Domestic Violence PART for Article 10 Abuse and Neglect cases; Regularly scheduled pre-trial conferences and discovery; Dutchess County Child Advocacy Center, and Dutchess County Court Improvement Project for Abused and Neglected Children. DCFS, with the Legal Unit, continues to participate in collaborative systems:

- Weekly CPS review of cases with attorney/s.
- Weekly court case conferences with attorney/s.
- Weekly foster care case review with Foster Care Unit.
- Bi-weekly Child Advocacy Center meetings.
- Child Advocacy Center with concomitant interaction among the District Attorney's Office, County Attorney's Office, Child Protective Services, Office of Probation and Community Corrections, law enforcement, mental health agencies, victim services and medical service providers.

LEGAL STATISTICS	2022
Child Protective Reports	2,377
Support Cases	7,500
Private Support Referrals	19
Fair Hearings	
Medicaid	41
Child Welfare	81
Collection and Resource Cases	215
Adult Protective Cases	56

LEGAL DISPOSITIONS	2021	2022
Child Abuse Petitions	6	2
Child Neglect Petitions	207	307
Termination of Parental Rights	55	40
IVD Paternity	149	187
IVD Support	3,342	3,319
IVD Interstate Support (UIFSA)	104	92
Permanency Hearings	170	156

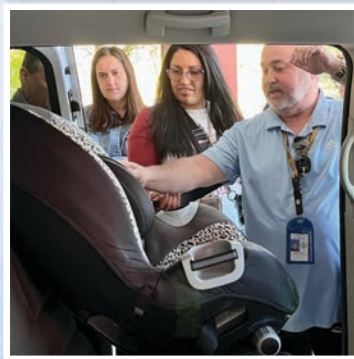


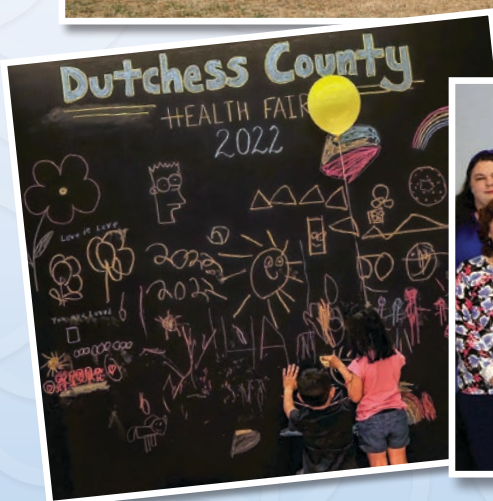
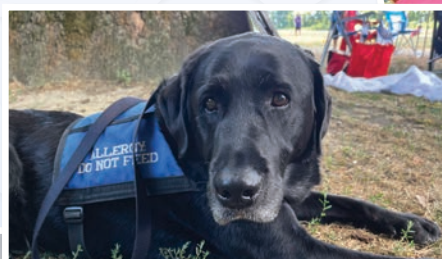
Community Outreach

With COVID restrictions relaxed again this summer; children, youth and families appreciated enjoyable activities with the DCFS team in the fresh air. In the Spring, Youth Services held another Dutchess County Youth Council Year-End Celebration at Bowdoin Park.



The Summer also brought joyful experiences such as the ThinkDIFFERENTLY Fitness & Field Day and the Dutchess County Fair Day; and the annual Foster Care Picnic. Team DCFS also shared information about our services at events such as the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health's Dutchess County Health Fair, and the Dutchess County Office for the Aging's popular senior picnics.







DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES SATELLITE LOCATIONS

Beacon Center
223 Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508
845.838.4800

Child Advocacy Center
35 Van Wagner Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845.486.5112

Eastern Dutchess Government Center
131 County House Road
Millbrook, NY 12545
845.677.5532

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

Dutchess County
www.dutchessny.gov
Dutchess One Stop Career Center
www.dutchessonestop.org
845.473.9000

Health Plan Marketplace
www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov

**Apply for/track TA, SNAP,
and HEAP benefits.**
www.mybenefits.ny.gov
NYDocSubmit
(mobile app to submit documents)

**New York State Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**
www.otda.state.ny.us
518.473.1090

**New York State Office of Children
and Family Services**
www.ocfs.state.ny.us
518.473.7793

HOTLINE NUMBERS

Report alleged child abuse or neglect
Main Hotline 800.342.3720
Mandated Reporter Hotline
800.635.1522

Report Fraud
Medicaid 877.873.7283
SNAP 800.424.9121
Welfare 800.367.4448

Report alleged adult abuse or neglect
844.697.3505
Rape Crisis/Crime Victim
845.452.7272



Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services
60 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
www.dutchessny.gov
DCFSinfo@dutchessny.gov
phone: 845.486.3000 fax: 845.486.3090

