



G R E A T E R
O P P O R T U N I T I E S

greaterops.org

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**

OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

The mission of Greater Opportunities is to educate, advocate, and empower individuals and families to improve the quality of their lives through the development of self-reliance while promoting a culture of people working together to help themselves, one another, and their community.



OUR SERVICES OUR APPROACH

We help our surrounding communities with comprehensive services, including emergency assistance, advocacy, early education, and safe and affordable housing. The braiding of community resources and the building of effective partnerships serve as the cornerstone for the foundation and success of our agency.

Our team works with our clients to help create the opportunities and programs that work for them as individuals. We do this with a hands-on approach to help track their progress and ensure their ongoing journey to success.

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

Mark Silvanic- CEO

Greater Opportunities is well-positioned not only to meet the challenges that lie ahead but to continue to grow and expand to meet the ever-changing needs of our community.

Through our dedicated staff and programming, our organization will continue to assist the most vulnerable in both Broome and Chenango Counties.

The hard-working people in our region that have utilized our services over the last 50 years have gone on to live productive and vibrant lives.

That is the commitment of our work to help individuals and families become independent and contributing members of our society.

I am proud to work for this organization and look forward to continually evolving our agency to deliver the most empowering services and assistance to all those in need so that they can become whom they envision. With the help of our agency, those we serve can live vibrant lives and contribute to the growth of our communities.

OUR BOARD

Greater Opportunities Board of Directors must consist of at least one-third of elected representatives of the low-income community.

In addition to representatives of the low-income sector, the Board must include one-third public sector (elected officials) or their designee. The remainder is representative of the private sector.



CHENANGO HEAD START

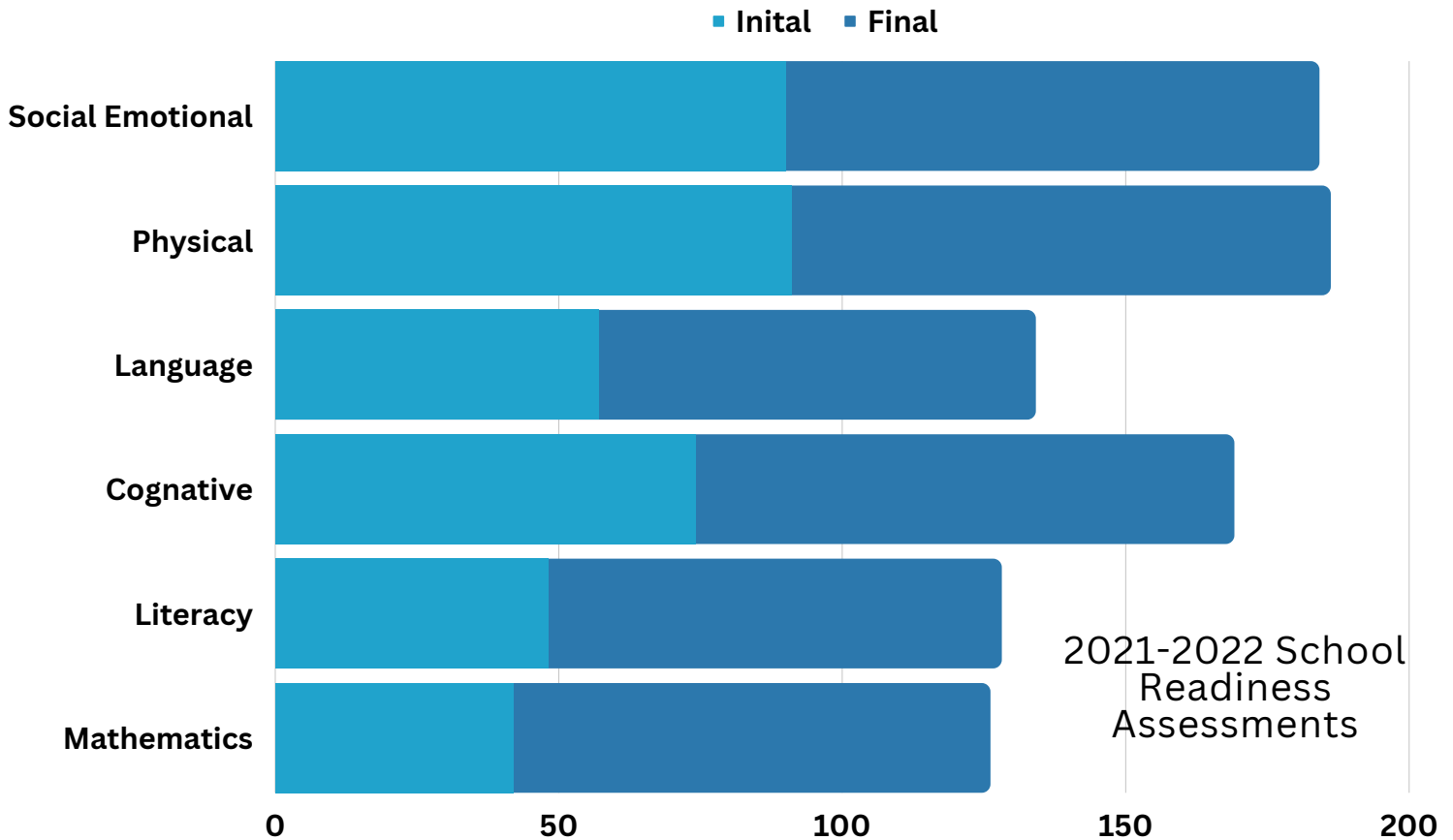
In 2021, 149 children and their families received comprehensive health, nutrition, mental health, and child and family development services. Head Start Program Performance Standards were implemented to ensure their individualized needs were met in safe, supportive, nurturing environments.

Children were guided in skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and life.

Funded Slots:
138 Children
3-5 years of age

Nutrition Services
In 2021 our program served 18,097 meals and snacks to children.

We received approx. \$54,815.00 in reimbursement from CACFP from HS and EHS



CHENANGO HEAD START

Special Needs Services

Our program was proactive in identifying and serving children with disabilities. There were 28 (24%) enrolled children diagnosed with disabilities and received related physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, special education itinerant services, and/or counseling.

Family and Community Engagement

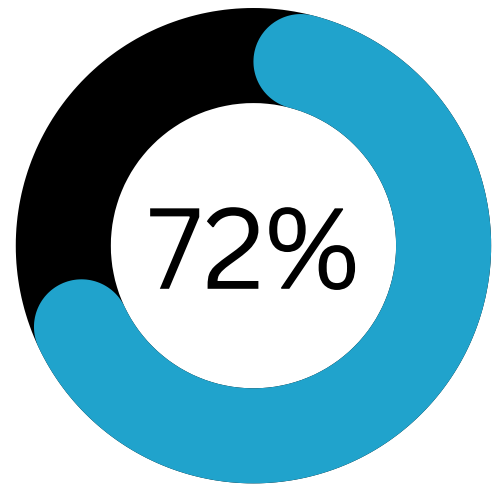
Parents were encouraged to play an active role in their child's Head Start experience, and partnerships were established with each child's family. The Parents as Teachers curriculum was used with home-based families.

Attendance/Maximum Participation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Our program responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing a hybrid learning model for our Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. Services were offered both in-person and virtually to children and families in the center-based and home-based options, based on parent preference.

Program Compliance

Our last on-site federal review was conducted in 2019. The program met the applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, and policy requirements. A copy of the report is available at our Chenango Main office upon request.



2021-2022 average
Head Start
Participation Rate

Policy Council Members

Parent Representatives

Colleen Murray- Chenango Valley
Sara Cunningham- Endicott
Stephaine Wilcox- Harpursville
Jennifer-Kay Ryan- Whitney Point
Samantha Reigles- EHS Ctr.
Kimberly Mustin- Greene
Amanda Feragola- Bainbridge
Paul Hamilton- N. Norwich
Kayla Barrows- Oxford
Tabitha Demus- Norwich

Alternative Parent Rep.

Robin Janowski- Chenango Valley
Joley Stanton- Harpursville
Justyna Urda-Zimmer- Greene

Community Representative

Judy Brown
Xandra Angle
Gail Christensen
Jennifer Eichler

Board Liaison

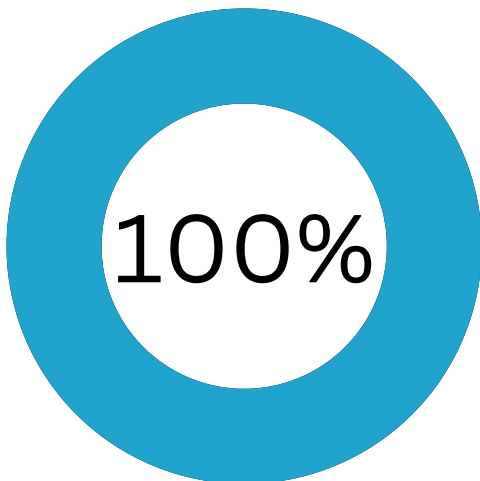
Sharon Wells

CHENANGO HEAD START

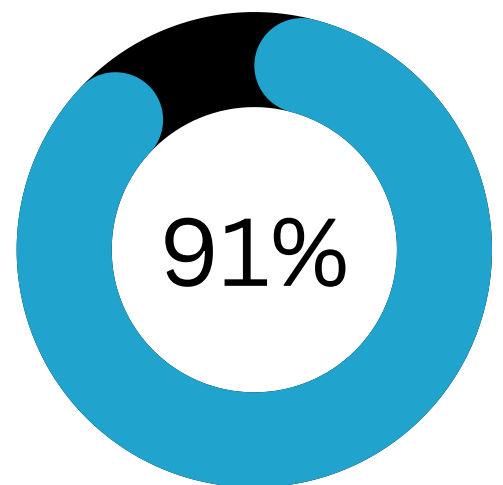
Health and Dental Services

Children received developmental, behavioral, vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings within 45 calendar days of their entrance into the program. Children received primary and preventive medical and dental services onsite and by partnering with community-based providers. Children's mental and behavioral health needs were supported by regular onsite mental health consultations with our Family Wellness Consultant and subsequent referrals if needed.

By the end of the 2021-2022 year, 147/147 children had continuously accessible health care, and 134/147 had constantly accessible dental care. After the initial dental visits, 13 children were determined to need follow-up treatment, with 12 completing all required treatments by the end of the program year. Additionally, 146/147 children were up to date on their immunizations by year's end.



of Children had
continuous accessible
health care



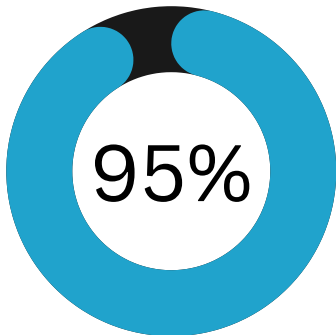
of Children had
continuous accessible
dental care

CHENANGO EARLY HEAD START

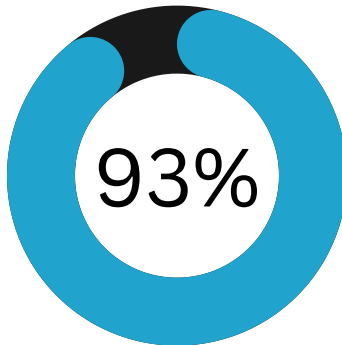
The Chenango County Early Head Start program delivered an array of early education and care services, conducting 1,313 home visits by 6 Home-Based Visitors, providing group socialization, and offering experiences in a toddler classroom setting.

Program activities focused on family development, health, nutrition, literacy, and parent involvement.

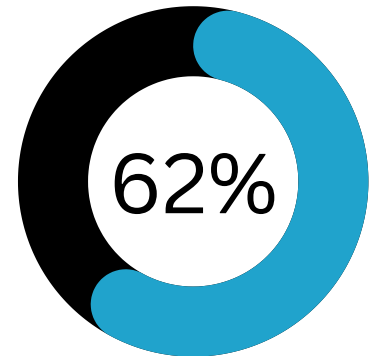
EHS Outcome Results



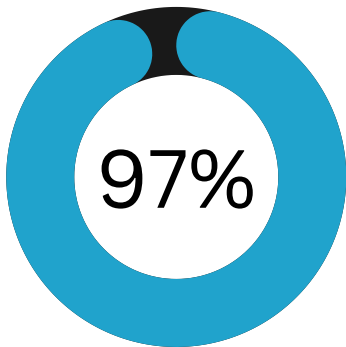
showed gains in social/emotional development



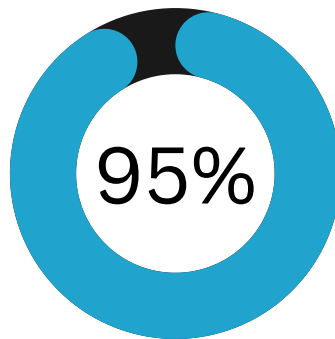
exceeds widely held expectations for math skills in math evaluations.



2021-2022 Early Head Start Participation Rate



of children exhibited gains in basic gross motor skills and moving with purpose and coordination.



of EHS children left the program with the ability to discriminate and identify familiar sounds, use two to three-word phrases follow one-step oral directions make choices verbally, identify pictures in books, and utilize sometimes and shapes in their scribbling.

Funded Slots:
88 Pregnant women and Children birth to 3 years.

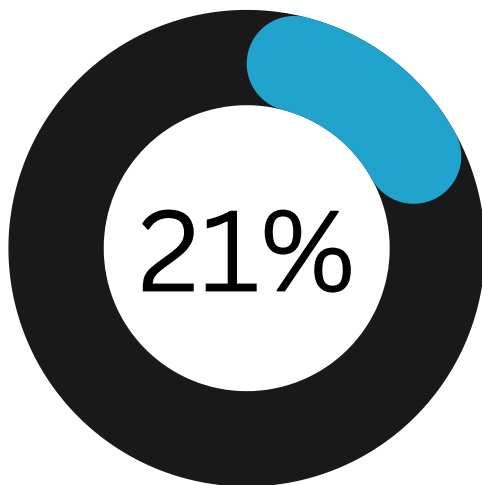
Total Number Served:
127 children
10 pregnant women

Average Attendance
Toddler Classroom- 61.63%
Monthly Enrollment- 81.25%

CHENANGO EARLY HEAD START

Screenings

The Health Services Coordinator conducted prenatal and postpartum visits to pregnant women to ensure the well-being of both mother and child. Health, nutrition, developmental, and social/emotional screenings were conducted on home visits to encourage an ongoing sense of a child's well-being and to facilitate early intervention, if necessary.



enrolled infants and toddlers with established Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP's) who received disability services during the year.

Parent Education and Family & Community Engagement

Parent education allowed caregivers to increase their knowledge about child development. This awareness assisted them in identifying ways to encourage their child's growth and development. Nutrition education was supported by guiding Chenango County Early Head Start using Partners for a Healthy Baby Curriculum to support health and mental health services to women during and after pregnancy. This curriculum consists of an ongoing series of information for parents about their child's health and development prenatally to age three.

BROOME HEAD START

Broome Head Start provides center-based services throughout Broome County. We can serve children from nine different school districts in five locations throughout the county. Center locations include two centers in Endicott, Whitney Point, Harpursville, and Chenango Valley.

Funded Slots:
178 Children
3-5 year of age

Total Number Served:
209 children and their families

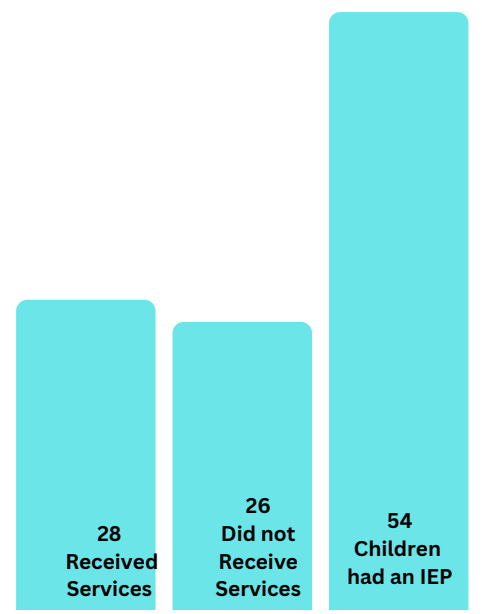
Participation

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, all centers and classrooms resumed full-time, in-person learning models for students. At times, classrooms provided temporary remote services to families and students based on the recommendations of the Office of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health guidelines regarding quarantine. Virtual options were offered in addition to in-person for families to be able to participate in parent meetings and activities, as well as to complete home visits.

By June, we attained an average monthly attendance rate of 82.05%, with an average year-to-date attendance of 77.70%. This is an increase of 8.77% over the 2020-2021 school year. The most common absentee reasons included parent choice, virtual learning technology problems, and child illness.

Special Services

Head Start requires enrolled children with disabilities, including but not limited to those eligible for services under the IDEA. The families receive all applicable program services delivered in the least restrictive possible environment, and children fully participate in all program activities. We work closely with families, school districts, and local providers to ensure that eligible children receive special education and related services. The chart to the right indicates the number of eligible children that received special education and related services.



BROOME HEAD START

Parent Involvement

Parents and families were encouraged to continue participation in the Head Start program. They participated in monthly parent committee meetings, training, workshops, and other hands-on activities. Additionally, center-based activities were encouraged either through online platforms or in-person with health and safety protocols being followed. Parenting education classes were offered through the Positive Solutions for Families curriculum.

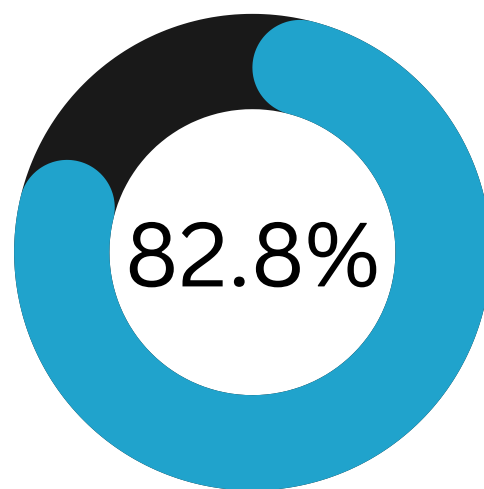
Program Compliance

Broome Head Start participates in an ongoing monitoring process and completes an annual self-assessment. These results are shared with the Policy Council and the Board of Directors. The last federal review through the Office of Head Start was in 2021. The self-assessment was completed as a virtual review, and all areas of compliance were met at this time. There were no findings.

Health and Dental Services

Broome Head Start partners with Wilson Dental Services to provide classroom lessons and parent education to the children and families in our program.

The Lourds Dental Van provides dental services to students at each of the centers. All centers participate in the Cavity Free Kids Program.

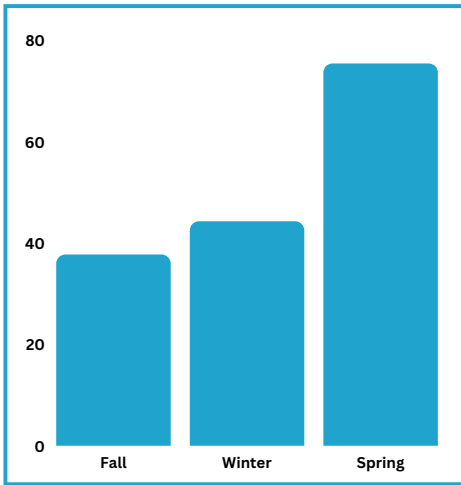


of children served
received Medical/Dental
Services

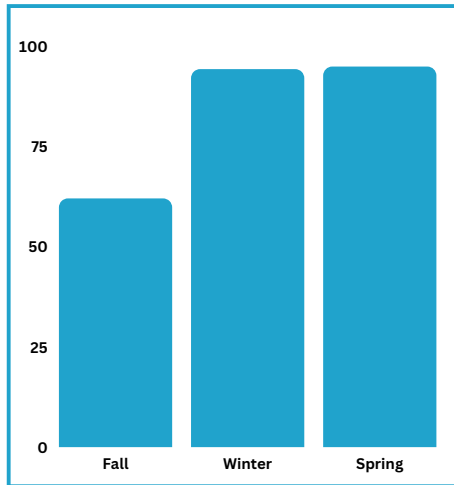
BROOME HEAD START

School Readiness Goals

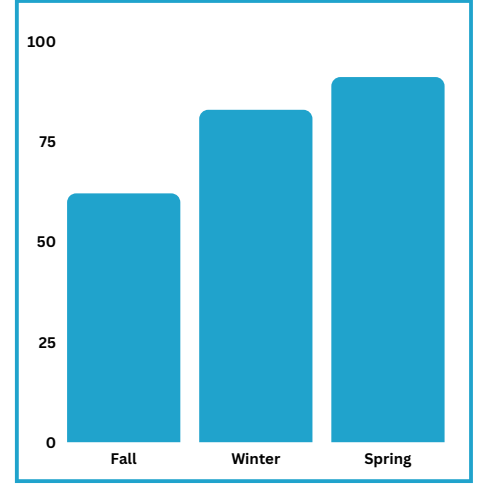
Parents and families were encouraged to continue participation in the Head Start program. They participated in monthly parent committee meetings, training, workshops, and other hands-on activities. Additionally, center-based activities were encouraged through online platforms or in person, with health and safety protocols being followed. Parenting education classes were offered through the Positive Solutions for Families curriculum.



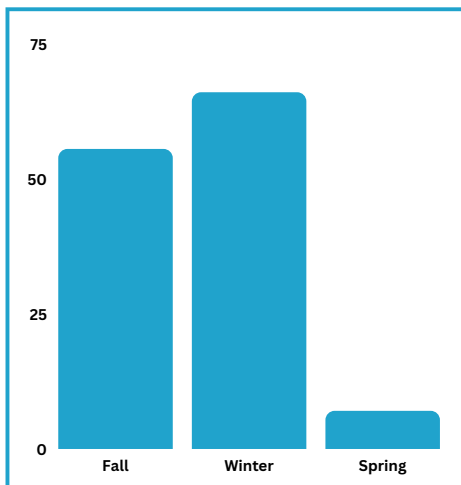
Children will show an increased use of healthy and safe habits



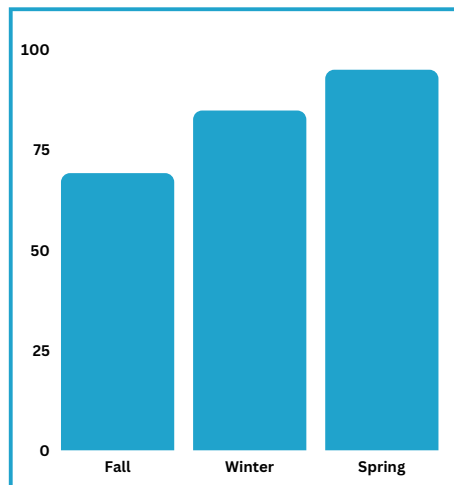
Children will show growth in their gross-motor coordination



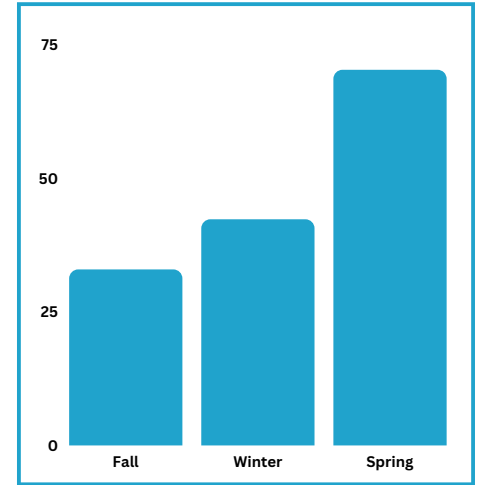
Children will show growth in developing friendships with peers and adults



Children will demonstrate age-appropriate independence in a range of activities, routines, and tasks.



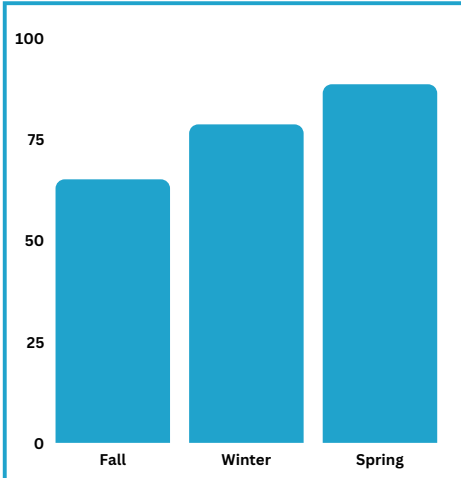
Children will follow classroom rules and routines.



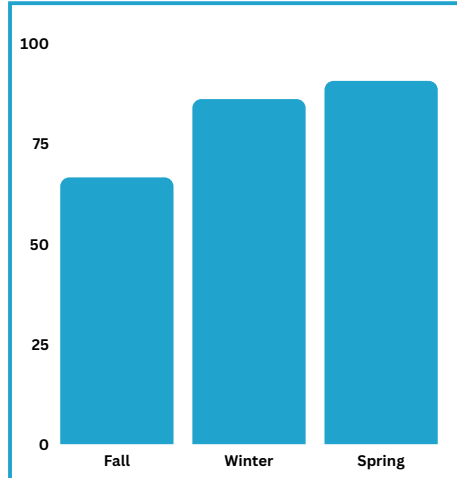
Children will show growth in their ability to communicate creative ideas and actions with and without prompting from adults.

BROOME HEAD START

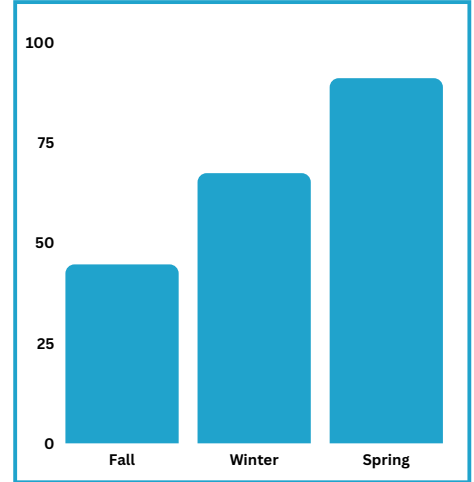
School Readiness Goals



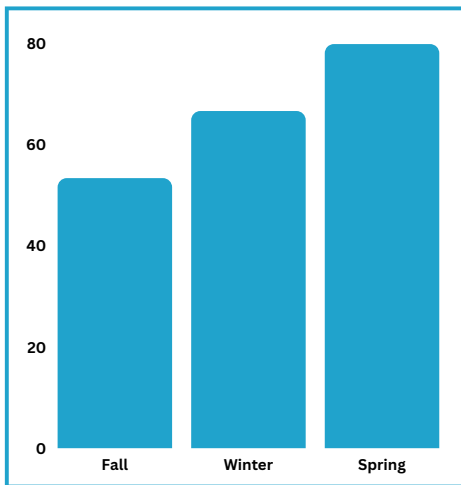
Children will have an increased awareness of the names and sounds associated with letters



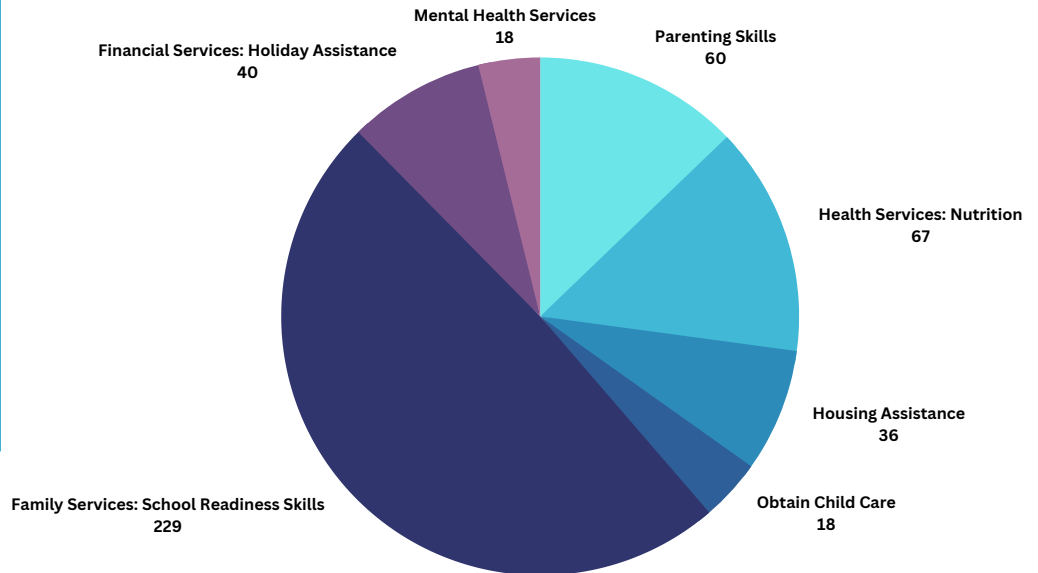
Children will show an increase in vocabulary for expressive and receptive language purposes.



Children will show growth in associating numbers and the names of numbers with written numerals



Children will show growth in their ability to recognize, understand, and analyze a problem and draw on knowledge or experience to seek solutions to a problem.



Family Services

The Broome Head Start Program provides resources whether directly or through referrals, to other community service providers.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the service most often received by families included:

HOUSING

Supportive Housing Services

Greater Opportunities Supportive Housing strives to educate, advocate, and empower the individuals and families we serve to improve the quality of their lives through the development of self-reliance while promoting a culture of people working together to help themselves, one another, and the community.

48 out of 198 obtained/maintained their employment.

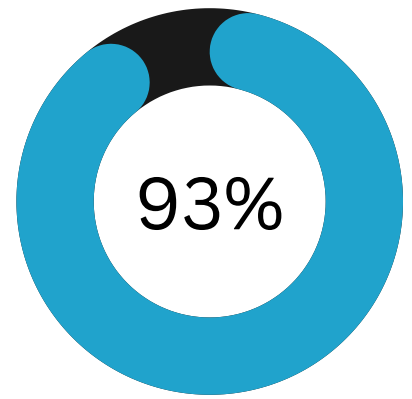
Through staff support and the diligence of the tenants, there have been many successes and achievements.

Supportive Housing Success Stories

With staff assistance, three single mothers could secure Section 8 housing vouchers, ensuring their financial housing stability. The same three single mothers could connect safe, affordable, and quality housing in the community and maintain other established supports in the community (e.g., daycare & medical providers) without disruption.

Three tenants who were homeless at the point of entry have been able to increase their income to the end of being able to save and meet the First Time Homebuyers Program requirements. All three tenants are enrolled in the program and achieving the steps needed for completion. Nineteen tenants could secure independent housing in the community free from services. Due to staff assistance and advocacy, three tenants have maintained their separate living situations by establishing and receiving appropriate medical care/treatment.

These tenants have been able to address severe medical concerns by assisting in setting up appointments, transporting to meetings, helping tenants with processing the information, and following up with recommendations.



of tenants stabilized or increased their incomes

Click the titles below to view our video success stories

[Manufactured Replacement Program](#)

[Access to Home](#)

[First Time Home Buyer](#)

WIC

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WIC services have continued to be provided remotely from the main office in Norwich. However, as of May 2022, we have resumed in-person appointments and have returned to visiting our WIC Off-Site Clinics. Remote appointments are still available as an option for participants.

During WIC appointments, nutrition education, counseling, and referrals have been provided by Nutrition staff in both remote and in-person appointments. WIC staff have worked with many participants to guide them on using the WIC2Go App so clients can better use their benefits, organize their WIC appointments and track what WIC foods are available to them. To address the increase in the need for families over the year, the USDA increased the cash value benefits for WIC participants to purchase fruits and vegetables. Before the rise, depending on which food package families received, it was \$9 - \$16.50, and now it ranges from \$25 - \$73.50. WIC staff have worked diligently this year to communicate with families to ensure they are aware of this change and how it benefits them.

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

936

Participants per month enrolled in the WIC Program

136

Average number of days Mothers breastfed for

65%

Breastfeeding initiation rate for this year

381

Average number of Mothers fully breastfeeding

959

prenatal and breastfeeding contacts our Peer-Counselors made this year

WIC

Events

In an effort to get WIC families more engaged and invested in the program this year, WIC staff initiated some interactive Zoom cooking tutorials which provided quick recipes using WIC foods. Videos were then posted on [YouTube](#) and the website for families to continue to share and refer to. The most popular this year was, in March, the [Shamrock Shake](#). These nutrition education videos and tutorials are something the staff plan to continue to develop and expand next year. They hope to include in-person nutrition activities as well.

WIC staff celebrated National Nutrition Month in May with their Around the World In 5 Days event and was featured in the National WIC Association Newsletter. WIC staff shared healthy recipes from different cultures around the world with the Greater Opportunities staff for 5 days and, on the last day, held a potluck luncheon featuring the different foods!

On August 18, 2022, the WIC team hosted a Step Up for Breastfeeding event at Greater Opportunities to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week. The event was open to all community members to educate and celebrate the importance of breastfeeding. Ten other organizations shared their own activities and information with the community. Food and Drinks were provided, games, raffles, and face painting were also available. Community businesses took part by donating items for door prizes or food. Several families were in attendance and enjoyed the activities, learning about programs available in our community and taking a breastfeeding quiz to test their knowledge to win a prize! It was a great experience this year, and staff is looking forward to putting this event together bigger and better next year.

[Click here to view our event video.](#)

AGENCY
STATISTICS



G R E A T E R
O P P O R T U N I T I E S

Empowering community.
Empowering you.

ENERGY SERVICES

91 Families received Energy Audits and Services

HUD COUNSELING

59 Individuals and Families received services

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

258 Individuals and Families received services

HOME REHAB/MANUFACTURED HOUSING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

18 Households received Home Rehab. Services or Manufactured Housing Replacement

SECTION 8

187 Vouchers were used by individuals/families

RAPID RE-HOUSING

192 Individuals and families received rental assistance

BROOME HEAD START

209 children and their families received comprehensive services.

CHENANGO

EARLY HEAD START

146 Children and their families received comprehensive services.

CHENANGO HEAD START

150 Children and their families received comprehensive services.

HEAD START

PARENT INVOLVMENT

Parent Volunteer- 4,100+ hours
Male Involvement- 2,040+ hours

WIC

955 families received monthly services

FOOD BANK OF THE SOUTHERN TIER

288 Individuals/Families served
5,760 pounds of food distributed

TOTAL SERVED IN 2021

2,898- Individuals

1,407- Families

2021 FINANCIAL
REPORTS

Click on each title
to view full report

[2021 Source Funding](#)

[Broome Head Start
Funding Sources Jan-Dec 2021](#)

[Chenango Head Start
Funding Sources Jan-Dec 2021](#)

[Summary of Audit Results
and Findings](#)