

ANNUAL REPORT

Family
Enrichment Network



2022-2023

About Us

FEN has offered community education and awareness services to thousands of children, adults, and families for 45 years. While most of the programs are provided to low-income individuals, all of them are developed based on local trends and comprehensive needs assessments. We offer services in Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties and currently have six departments including: Head Start/Early Head Start, Child Care Resource & Referral, Community Services, Family Support Services, Special Education Services, and Housing.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission Statement

Through partnerships with program participants and community agencies Family Enrichment Network commits to providing quality, supportive programs and services for the optimal development of children, adults and families in our service area.

Vision Statement

The vision of Family Enrichment Network is that all children, adults and families in our service area have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

Value Statements

We Value:

- **Empowerment of parents/caregivers to more effectively meet the needs of their children and responsibilities to the community.**
- **All children, adults and families regardless of race, religion, sex, age, ethnic origin, or disability.**
 - **Efficient use of resources.**
 - **Avoidance of duplication of services.**
 - **Staff contribution to the success of our organization.**
 - **Stakeholder and community partnerships.**

A Message from our Board Chair

I am very proud and grateful to have served another year as Board Chair of Family Enrichment Network. A tremendous thank you to our employees, volunteers, Board of Directors and our community partners for your dedication to our mission. We will continue to provide superior supportive services and programs for the growth of children, adults and their families in our communities.

Jackie Watson

Board Chair

A Message from our Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that we present this 2022-2023 Annual Report.

This has been a year for us. Opportunities presented themselves and we pursued them if they were consistent with our mission and vision. The communities we serve have been very helpful and supportive of our efforts and we understand there may be many challenges ahead.

Our long range planning and aggressive program development has allowed our Agency to weather the economic storm and years of state and federal budgetary challenges. We have a new three year strategic plan that will guide us over the next few years.

We hope that the information in this report will be informative and enlightening. Our Agency's accomplishments continue to amaze me and we will continue to offer a diverse array of services to children and families to help improve their lives. We will look to continue expanding services to meet the needs of our community. We could not have done all that we have done without lots of support. I would like to thank the Board, Staff and the entire Community for their dedication and hard work for our Agency and the families we support.

Darrell R. Newwinen

Executive Director

OUR BOARD

JACKIE WATSON, BOARD CHAIR
BRIAN TETA, VICE CHAIR
WIL MIDYETTE, TREASURER
FRED MEAGHER, SECRETARY
JESSICA AURELLIO
MELISSA LANTZ
CHRIS LEE
ANDREA MASTRONARDI
ELIZABETH MYERS
PAMELA SWARTS

OUR POLICY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chairperson: Chelyssa Clarke
Vice Chairperson: Shauntel Bess
Treasurer: EriKa Hinckley
Recording Secretary: Olivia Watson
Corresponding Secretary: Amanda Cummings

Parent Membership:

Kedar Clarke
Chatherine Dickson
Jalisa Felton
Dianna Franko
Chakaris Glover
Alyssa Kinney
Lakia Leonard
Heather Lyon
Jesula Saintus
Kaitlyn Santiago
Lousia Santos
Nikki Turner

Community Membership:

Christopher Lee
Cassandra Martin
Kelsey Matoushek
Jody Morrell
Angel Stringer

OUR SENIOR STAFF

DARRELL R. NEWVINE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NORA BUSH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MARY DIFULVIO, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

DEB FAULKS, FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTOR

RACHEL FAULKS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**KATE E. GRIPPEN, HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START
DIRECTOR**

**TAMARA IVAN, SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
DIRECTOR**

CHASTITY MCEWEN, HOUSING DIRECTOR

**JENNIFER PERNEY, CHILD CARE RESOURCE &
REFERRAL DIRECTOR**

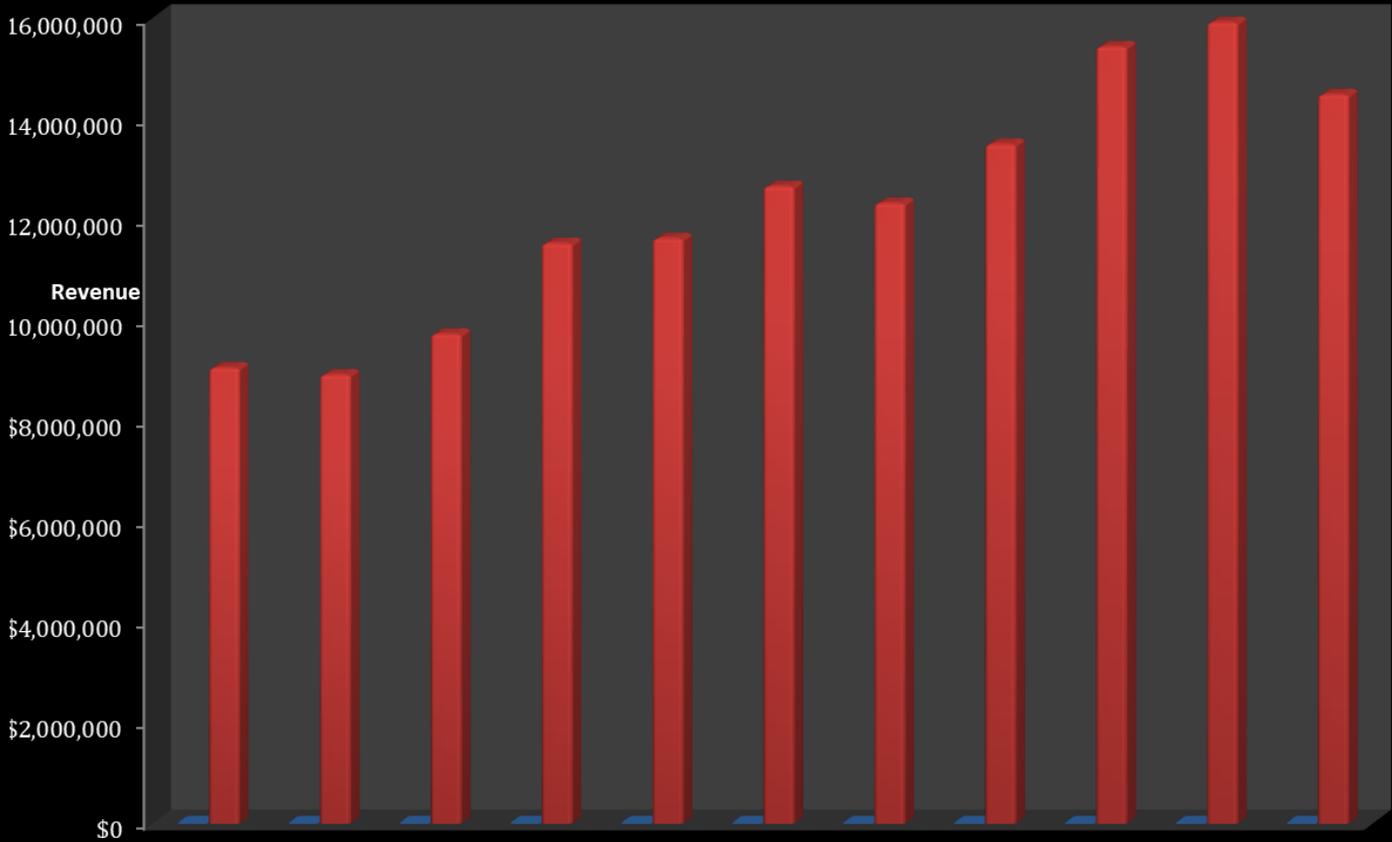
JARRETT PURDY, FACILITIES DIRECTOR

**APRIL RAMSAY, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR**

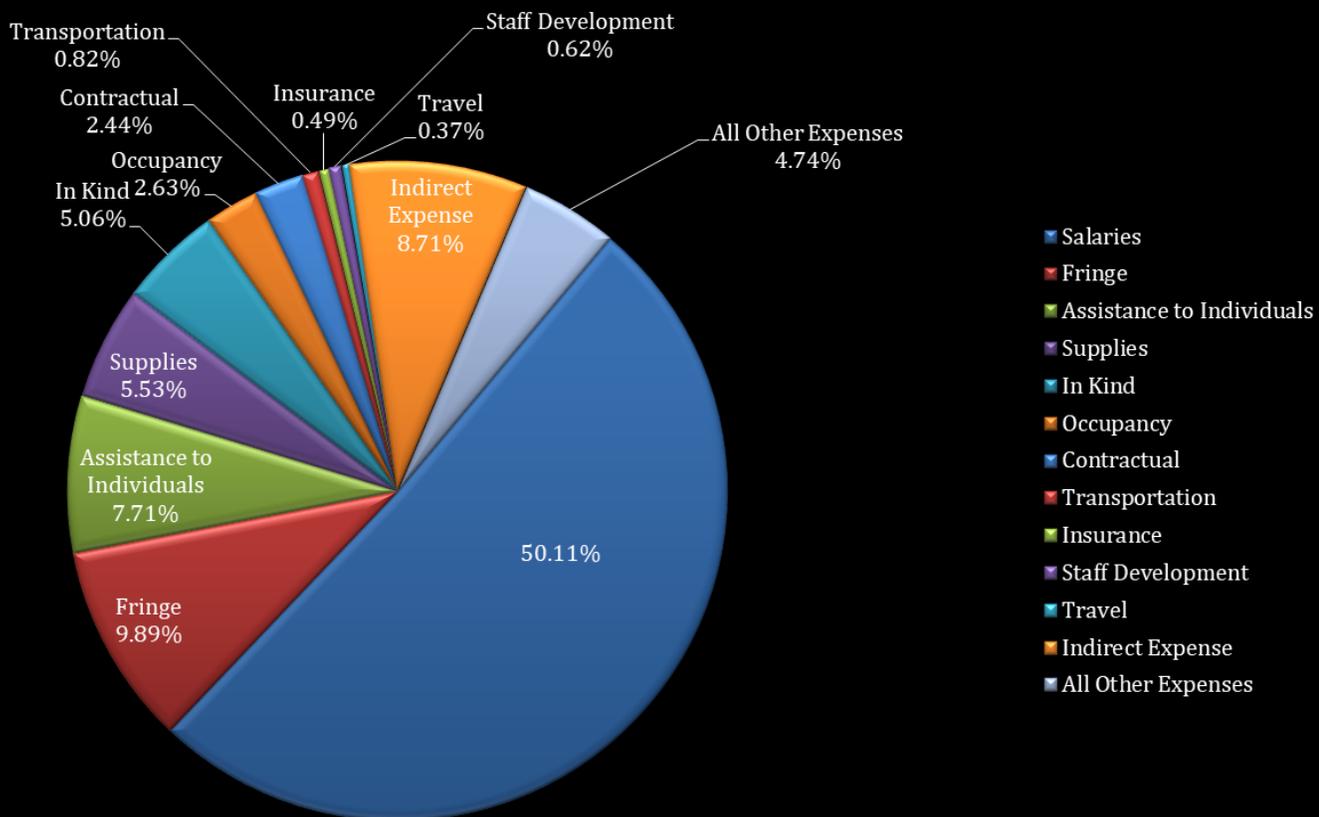
TERRI RILEY, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Financial Overview

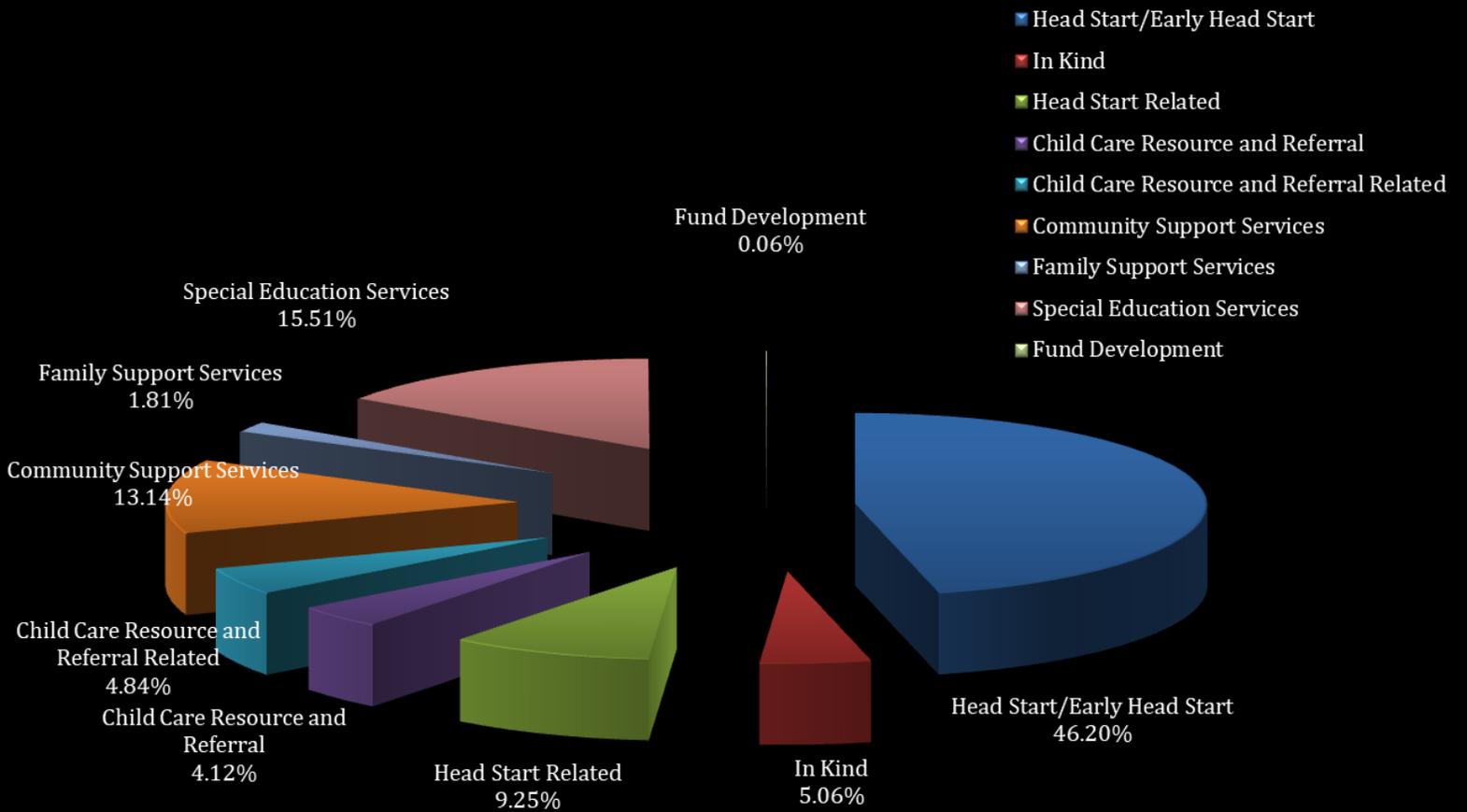
Revenue History 2012-2022



Agency Expense Breakout-2021/2022



Agency Composite 2021-2022



Child Care Resource & Referral

CCR&R recruits, trains, and supports registered/licensed and legally exempt child care providers with all aspects of starting and maintaining a small business.

Legally Exempt Services

Our Legally Exempt Specialists enroll providers into the child care subsidy programs and conduct inspections to increase compliance in health and safety standards.

Referral Services

Our Referral Specialist can explore child care options with parents and provide referrals for programs and providers in our database. CCR&R identifies unmet needs in child care, and works to find meaningful child care solutions. Services are available to all parents, community businesses, and locally-based employees of corporations who offer enhanced child care services as an employee benefit. All services are provided FREE of charge and are available in Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties.

Infant/Toddler Technical Assistance

The Infant/Toddler Technical Assistance Center assists in promoting quality infant/toddler care in New York State. An Infant/Toddler Specialist trains child care professionals, parents, and regional CCR&R staff in infant/toddler best practices, and provides professional development opportunities for infant/toddler caregivers. An Infant/Toddler Mental Health Specialist supports infant and toddler social-emotional development by supporting the caregivers. This service is available free of charge to Broome, Chenango and Tioga County child care providers, parents and community agencies.

Professional Development

Professional Development/Training program for child care providers consists of Saturday Seminars; evening workshops; on-site workshops for centers; after school programs and family child care providers; CPR/First Aid certification; Health & Safety training; CDA credential trainings; and virtual training. All trainings and workshops assist providers in meeting NYS OCFS training requirements. Providers may choose to access EIP funds for training. A training calendar is provided to the community of child care providers in Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. Health & Safety Training offers a workshop facilitated by our certified trainers for individuals in the process of becoming licensed or registered child care providers.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a reimbursement program through The New York State Department of Health, which is geared toward child care providers. Child care providers may be reimbursed by NYS for serving nutritious meals and snacks to the children in their care.

Community Services

Community Habilitation

Community Habilitation is a waiver program funded by Medicaid and is available to children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The goal of Community Habilitation is to provide community integration and independent living skills. An individual in the program may receive anywhere from 4 to 30+ hours a week of the service - depending on their needs. Community habilitation is based on person centered planning, meaning that the individual decides what goals are important to work on and how the goals will be met.

Summer Youth Employment Program

Through a contract with the Brome County Department of Social Services, youth ages 14 through 20 who are members of families with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level participate in paid employment opportunities available at Family Enrichment Network and several community partners. The positions we have available include maintenance, clerical, childcare, food service and potentially animal care. We seek to align youth and their interests with the available jobs. Youth earn money and gain meaningful work experience; learn and develop the skills, attitudes and commitment necessary to succeed in today's world of work; gain exposure to various career opportunities; and interact with dynamic working professionals in a positive work environment.

Family Support Services

Courthouse Children's Center

The Courthouse Children's Center (CCC) is a free drop-in child care center at the Broome County Family Courthouse. The Center takes children 6 weeks to 12 years of age and is a safe, fun, nurturing place for children to play while their caregiver is taking care of Family or Drug Court business. The CCC staff are early childhood education trained.

Kinship Care Program

The Kinship Care Program helps adults who are raising someone else's child/ren, Services include: help applying for cash assistance, custody advocacy, support groups & community referrals. The program offers full services in Broome County and Tioga County.

Nutrition Outreach & Education Program

NOEP offers free and confidential services to families that have trouble putting enough food on the table. The NOEP Coordinator helps people with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application process and advocates for them as they apply for SNAP.

Walk With Me

This program provides re-entry support for those recently released from the Broome County Jail. The program provides immediate crisis stabilization and offers peer mentoring, support groups, employment guidance and help meeting the basic essentials.

Head Start

Head Start

(Broome County) provides comprehensive early childhood and family development services to ensure school readiness for three and four year old children and families living in Binghamton, Johnson City and the Susquehanna Valley School District children. The Full Day Center Based option provides children with a six hour program, five days a week from September-June; scheduled home visits, and opportunities for parents to volunteer in the program. The Traditional Center Based Option consists of four 3 1/2 hour days per week, Transportation is available and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

Head Start

(Tioga County) provides 3 and 4 year old children with comprehensive child development and family development services to ensure school readiness. Programs are offered at three centers in Tioga County, and include Owego, Newark Valley, and Waverly locations. Programs are 1/2 day center based and full day. Transportation and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

UPK Program

Funded by Binghamton City School District and Johnson City School district to offer 103 Binghamton three and four year old children and 67 Johnson City four year old children with Universal Pre Kindergarten programming in partnership with Head Start a full day programming. This program is offered Monday-Fridays in concert with the districts' calendar.

Summer Meal Program

This program offers nutritious meals to children up to age 18 in the surrounding community. This program runs through the summer months from June to August. We offer breakfast from 8:00-8:30 AM and lunch from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM.

Early Head Start

Early Head Start

(Broome County) Early Head Start offers a center based, full day early childhood program for families with children six weeks to three years of age. Services include programming in health, nutrition, early education, special services, family and community partnership. Transportation (as needed), and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply. The Early Head Start program operates year round at three locations in Binghamton and Johnson City, and serves families who live in Binghamton, Johnson City, and the Susquehanna Valley School District.

Early Head Start

(Tioga County) provides infants, toddlers, and their families with programming that enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development to ensure school readiness. FEN's full-day center-based program operates year round at the Owego location. Services include programming in health, nutrition, early education, special services, family and community partnership.

Transportation (as needed) and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

Early Head Start Prenatal Program

The purpose of the Early Head Start Prenatal Program is to provide women and their families programming that enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development to ensure school readiness. The program assists pregnant women with access to comprehensive prenatal and post-partum care. The Socialization Specialist will help guide mothers through their pregnancy and prepare them for a successful, healthy birth of their infant. This process will include home visits which will:

- Provide information regarding fetal development, nutrition, labor, delivery, and breastfeeding.
- Ensure a smooth transition for babies by expanding parent support systems to include family, friends, and other community resources.

Housing Services

Low-Income Housing

Family Enrichment Network owns five properties, four in Johnson City and one in Binghamton. Two (2) properties are located on Roberts St in JC., one (1) property is located on St. Charles St. in JC and one (1) property is located on Crocker Ave in JC. Our newest addition to the housing program is a multi-family unit located on Robinson St in Binghamton. These properties offer low income housing and accept Section 8 vouchers.

Housing Connections

This 19 unit permanent supportive housing unit provides safe quality housing with wrap-around supports for persons experiencing homelessness. This program is funded by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and New York State Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative.

Caring Homes Program

This program works to prevent homelessness through support and financial assistance for homeless families and those at risk of becoming homeless. Eligible client families may receive one time financial assistance for things such as security deposits, rent arrears and/or utility shut off notices. Clients work with our Housing Case Manager to create a plan for housing stability.

Special Education Services

Special Education Integrated Classrooms

SES Integrated Classrooms are available for preschoolers with identified disabilities at FEN's Cherry Street and Fayette Street location and at Binghamton's Horace Mann Elementary and Harpursville Elementary (W.A. Olmstead) school. The Chenango County site has integrated classrooms that provide services at our Norwich site. These programs offer a quality early educational experience coupled with individualized instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy as identified by each child's individual educational plan.

Related Services

Related services includes speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are provided to identified children at all Family Enrichment Network sites, daycare settings, and at times, the home.

Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) services

SEIT services are offered to identified children who require the services of a special education teacher in their home, daycare setting, or FEN classroom.

Evaluation Services

Psychological, Educational, Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy evaluations are provided by a multidisciplinary team to preschoolers at risk of developmental delays and are provided at the Johnson City and Norwich sites.

Therapy Services

If your child is eligible under New York State guidelines, he/she may receive speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and special education services. Eligibility is determined by the CPSE meeting at your child's school district, based on evaluation information.

Our Impact

2,512

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

351

EMPLOYEES

22

VOLUNTEERS

Our Impact

520

CHILD CARE REFERRALS PROVIDED FOR PARENTS THROUGHOUT BROOME, CHENANGO AND TIOGA COUNTIES.

1,356

CHILD CARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND 89 ONSITE VISITS.

\$6,800,000

IN FUNDING TO OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS. CCR&R ASSISTED 169 CHILD CARE PROGRAMS IN APPLYING FOR THE OCFS STABILIZATION GRANTS

11

NEW CHILDCARE PROGRAMS TO INCREASE CHILD CARE CAPACITY IN OUR AREA THROUGH THE OCFS DESERT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

116

INFANT/TODDLER CHILDCARE ONSITE VISITS AND 40 TRAINING FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS ON QUALITY INFANT/TODDLER CHILDCARE.

Our Impact

69

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS PARTICIPATED IN THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM SERVING NUTRITIOUS SNACKS AND MEALS TO CHILDREN.

150

LEGALLY EXEMPT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS ENROLLED TO ACCEPT DSS CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES.

232

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS PARTICIPATED IN CHILD CARE TRAININGS THROUGHOUT BROOME, CHENANGO AND TIOGA COUNTIES.

117

NEW FAMILIES WERE ENROLLED IN THE KISHIP PROGRAM; 117 KINSHIP FAMILIES RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

108

NON PARENT CAREGIVER GRANTS WERE SUBMITTED TO DSS.

Our Impact

134

**KNSHIP FAMILIES RECEIVED AT
LEAST TWO COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS.**

63

**ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED FOR
INDIVIDUALS RE-ENTERING THE
COMMUNITY FROM THE BROOME
COUNTY JAIL.**

68

**FORMERLY INCARCERATED
INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY.**

47

**FORMERLY INCARCERATED
PERSONS RECEIVED FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE, 63 INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED TRANSPORATION
ASSISTANCE.**

33

**FORMERLY INCARCERATED
PERSONS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE
WITH HOUSING.**

Our Impact

381

HOUSEHOLDS WERE SCREENED
FOR SNAP BENEFITS.

166

NEW HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED
SNAP BENEFITS.

816

FACE TO FACE CONTACTS WERE MADE
TO INFORM COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABOUT
SNAP BENEFITS.

3,180

COMMUNITY HABILITATION UNITS
OF SERVICE PROVIDED TO
INDIVIDUALS WITH
INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES/DEVELOPMENTAL
DELAYS.

250

HOURS OF PAID EMPLOYMENT
PROVIDED TO 10 YOUTH AGES
14-20 THROUGH THE SUMMER
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

Our Impact

112

**PREGNANT WOMEN, INFANTS
AND TODDLERS ENROLLED IN
BROOME EARLY HEAD START.**

48

**PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN
ENROLLED IN TIOGA HEAD
START.**

264

**PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN
ENROLLED IN BROOME HEAD
START.**

32

**PREGNANT WOMEN, INFANTS
AND TODDLERS ENROLLED IN
TIOGA EARLY HEAD START.**

Our Impact

52

**INDIVIDUALS PREVENTED
HOMELESSNESS THROUGH
RENTAL ASSISTANCE.**

48

**FORMERLY HOMELESS
INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED WITH
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING.**

110

**INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH RENTAL
ASSISTANCE THAT WERE IMPACTED BY
COVID.**

Our Impact

60

PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN SERVED IN AN INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM AND 10 CHILDREN WERE SERVED IN UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN.

3,200

HOURS OF SPEECH, OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSICAL THERAPY TO STUDENTS IN BROOME, TIOGA, MADISON, OTSEGO AND CHENANGO COUNTIES.

3,830

EVALUATIONS WERE CONDUCTED.

Success Stories

Child Care Resource and Referral

A family child care provider came to a training in the evening extremely frustrated and wanting to quit providing child care. She was upset the children in her care are challenging. She attributed it to the children born in 2020, during the pandemic, had fewer socialization opportunities. During the training, the provider started becoming excited with the new information. After the training, she went home with renewed energy. She contacted the trainer and let her know that she was using the new ideas from the training and that the children were becoming more engaged and cooperative due to the new supplies and ideas.

The Business Specialist was working with a family child care program to get access to the application for the Stabilization Grant 2.0. The provider had consistent error messages and could not access the portal. After trying many different things and reaching out to OCFS, the Specialist was finally able to get the provider access. After the provider received the first grant payment, she called the Specialist crying and thanking her for help.

The Child Care Specialist was contacted by a center classroom teacher working on her CDA and needed assistance with the process. The Specialist was able to meet with her and explain the process after the 120 hours of training are completed. The Specialist helped her complete her portfolio and schedule the observation visit and exam. The teacher has now completed her requirements and is waiting to hear final approval of her credential to be able to be a lead teacher in the classroom. She is thankful for all the help she received from the Specialist.

Success Stories

Family Support Services

Kinship

A set of kinship grandparents were asked by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to take their drug addicted grandbaby home from the hospital. Both the baby's parents have substance use disorder, suffer from mental health issues and are homeless. The original idea was for the grandparents to be a safety plan while the birth parents put their lives in order and have the baby returned to them. However it became apparent that this was not going to be a short term placement so the kinship care staff worked with DSS for the kinship grandparents to become foster kinship grandparents. This took some time but was an important step in providing stability for the baby/child. The foster kinship status also provided the kinship grandparents with the opportunity to adopt their grandchild if the parents were unable to surmount their addictions. Over the past three years the kinship grandparents received ongoing services through the kinship care program and when her health allowed the grandmother was an active kinship support group member. Just this year they were able to adopt their grandchild as the parents were deemed unfit. This has been a happy occasion for the kinship family as they now never have to worry about their kinship grandchild being returned to an unsafe and unstable situation.

The kinship care program worked with a single mom with three children of her own and on disability, who opened her heart and home to five unrelated children, elementary through high school ages, who were going to be placed into foster care. She found out about their plight because one of her children was friends with one of the other children. Because the kinship caregiver now had eight children she needed to move into a larger apartment with more bedrooms. The kinship care program provided five beds (two sets of bunk beds and a twin) for the kinship family to make sure that each child had their own sleeping space. The kinship program also purchased new clothes for the kinship children who often arrive wearing only the clothes on their backs. Each child also received an age appropriate Welcome Bag, that had personal hygiene items, socks, book, cozy blanket and other items. Without the extra support provided by the kinship care program it is difficult to imagine how this unrelated kinship caregiver would have managed.

Success Stories

Family Support Services

NOEP

Mr C. called the NOEP and stated that for the past three months he had not been receiving SNAP. He said he turned in his Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) paperwork to the Broome County Department of Social Services and had received a receipt. The NOEP Coordinator (NC) with Mr. C's permission, called the SNAP unit supervisor, who said that Mr. C. had not submitted his recertification paperwork and that he needed to reapply. The NC completed an eligibility prescreen and set up a home visit to complete the SNAP application. During the visit, Mr. C showed the NC his paperwork receipt which was for a Change Report form not for recertification paperwork, hence the reason his SNAP had ended. Mr. C. said his utilities were included in his rent but did not have a lease to show this and had a letter stating he was getting HEAP. He also stated that he used oxygen and a nebulizer every night. The NC called the NYSEG Customer Advocate to sort out the status of his HEAP and was informed that Mr. C was responsible for his utility bill as it was not included in his rent and that he was \$1400 in arrears with a shut of notice. The NC notified NYSEG about Mr. C.'s medical needs and the NYSEG Customer Advocate sent a medical form for Mr C's doctor to complete to show that his supplemental oxygen was necessary which would prevent any utility shut of. The Customer Advocate also submitted a Project Share application for Mr. C. to help with some of his utility arrears. Mr C's situation shows how people can become overwhelmed and/or confused by all the paperwork needed for SNAP and other benefits. Without the assistance of the NC, Mr. C would have not received his SNAP benefits and his utilities would have been cut off putting him in medical danger.

Walk with Me

Mr. S. was released from Broome County Jail in July 2022 and the Walk with Me (WWM) program provided a number of services which included advocacy with the local Department of Social Services to apply for emergency housing, temporary assistance and SNAP benefits. Mr. S. also received a prepaid telephone, emergency food, clothing, hygiene products and a bus pass from the WWM program. Mr. S. was mandated to attend drug & alcohol treatment at the Addiction Center of Broome County. The Reentry Specialist helped him secure employment at a local company and Mr. S. was able to work his treatment schedule around his employment. He graduated from his treatment program in December 2022 and his case was closed as successful with the WWM program.

The Walk With Me (WWM) Program was able to help two individuals, (Mr. H and Ms. S.) win their battle with homelessness, which has become a major issue for people of Broome County especially those who are coming home from incarceration.

Success Stories

Family Support Services

Mr. H. was homeless on his release from the local jail and was placed at the Del Motel in Binghamton NY. With assistance from the WWM program he was able to find a rooming house in Binghamton to move into. The WWM program assisted with his \$500 security deposit, which he never would have been able to pay by himself. Mr. H receives Social Security Insurance (SSI) benefits and was able to find a part-time job to help him pay his rent and other expenses. The WWM program was able to furnish Mr. H with small items such as cups, dishes, cutlery to make his living space more comfortable.

Ms. S. was also homeless when released from the local jail and was assisted by the WWM program to get her emergency benefits. She was placed by the local Department of Social Services in emergency housing at the Parkway Inn in Vestal. The RS helped her obtain her Birth Certificate and Social Security card, two important documents needed to sign up for many services including a driver's permit which she needed. The WWM program was able to cover the costs for all three of these items. With further assistance Ms. S was able to find a room to rent and the WWM program paid the \$600 security deposit which Ms. S. could not afford and without she would not have been able to move into the room. Ms. S was also helped with items to make her little space homier.

Awards/Recognition

This past year the Family Support Services Director was invited to be the co-chair of the NYS KinCare Coalition. This state-wide coalition meets bi monthly with kinship care programs across the state. The coalition is also instrumental in coordinating the Kinship Care programs Education Day for our local and state representatives.

Success Stories

Head Start

Broome Head Start/UPK

This month we are celebrating a four-year-old boy. Throughout the first few months of school this child struggled with managing his feelings in a safe way. This child resorted to throwing things, hurting others and used unsafe behavior to handle his feelings of disappointment or anger. We have talked multiple times about the safe place and encouraged the child to use the safe place as a calming outlet. We also read a book called, "I can calm down when I am upset." We had a colored copy made and sent it home with his parent. We have supported the family with strategies to encourage calming techniques at home in addition to at school. Twice this month this child has stated, "I am mad; I am going to the safe place." The boy left the block area, identified his feelings and went over to the safe place to take a minute to calm down. We wrote a badge of recognition for using the safe place and calming down his body in a safe way.

A Success Story for a Cherry Street Head Start and UPK class this month: Library books were introduced for the first time. We held a class meeting to discuss appropriate handling of books and necessary care because they were borrowed. The teachers also modeled how to handle books with care. The books were displayed in the circle area to designate them as the library books. All the children were respectful by asking to take one, reading it in the book area and returning it to the appropriate place. They took great care to ensure that the books were carefully lined up. They felt a sense of responsibility and pride. We can't wait to get more library books next month!

A Ukrainian family left Ukraine because the family felt they would not survive the war and the damages done to their home. They relocated to the United States and the Binghamton area. The program received a call from the sponsoring family asking questions about our programs to be able to share with the information with the family, unfortunately this gentleman gathering the information was hospitalized for health issues. Binghamton City School District's PACT program began working with the family and contacted us to help with the Head Start application and pre-screening process which resulted in the older sibling being accepted and enrolled in our Head Start program.

Success Stories

Head Start

Broome Early Head Start

We have a 20-month-old girl in our classroom and English is a second language for her family. The child is beginning to speak English and Russian. The family is pleased with her social progress and ability to develop early English Language skills.

We have been working on the children's use of their feeding utensils during the month of November as they are beginning to gain more independent skills and prepare for Head Start.

The teachers consistently modeled and encouraged the children during mealtime. A 29-month-old girl began using her utensils independently and is now showing her classmates how to use eating utensils.

Tioga Head Start

A Head Start family was struggling financially. They needed assistance with the cost of food and utilities and applying for these programs. During a home visit the Family Advocate informed mom of the benefits and programs that are available to help her. Family Advocate worked with mom to get on MYBENEFITS.NY.GOV and apply for both HEAP and SNAP. As a result of the FEN Head Start Program supporting mom and encouraging mom to work with DSS this family was able to receive HEAP and SNAP benefits.

A three-year-old girl who was previously very reserved is becoming more outgoing and social. She was struggling at drop off not wanting to come in and having trouble joining in group activities with peers, preferring to play alone. The teachers, along with her family, have been working with her both in the program and at home highlighting and talking with her about her days and activities she has enjoyed; and encouraging and modeling, first parallel and then cooperative play. She now comes in at drop off with little or no stress, joins in group games on the playground, and comes over on her own to play with peers during choice time. Especially if they have a toy she wants, rather than waiting till they are done as she did before. She is using her words more with both teachers and peers.

Success Stories

Head Start

Tioga Early Head Start

There is a female 15-month-old that was not meeting some of her milestones. She was not showing any signs of wanting to start walking. We have worked hard to encourage her to try to walk, we provided her with a push toy and assisted her with walking. She has now begun working on walking on her own. She started walking at home a while ago but was not doing it in class. She is now walking on her own for a few steps before she goes back to crawling then back to walking. We are helping her by having her push a walk behind toy around to help her with her balance and still encouraging her to walk from place to place instead of crawling. The family of a male child, age 30 months, shared that they have been using the materials we have been sending home to practice breathing techniques for calming as well as some of the counting activities. They shared that the child is enjoying practicing the breathing and is now counting to 6.

Success Stories

Housing

Housing Connections

One tenant that has been with the program for over a year. The tenant established two goals when she moved in, which included, full time employment and building a savings account to transition out of Housing Connections and into a place of her own. The tenant was employed full time within 1 month of entering the program. During the year the tenant used the financial resources and referrals from Housing Connections staff to establish credit and set up a savings account. The tenant informed Housing Connections staff that she will be moving out within the next month. She saved enough money to purchase a car and pay for a security deposit and first months' rent to move into a home large enough for her family. By setting goals and utilizing support from Housing Connections staff along the way, she has been successful in achieving her goals. Housing Connections staff is very proud of the tenant's progress and diligence in working towards and accomplishing her goals.

Covid-ESG

In June 2023, a single mother of 2 children received an eviction notice due to her ongoing rent arrears for an apartment she has resided in for seven years. She works as a Personal Care Assistant and lost hours when one of her clients passed away at the beginning of the year. Not long after, her mother who was assisting with child care, passed away due to complications with Covid. Therefore, she has been unable to pick up any more clients or additional hours because there were times when she needed to stay home with her kids because of Covid issues at the school they were attending. She has since been able to find child care and has received some ongoing assistance through DSS but has been unable to make up the few months difference in her rent. After receiving her referral from Coordinated Entry and submitting the required documentation, she was able to receive the necessary financial assistance through our Covid-19 Emergency Solutions Grant, via the city of Binghamton, to return her to a zero balance. Through case management with the Family Enrichment Network housing case manager, she has been able to manage her finances and has remained current on her rent.

Success Stories

Housing

ESG

Family Enrichment Network receives federal funds (Emergency Solutions Grant) from the city of Binghamton to administer financial assistance to those income eligible and at imminent risk of becoming homeless. These funds can be used for a security deposit, rent arrears, or utility arrears. In January 2023, a single mother of five children contacted 2-1-1 due to facing homelessness. After her husband passed away in June 2022, she was unable to keep up with the rent for their house and they were evicted in late December. She took her children and stayed at her Aunt's in Endicott for a week but the addition of six people overcrowded the apartment and was a violation of her Aunt's lease. During that time however, she found an apartment in Binghamton, submitted the required documentation and qualified for a security deposit through the ESG grant. With the income that she receives, she was able pay for the initial month's rent. The Caring Homes Program was able to provide the financial support necessary to help cover the security deposit for her apartment. Through case management with the Caring Homes housing case manager, she has stayed the course and has remained current on her rent.

Data and Trends

Safe, affordable, and stable housing continues to be a challenge. An epidemic really. There are waiting lists at every agency and BHA is now 7 years out. The housing stock continues to be limited and many rentals in our service area continue to be well above Fair Market Rate or do not meet Code.

Success Stories

Special Education Services

This year we have a volatile student who had been kicked out/removed from four previous pre schools. FEN was his last chance at a classroom setting. After a concentrated effort by extremely dedicated staff, he was successful for the last four months of school. He was able to minimize his outbursts and learn.

We had a student who was non-mobile at the beginning of the year. He would crawl to get around and had no core strength. We had a wagon on hand in case of a fire/fire drill because he could not have exited the building in a timely manner. After a full year of PT and OT as well as a concerted effort from his classroom staff, he was actually running down the hallway last week. It was heartwarming and I didn't even tell him to stop running in the hall.

Data & Trends-

The recent trend is to creatively front load services to get children ready for Kindergarten. With the shortage of therapists, we have worked even more closely with school districts to prioritize and help meet student needs. Data suggests that we have more children in need of multiple services and therapies and few experts to help. As a result we have worked with more whole classroom efforts that benefit all children. We have also seen an increase in young children displaying violent tendencies (many with oppositional defiant disorders). We have worked diligently with staff to train for such situations.

Program Development

Program Development consists of research, partnerships, and development of new programs to address identified gaps in services in our service area. Programs are developed based on identified community needs and are in line with Family Enrichment Network's mission and vision to help children, families, and adults have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

Grant Research and Writing consists of research to identify a variety of funding sources available to enhance and sustain, to the extent possible, existing projects and fund new programs that have been created through the program development process. Grants are also submitted to support identified agency needs. Once funding sources are identified, proposals are written to secure funding. Currently, Family Enrichment Network receives funding from local, state, and national foundations and government agencies.

Resource Development

Family Enrichment Network has implemented a Resource Development and Sustainability Plan to ensure the agency has sufficient program and non-program revenue to meet agency needs. All of the components of this plan collectively allow for progressive resource development. The plan identifies a number of diverse fund development activities including: grant writing, fundraising, direct mail, and fee for service activities.

Annual Special Events



In 2022, 347 children and 128 families were adopted because of the generous support of local individuals and businesses looking to help out.

Before we knew it, the Agency was filled with clothing, toys, food and necessities ready to be delivered to our families by our hard working staff.

We are gearing up for this year's program and always welcome new businesses and individuals to join us in this rewarding effort.



In 2022 Bates Troy cleaned 1,500 donated coats. We also received multiple donations of new coats. All of the coats were given out to community families in need. We are very grateful to have such a generous and supportive community.

We look forward to another successful event this fall!



Our Sites

**24 Cherry Street
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**Carlisle (BHA)
150 Moeller Street
Binghamton (607) 238-7119**

**Chenango County Offices
21 South Broad Street
Norwich (607) 373-3555**

**Children's Courthouse Center
44 Hawley Street
Binghamton (607) 240-5818**

**Fayette Street
29 Fayette Street
Binghamton (607) 723-8313**

**Harpursville Central school
54 Main Street
Harpursville, NY 13787**

**Horace Mann School
30 College Street
Binghamton (607) 762-6026**

**Saratoga (BHA)
35 Felters Road, Bldg. 16
Binghamton (607) 237-0676**

**Woodrow Wilson School
287 Prospect Street
Binghamton (607) 797-2110**

**Tioga County
1277 Taylor Road
Owego (607) 687-6721**

**Waverly
12 Cooper Street
Waverly (607) 565-7149**

**Newark Valley
117 Whig Street
Newark Valley (607) 354-3102**

**Housing
11 Crocker Ave
Johnson City (607) 723-831**

**11 Roberts Street
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

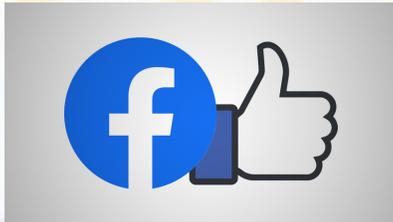
**51 Roberts Street
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**146 Robinson Street
Binghamton, NY 13904**

**241 St. Charles Street
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**29 Virgil Street
Binghamton (607) 723-8313**

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