

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



Defying the Odds

Annual Report 2024

MISSION

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



2024 DCFS Annual Report

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A Message from County Executive Sue Serino



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS), I am proud to present the department's 2024 Annual Report, entitled "Defying the Odds". This report is more than just a summary of the department's

accomplishments and achievements; it is a testament to the strength, resilience, and determination of the residents and families Dutchess County serves.

Throughout 2024, DCFS' dedicated team again worked tirelessly to provide essential services, support vulnerable populations, and create pathways for success. The stories within this report illustrate how, even in the face of adversity, people can overcome incredible challenges. Take, for example, the young resident who, with the help of a steadfast DCFS case worker, navigated mental health struggles and the foster care system emerged as a thriving college student and an award-winning professional. These inspiring journeys remind us why DCFS' work is so important and reaffirm the department's commitment to providing hope and opportunity to all.

DCFS' achievements in 2024 were made possible through the dedication of its staff, collaboration with numerous partners, and the unwavering support of our community. As you read this report, I hope you feel as inspired as I do by the progress DCFS continues to make together.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in the power of community.

Sincerely,

Sue Serino
Dutchess County Executive

A Message from Commissioner Jaar Marzouka



"Poco a poco," my high school teacher and basketball coach, sister Maria Clara, used to say. "Poco a poco"—a Spanish phrase meaning little by little or step by step. I have been thinking about sister Maria Clara lately. She was right. So much of the work we do requires the acknowledgement that success is achieved one step at a time. The challenges for some of our customers can seem impossible, but poco a poco, against all odds, they achieve their desired goals.

No other tale can demonstrate this reality better than that of one foster youth whose story is shared in this annual report. Poco a poco, he is creating a future for himself. And throughout this process, the DCFS team has been right by his side.

Every single one of the DCFS employees knows and understands this. Of course, some days are more difficult than others, but in the end, we know that we can never give up because the positive transformation we are seeking does not happen overnight. As you turn the pages of this annual report, you will read about the social welfare workers and case managers, the office assistants, receptionists and account clerks, the supervisors and managers and all who make up the department's workforce. In these pages, you will discover our commitment to address Dutchess County's residents most pressing challenges from homelessness to food insecurity, by providing support, protection and advocacy for those living in poverty, and those at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Therefore, the next time you feel discouraged by the poverty that surrounds us, and think that these societal challenges are insurmountable, just remember that there are some who care. Join our team. Do what you can, when you can, step by step. Start by doing what is possible, and poco a poco, against all odds, together, we will achieve the impossible.

Sincerely,

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



Accounting



Temporary Assistance



Child Support



Youth Services



Computer Information Services



Children's Services



Special Investigations Unit



Adult Services



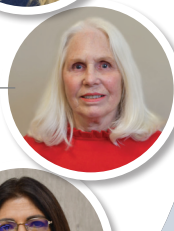
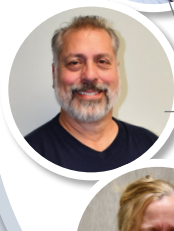
Medicaid



SNAP/HEAP



Commissioner's Office
Deputy Commissioners
Director of Administrative Services
Assistant to the Commissioner
for Planning & Evaluation
Special Assistant
to the Commissioner
Staff Development Director
Administrative Assistants



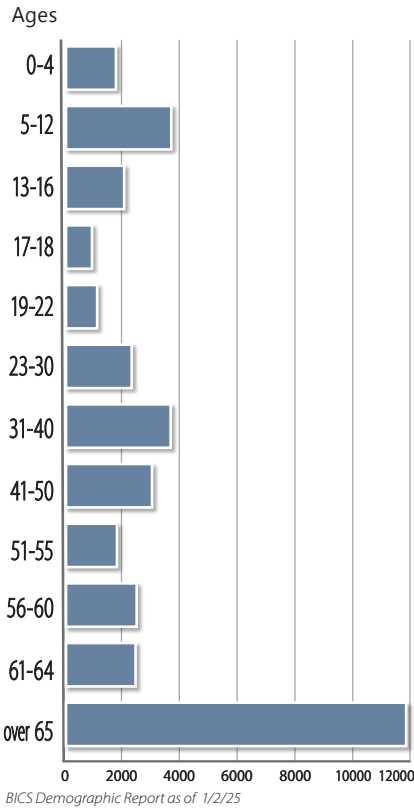
Facts At-a-Glance 2024

TOP MEDICAID PAYEES

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

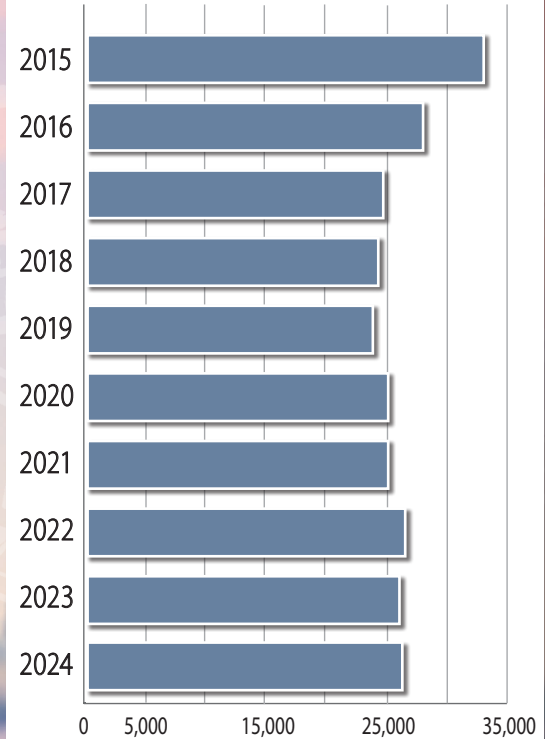
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	\$107,962,795
New York Catholic Health Plan	\$115,235,358
New York Quality Healthcare	\$34,121,031
Vassar Health Medical Center	\$33,516,917
Unlimited Care Inc.	\$19,112,518
Elder Plan Inc	\$18,842,633
Westchester Medical Center	\$16,914,042
New Horizons Resources, Inc.	\$14,916,288
Hamaspek Choice Inc	\$13,513,748
Sullivan Co Chap NYSARC SPV	\$12,488,089
VNS Choice	\$12,019,930
Greystone Programs, Inc. SPV	\$11,968,144
Taconic DDSO SPV/SPT	\$11,285,859
Anderson FND F/Autism Day	\$10,831,645

ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS



DCFS CASELOAD SNAPSHOT

Unduplicated cases. Does not include HEAP, Services, or Child Support cases—from WST002, 1/2025



TOP NON-MEDICAID VENDORS

Hudson River Lodging-PlanG	\$7,039,655.51
DC Office of the Aging	\$2,008,976.70
Community Housing	\$2,005,177.90
Family Services	\$1,986,734.80
DC Workforce Investment Board	\$1,673,306.66
Central Hudson	\$1,568,767.46
DC Probation	\$1,536,981.75
Grace Smith House	\$1,489,333.48
Morgan Fuel + Heating	\$1,425,968.46
William George Children's Services	\$1,318,829.31

ACTIVE CASES

Cases as of	12/31/23	12/31/24
SNAP	11,009	10,802
HEAP	2,176	2,190
Medicaid	9,130	9,455
Medicaid SSI	5,164	5,119
Family Assistance	337	263
Safety Net Assistance	445	465
Services (Adult/Children)	1,813	2,116

2024 MODIFIED BUDGET

	Appropriations	Revenues
Administration (salaries, fringe, materials, other)	\$47,785,107	\$26,390,206
Non-Secure Detention	\$775,000	\$338,000
Day Care	\$10,965,720	\$11,056,567
Services for Recipients	\$11,996,750	\$3,804,678
Medicaid - Local payments	\$196,240	\$175,000
Medicaid - MMIS Payments	\$43,224,519	\$0
Family Assistance	\$9,305,947	\$9,026,402
Foster Care	\$33,471,185	\$29,714,037
Juvenile Delinquents/PINS	\$750,000	\$450
State Training Schools	\$2,900,000	\$0
Safety Net	\$8,600,000	\$3,160,000
HEAP	\$831,047	\$542,223
Emergency Aid to Adults	\$290,000	\$185,000
Youth Administration	\$685,615	\$444,122
Youth Services Unit	\$432,465	\$234,400
Youth Development Program	\$1,062,644	\$516,860
Youth Runaway & Homeless	\$142,540	\$102,000
Totals	\$173,414,779	\$85,689,945

2024 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 the Confidential Administrative Assistants.

The Commissioner's Office oversees the programs and operations of the department.



Theresa Giovannello
Deputy Commissioner



Tracy Connelly-Hart
Deputy Commissioner



Sharon Avila
Confidential Administrative Assistant



Elsa Gracian
Confidential Administrative Assistant

HIGHLIGHTS

- Delivered services to more than 31,000 unduplicated individuals across all programs.
- Participated in the Childcare in Dutchess County Roundtable Discussion and joined the Dutchess County Childcare Coalition seeking universal system which means an early learning and childcare space is available for every child in Dutchess County, regardless of income, family structure, number of children, or location.
- The Commissioner's Rapid Response team responded to 3,537 inquiries received through the DCFSinfo email on the County website, an increase of 18% from 2023.
- Offered two Navigating the DCFS System hybrid workshops to bring providers up to date on the various benefits available. One workshop explained the Temporary Assistance application process offered, with 76 individuals representing 22 agencies participating; the other covered Temporary Housing Assistance (THA) and other housing assistance programs, with 71 individuals representing 23 agencies in attendance.
- Continued adoption recruiter partnership with New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Children's Home of Poughkeepsie and the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Foundation. The recruiter worked with 5 children. The Department finalized a total of 17 adoptions in 2024.
- The number of children in Foster Care increased in 2024 and the percentage of children placed in approved relative homes slightly decreased. As of December 31, 2023, there were 153 children in foster care, with 43% (66) of them placed in approved relative homes. As of December 31, 2024, there were 163 children in foster care, with 42% (69) of them placed in approved relative homes.
- To reduce the disproportionate minority representation in foster care, DCFS has adopted the practice of Blind Removal meetings, in which case information is presented to a committee of staff not familiar with the case where all demographic information of a family is excluded thus removing bias in the decision to petition for removal. In 2024, 25 Blind Removal meetings were held; DCFS sought removal in 19 of those cases.

Accomplishments and Yearly Statistics



- Continued partnership with Mental Health America on the Coached Visitation Program, an interactive program focused on trained volunteers coaching parents during supervised visits, teaching them to meet the needs of their children so that children can safely return home from foster care. In 2024, 11 families received these services.
- Dutchess County was allocated federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds to assist households that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and were at risk of homelessness or housing instability. The state portal closed for new applications on January 20, 2023. As of October 28, 2024, there have been 2,671 total applications paid more than \$25.6 million.
- Administered a Rental Supplement Program (RSP) to provide vital rental assistance to individuals and families, regardless of immigration status, who are experiencing homelessness or are facing an imminent loss of housing. The district has contracted with a local nonprofit, Hudson River Housing (HRH), to administer the program but we closely monitored it.
 - o 607 applications were received; processed and eligibility was determined for 569 applications, housed 45 adults and 12 children (42 households) and placed 38 applicants on the waiting list.
 - o Collaboration with the Continuum of Care remains ongoing, as County is using HOME ARP and CDBG funds to supplement the rates from 85% Fair Market Rent (FMR) to 120% FMR.





HIGHLIGHTS cont'd...

- Spearheaded and coordinated a multidisciplinary team approach to street outreach, bringing together all County outreach efforts regardless of their area of focus. The multidisciplinary team, Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), began meeting in January 2024 to ensure outreach efforts are coordinated across agencies, to eliminate duplication of services, and to better address the needs of our unsheltered homeless population. HOT members responded to over 20 direct outreach referrals from the community and conducted joint targeted outreach efforts, including one at Beulah Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie.
- Completed NYS OCFS 5-year (2024-2029) Dutchess County Child and Family Services plan which included a needs assessment for children, youth and families to identify gaps in services; holding stakeholders' meetings for Day Care, Children Services and APS services to solicit input in the development of the plan; and holding a public forum to present the plan in October 2024. The plan was submitted to the State for approval.



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
- 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 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
- Universal Response to Domestic Violence
- Youth Opportunity Union Advisory Committee



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

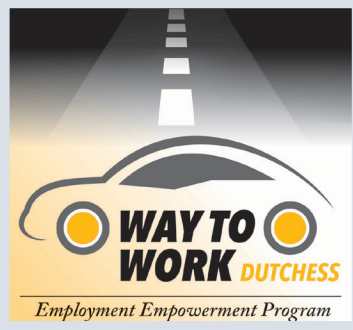
CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

- Conducted 33 contract monitoring site visits.
- Completed 64 contract program desk reviews.

FAIR HEARING ACTIVITY 2024

Fair Hearings Requested	943
Fair Hearings Held	792
Appellant Defaults	258
Appellant Withdrawals	179
Agency Decisions Upheld	323
Agency Decisions Reversed	48
Percentage of Fair Hearings in Favor of the Agency	80%
Postponed/Pending	37
Other Agencies	56
Correct When Made	9
Agency Withdrawals	9

Commissioner's



WAY TO WORK

In 2024 the County Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) and the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (DCWIB) provided twelve 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.



2024 WAY TO WORK STATISTICS

68 eligible Dutchess County residents were assessed for transportation needs and offered instruction in financial literacy; 12 participants received preowned vehicles. 5 individuals received their learner's permit, 20 participants took driving instruction, and 8 earned their NYS driver's license.

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

Office

ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TEAM (ABCD)

In our 15th year, ABCD continues to thrive and make a difference in the workplace. Our co-chairs for 2024 were Trina Singleton (TA) and Shirley Palermo (ADM).

The ABCD members reviewed nominations and recommended individuals for the Bright Stars monthly employee recognition award. The committee continued to collect and review employee suggestions, sharing all ideas with the Management Team. Brain Games for Wellness is ongoing and provided by Nick Johnson. In February, the ABCD Team organized a morale boost providing heart shaped lollipops to all staff with the message "Thank you for everything you do! We appreciate you! -ABCD"

The Team's community service work focused on two areas: increasing awareness of the importance of physical health, mental health, and as it has done from its inception, focused on food insecurity. A few employees participated as part of the DCFS Social Services Squad in Sparrow's Nest 5K fundraiser.



In May, 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 hundreds of awareness lapel ribbon pins and over 50 large bows to place on trees and posts throughout the community.

The ABCD Committee under the leadership of Jose Robles (SIU) held a fundraiser during Pride Month for the Dutchess County Pride Center which serves the LGBTQ+ community with advocacy, education and support. To help address food insecurity, the ABCD Team held a "Souper Bowl" food drive for our DCFS - AFS Karlson-Bixby Food



Pantry. Numerous cans were collected.

In addition, the ABCD Team raised \$2,066 for our 2024 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 \$2,066. 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.

Volunteer members step forward to research and provide an hourlong presentation on 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 attends. If a member researches a topic and provides a presentation to the group, they earn a 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. 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 2024, we had five agencies provide guest speakers as well as eight DCFS employees presented. The presentations by DCFS employees were: **Leadership Development Achievement Awards Keynote**, County Executive, Sue Serino; **Spirituality in Leadership**: Monique Brennan-Tait (AFS), Theresa Giovanniello (ADM), Kim Flasz (AFS), Khalid Zouir; **Critical Thinking**: Tom Tait (CPS); **Ergonomics in the Workplace**: Elsa Gracian (ADM); **Vision Boarding**: Britney Leroy (MA) and Kim Flasz (AFS); **Vicarious Traumatization**: Amanda McGann-Watson (CS).

Certificates of achievement:

Level I

Georgia Milonis (MA)

Level II

Elsa Gracian (ADM) and Darla Steinhauer (RECP)

Level III

Tom Tait (CPS)

Level V

Monique Brennan-Tait (AFS)

Level VII

Christine Nastasi (MA)

Level VII and VIII

Kim Flasz (AFS)

Level XII

Theresa Giovanniello (ADM)

The presentations by community agencies were: **The Hudson Valley Clubhouse**: Blaise Sackett; **Meet the United Way**: Melissa Clark; **DC Pride Center**: Karen Marder; **Mediation Center**: Leanne Lawson and Paula Marie Rodriguez; **Design Thinking**: Louise McLoughlin, PhD., DCWIB; **Making a Difference - Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty**: Taylor Holbrook and Adam Smedberg. Our 14th Annual Achievement Awards was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025. The keynote speaker was Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendell.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Thank you!

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



Full Staff Training 2024

The annual full staff meeting and training was held on June 5, 2024, at the Poughkeepsie Double Tree (formerly Poughkeepsie Grand). The keynote speaker for this event was **Jeffrey Golden**, author of the book entitled *"Reclaiming the Sacred: Healing Our Relationships with Ourselves and the World."*

The topic of conversation was focused on the importance of connections, gratitude and laughter to nourish our well-being and enhance our ability to serve the community.

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



Employee Generosity 2024

The **ABCD (Above and Beyond the Call of Duty)** Team collected numerous cans of soup for the DCFS **Elizabeth Ann Karlson/Jennifer Bixby Food Pantry** during their winter "SOUPER BOWL" collection.



Deputy Commissioner, **Theresa Giovanniello**, and the **ABCD Team's CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk Team at DCFS** raised \$2,066 to help fight hunger. Staff created unique gift baskets for raffles at various bake sales throughout the year.

The **Administration Team** collected 50 gifts which were donated by staff for the **34th 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, bikes, and games for 75 children. **Jennifer Keller (APS), Marsha Morris (APS), Karen Dirago (APS), and Mark Bouffard (APS)** also assisted.

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

Staff members **Margaret Holzberger (ACCT), Theresa Giovanniello (ADM), Sheetal Bhushan (CSE), and Christine Nastasi (ADM)** walked in NAMI's "Walk for Mental Health" on the Walkway Over the Hudson on May 11, 2024, and raised \$185.

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



Jose Robles (SIU) raised \$436 in June, during the Month of Pride, for **The Trevor Project's 53 Mile Pride Ride** which provides lifesaving and life affirming services to LGBTQ youth.

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

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**.



The **Temporary Assistance Unit** held a holiday food drive for **Dutchess Outreach** and collected 65 food items valued at \$162.50 and 4 non-food items valued at \$14.

Tom Tait (CPS) and **Monique Brennan-Tait (AFS)** volunteered at a local Emergency Housing Shelter's holiday party on December 17, 2024 for residents and their children. This was Tom's 23rd year as Santa for the event.

2024 Staff Development



Elizabeth Strelchun
Director of Staff Development

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.

In Dutchess County, the Staff Development Division also encompasses payroll functions. Elizabeth Strelchun is the Director of Staff Development.

Staff Development 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	168
New Employees Hired	95
Promotions and Reassignments Processed	49
Leaves of Absence Processed	85
Separations from Dutchess County Service	42

TRAINING HOURS COORDINATED

Temporary Assistance/Intake	1,242
Services (Adult, Children, Youth)	5,621
Medicaid	379
SNAP	487
Child Support	345
Special Investigations	71
HEAP	47
Total	8,192



PRESENTING

Years of Service

AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES



35 YEARS

Lance Bixby
Blythe Cashdollar
Lynn Martin



30 YEARS

Monique Brennan
Greg Charter
Ellen Gander
Jessie Normil



25 YEARS

David Garcia
Donna Wood



20 YEARS

Kara Cerilli
Nydia Hernandez
Melissa Jabkowski
Courtney Martin
Janet McLain

Andrew Pietroluongo
William Quintiliani
Mary Santiago
Nicole Singleton



15 YEARS

Angelic Campbell
Tammy Dancy
Wendy Diamond
Christina Gonzalez
Linda Green
Ada James
Susan Lambert

Joseph Lansang
Paula Marcojohn-Calli
Deborah Piotti
Joyce Scheibling
Christina Weiner
Tay West



10 YEARS

Jordan Black
Shaun Chesley
Maryanne Hart
Amy Knox
Brian Napoleon
Frances Schlobohm
Melissa Traver



5 YEARS

Holley Abdo
Sheri Baudouine
Mark Bouffard
Tienette Carney
Juliana Corbett
Tina Davis
Krishanta Dyer

Eloisa Garcia
Amy Hicks
Jasmine Johnson
Taj Majors
Harley Martino
John Migliore
Araceli Reyes

Michael Signorelli
Andrea Washington
Brandon West
Kelly Williams
Kietha Wright

PRESENTING

Bright Stars 2024

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



Tay West
Children's Services

FEBRUARY



Rebecca Foote
Child Support

MARCH



Kayla Molnar
Adult Services

APRIL



Georgia Milonis
Medicaid

MAY



Kate Wiegand
Children's Services

JUNE



Jennifer Keller
Adult Services

JULY



Sandra Rich
Medicaid

AUGUST



Mary Garcia
Children's Services

SEPTEMBER



Lynn Martin
Special Investigations

OCTOBER



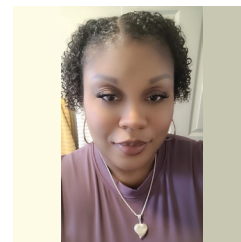
Holley Abdo
Day Care

NOVEMBER



Janet McLain
SNAP

DECEMBER



Queen Murray
SNAP

2024 Administrative Services



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.

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 20,607 calls at the switchboard (those callers who did not use the main menu options and chose the "operator")
- Completed 763 building work orders
- Processed payments/vouchers for
 - * 264 travel orders (262 approved + 2 disapproved).
 - * 104 cases for state auditors
 - * 92 DCFS contracts totaling \$18,970,140.94
 - * 42 Youth Services contracts totaling \$700,980.49



Bridget Goddard
Assistant to the Commissioner
for Program Planning and
Evaluation

CONTRACTS, POLICY & PLANNING

The Assistant to the Commissioner for Program Planning and Evaluation oversees the development and submission of all

Department of Community and Family Services plans, manages the contract process including requests for funding, scope of services drafting and contractor budget reviews, prepares and/or responds to requests for proposals and bids, prepares funding applications for special programs, and oversees the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General's Medicaid Compliance Audit demonstration project in Dutchess County.



CONTRACT ACTIVITY	2024
Adult Foster Care Services	1
Auditing	0
Credit Reporting	3
Child Care	3
Detention/Foster Care Institutions	37
Domestic Violence Services	6
Employment/Training/Transportation Services	13
SNAP Nutrition Education/HEAP	4
Genetic Testing	1
Homeless Prevention	16
Interpreter Services	1
Interdepartmental Services	9
Legal Services	2
Medical Exams/Services	5
Memoranda of Agreement	107
Pre-dispositional PINS	23
Preventive Services	22
Qualified Individual Service Agreements	7
Resource Parents	135
Service Agreements	19
Special Needs	1
Totals	415

Value of Contracts \$54,000,000+

Accomplishments and Yearly Statistics



Brian Napoleon
Director of Budget and Finance

ACCOUNTING

- Maintained accounts for 44 clients in receipt of Supplemental Security Income who need help managing their money.
- Deposits of \$811,509.62 and issuance of 3,002 checks totaling \$825,723.36 occurred on behalf of these clients.
- Collected over \$78,000,000 in state and federal reimbursements on DCFS expenses.
- Arranged and paid for 109 indigent burials in the amount of \$211,645.

ACCOUNTING TRANSACTIONS PROCESSED IN 2024

Services	Number	Amount
Title IV-D Assistance	900	\$99,000
Family Assistance	9,500	\$6,650,000
Adult Care and Emergency Assistance	100	\$285,000
Safety Net Assistance	14,900	\$8,905,000
Medical Assistance	100	\$2,000
Emergency Aid to Families	100	\$126,000
Title XX Services for Recipients	1,200	\$1,578,000
Non-Title XX Services for Recipients	14,900	\$15,300,000
Foster Care and Adoption Assistance	8,600	\$12,390,000
Child Care Assistance	12,100	\$10,387,000
Independent Living Program	300	\$51,000
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)	5,500	\$280,000
Total	68,200	\$56,053,000



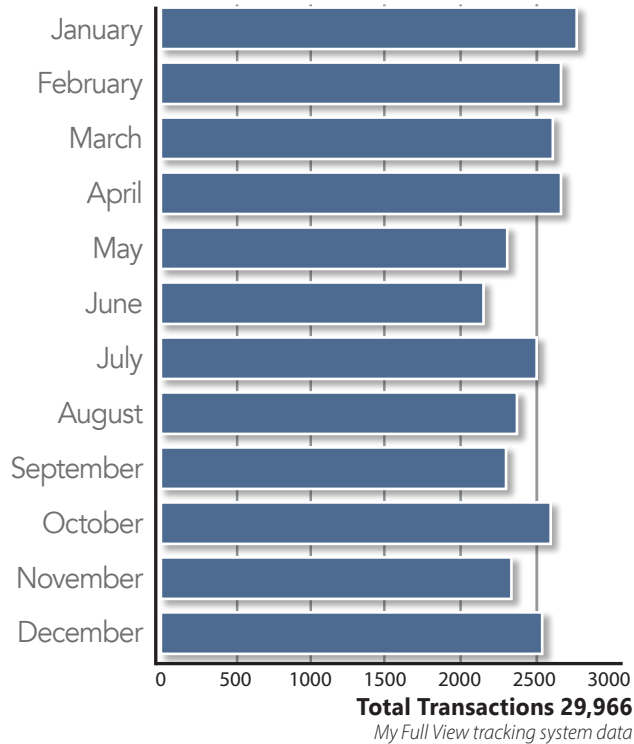
Administrative

RECEPTION

Reception is responsible for accepting program applications and receiving supporting documents as well as registering visitors. This customer focused group recorded nearly 30,000 transactions in 2024.

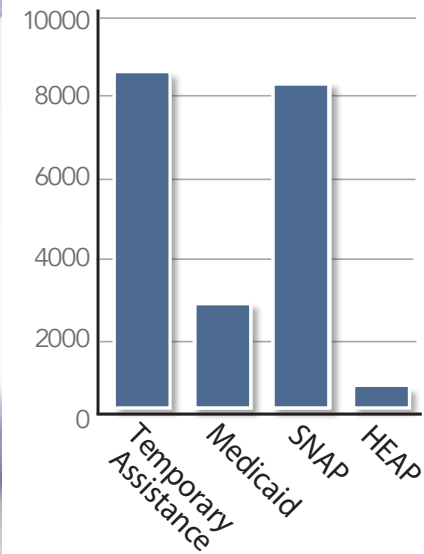
NUMBER OF CLIENT TRANSACTIONS IN RECEPTION

(Poughkeepsie and Satellite Offices)



APPLICATIONS/ DOCUMENTS DROPPED OFF

My Full View tracking system data



THE CLIENT PRIVACY BOOTH HANDLED 13,551 CALLS DURING THE YEAR



Services



John Mort
Director of Computer
Information Services

COMPUTER INFORMATION SERVICES

- Supported the successful opening of the DCFS Shelter Unit at the Dutchess County Emergency Shelter Facility.
- Enhanced staff productivity by expanding dual-monitor setups.
- Initiated the migration of the agency's iPad fleet to the ManageEngine Mobile Device Management (MDM) system, improving device management and security.
- Facilitated application migration from COLD to WARM.
- Upgraded scanners for the Integrated Eligibility Determination and Reporting (IEDR) system.
- Continued proactive computer hardware upgrades to ensure compliance with New York State ITS standards and requirements.
- Processed 331 changeforms:
 - o General - 71
 - o New Employee - 86
 - o Office Move - 43
 - o Reassignments - 86
 - o Left Agency - 45



CENTRAL FILE

- Total incoming voter registration forms (included in benefit application packages): 9,992
- Managed USPS and interoffice mail for the entire DCFS staff. Processed 53,264 pieces of outgoing US postal mail (*does not include incoming postal mail or interoffice*).
- Filled 5,143 supply orders; maintained 870 items in supply room inventory.
- Prepared and imaged documents in I/EDR for Medicaid, TA, SNAP, HEAP, and satellite offices.
- Processed 7,262 documents submitted through the NYDocSubmit mobile app (OSI).
- Processed 179 Print Shop orders, including forms, business cards, brochures, manuals, contracts, and specialty orders.
- Assigned approximately 5,167 new case numbers.



Defying the Odds

BY ZYONIA SMITH



Growing up in foster care is hard; always meeting new people; spending birthdays and holidays alone; not really understanding what is happening and why. When I was 9 years old, I was taken from my mother the day before my 10th birthday. I didn't know where my mom was or if she was ok. I was scared. I thought that she didn't love me anymore and gave me away. I tried to find comfort in my new surroundings, but adapting was hard. However, the kids in my foster home and the DCFS staff were very nice. As time went on, I made some new friends.

As I grew older, I took on bad habits. I became angry at the world because I couldn't go home.

I would talk to my mom on the phone, and she would say very hurtful things and hang up on me.

One day, I broke down and I ended up in Four Winds Hospital for self-harm. I was lost, alone, and confused. I was there for about three months, and it felt so long. I was so heartbroken because I was only 12 years old at the time and my life sucked so bad. Little did I know this was just the beginning of more trauma to come.

After the hospital, I was moved to Rhinebeck, NY in a residential program with Astor. This time I made friends more quickly. We were all older and did a lot of fun stuff together. I was able to see my mom. We would always draw, bake, and do other fun activities.

Life started to feel normal again, but I still had so much anger built up in me and I would always act out. I never truly understood how damaged I was. I started to self-harm again and was always depressed. My mom began to miss visits and always gave excuses as to why she couldn't make it. I was sent away again to Westchester hospital for another three months. When I turned 14, I aged out of the placement I was staying in.

I moved to Yonkers to a step-down placement where I had more freedom. I learned more about things I was good at and things that made me happy. I still did not have the best bond with my mom, but I grew to understand that maybe she is just not good for me right now. I struggled in school because I had a hard time understanding things. I was scared to ask for help, because of past trauma. I was afraid of being called names. I stayed in Yonkers

until I was 16 years old. Because I was doing well, I was moved to a group home in Albany.

When I moved, I was overweight; the years of medications had taken a toll on me. I was made fun of a lot for being overweight, but I learned to not let it bother me. I was doing better in school when I was placed in an IEP, and it helped so much. My grades were improving, and I was proud of myself.

I was getting ready to graduate high school, and I began to consider college. I always hated college and never wanted to go, but my guidance counselor encouraged me to sign up. Honestly, I picked something random to get her to leave me alone, not knowing I would get accepted and attend college after all.



Well, I ended up doing so well, defying the odds, that I was asked to share my story. We had our first welding competition at school and I won first place!

Then, I was selected to go to Minnesota for a 3M welding

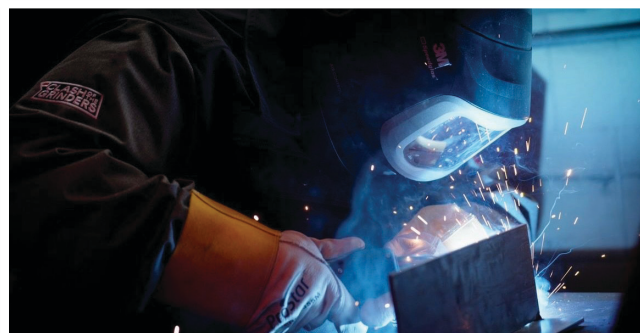
competition with eleven other students from around the world. It was amazing. I was placed 6th on the show!

You can watch our show on YouTube, "Clash of the Grinders".

https://youtu.be/yblvMhcykPO?si=la8YLIIzaRFx3_fr



Being in foster care can be challenging. There are so many ups and downs and bad moments. When you learn to cope with it and find new ways to handle bad situations, it can get easier. Now, I am very successful for my age. I got into SMART Local 83, a welding union, and I got my first apartment, bought a car, and graduated with an associate's degree in occupational studies (welding). I am also exploring the possibility of furthering my education to include specialized welding (i.e., underwater welding). I have achieved many accomplishments, and I finally moved out of Foster Care on April 24th, a day before my 21st birthday!



2024 Adult Services



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.



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 2024, DCFS received 845 APS referrals, of which 672 were for individuals ages 60 or older. At intake, 25% of cases had at least one risk factor indicating abuse or neglect from others. Adults age 60 and older comprised 86% of the cases which alleged abuse or neglect from another person. Financial exploitation was noted in 109 of all abuse cases for all age groups. Mental illness was indicated as a suspected impairment in 13% of all APS referrals.
- In 2024, we saw a 38% increase in requests for emergency housing assistance from 1,423 in 2023 to 1,965 in 2024. The number of single individuals provided temporary housing increased by 28% from 347 in 2023 to 445 in 2024 and the number of families decreased by 15%, from 339 in 2023 to 289 in 2024. Additionally, 156 clients exited emergency shelter and moved to permanent housing.
- In 2024, the average length of stay in temporary housing was 16 weeks for families and 12 weeks for single individuals. The overall length of stay in temporary housing was 14 weeks, a decrease of 1 week over the 2023 length of stay.
- APS continued to utilize allocated ARPA funds, as well as a grant from the Field Hall Grant, to assist Dutchess County's APS clients aged 60 years and older. 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.
- One remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant was used to continue funding 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. Additionally, funds were utilized to provide clients with personal need items such as cleaning supplies, to help promote a sanitary living environment.
- 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 funds awarded under the ARPA legislation 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. We currently have 42 active vouchers, housing 45 adults and 12 children.

PRESENTATIONS TO PUBLIC & PARTNERING AGENCIES

- 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
- APS overview provided to Office for the Aging staff
- Housing overview provided to the Empowerment Center staff

Accomplishments and Yearly Statistics



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Office for the Aging (OFA) Senior Picnics
- Senior Golden Gathering
- 2024 Point-in-Time Event
- Beulah Baptist Church Outreach Event

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
- Homeless Outreach Team Meeting

- Universal Response to Domestic Violence (URDV)
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

IN-SERVICE PRESENTATIONS OFFERED TO APS STAFF

- Safe Option Supports (SOS) Critical Time Intervention (CTI)
- Hoarding 101
- Hoarding Intervention
- Narcan Training
- Domestic Violence
- Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT)

ADULT SERVICES

PSA Cases

	2023	2024
PSA Referrals	794	845
PSA Assessments	460	500
PSA Open/Ongoing	278	294
Representative Payee	56	50
Guardianship	34	27
Emergency Housing Cases/Households	669	721
Total Persons Served in Emergency Housing	1,365	1,293
Licensed Family Type Homes	12	10
Domestic Violence Screenings	98	64

Statistics from Cognos and Adult Services Automated Project (ASAP)

Cognos and Emergency Housing

TEMPORARY SHELTER EXPENDITURES

Year	Amount	Stay in Weeks
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
2024	\$8,340,232	14.0

2024 Children's Services



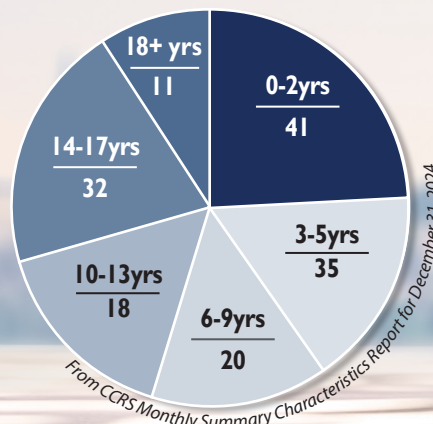
Amanda McGann-Watson
Director of Children's Services

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	2023	2024
Reports investigated by CPS	2,302	1,646
Abuse Petitions	1	2
Neglect Petitions	276	423
Termination of Parental Rights	24	*55
Surrender Petitions Filed in Family Court	7	20
Foster Care Review Permanency Hearings	143	176
Investigations from Child Advocacy Center	198	240
Indicated	40	49
Unfounded	131	160
Pending	27	31

(*in addition, there were 6 kinship guardianships vs TPR, does not include judicial surrenders (20))

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 12 new foster parent homes and 23 new relative foster parent homes.
- Trained 32 new relative and non-relative foster families in NTDC. In 2024, 18 non-relative foster families attended and completed NTDC, and 14 families attended and completed NTDC relative foster family training.
- Held Orientation Meetings for 27 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 and 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 eligible youth, 32 youth have been able to secure housing, 2 youth are currently looking for housing.
- In 2024, 16 youth were determined to be eligible for the Chafee Direct Cash Program, and provided with the needed information to apply.
- 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 2024 they provided 250 backpacks with school supplies for foster children.
- Foster Blessings provides pizza meals to foster families in addition to diapers and wipes and Treasure Boxes to foster families for new placements, they provided 45 meals in 2024. They hold a virtual support group, Fostering Conversation, once a month, the group averages 15 participants at time up to 40.

In July they held a foster care picnic with approximately 20 families in attendance. They also held a mother's game night with 7 mothers who participated. In addition, 15 families utilized the Foster Community Closet, Tiny Threads.

- 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 2024, 2 foster youth engaged and completed this program.
- Provided Family Team Meetings to 14 CPS, 23 Foster Care, and 27 Preventive families.
- The Coached Family Visitation Program provided by Mental Health America of Dutchess County provided services to 15 families in 2024.

- In 2024, DCFS continued to receive the CAPTA/CARA Grant that allowed for 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 178 preventive referrals in 2024, 148 families were opened to preventive services, 30 families declined services, or the referral was withdrawn. Throughout 2024, 240 families received preventive services.
- The Youth Advocacy Program (YAP) received 9 referrals; 13 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	2023	2024
Foster Homes	64	74
Institutions	10	9
Group Homes	4	3
Group Residence	1	0
Agency Operated Boarding Homes	3	4
Supervised Independent Living	2	2
Approved Relative Foster Homes	68	65
Other	1	2
Total	153	159

From December 31, 2024 CCRS in Care Summary Report

ADOPTION ACTIVITY	2023	2024
Children Discharged To Adoption	18	11
Children with adoption as a goal at year end	30	31

From December 31, 2024 CCRS in Care Summary Report
*17 adoptions filed

OPEN FOSTER HOMES	(as of 12/31/2024)
83	Foster/Adoptive Homes
50	Kinship Homes



OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTRACTS INCLUDE:

AGENCY	SERVICE
Astor Services for Children and Families	Crisis intervention waiver services, homebased preventive services, forensic evaluations and the Enhanced Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (ECCSI).
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.
Together for Youth	Homebased preventive services for families at-risk of having children placed in foster care and non-secure detention.
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.

2024 JUVENILE JUSTICE PLACEMENTS	Pre-Dispositional Placements	Non-Secure Detention	Secure Detention	Foster Care
Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS)	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Juvenile Delinquents (JD)	n/a	20	16	n/a
Juvenile Offender (JO)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adolescent Offender (AO)	n/a	n/a	7	n/a

*6 AO s in specialized secure

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.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received 31 referrals of at-risk youth – Held five meetings of the full Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking.
- In 2024, we were able to facilitate the Love146 Prevention/Education program to 4 different groups of youth {Green Teen (summer, crew, club), Great Work Montessori School, Youth group with probation}. Trained 3 additional DCFS staff members as facilitators of the Not a Number Prevention Education Program.
- Trafficking presentations conducted for youth were held at:
Ketcham High School Health Classes (15 presentations), Beacon High School Health Classes (12 presentations), Millbrook High School Health Classes (6 Presentations).
- Tabling events: Attended several awareness events to disseminate information, including, 3rd annual Dutchess County Health Fair (at Dutchess Community College), National Night Out (in City of Poughkeepsie), Foster Parent appreciation event, CAPE Health Event.

- Trafficking Presentations for adults were held for clients at Dutchess Intensive Treatment Alternatives program (ITAP) (3 presentations), Grace Smith House staff, DBCH staff, DCFS Foster Care Unit, DCFS TA/CSEU/SIU units (3 presentations), Professional Nurses Association, Adult MH Providers Meeting, Nuvance Women's Health Symposium, DC Sheriff Cadets in Training, DC School Resource Officers Conference and the Building Bridges Conference (2 presentations).
- Held our first Human Trafficking Forum at Dutchess Community College (over 85 participants).
- Participated in committee meetings with Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASADA), Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), and the Criminal Justice Council Victims Subcommittee. Participated in panel discussion at 3 events on services for victims.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

2024 Youth Services



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.

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.

- In 2024, New York State Office of Children and Family Services funded four grant streams:
 1. Youth Team Sports (YTS) awarded to 11 programs totaling \$119,335.
 2. Youth Development Program (YDP) awarded to 21 programs totaling \$237,300.
 3. Youth Sports and Education Funds (YSEF) awarded to 7 programs totaling \$63,734.
 4. Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) awarded to 1 program totaling \$125,852.
- The Youth Board and Coordinating Council awarded two \$1,500 scholarships to an incoming freshman from Millbrook High School and a returning Dutchess Community College student.

SHORT-TERM SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Division staff provided short-term support services to 147 youth ages 4 to 21 to help children/youth manage personal, family, or school challenges. 79 cases were closed during this assessment period, with 99% achieving at least one goal. Division staff also conducted 11 in-person workshops for community-based organizations on the following topics: Human Trafficking, Cyberbullying, Empathy Building, Self-Esteem Building, and Communication Skills. 135 youth and 35 adults attended these workshops.

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. 11 families successfully completed Strengthening Families program.

- 126 Parents As Driving Partners referrals received.

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.

- 35 Dutchess County Youth Council Members were enrolled during the 2023-2024 cycle.
- Youth Council members created a public service announcement highlighting the various ways that the Council promotes safe spaces for youth to meet, learn from each other and discuss issues related to their health and well-being (i.e., stress, substance abuse, trafficking and nutrition) developed in partnership with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Hypeman Hills Productions, Association of New York State Youth Bureaus and the Hudson Valley Youth Bureau Association.



Path to promise

FOR EVERY CHILD

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

- 1.9 k users visited the Path-To-Promise website (pathtopromise.net), desktop 77.7%, mobile 21.9%, tablet 0.4%)
- The "YOU Without Walls" Swim with A Friend, swimming, water safety, First Aid/AED certification program completed its second year of programming with support from the Youth Opportunity Union Advisory Committee. 67 youth and adults participated in the program. 10 adults completed First Aid/ AED and CPR training, 25 adults completed Water Safety training, and 37 youth completed Water Safety training and participated in swim lessons.
- Funded three City of Poughkeepsie based Out-of-School Time programs including Roy Community Foundation, Charlia Frank Inc., and The Black and Latino Coalition. Of the 202 youth participants, 175 were enrolled in the Roy Community Foundation's Football program, 13 were enrolled in Charlia Frank's Elite After School Program and 14 were enrolled in The Black and Latino Coalition's Mighty Young Majorettes program.
- Continued partnership with Astor Services for Children and Families on the READY4K program for families enrolled in the Head Start Program. 363 families participated in the program.
- Partnered with World Evangelical Center and Mental Health Association of Dutchess County to launch the "Swinging with Spirit" Youth Golf Outing in Wingdale, July 13, 2024, reaching approximately 28 youth.
- Collaborated with Poughkeepsie City School District, Dutchess Community College, and Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet to launch the inaugural PK Youth

Leaders' Summit at Dutchess Community College focused on college/career exploration, mental health supports and financial literacy. This event was held July 30 – August 1, 2024, reaching 70 middle and high school students.

- 150 Summer Youth Employment youth participated in the Annual Youth Summit held at Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Education Services (DC BOCES) on August 16, 2024.
- 20 Dover High School and Middle School students completed the Dutchess County Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) session held May 6-11, 2024, developed in partnership with Dover Union Free School District and Dover Plains Library.
- 8 Poughkeepsie City School District and Dover Union Free School District students attended the YPI Leadership Conference at Binghamton University, July, 16 – 19, 2024.
- 15 youth completed the Dutchess County Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) session held October 7- 12, 2024 in partnership with the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie and The Gathering at Faith Assembly. 8 youth participant cohorts completed to date, reaching a total of 112 youth and more than 25 law enforcement officers/professionals.
- 349 Dutchess County youth participated in Camp Pathfinder's summer camp program at Camp Nooteeming, July 8, 2024 – August 23, 2024.
- Collaborated with the YOU Advisory Committee and Family Services Inc. to launch the 2nd "YOU GOES BOO", community outreach event at the Family Partnership Center on October 31st.

2024 *Child Support Services*



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.

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 and Yearly Statistics

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS

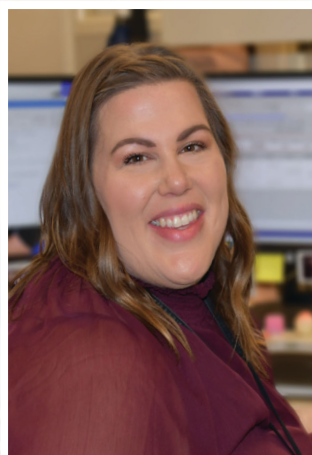
Year	Amount Collected
2015	\$30,110,004
2016	\$30,149,458
2017	\$29,324,983
2018	\$29,490,300
2019	\$29,905,140
2020	\$30,538,171
2021	\$28,575,167
2022	\$26,926,147
2023	\$26,980,446
2024	\$26,916,059

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS

- Collected \$26,916,059 in child support (of this amount, \$26,507,055 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 2024. A total of 116 samples were collected at offsite locations.
- Processed 4,474 Family Court petitions.

CHILD SUPPORT ACTIVITY	2023	2024
Child Support Cases Open	7,267	6,977
Children Open in Support Cases	6,207	6,042
Children Open Born Out of Wedlock	3,753	3,694
Children Open with Parentage Established	5,957	3,427
Children Open with Resolved Parentage	93.6%	92.77%
Children Needing Parentage Determination	261	286
Cases with Collections during Year	4,588	4,363
Interstate Cases with Collections during Year	230	218
Cases Open Where Medical Support is Ordered	4,631	4,379
Cases with Arrears Due during Year	5,477	5,330

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



2024 Medicaid



Christine Nastasi
Social Welfare Manager II
Medicaid

Medicaid is a medical assistance program for individuals who cannot afford to pay for medical care. It is funded through federal, state and county appropriations. Dutchess County is a mandated managed care county. Services are provided by Medicaid Managed Care plans and Managed Long Term Care plans. Due to special circumstances, certain individuals may be exempt from plan enrollment and will receive Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid. The plans you can choose from for Medicaid Managed Care are MVP Health Care, Fidelis, UnitedHealthcare, and Anthem HP and for Managed Long-Term Care are VNS Health, Hamaspik Choice, Fidelis, and Elder Plan/Home First.

To qualify for Medicaid, individuals 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 for an individual must not exceed the prescribed FPL.

The Local Department of Social Services handles individuals over 65 years old, disabled adults with Medicare, disabled children, pregnant women, current and former Foster Care youth, individuals who are incarcerated or institutionalized, individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), residents of adult homes, nursing homes, and residential treatment centers, community residences operated by The Office of Mental Health (OMH), OPWDD Home and Community Based (HCBS) Waiver services, Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) Waiver services, Medicaid Cancer Treatment Program (MCTP), and Transitional Medical Assistance.

MEDICAID SERVICES

- NYSDOH Consolidated 1915c Children's Waiver Environmental & Vehicle Modifications.
- Completed one generator modification and seven have been transitioned to the Children's Health Homes of Upstate NY (CHHUNY) who will serve as the designated Fiscal Management Services (FMS) provider, in conjunction with New York State Department of Health.
- Participated in Community Based Services, Inc. Spring Transition Fair for students with IEPs and 504 plans, their families, and educators to learn about opportunities involved with the process of planning for life after high school at Dutchess County BOCES.

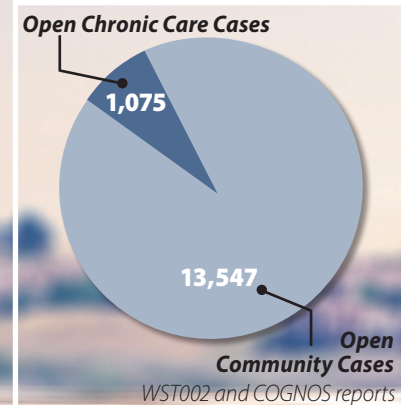


MEDICAID MMIS (MEDICAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM) – GROSS SHARES

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
2024	\$848,248,891

MRP2190-R0019 report

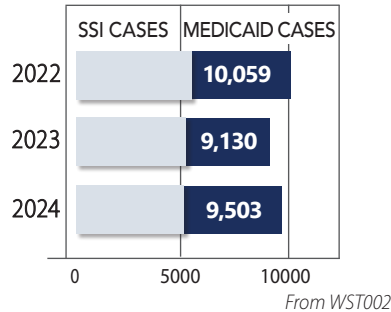
CASE TYPE COMPARISON



Accomplishments and Yearly Statistics



MEDICAID CASES as of
DECEMBER 31, 2024



MEDICAL EXPENDITURES BY PROVIDER*
PROVIDER TYPE

	2023	2024	%Change
Hospital Inpatient Services	\$27,128,037	\$58,123,885	114.3
Hospital Outpatient Services	\$3,432,749	\$4,410,746	28.5
Skilled Nursing Facilities	\$83,718,136	\$97,862,925	16.9
Intermediate Care Facilities	\$20,358,878	\$21,528,406	5.7
Clinics	\$12,946,021	\$12,332,352	-4.7
Hospice	\$2,270,112	\$2,118,945	-6.7
Physicians Services	\$2,619,217	\$2,927,684	11.8
Dental Services	\$102,023	\$148,589	45.6
Other Practitioners Services	\$7,867,781	\$7,231,204	-8.1
Child Care Institutional Medical Per Diem	\$448,095	\$322,936	-27.9
Personal Care Services	\$4,701,811	\$5,433,055	15.6
Home Health Services	\$464,802	\$586,581	26.2
Assisted Living Services	\$9,276,825	\$10,454,129	12.7
Long-Term Home Health Care Waived Services	\$14,245,389	\$20,138,272	41.4
Home and Community Based Waived Services	\$123,731,456	\$134,490,963	8.7
Rehabilitation and Therapy	\$221,311	\$387,373	75
Mental Hygiene Restorative Rehabilitation	\$12,698,338	\$11,023,542	-13.2
Drugs and Supplies	\$68,932,640	\$94,071,653	36.5
Eye Appliances and Durable Medical Equipment	\$315,025	\$341,506	8.4
Prepaid Care	\$385,099,409	\$323,686,866	-15.9
Case Management	\$9,376,597	\$10,022,994	6.9
Health Insurance Premiums	\$1,385,978	\$732,166	-47.2
Medical Transportation	\$20,389,755	\$20,366,349	-0.1
Lab and X-Ray Services	\$510,735	\$692,639	35.6
Other	\$305,044	\$2,670,738	775.5
Total	\$812,546,163	\$842,106,497	3.6

**MEDICAID
TRANSACTIONS**

	2023	2024
Applications Registered	4,235	4,892
Cases Opened/Reactivated/ Open-Closed	3,684	4,051
Cases Closed	4,627	3,709
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	18,192	28,002
Recertifications	3,903	6,817
Denied	1,546	2,652
Closed Case Maintenance/Forced Deletion	151	151
Total Transactions	32,103	45,382

From WMS WST002

2024 *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.

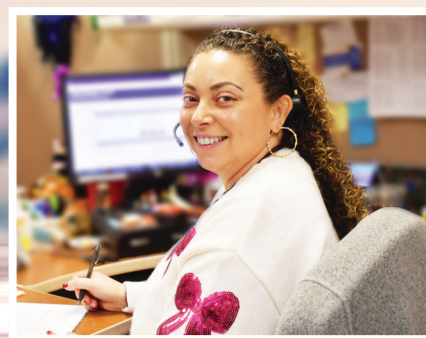
SNAP TRANSACTIONS	2023	2024
Applications Registered	9,664	9,349
Cases Opened/Reactivated/Open-Closed	6,249	5,707
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	68,172	47,094
Recertifications	5,950	4,821
Denied	4,893	4,349
Closed Case	5,972	5,903
Closed Case Maintenance	131	109
Total Transactions	91,367	67,983

From WMS WST003

SNAP CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

2015	12,142	2020	10,221
2016	11,146	2021	10,446
2017	10,680	2022	10,761
2018	10,353	2023	11,009
2019	10,385	2024	10,802

From WMS WST002



Accomplishments and Yearly Statistics

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

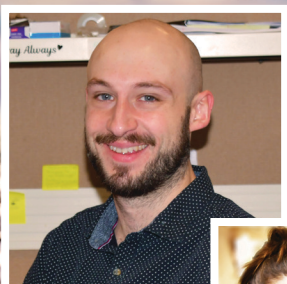
HEAP assists low income people pay the cost of heating their homes. Eligibility is based on household income. Program components include: Regular, Emergency, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement, Heating Equipment Clean and Tune, and Cooling Component.

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.

The Emergency Fuel Depots dispensed 1,495 gallons of heating fuel to 150 households.



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.

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 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.

2024 Temporary Assistance



Christian Jones
Social Welfare Manager II
Temporary Assistance

The Temporary Assistance Unit 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 applicants and recipients may request a phone interview and are no longer required to be face-to-face for interviews. Information on eligibility and online applications can be found at www.mybenefits.ny.gov.

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.

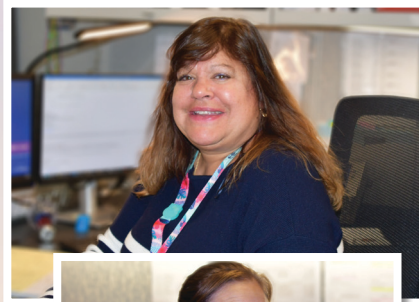
SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE

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.

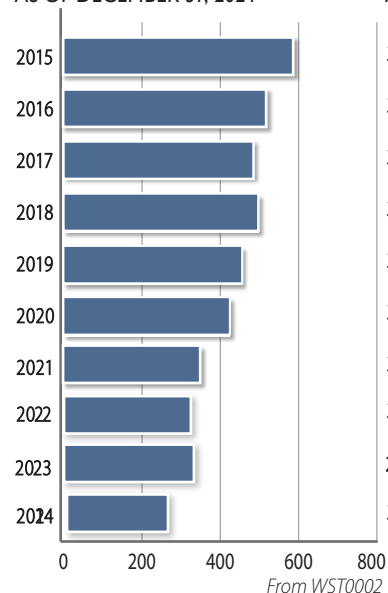
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TRANSACTIONS

	2023	2024
Applications Registered	6,582	6,672
Cases Opened/Reactivated/ Open-Closed	2,449	1,951
Cases Closed	1,365	1,478
Changes to Active/Closed Cases	8,437	6,487
Recertifications	855	804
Denied	4,248	4,716
Closed Case Maintenance	100	114
Total Transactions	17,454	15,550

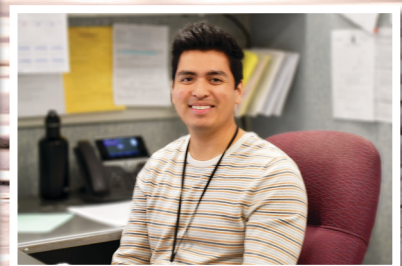
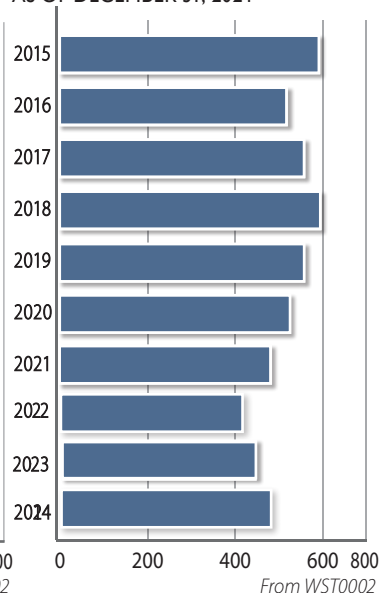
From WST0003



FAMILY ASSISTANCE CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024



SAFETY NET CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024



Accomplishments and 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; 3 became employed. 14 clients enrolled in the Next Step Program; 3 recipients became employed.
- Through our partnership with Dutchess County BOCES, 12 individuals completed the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) intake assessment; 8 were enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes and/or the High School Equivalency program.
- Through a partnership with Exodus Transitional Community's re-entry program serving formerly incarcerated individuals (1/1/24-3/30/24), of the 5 individuals served, 3 became employed.
- Through a partnership with DCWIB, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) engaged 159 eligible youth.
- Through a partnership with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, 95 eligible cases were opened for assistance. A total of 36 applications for SSI were submitted and 12 received awards, totaling \$179,900.04 in annual benefits (\$14,991.67 monthly) to Dutchess County households. \$96,738.70 in retroactive benefits were received for clients previously assisted with applications.

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 990 families and 1,527 children with no waiting list.



2024 Special Investigations



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.

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	366	\$4,480,140
Intentional Program Violations (IPV)	Disqualification sanctions for those found guilty	16	\$98,960.19

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

	2023	2024
Completed Investigations	230	304
Confessions of Judgment	74	68
Value of Repayment Agreements Signed	\$215,661	\$206,429
SNAP Disqualifications	3	10
Value of SNAP Disqualifications	\$52,050	\$59,853
TA Disqualifications	2	6
Value of TA Disqualifications	\$11,805	\$39,107
Duplicate Case Reviews	273	345
Incarcerated Case Reviews	20	11

PARIS and Prison Match Reports



COLLECTION ACTIVITY

	2023	2024
Lottery Intercepts	\$25,862	\$24,282
Fees (parking, guardian, adoption, home study, phone, postage, confessions of judgment, copies and subpoenas)	\$36,845	\$43,434
Cash Collections (TANF, SN, MA, Services, SNAP, SN-SSI and CSE Repayments)	\$7,486,265	\$8,203,415

From Cash Management System



2024 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	2023	2024
Child Abuse Petitions	1	2
Child Neglect Petitions	276	423
Termination of Parental Rights	*24	**55
IVD Paternity	132	232
IVD Support	3,056	3,591
IVD Interstate Support (UIFSA)	98	85
Permanency Hearings	143	176

(*in addition, there were 6 kinship guardianships vs TPR)
(**in addition, there were 6 kinship guardianships vs TPR, does not include judicial surrenders (20))

LEGAL STATISTICS	2024
Child Protective Reports	1,646
Support Cases	6,977
Private Support Referrals	26
Fair Hearings	
Medicaid	23
Child Welfare	50
Collection and Resource Cases	311
Adult Protective Cases	46

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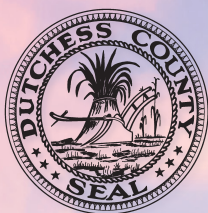
DCFS staff enjoyed meeting and sharing information with the community at various events and workshops throughout the year. Staff attended events such as the Department of Heath's Dutchess County Health Fair; the Dutchess County Office for the Aging's senior picnics; A the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department's National Night Out; NAMI Mid-Hudson's Youth Health Rally and more! A

Everyone (adults and children) enjoyed the annual DCFS Foster Care Picnic! Freshly grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, A sausage and peppers, and plenty of sides were on the menu. Staff interacted with children and youth at the arts and crafts tables with facepainting, beading, sand art, and more; as well as in the fields playing kickball, A running races, and throwing water balloons. Two Dutchess County Sheriff's K-9 Officers presented A and demonstrated some of their dogs' skills. In addition, the New Hamburg Fire Department answered questions, and shared their fire truck and A equipment with attendees.



Community Outreach





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



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

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

**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 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