

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

**Stepping
Out of
Poverty**

Annual Report 2023

MISSION

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



2023 DCFS Annual Report

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A Message from County Executive Sue Serino



Friends,

Each day, the dedicated men and women of the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) work to provide vital services to so many in our community – from ensuring our children are safe and supported, to providing critical resources to address food insecurity, to protecting our older residents from abuse and neglect. I'm proud to share with you the department's achievements in this 2023 DCFS Annual Report. It's not simply a document filled with statistics and figures; it is a testament to the tireless efforts of our dedicated DCFS staff to uplift our community.

In the pages of this report, you will find stories of resilience, empowerment, and hope. In particular, through our various programs and initiatives, DCFS continues to make significant strides in assisting residents in need to break out of the cycle of poverty. Whether it's providing crucial financial assistance, access to childcare services, access to reliable personal transportation, or facilitating employment opportunities, Dutchess County Government's commitment to enhancing the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community never wavers.

Continued collaborations with local organizations, businesses, and government partners at every level have strengthened DCFS' ability to address the complex challenges faced by its clients. Through these partnerships, DCFS has leveraged resources and expertise to implement innovative solutions and better meet the diverse needs of the community it serves.

Dutchess County and DCFS remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting equity, dignity, and opportunity for all residents of Dutchess County. Your support and engagement are invaluable, as DCFS continues its mission to assist and protect vulnerable County residents with the aim of restoring each individual to maximum independence. In turn, we will build a stronger, more inclusive community for generations to come.

I invite you to explore this 2023 Annual Report and join me in celebrating the progress the DCFS staff has made. I take pride in the department and its accomplishments, and I'm sure you'll have a deeper appreciation for its work after reading this report. Together, we can create positive change and ensure every member of our community continues to have the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Sue Serino
Dutchess County Executive

A Message from Commissioner Jaar Marzouka



I recently saw the movie *Cabrini* about the life of Frances Xavier Cabrini, an Italian born American nun. Mother Cabrini, as she was known, served the poor Italian immigrant families in the early 1900's in New York City. One particular scene actually struck me. The sisters were considering which fabric to use to make uniforms for the

children of the orphanage. Mother Cabrini selected the more expensive fabric. Why? Because "the children deserve better." The message? In serving the poor, we must give them the best we can because they deserve to be treated with dignity.

At the Department of Community & Family Services, that is exactly what we strive for. Pulling each individual and family out of poverty, strengthening their confidence, restoring their dignity. They may need financial assistance to afford daycare for their children, food, or medical insurance, finding shelter or rental assistance to avoid eviction. They may need our protective services because they have been neglected or abused, victim of domestic violence, fraud, or human trafficking. Whatever their need, we are here for the children and the adults, the vulnerable and the lonely.

Nelson Mandela once said, "As long as poverty, injustice, and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest." Mother Cabrini knew that well. Although her constitution was very frail, she permitted nothing to impede her from accomplishing what seemed beyond an individual's strength. Every employee at the Department knows this as well.

As you read through these pages, I hope that you will get a glimpse at the work that we do, helping our neighbors to climb out of poverty and despair, reaffirming their dignity, and achieving success one step at a time.

Sincerely,

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

Contents

A Message from Sue Serino	2
A Message from Sabrina J. Marzouka.....	3
Goals and Objectives/ Organizational Wheel	4
Facts at a Glance	5
Commissioner's Office.....	6-13
Above and Beyond	11
Leadership Development Program.....	12
Employee Appreciation	12
Employee Generosity	14
Staff Development/Human Resources.....	15
Years of Service Milestones.....	16
Bright Stars.....	17
Administrative Services	18-21
Feature Story Stepping Out of Poverty	22-23
Who We Are and Our Accomplishments	
Adult Services	24-25
Children's Services	26-29
Youth Services.....	30-31
Child Support Unit	32-33
Medicaid Services.....	34-35
SNAP/HEAP Services.....	36-37
Temporary Assistance Services.....	38-39
Special Investigations Unit	40
Legal Unit	41
Community Outreach	42-43

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.



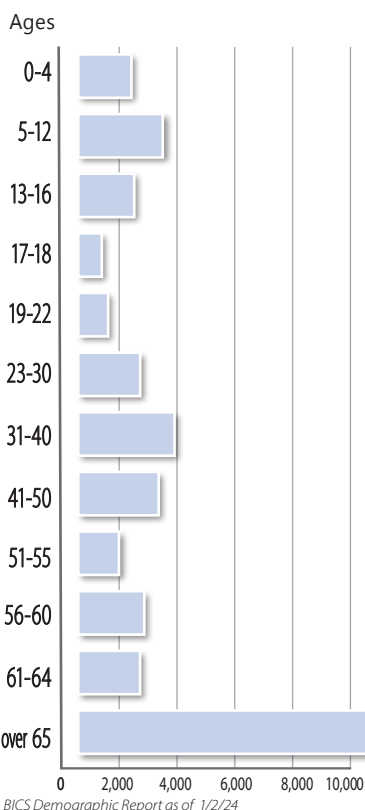
Facts At-a-Glance 2023

TOP MEDICAID PAYEES

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

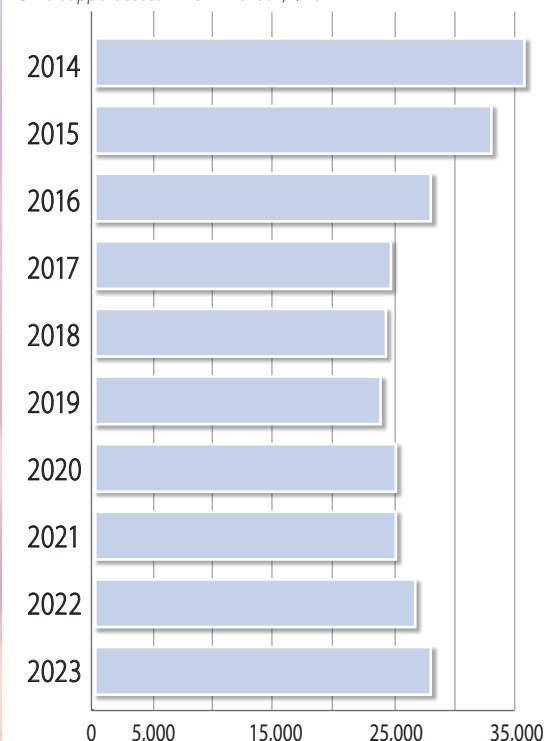
New York Catholic Health Plan	\$135,460,172
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	\$133,116,984
New York Quality Healthcare	\$25,866,425
Cardinal Hayes Home Millbrook	\$17,710,817
New Horizons Resources, Inc.	\$14,641,877
Westchester Medical Center	\$13,819,858
Hamaspik Choice, Inc.	\$12,722,516
Taconic DDSO SPV/SPT	\$12,153,207
Sullivan Co Chap NYSARC SPV	\$11,888,019
Greystone Programs, Inc. SPV	\$11,636,428
United Healthcare of NY, Inc.	\$11,366,051
Anderson FND F/Autism SPV	\$11,240,416
Ferndcliff Nursing Home NON OCC	\$11,011,189
Health Advantage Plan, Inc.	\$10,988,104

ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS



DCFS CASELOAD SNAPSHOT

Unduplicated cases. Does not include HEAP, Services, or Child Support cases—from WST002, 1/2024



TOP NON-MEDICAID VENDORS

Hudson River Lodging	\$6,060,304.98
Community Housing	\$1,979,966.59
Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth	\$1,929,247.00
Family Services	\$1,825,352.92
Central Hudson	\$1,688,268.44
Morgan Fuel and Heating	\$1,605,635.11
DC Office of the Aging	\$1,486,124.16
Children's Home of Poughkeepsie	\$1,276,630.59
DC Attorney	\$1,236,815.92
Parvim Hospitality LLC	\$1,148,790.99

ACTIVE CASES

Cases as of	12/31/22	12/31/23
SNAP	10,761	11,009
HEAP	2,293	2,176
Medicaid	10,059	9,130
Medicaid SSI	5,245	5,164
Family Assistance	335	337
Safety Net Assistance	432	445
Services (Adult/Children)	1,549	1,813

2023 MODIFIED BUDGET

	Appropriations	Revenues
Administration (salaries, fringe, materials, other)	\$42,492,601	\$25,253,043
Non-Secure Detention	\$745,000	\$320,950
Day Care	\$9,057,328	\$9,063,699
Services for Recipients	\$10,685,542	\$3,740,377
Medicaid - Local payments	\$193,025	\$175,000
Medicaid - MMIS Payments	\$35,905,493	\$0
Special Needs Adults/Family	\$564	\$0
Family Assistance	\$8,343,924	\$8,182,123
Foster Care	\$31,737,923	\$26,338,230
Juvenile Delinquents/PINS	\$950,000	\$450
State Training Schools	\$3,000,000	\$0
Safety Net	\$8,165,000	\$2,990,000
HEAP	\$702,700	\$702,700
Emergency Aid to Adults	\$385,000	\$127,500
Youth Administration	\$709,082	\$324,238
Youth Services Unit	\$391,464	\$182,341
Youth Development Program	\$1,053,200	\$259,600
Youth Runaway & Homeless	\$136,000	\$102,000
Totals	\$154,653,846	\$77,762,251

2023

Commissioner's OfficeA

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 Giovannello
Deputy Commissioner



Tracy Connelly
Deputy Commissioner



Sharon Avila
Confidential Administrative Assistant



Elsa Gracian
Confidential Administrative Assistant

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Commissioner's Rapid Response team received 2,994 inquiries through the DCFSinfo email on the County public website, an increase of 70% from 2022.
- The phone booth installed in the reception area of the main office building in 2021 was very popular among clients who appreciated talking with their workers without having to meet face-to-face. The client privacy booth was utilized for 12,134 calls in 2023, a 41% increase from 2022 when 8,600 calls were recorded from the phone booth.
- An immersive Poverty Simulation training for all the department staff took place at the Convention Center on September 29th. Outside trainers conducted lively and engaging morning and afternoon sessions with an all-staff meeting from 12-1 p.m. This not only brought our DCFS employees together under one roof to increase interaction and morale, but it also helped all to better appreciate the challenges our clients face.
- Effective October 1, 2023, changes were made to the Day Care Subsidy program, including approval of up to 48 absences for all modalities. The income eligibility was set at 85% of the State Median Income. In 2023, we provided childcare subsidies to 810 families for 1,263 children with no waiting list.
- On October 27th, 2023, the department offered the annual Navigating the DCFS System hybrid workshop to bring providers up to date on the various benefits available, with a particular focus on Day Care Subsidy program. Sixteen (16) individuals representing 14 agencies participated in the workshop.
- In the fall of 2023, outreach letters were sent to all Dutchess County school districts to address educational neglect. A brochure was included with an offer for in-person presentations regarding Child Protective Services and available Community Based Preventive Services. Eight (8) presentations were given to the following schools districts: multiple presentations in the Wappingers and Hyde Park school districts, Rhinebeck, Dutchess BOCES, and Webutuck school districts.





Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

- Meeting the needs of the homeless population was a priority in 2023. 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 149 individuals per night.
 - o In addition to the PODs, the Department provided Temporary Emergency Housing to 759 adults and 579 children, with nearly \$8.5 million expended on emergency housing representing a 36% increase over 2022 expenditures.
 - o Dutchess County was allocated federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds to assist households that are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. As of December 18, 2023, there were 4,998 total applications for rental arrear, of which 4,051 also included prospective rental applications, and 1,845 utility arrears applications from Dutchess County. At the end of the year, 2,506 applications were paid a total of \$24,497,667.88.
 - o The Department also received NYS budget allocation to offer rental supplement for households who are experiencing homelessness. In 2023, we received 608 applications and successfully housed 39 households (41 adults).





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 joint 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 82 Fiscal Child Care Audits (DCFS is in full compliance) for NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS).

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

- Conducted 34 contract monitoring site visits.
- Completed 65 contract program desk reviews.

FAIR HEARING ACTIVITY	2023
Fair Hearings Requested	753
Fair Hearings Held	546
Appellant Defaults	194
Appellant Withdrawals	162
Agency Decisions Upheld	79
Agency Decisions Reversed	26
Percentage of Fair Hearings in Favor of the Agency	95%
Postponed/Pending	54
Other Agencies	60
Correct When Made	6
Agency Withdrawals	14



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 the processing of contracts, prepares and/or responds to requests for proposals and bids, and coordinates the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General's Medicaid Compliance Audit demonstration Project in Dutchess County.

CONTRACT ACTIVITY	2023
Adult Foster Care Services	1
Credit Reporting	4
Child Care	3
Detention/Foster Care Institutions	39
Domestic Violence Services	6
Employment/Training/Transportation Services	12
SNAP Nutrition Education/HEAP	4
Genetic Testing	1
Homeless Prevention	17
Interpreter Services	1
Interdepartmental Services	9
Legal Services	2
Medical Exams/Services	5
Memoranda of Agreement	108
Preventive Services	22
Resource Parents	74
Service Agreements	24
Special Needs	1
Totals	333

Value of Contracts \$54,000,000+



HIGHLIGHTS cont'd...

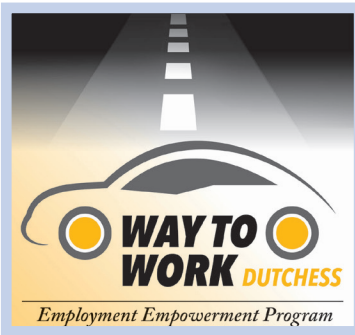
The department continues to participate in several initiatives focusing on positive youth development, including:

- Collaborated with Putnam County Youth Bureau to launch the "Parents As Driving Partners Initiative" aimed to foster safer driving habits and creating safe drivers by encouraging active involvement and shared responsibility between teens and their parents during the early stages of driving. 254 signed Parent and Youth Agreements have been signed.
- Partnered with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board and Dutchess Community College to organize the Annual Youth Summit for 150 youth held at Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Education Services (DC BOCES).
- Coordinated outreach for Camp Nooteeming, a 272- acre camp located in Pleasant Valley. 373 unduplicated County youth participated in the Pathfinder summer camp from July 3rd through August 25th. The camp had an average weekly attendance of 100 youth. 71 public access and community events were held, attracting more than 6,307 attendees.
- Twenty-Eight (28) youth completed the Dutchess County Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) Program. A YPI graduate and member of YPI's National Youth Council traveled to Boston, MA along with 5 youth from across the country in January to record police reform recommendations at Red Sky studios. Three Dutchess County Youth and two YPI trainers attended the YPI Leadership Conference, Binghamton University, in July.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE SERVED ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

- Community Development Advisory Committee
- 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
- NYPWA Fiscal Administrators Association
- 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
- Department of Behavioral and Community Health's Suicide and Overdose Fatality Review Committee.
- Dutchess County's Domestic Violence Steering Committee
- Dutchess County's Housing Consortium
- Dutchess County's Human Trafficking Taskforce
- Dutchess County Workforce Project Investment Board
- Family Court Improvement Project
- Hudson Valley SOS CTI
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Policy Coordinating Group
- NYS OCFS/OTDA Staff Development Advisory Committee (SDAC)
- Office for the Aging's Advisory Board
- Opioid Task Force
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Workgroup
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Executive Committee
- Youth Opportunity Union Advisory Committee
- Universal Response to Domestic Violence

Commissioner's



WAY TO WORK

In 2023 the County Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) and the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (DCWIB) provided eight 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 approximately \$1,614 a month; within a year, that savings equals the cost of a used car.

Among the recipients in 2023 is a client who first contacted Way to Work in the hopes of earning a vehicle to avoid walking in inclement weather to take her children to school and not having to beg other coworkers for car rides. After meeting all the requirements and earning her vehicle, she decided that her current career as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) was not her goal in life and decided to go to school to pursue her dreams of becoming a Registered Nurse (RN). She is currently still working as a CNA while attending school, but now she states she has the time and motivation to pursue her dreams for her family.



2023 WAY TO WORK STATISTICS

58 eligible Dutchess County residents were assessed for transportation needs and offered instruction in financial literacy; 8 participants received preowned vehicles. **Three** individuals received their learner's permit, **15** participants took driving instruction, and **5** earned their NYS driver's license.

- 16 Jobs Retained
- 8 Participants Provided with Car Maintenance Instruction
- 8 Participants Provided with Defensive Driving Classes
- 20 Participants Provided with Driver Education Training
- 58 Participants Provided with Financial Counseling or Budgeting Classes
- 8 Registration Fees Approved
- 8 Vehicle Insurance Payments Provided
- 5 License Fees Approved
- 3 Permit Fees Approved
- 8 Vehicle Recipients
- 8 Vehicle Repairs Approved

Office

ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TEAM (ABCD)



In our 14th year, ABCD continues to thrive and make a difference in the workplace. Our co-chairs for 2023 were Jose Robles (SIU) and Kim Flasz (AFS).

The “Bright Stars” employee recognition program was active, reviewing nominations and recommending individuals 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. We offered three free half-hour lunchtime wellness programs. Two programs were by Karen Abramson: Tai Chi/Qi Gong classes which occurred throughout the year; and four sessions of meditative Zentangle. The third program, Brain Games, is ongoing and provided by Nick Johnson.

The Summer Fitness Challenge promoted “random acts of fitness and fun” to encourage exercise in many forms. Two employees participated in the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce “Walk or Run for Fitness” program. At the end of the Summer Fitness Challenge, a raffle was held for fitness participants. The three winners received gift certificates to local businesses for healthy food at Adams or the Smoothie King, or for a foot massage.

A few employees participated as part of the DCFS Social Services Squad in Sparrow’s Nest 5K fundraiser.

The Team’s community service work focused on two areas: increasing awareness of the importance of mental health, and as it has done from its inception, focused on food insecurity. The ABCD Team supported the National Alliance on Mental Illness Mid-Hudson Chapter (NAMI-Mid-Hudson) by gathering DCFS volunteers over several lunch breaks to create 530 awareness lapel ribbon pins and 45 large bows to place on trees and posts throughout the community. To help address food insecurity, the ABCD Team held a fundraiser and food drive for our DCFS - AFS Karlson-



Bixby Food Pantry. Lastly, the ABCD Team surpassed all previous records for our 2023 CROP Walk initiative. (CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.) The Team worked hard organizing lunch time bake sales throughout the year which included homemade baked goods, home cooked lunch selections and unique gift baskets for raffles. At the close of the Dutchess area CROP Walk, DCFS received recognition for raising \$3,590. 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.



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 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 2023, we had four guest speakers and three staff persons present. The presentations and presenters were: Leadership Development Achievement Awards Keynote, Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado (DBCH); Leaders on the Screen, Tom Tait (CPS); Understanding the Journey to Happiness, Dave Martin (The Healing Arts School); Making a Difference, Deanna Mancuso (Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue); Mental Health Awareness, George Czornyj, Executive Director (NAMI Mid-Hudson); Meet Your Local Leaders, William O'Neil (County Executive); Eleanor Roosevelt's Leadership, Suzanne Schubert (Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill); Non-verbal communication, Kim Flasz (AFS); The Leadership Challenge, Kara Cerilli (ADM). In addition, a brainstorming session was held to determine future topics.

Our 13th Annual Achievement Awards was held on Friday, March 8, 2024, International Women's Day. The keynote speaker was Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino who spoke about her experience and challenges as a woman in leadership.

At the event, the following certificates of achievement were awarded:

Level I

Elsa Gracian (ADM)

Level IV

Monique Brennan-Tait (AFS)

Level VI

Kim Flasz (AFS)

Christine Nastasi (MA)

Level X

Kara Cerilli (ADM)

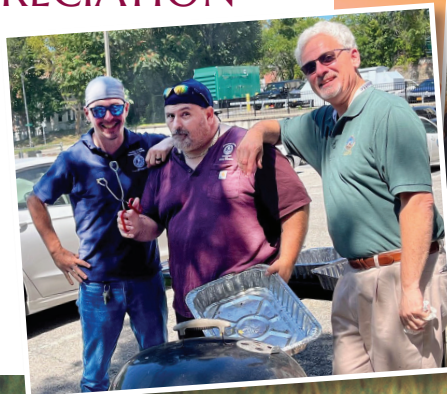
Level XI

Theresa Giovannello (ADM)



EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Employees had lunch together and were appreciated for their hard work and commitment.



Full Staff Training 2023

A full staff training was held on September 27, 2023, at the Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center and it included an immersive poverty simulation training designed to help staff better understand the complex needs many clients have- with the goal of reinforcing empathy and compassion for the County resident served each day to offer even better service.

During the simulation, DCFS employees assumed the roles of individuals and families living on limited incomes.

They had to navigate a variety of real-life scenarios, such as finding employment, securing housing, and accessing essential services, all while trying to meet their basic needs.

This hands-on experience provided DCFS staff a firsthand perspective on the challenges many clients encounter while allowing staff to develop a deeper appreciation for the complexities of poverty- all to better serve residents who come to DCFS for assistance. Individuals were also

congratulated for Years of Service Milestones, and the Commissioner's Hero Award.



Employee Generosity 2023

The **Administration Team** collected toys which were donated by staff for the **33rd Annual Salvation Army Toy Drive**.

Andrea Watson (APS), **Barbara Ingram (Foster Care)**, and **Tiffany Hernandez (APS)**, coordinated the annual **Salvation Army 'Angel Tags' Collection** and received clothing, toys, and games for 92 children.

Jennifer Keller (APS), **Destini Peluso (APS)**, and **Joey Graham (APS)** also assisted.

Andrea Watson (APS), **Cheryl DeGroat (APS)**, **Marsha Morris (APS)**, **Andrea Hooper (APS)** and **Stacey Parrella (APS)** managed the **DCFS Elizabeth Ann Karlson/Jennifer Bixby Food Pantry**. Donations for the pantry are received throughout the year from all DCFS staff.

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 \$3,590 to help fight hunger. Staff created unique gift baskets for raffles at various bake sales throughout the year. In addition, over several lunch breaks, the ABCD Team volunteers made **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** green awareness lapel ribbons (530) and created large bows (45) to put on trees and posts throughout the community.

On April 10th, 2023, the **File Room** held a "Hop into Learning" fundraiser. They sold raffle tickets for unique gift baskets and raised \$485 for **Literacy Connections of the Hudson Valley**. On October 27th, 2023, the File Room also had a Halloween themed bake sale, raffle, and pumpkin decorating contest and raised \$630 for the **Children's Home of Poughkeepsie**.

Frank Farinacci (DPW) and the **Department of Public Works** carolers raised a total of \$1,875. \$600 for **Hudson River Housing's VetZero Project**; \$675 for a coworker on leave; \$600 to a family in need.



Jose Robles (SIU) raised \$400 in June, during the Month of Pride, for **The Trevor Project's 52 Mile Pride Ride** which provides lifesaving and life affirming services to LGBTQ youth.

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."

On December 7, 2023, **Nancy Tomaszewski (CW)** and **Aja Munroe (CW)** donated their time afterwork to help wrap hundreds of presents for **Project My Day**, a non-profit organization that provides holiday gifts to children in foster care.

In May and June 2023, the **Special Investigations Unit** held a fundraiser and canned protein food drive for **Mental Health America of Dutchess County's Vet2Vet** program which

supports local veterans. They raised over \$300, plus hundreds of canned goods. With the money, the Unit purchased toiletries for the veterans such as toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, and sanitary pads.

The **Staff Development Team** coordinated the **Anemones Bouquet Fundraiser** and the **Holiday Wreath Fundraiser** to

support **Mental Health America of Dutchess County**.

The **Temporary Assistance Unit** held a basket raffle fundraiser and raised \$2,000 (which includes \$675 from the DPW Carolers) for a coworker on leave. Tickets for the raffles were sold here at DCFS, in the County Office Building and at the Women's Leadership Alliance Meeting held at the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. In addition, items were specifically donated by TA staff for a basket that was given to the family.

Tom Tait (CPS) and **Monique**

Brennan-Tait (AFS) volunteered at a local Emergency Housing Shelter's holiday party on December 19, 2023 for residents and their children.



2023



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 Division 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	141
New Employees Hired	136
Promotions and Reassignments Processed	50
Leaves of Absence Processed	80
Separations from Dutchess County Service	51

TRAINING HOURS COORDINATED

Temporary Assistance/Intake	1,440
Services (Adult, Children, Youth)	4,930
Medicaid	498
SNAP	422
Child Support	324
Special Investigations	61
HEAP	44
Total	7,719



Years of Service

AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES



35 YEARS
Ann Novicki



30 YEARS
Nancy Corman



25 YEARS
Lisa Collins
Mary Ellen DeCicco
Kim Olson



20 YEARS

Lori Aiello
Lydia Beers
Tina Bocchino
Wanita Bocchino
Tracy Connelly
Deborah Fox
Carol Frye
Nancy Hauser
Gillian Hill
Christine Nastasi
Cathy Schouten
Heather Stickle
Andrea Swart
Ashley Tilton
Brenda Urbanski



15 YEARS

Rebecca Anderson
Jessica Cady
Kim Flasz
Pamela Highbridge
Suzanne Howell
Maureen Masullo-Dykstra
John Mort
Vata Peters
Patrice Phillips
Amanda Schallenkamp
Heather Vosburgh
Lara Weisman



10 YEARS

Kerri Blanco
Kristen Buckner
Sherri Burns
Anelie Etienne
Frank Farinacci
Kelly Feuer
Mary Garcia
Anita Jones
Deirdre Martin
Shanell Mays
Laurie Miller
Victoria Rivera
Felicita Sarmiento
Tracy Tissiera
Stella Varon
Kathryn Wiegard
Kelly Wonderly



5 YEARS

Annalise Ambrose
Jacqueline Ambrose
Connor Burke
Shannon Evans
Leda Gannon
Stephanie Giardina
Tiffany Hernandez
Amanda Law
Georgia Milionis
Anthony Pena
Danielle Reid
Khalid Zouir

Bright Stars 2023

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



Marilyn Lia
SNAP

FEBRUARY



Andrea Hooper
Adult Services

MARCH



Warren Cornell
Computer Information Systems

APRIL



Taj Majors
File Room

MAY



Karla Friedle
Administration

JUNE



Chrystal South
Temporary Assistance

JULY



Michael Estelle
Medicaid

AUGUST



Thomas Robbins
Temporary Assistance

SEPTEMBER



Morgan Valentin
Adult Services

OCTOBER



Leda Gannon
Children's Services

NOVEMBER



Trina Singleton
Children's Services

DECEMBER



Christina Gonzalez
Children's Services

2023



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 22,067 calls at the switchboard (those callers who did not use the main menu options and chose the "operator")
- Completed 589 building work orders
- Processed payments/vouchers for
 - * 178 travel orders
 - * 94 cases for state auditors
 - * 99 DCFS contracts totaling \$18,048,545
 - * 28 Youth Services contracts totaling \$440,199



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics



Brian Napoleon
Director of Budget and Finance

ACCOUNTING

Maintained accounts for 64 clients in receipt of Supplemental Security Income who need help managing their money. Deposits of \$739,566.78 and issuance of 3,797 checks totaling \$855,391.31 occurred on behalf of these clients.

- Collected over \$65,000,000 in state and federal reimbursements on DCFS expenses.
- Arranged and paid for 131 indigent burials in the amount of \$263,716.

ACCOUNTING TRANSACTIONS PROCESSED IN 2023

Services	Number	Amount
Title IV-D Assistance	1,200	\$112,000
Family Assistance	10,900	\$6,535,000
Adult Care and Emergency Assistance	300	\$450,000
Safety Net Assistance	14,600	\$8,269,000
Medical Assistance	100	\$17,000
Emergency Aid to Families	100	\$83,000
Title XX Services for Recipients	700	\$722,000
Non-Title XX Services for Recipients	12,000	\$13,264,000
Foster Care and Adoption Assistance	9,500	\$13,134,000
Child Care Assistance	9,800	\$8,366,000
Independent Living Program	300	\$61,000
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)	6,000	\$392,000
Total	65,500	\$51,405,000



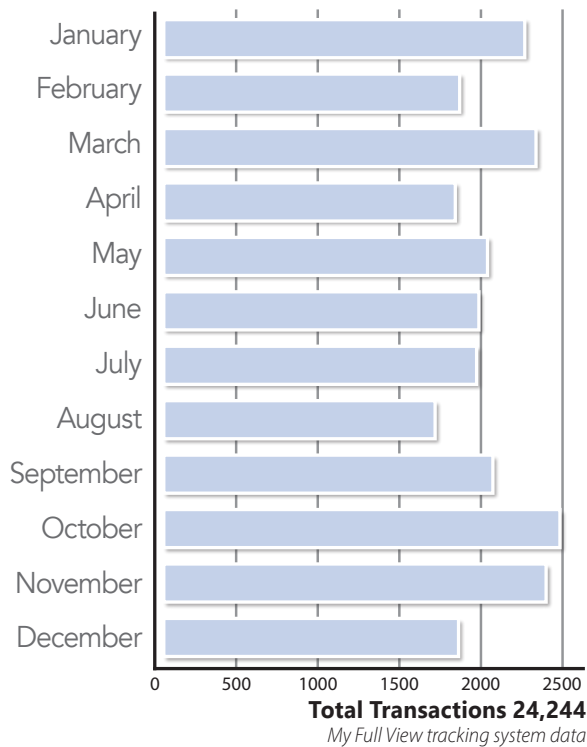
Administrative

RECEPTION

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

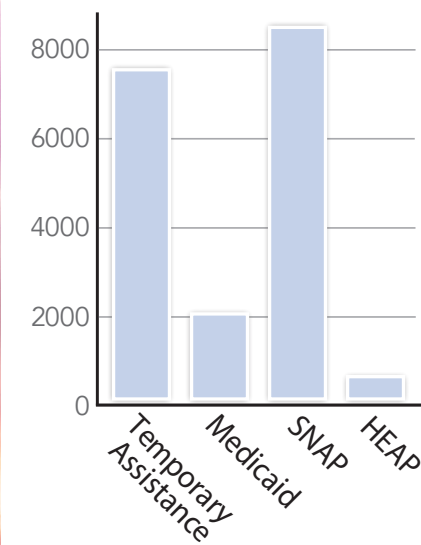
NUMBER OF CLIENT TRANSACTIONS IN RECEPTION

(Poughkeepsie and Satellite Offices)



APPLICATIONS/DOCUMENTS DROPPED OFF

My Full View tracking system data



**THE CLIENT PRIVACY BOOTH
HANDLED 4,685
CALLS DURING THE YEAR**



Services



COMPUTER INFORMATION SERVICES

- Coordinated trunk circuit update implementation.
- Managed network infrastructure transition to meet SVC network standards and enhance wireless connectivity.
- Implemented RUC isolation for public-facing devices.
- Transferred File-and-Print server to NYS Excelsior Cluster.
- Facilitated update for virtual document solution.
- Advanced migration from desktops to mobile computing to enhance resilience during crises like COVID-19 and Hurricane Sandy.
- Processed X changeforms:
 - New Employee Requests: 73
 - Office Moves: 43
 - Reassignments: 151

John Mort
Director of Computer
Information Services

CENTRAL FILE

- Total incoming voter registration forms (included in benefit application packages): 10,332
- Managed USPS and interoffice mail for the entire DCFS staff.
- Filled 5,384 Supply Orders; maintained 870 items in supply room inventory.
- Processed 113,958 pieces of outgoing US mail (not including interoffice mail)
- Prepared and imaged documents in I/EDR for Medicaid, Temporary Assistance, SNAP, HEAP, and satellite offices.
- Processed 7,082 documents submitted through the NYDocSubmit mobile app.
- Processed 124 Print Shop orders, including forms, business cards, brochures, manuals, and specialty orders.
- Assigned approximately 5,128 new case numbers.



Stepping Out of Poverty

BY CHRYSTAL SOUTH



I can't remember the first time I walked into the Department of Social Services. By the time I was old enough to remember, I had already been here dozens of times. I was the youngest of my mother's five children. Supervised visitation with my father at DSS was a regular occurrence. My mother did the best she could with what she had, but raising us alone on a part-time cashier's salary left little income to meet our basic needs.

Food insecurity, a constant threat of eviction; Food Stamps and Public Assistance were our way of life. By the time I reached the age of 15, the financial pressures had become too much for my mother to overcome. My brother and I were the only minor children left in the family, and relieving my mother of the burden of caring for us seemed like the greatest kindness we could give her. That's the simplest way I can describe how we found ourselves homeless teenagers, sleeping on any couch or porch swing that could temporarily host us.

When I turned 16, the decision to drop out of high school had already been made. The gravities of being homeless and attempting to meet my daily basic needs far outweighed any long-term benefits I might've gotten from continuing to be enrolled in high school. My plan was to obtain a GED and start college as soon as possible, in the hopes that I could get a degree quickly and start earning more money than the myriad of odd gas station and fast-food jobs I was working at the time were paying.

The GED came easily, as I passed the test on my first try and immediately enrolled into Dutchess Community College. The hard part, as I would find later, would be my lack of maturity and support. I flunked out of DCC in my first semester and decided that maybe education wasn't the way to go.

By 18, I obtained my driver's license and began driving a taxi at night; which offered the dual benefit of having transportation and somewhere to sleep. I found myself in a relationship that was entirely unhealthy, but I wasn't sure how to get away from it. At 20, I enlisted in the Army, but would soon be discharged. At 21, I found myself pregnant.

Hyperemesis Gravidarum is a fancy, scientific way of saying excessive nausea and vomiting during pregnancy. For me, it translated to no longer being able to drive the taxi, which had become my livelihood and only escape from my relationship over the years.

My child's father, angry that I couldn't drive and even angrier that I was having a baby, gave me an ultimatum: apply for welfare or get out.

With my father in prison by that time, and my mother living in a rooming house on a fixed income, I felt I had no choice. December 13, 2006 was one of the hardest days of my life. When I left my mother's house at 15, I promised myself that I would never set foot into Social Services ever again. Yet, here I was, applying for Temporary Assistance; pregnant, unemployed, embarrassed. Wondering if anything I was doing or could ever do would make a difference; feeling as though life wasn't worth living but for my unborn child.

Jessie Normil was my intake worker; Lourdes Montanez my employment worker. Their kindness, patience, and encouragement helped me to start believing that maybe, just maybe, there was a chance I could still make something of myself. I decided to throw myself into complying with the job searching requirements, and hoped something good would come from it.

It was a snowy day in January when I received a phone call from Mike Soltish of DSS; he had received my name from Ms. Normil and Ms. Montanez and he wondered if I might be interested in a temporary office assistant position. The position was for three months, he stated, and would end in mid-May. My due date was May 24, so I happily accepted the job. I wanted to gain as much knowledge and experience as I could in these three months and gave it my all.

Sometime in June of 2007, shortly after my beautiful daughter was born, I received another call from Mr. Soltish. The Agency wondered if I'd like to return for another three months. I was absolutely elated to accept. After two more three-month extensions, I took the Office Assistant exam and was able to be hired permanently.

Being hired for that position was so much more than a paycheck for me. It was the promise of a means to care for my child and myself. It was the strength to leave a relationship that I shouldn't have been in to begin with. It was a newfound worth and structure that I hadn't previously had, and a social support system I hadn't realized I was missing. And it would become opportunities I was not expecting to receive; including multiple promotions, and the chance to finally further my education with the help of our union.

In May of 2019, 17 years after flunking out of college the first time, I graduated from DCCA

with my associate's degree. It was a long time coming, but it finally came.

I am now a mother to my own 5 children. Over time, the frustration I felt at my upbringing has transformed to enormous respect for what my mother made from the little she had. I am married and own my own home; small accomplishments to some, but for me these represent fulfillment of lifelong dreams.

I anticipate this year to graduate from SUNY Empire with a bachelor's degree in psychology. My plan and my hope are to go on to obtain my master's degree. I hope to use my experiences with homelessness, abuse, poverty, addiction, mental illness, and ultimately success to assist others who are having these experiences; and to help them understand that your circumstances don't have to define you.

You can write your own story!

2023



Christie Bonomo-Goso
Director of Adult Services

The Adult Services unit includes Adult Protective Services (APS), Housing Services, Family Type Home Program administration, Foster Family Home for Adults inspections, and Domestic Violence Liaison assessments. 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

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 APS provides. Services are voluntary except in cases of extreme need when the adult cannot make reasonable decisions on their own behalf.

- In 2023, DCFS received 794 APS referrals, of which 625 (78%) were for individuals ages 60 or older. At intake, 39% of cases had at least one risk factor indicating abuse or neglect from others. Adults who are age 60 and older comprised 83% of the cases which alleged abuse or neglect from another person. Financial exploitation was noted in 145 of all abuse cases for all age groups. Homelessness for vulnerable adults increased from 19% of cases in 2022, to 18% in 2023. Mental illness was indicated as a suspected impairment in 51% of all APS referrals.
- In 2023, we saw a 16% increase in requests for emergency housing assistance from 577 in 2022 to 669 in 2023. The number of single individuals provided temporary housing decreased by 6% and the number of families increased by 48%. The decrease in singles in temporary housing is largely due to single individuals utilizing the PODs, which averaged 128 guests per night in 2023. Additionally, 156 clients existed emergency shelter and moved to permanent housing.
- In 2023, the average length of stay in temporary housing was nearly 15 weeks for families and 14 weeks for single individuals. The overall length of stay in temporary housing was nearly 15 weeks, an increase of 1 week over the 2022 length of stay.
- The overall cost of providing temporary housing increased by 36% from 2022 to 2023 (per Cognos temporary housing payment report).
- In 2023, 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 have and continue to be 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 Rental Supplement Program funding to assist in getting homeless individuals out of temporary emergency housing and into permanent stable housing. We continue to partner with the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development to utilize HOME Investment and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds awarded under the under the ARPA to supplement the program bringing the payment standard from 85% to 120% of the Fair Market Rent (FMR) and to provide comprehensive case management services to the clients assisted under this program. This collaboration will make stable, affordable housing possible for our most vulnerable homeless residents.



PRESENTATIONS AND AWARENESS INITIATIVES

- Adult Foster Family Home Training
- Elder abuse awareness billboards
- Elder abuse awareness advertisements at the Lyceum Cinema
- APS unit overviews to DCFS staff 4 times annually

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Office for the Aging (OFA) Senior Picnics
- Senior Golden Gathering
- Scam Prevention for Older Adults

DUTCHESS COUNTY COMMITTEES/TEAMS

- Council of Aging Serving the Elderly (CASE)
- Long-Term Care Council
- Coalition for the Homeless (Webster House Shelter for Single Persons)
- Dutchess County Continuum of Care (DCCoC) Membership
- DCCoC Data Committee
- DCCoC Coordinated Entry Committee
- DCCoC Program Review Committee
- 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
- Regional Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness
- MidHudson DVRC

IN-SERVICE PRESENTATIONS OFFERED TO APS STAFF

- Safe Option Supports (SOS) Critical Time Intervention (CTI)
- Hoarding 101
- Hoarding Intervention

Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

ADULT SERVICES	2022	2023
PSA Cases		
PSA Referrals	740	794
PSA Assessments	480	460
PSA Open/Ongoing	329	278
Representative Payee	53	56
Guardianship	24	34
Emergency Housing Cases/Households	594	669
Total Persons Served in Emergency Housing	1,061	1,365
Licensed Family Type Homes	14	12
Domestic Violence Screenings	117	98

Statistics from Cognos and Adult Services Automated Project (ASAP)

TEMPORARY SHELTER EXPENDITURES		
Year	Amount	Stay in Weeks
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
2023	\$8,473,018	14.0

Statistics from Cognos and Adult Services Automated Project (ASAP)

*Stay in weeks figure not available in 2014.



2023

Children's Services



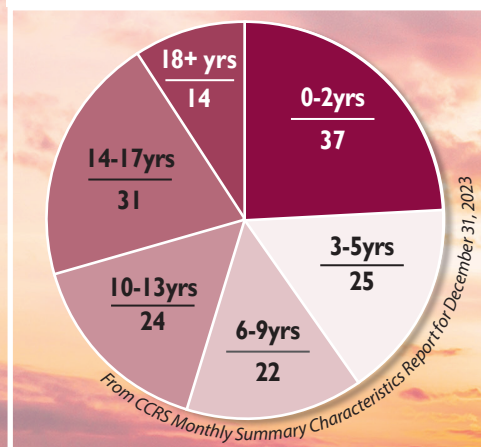
Amanda McGann-Watson
Director of Children's Services

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	2022	2023
Reports investigated by CPS	2,377	2,302
Abuse Petitions	2	1
Neglect Petitions	307	276
Termination of Parental Rights	40	24
Surrender Petitions Filed in Family Court	16	7
Foster Care Review Permanency Hearings	156	143
Investigations from Child Advocacy Center	202	198
Indicated	31	40
Unfounded	148	131
Pending	23	27

Dutchess County and NYS Office of Court Administration databases and logs, 2023

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 22 new foster parent homes and 23 new relative foster parent homes.
- Trained 31 new relative and non-relative foster families in NTDC, 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 28 people on a one-to-one basis and held 12 foster parent group orientation meetings.
- Discharged 6 foster children to subsidized guardianships with relatives through KinGAP.
- Placed 6 children in direct custody of relatives.
- Held annual foster family picnic in August with a variety of activities and foods.



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

- 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 18 eligible youth, 14 of which have been able to secure housing.
- A total of 42 youth have applied for the Chafee Direct Cash Program; 21 youth have been determined to be eligible.
- 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 2023 they provided 200 backpacks with school supplies for foster children.
- Foster Blessings provides 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, they provided 25 meals in 2023. A retreat was held that 12 foster families attended. They hold a virtual support group, Fostering Conversation, once a month. In July they held a foster care picnic with more than 10 families in attendance. They also held a game night with 15 families in attendance.

- Project My Day partnered with DCFS to provide gifts to foster children on their special days.
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-Ets) is a 15-hour training that assists students with disabilities prepare for successful long term-employment. In the summer of 2023, 9 foster youth engaged and completed this program.



- Provided Family Team Meetings to 17 CPS, 12 Foster Care, and 17 Preventive families.
- Referred 9 families to the Coached Family Visitation program with Mental Health America of Dutchess County.
- In 2023 DCFS continued to receive the CAPTA/CARA Grant that allowed for a public health nurse and a substance abuse professional 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 177 preventive referrals in 2023, 117 families were opened to preventive services, 59 families declined services, 1 family was referred to other community-based services to better fit their needs.
- The Youth Advocacy Program (YAP) received 18 referrals; 8 families received services.



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	2022	2023
Foster Homes	55	64
Institutions	23	10
Group Homes	0	4
Group Residence	0	1
Agency Operated Boarding Homes	3	3
Supervised Independent Living	0	2
Approved Relative Foster Homes	42	68
Other	5	1
Total	128	153

From December 31, 2023 CCRS in Care Summary Report

ADOPTION ACTIVITY	2022	2023
Children Discharged To Adoption	29	18
Children with adoption as a goal at year end	21	30

From December 31, 2023 CCRS in Care Summary Report

OPEN FOSTER HOMES (as of 12/31/2023)	
79	Foster/Adoptive Homes
40	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.
Children's Home of Poughkeepsie	Homebased preventive services for families at risk of having their children placed in foster care.
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.
Family Services	Homebased preventive services for families at risk of having their children placed in foster care.
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.



2023 JUVENILE JUSTICE PLACEMENTS	Pre-Dispositional Placements	Non-Secure Detention	Secure Detention	Foster Care
Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS)	4	N/A	N/A	0
Juvenile Delinquents (JD)	N/A	14	18	0
Juvenile Offender (JO)	0	0	0	---
Adolescent Offender (AO)	0	0	7	---

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. We currently have 22 organizations on our task force.

Safe Harbour is an initiative with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services that Dutchess County joined in 2014. The role of Safe Harbour 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.



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 27 referrals of at-risk youth – Held six meetings of the full Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking.
- In 2023, we were able to facilitate the Love146 Prevention/Education program to 5 different groups of youth {GEMMS, Green Teen (summer, crew, club, Nubian collab)}.
- Trafficking presentations conducted for youth were held at Beacon High School Health Classes (12), River Haven RHYS (4) and Youth Council (1).
- Tabling events: Dutchess County Health Fair II (DCC), National Night Out (City Pok PD), Building Bridges Conference (Marist).
- Trafficking Presentations for adults were held for clients at ITAP (2), Healthy Families (virtual), Child Welfare Staff overview, CVSS Advocates and Interns, Hudson River Housing staff at Hudson River Lodge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

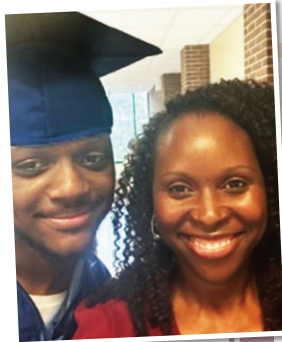


2023



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.

- State funding was awarded to 21 programs for a total of \$309,000 during the January – September 2023 grant cycle. Youth Development Program (YDP) funds were awarded to 14 programs totaling \$177,427, Youth Sports and Education Funds (YSEF) were awarded to 6 programs totaling \$56,719, and Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) funds were awarded to 1 program in the amount of \$74,854.
- State funding was awarded to 25 programs totaling \$423,743 during the October 2023-September 2024 grant cycle. Youth Development Program (YDP) funds were awarded to 19 programs totaling \$237,315, Youth Sports and Education Funds (YSEF) were awarded to 6 programs totaling \$75,625, and Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) funds were awarded to 1 program totaling \$110,803.

SHORT-TERM SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Division staff provide short-term support services for youth ages 4 to 21 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 127 children/youth. 77 of these cases were closed and 96% achieved at least one goal.
- 13 families successfully completed Strengthening Families program.
- 11 workshops were conducted on the following topics: Human Trafficking, Selfie Skills (communication skills) and Humankind (empathy + relationships) and Peer Pressure. 144 youth and 33 adults attended these workshops.

DUTCHESS COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

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

- 9 Individuals/agency representatives from the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education, SNUG, Family Services, and the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission conducted presentations on various issues.
- 54 youths were enrolled. Their End of Year event, held on June 15th included a round table discussion focused on the impact of social media, school stress and mental health.



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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 475 users visited the Path-To-Promise website (pathtopromise.net).
- 28 youth completed the Dutchess County Youth and Police Initiative (YPI). A YPI graduate and member of YPI's National Youth Council traveled to Boston, Massachusetts in January to record police reform recommendations at Red Sky studios.
- 3 Dutchess County Youth and 2 YPI trainers attended the YPI Leadership Conference, Binghamton University.
- 150 students attended the Annual Youth Summit held on August 16th at the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES).
- The department supported the Youth Opportunity Advisory Committee, launching the pilot "Swim With A Friend", a learn to swim program for youth, and first aid, CPR and AED training for adults in partnership with Community Matters 2, YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, Marist College, and Mid- Hudson Aquatics.
- Partnered with a team of consultants from Harlem Children's Zone's William Julius Wilson Institute to develop a 10-year strategic plan for the implementation of a comprehensive cradle-to-career system in Poughkeepsie through the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet.
- With Astor Services for Children and Families, piloted the READY4K program for families enrolled in the Head Start program. The READY4K Core curriculum includes literacy, math, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and/or health information delivered via text messages to families enrolled in program. 335 Head Start families were enrolled in Ready4K in 2023.
- Continued partnership with the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet, Poughkeepsie City School District, and Boston College Lynch School of Education to implement the City Connects pilot initiative at Poughkeepsie Middle School, providing individualized support services to students. 305 Poughkeepsie Middle School 7th grade students were enrolled in the City Connects program during the 2022 – 2023 school year.
- 373 Dutchess County youth participated in Camp Pathfinder's summer camp at Camp Nootemeing located in Pleasant Valley from July 3rd through August 25th. The camp had an average weekly attendance of 100 youth. 93 public access and community events were held, attracting 8,099 attendees.

To learn more, visit the Dutchess County website at: www.pathtopromise.net



2023



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 parentage 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 \$26,980,446 in child support (of this amount, \$26,512,861 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 2023. A total of 95 samples were collected at offsite locations.
- Processed 4,342 Family Court petitions.

CHILD SUPPORT ACTIVITY	2022	2023
Child Support Cases Open	7,500	7,267
Children Open in Support Cases	6,484	6,207
Children Open Born Out of Wedlock	3,904	3,753
Children Open with Parentage Established	6,253	5,957
Children Open with Resolved Parentage	94.6%	93.6%
Children Needing Parentage Determination	240	261
Cases with Collections during Year	4,887	4,588
Interstate Cases with Collections during Year	259	230
Cases Open Where Medical Support is Ordered	5,014	4,631
Cases with Arrears Due during Year	5,713	5,477

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS	
Year	Amount Collected
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
2023	\$26,980,446



From NYS OCSE DCF5-157 Report, Statistical Trends Report, and Child Support Monthly Report

2023 Medicaid



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 Health Care, Fidelis Care, UnitedHealthcare, and Empire BlueCross BlueShield (Health Plus).

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

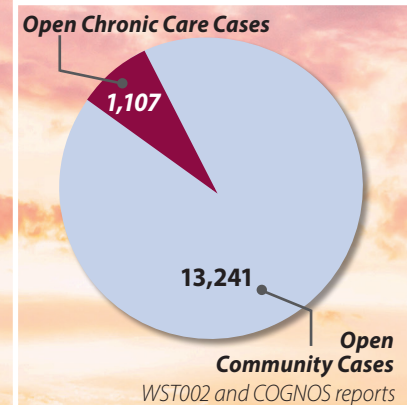
- NYSDOH Consolidated 1915c Children's Waiver Environmental & Vehicle Modifications:
 - o Currently have 9 modifications pending in various stages.
 - o Closed out 1 bathroom and 1 vehicle modification.
- Participated in one Transition & Resource Fair for students in Dutchess County with IEPs and 504s to learn opportunities and steps involved with the process of planning for life after high school at Dutchess County BOCES.

MEDICAID MMIS (MEDICAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM) – GROSS SHARES

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
2023	\$815,883,166

MRP2190-R0019 report

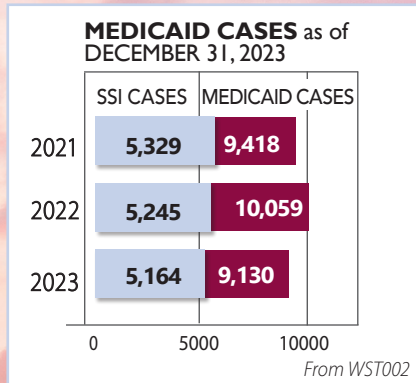
CASE TYPE COMPARISON



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

MEDICAID TRANSACTIONS	2022	2023
Applications Registered	2,917	4,235
Cases Opened/Reactivated/ Open-Closed	2,909	3,684
Cases Closed	2,294	4,627
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	22,034	18,192
Recertifications	239	3,903
Denied	1,439	1,546
Closed Case Maintenance/Forced Deletion	109	151
Other	3	---
Total Transactions	29,027	32,103

From WMS WST003



MEDICAL EXPENDITURES BY PROVIDER* PROVIDER TYPE	2022	2023	%Change
Hospital Inpatient Services	\$25,425,538	\$27,128,037	6.7
Hospital Outpatient Services	\$3,396,170	\$3,432,749	1.1
Skilled Nursing Facilities	\$72,667,062	\$83,718,136	15.2
Intermediate Care Facilities	\$18,870,043	\$20,358,878	7.9
Clinics	\$13,414,609	\$12,946,021	-3.5
Hospice	\$1,768,327	\$2,270,112	28.4
Physicians Services	\$2,335,541	\$2,619,217	12.1
Dental Services	\$164,629	\$102,023	-38.0
Other Practitioners Services	\$5,030,019	\$7,867,781	56.4
Child Care Institutional Medical Per Diem	\$77,500	\$448,095	478.2
Personal Care Services	\$4,280,196	\$4,701,811	9.9
Home Health Services	\$903,588	\$464,802	-48.6
Assisted Living Services	\$8,328,977	\$9,276,825	11.4
Long-Term Home Health Care Waived Services	\$11,498,266	\$14,245,389	23.9
Home and Community Based Waived Services	\$113,699,240	\$123,731,456	8.8
Rehabilitation and Therapy	\$213,945	\$221,311	3.4
Mental Hygiene Restorative Rehabilitation	\$12,376,942	\$12,698,338	2.6
Drugs and Supplies	\$4,906,852	\$68,932,640	1304.8
Eye Appliances and Durable Medical Equipment	\$352,311	\$315,025	-10.6
Prepaid Care	\$390,878,777	\$385,099,409	-1.5
Case Management	\$8,807,769	\$9,376,597	6.5
Health Insurance Premiums	\$3,433,308	\$1,385,978	-59.6
Medical Transportation	\$17,736,070	\$20,389,755	15.0
Lab and X-Ray Services	\$507,541	\$510,735	.6
Other	\$452,326	\$305,044	-32.6
Total	\$721,525,547	\$812,546,163	12.6



2023 SNAP/HEAP Services



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.)

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 2023. This included relaxed initial interviews and recertification interviews, as well as certain reporting requirements.

SNAP TRANSACTIONS	2022	2023
Applications Registered	9,972	9,664
Cases Opened/ Reactivated/Open-Closed	6,593	6,249
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	170,068	68,172
Recertifications	6,121	5,950
Denied	4,495	4,893
Closed Case	6,013	5,972
Closed Case Maintenance	140	131
Total Transactions	193,430	91,367

From WMS WST003

SNAP CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

2014	12,892	2019	10,385
2015	12,142	2020	10,221
2016	11,146	2021	10,446
2017	10,680	2022	10,761
2018	10,353	2023	11,009

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.

There were 179 Emergency Fuel Depot deliveries done in 2023.

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 SNAP and HEAP.

Due to the size and staffing of this office, the EDGC office operates on an appointment only schedule. If consumers need to relay or submit information to a different DCFS office, they may utilize the Millbrook site to drop off their documents.

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.



2023



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. In 2023 it was enacted into law that Temporary Assistance applicants and recipients may request a phone interview and are no longer required to be face-to-face for interviews.

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

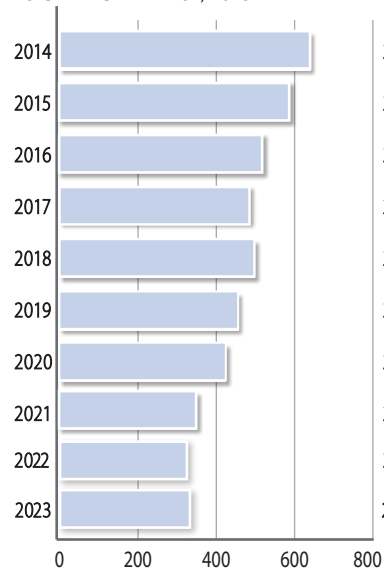
Safety Net Assistance provides benefits for basic living expenses for single adults and childless couples or families who have used up their 5-year limit of Family Assistance. Cash benefits are limited to two years including any cash benefits received through Family Assistance. After two years, the non-case Safety Net Assistance voucher system provides benefits.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TRANSACTIONS	2022	2023
Applications Registered	5,657	6,582
Cases Opened/Reactivated/Open-Closed	2,740	2,449
Cases Closed	1,388	1,365
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	12,917	8,437
Recertifications	920	855
Denied	3,598	4,248
Closed Case Maintenance	141	100
Total Transactions	21,704	17,454



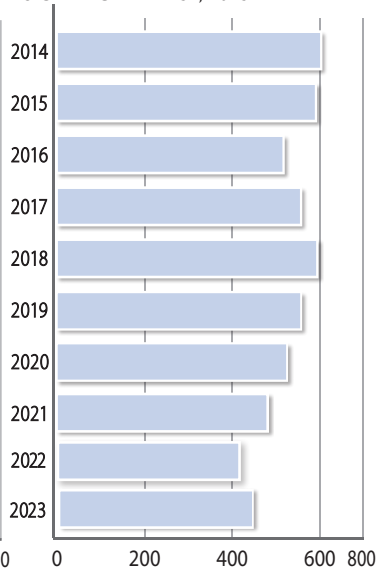
From WST0003

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CASES
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023



From WST0002

SAFETY NET CASES
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023



From WST0002



Accomplishments & Yearly Statistics

EMPLOYMENT UNIT

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

- Through our partnership with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, 13 TANF and/or Safety Net recipients participated in the Workforce Connections Program; 6 became employed.
- Through our partnership with Dutchess County BOCES, 4 individuals completed the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) intake assessment; 3 were enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes and/or the High School Equivalency program.
- 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. In 2023, 20 TANF/SN eligible individuals participated. Of those, 13 became employed, the average work hours per week is 32 hours, the average hourly wage of \$16.40.
- Through a partnership with DCWIB, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) engaged 137 eligible youth including homeless, low income and foster care youth, with 30 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.

- Effective October 1, 2023, due to changes in NYS regulation, the eligibility for Child Care Assistance was raised to 85% of the State Median Income and the family share is 1%. This means there are many more eligible families to serve.
- Provided services to 810 families and 1,263 children.



2023



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	315	\$3,539,376
Intentional Program Violations (IPV)	Disqualification sanctions for those found guilty	5	\$63,855

From NYS OTDA Cost Avoidance Program Calculations. Effective January 2024, IPV hearings that were adjourned at the beginning of COVID have resumed. At this time the State is not allowing for any new IPV submissions, until after all previously submitted hearings are heard.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT ACTIVITY

	2022	2023
Completed Investigations	123	230
Confessions of Judgment	52	74
Value of Repayment Agreements Signed	\$136,965	\$215,661
SNAP Disqualifications	1**	3
Value of SNAP Disqualifications	\$4,276	\$52,050
TA Disqualifications	0**	2
Value of TA Disqualifications	-----	\$11,805
Duplicate Case Reviews	314	273
Incarcerated Case Reviews	14	20

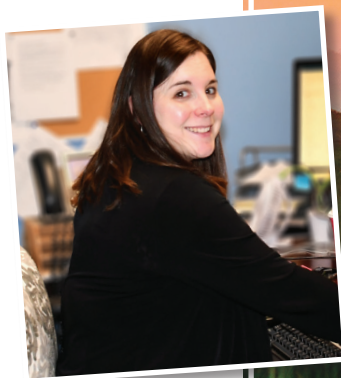
PARIS and Prison Match Reports



COLLECTION ACTIVITY

	2022	2023
Lottery Intercepts	\$10,342	\$25,862
Fees (parking, guardian, adoption, home study, phone, postage, confessions of judgment, copies and subpoenas)	\$15,319	\$36,845
Cash Collections (TANF, SN, MA, Services, SNAP, SN-SSI and CSE Repayments)	\$8,174,627	\$7,486,265

From Cash Management System



2023 Legal Services

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 DISPOSITIONS	2022	2023
Child Abuse Petitions	2	1
Child Neglect Petitions	307	276
Termination of Parental Rights	40	*24
IVD Paternity	187	132
IVD Support	3,319	3,056
IVD Interstate Support (UIFSA)	92	98
Permanency Hearings	156	143

(*in addition, there were 6 kinship guardianships vs TPR)

LEGAL STATISTICS	2023
Child Protective Reports	2,302
Support Cases	7,276
Private Support Referrals	20
Fair Hearings	
Medicaid	20
Child Welfare	64
Collection and Resource Cases	537
Adult Protective Cases	50



COMMUNITY

Once again, Team DCFS shared information about our services at events and workshops throughout the year. Staff gave presentations at local school districts, as well as attended events such as the Department of Behavioral & Community Health's Dutchess County Health Fair, the Dutchess County Office for the Aging's popular senior picnics, and more.



NITY OUTREACH

Children, youth, and families enjoyed face painting, crafts, kick-ball games, barbecue lunches and more at the annual DCFS Foster Care Picnic in August. The bicycle helmet giveaway, and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office K-9 demonstration were also popular at the event.



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

DCFS Youth Services
85 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.486.3024

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;
download on Google Play or App Store)

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