



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

Empowering community.  
Empowering **you**.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The report is available to the public through our website, [www.greaterops.org](http://www.greaterops.org), or  
by requesting a copy at our main offices located at:  
Broome Office: 5 W. State Street, Binghamton, NY 13901  
Chenango Office: 44 W. Main Street, Norwich, NY 13815

## 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 bridging of community resources and the building of effective partnerships serves 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 also 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 who 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 who 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

The Board of Directors for Greater Opportunities must consist of at least one-third of elected representatives from the low-income community. In addition to representatives of the low-income sector, the Board must include one-third from the public sector (elected officials) or their designee. The remainder are representatives of the private sector.



## CHENANGO HEAD START

In 2023, 122 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.

### Special Needs Services

Our program was proactive in identifying and serving children with disabilities. 18% of enrolled children were 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 participate in their child's Head Start experience actively. Partnerships were established with each child's family. Caregivers participated in parent committee meetings, trainings, workshops, and on the Policy Council.

### Maximum Participation

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, all centers provided full-time learning opportunities for children. The average year-to-date attendance was 81%. The most common absentee reason was child illness.

#### Funded Slots:

102 Children  
3-5 years of age

#### Nutrition Services

In 2023 our program served 26,217 meals (breakfast and lunch) to children.

#### Policy Council Members

##### Parent Representatives

Chenango Valley-Tarikue (Ty) Manago  
Endicott-Leah Kibler  
Harpursville-Theresa Wayman  
Whitney Point-Amber Hopkins  
Linnaeus W. West-Joseph Young  
EHS Family Center-Rose Marie Ellicott  
Greene-Hilary Sevey  
Bainbridge-Robert Margadona  
North Norwich-Victoria Peck  
Oxford Center-Emily Johnson  
Norwich Center-Shakari Bradbury  
New Berlin Center-Brittany Bundy  
Home-Based-Koty Rondeau

##### Alternative Parent Rep.

EHS Family Center-Chelsea Shepard  
Greene Center-Brittany Niemiec  
Endicott-Angelique Springer  
Harpursville-Ashley Carpenter  
Linnaeus W. West-Jasmyne Jackson  
Chenango Valley-Mikaella Markoff

##### Community Representative

Gail Christensen  
Lindsey Sodan

##### Board Liaison

Sharon Wells

CHENANGO  
HEAD START

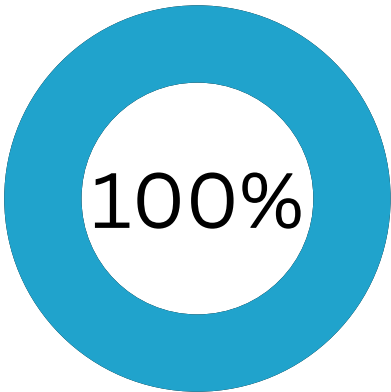
**Program Compliance**

Our last on-site federal review was conducted in October of 2023. 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.

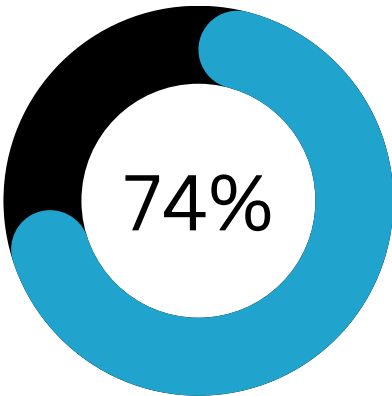
**Health and Dental Services**

Children received developmental, behavioral, vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings within 45 calendar days of their entrance into the program. They received primary and preventive medical and dental services 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 2023-024 year, 122/122 children had continuous, accessible health care, and 90/122 had continuous dental care. After the initial dental visits, 5 children were determined to need follow-up treatment, with 1 completing all required treatments by the end of the program year. Additionally, 122/122 children were up to date on their immunizations by year's end.



of Children had continuous  
accessible health care



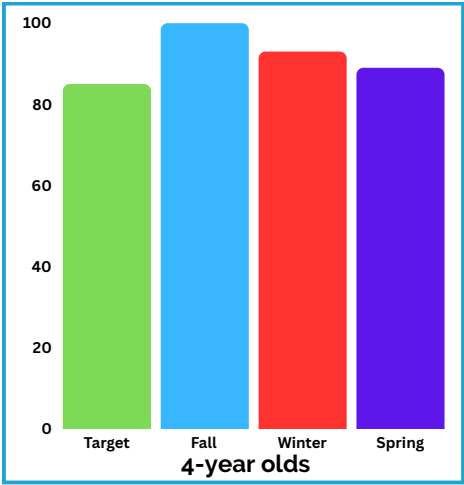
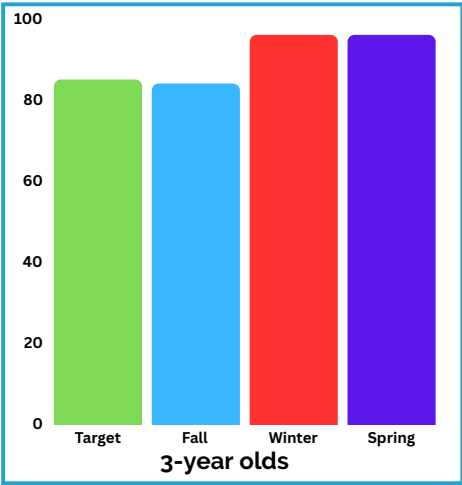
of Children had continuous  
accessible dental care

# CHENANGO HEAD START

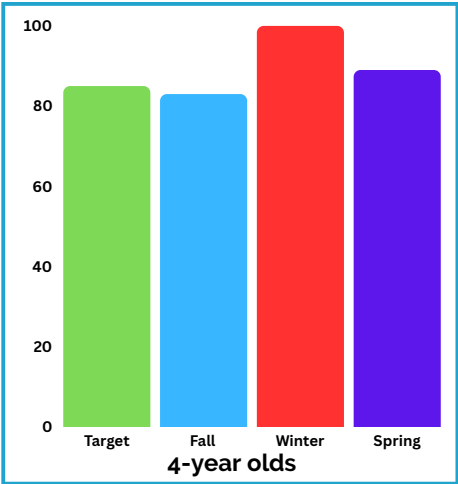
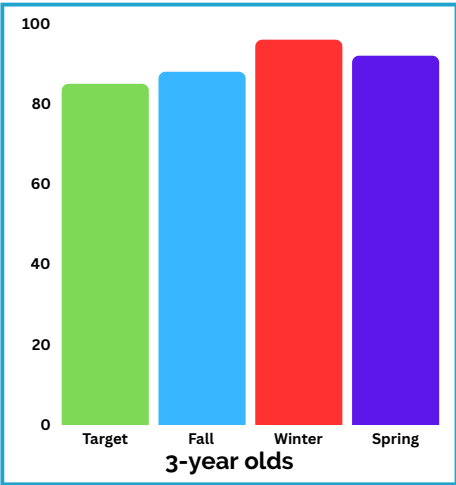
## School Readiness Goals

Head Start assists children in meeting age-appropriate school readiness goals in a safe, nurturing, language rich environment by providing learning opportunities to enhance cognitive and general knowledge, as well as approaches to learning, literacy, language, social emotional, and physical skills. Assessments of children occur three times during the program year to track progress on the mastery of skills within each of the domains.

The following provides an overview of child outcomes in each of the domains as tracked in the fall, winter and spring.



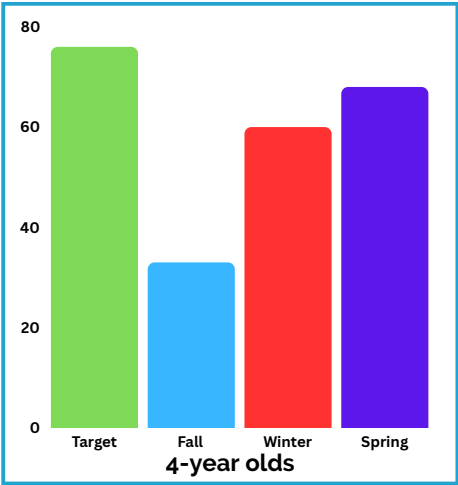
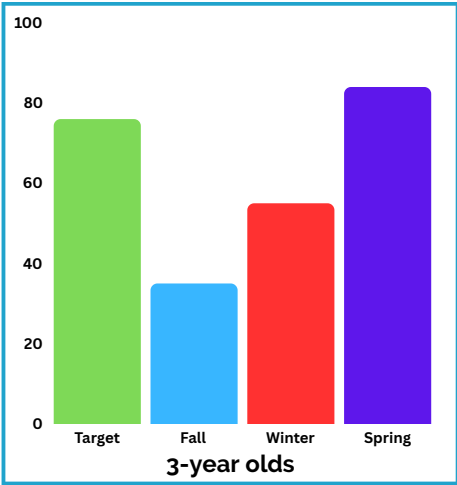
Enrolled Children will meet or exceed widely held expectations for their age demonstrating increasing independence and taking care of their own needs



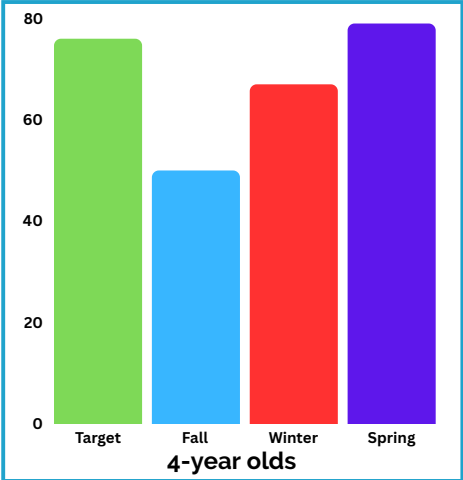
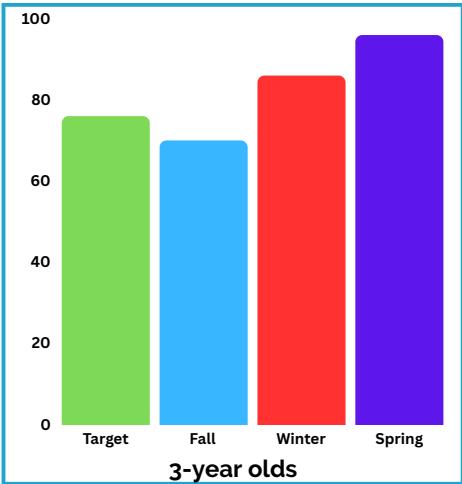
Enrolled children will meet or exceed widely held expectations for their age by solving problems.

CHENANGO  
HEAD START

School Readiness Goals Continued



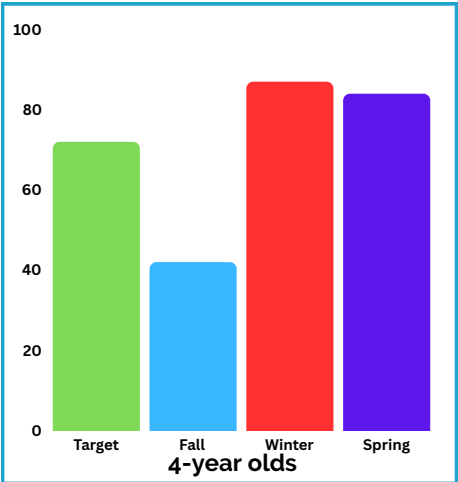
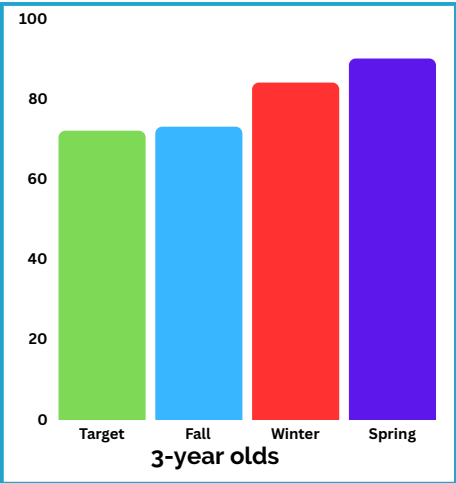
Enrolled children will meet or exceed widely held expectations for their age by using number concepts and operations and by connecting numerals and their quantities



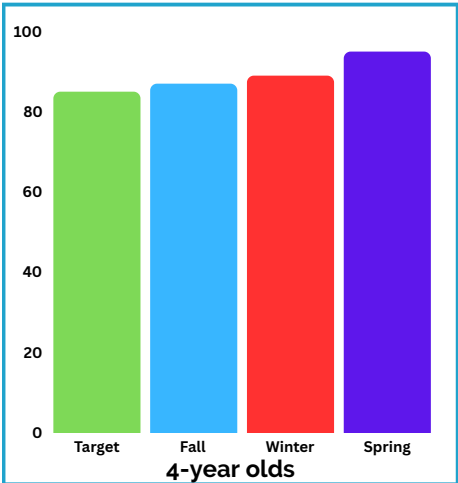
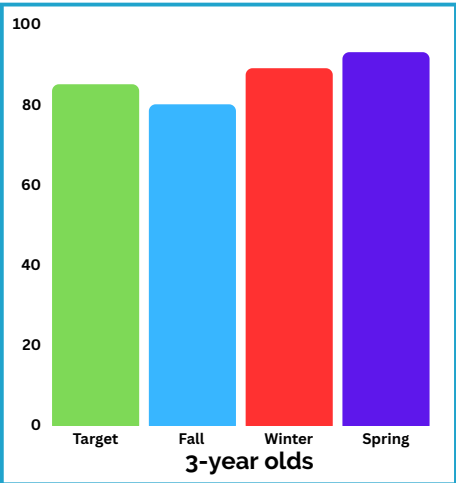
Enrolled children will meet or exceed widely held expectations for their age demonstrating phonological awareness

CHENANGO  
HEAD START

School Readiness Goals Continued



Enrolled children will meet or exceed widely held expectations for their age demonstrating and understanding of the alphabet



Enrolled children will meet or exceed widely held expectations for their age by demonstrating balancing skills



CHENANGO  
EARLY HEAD START

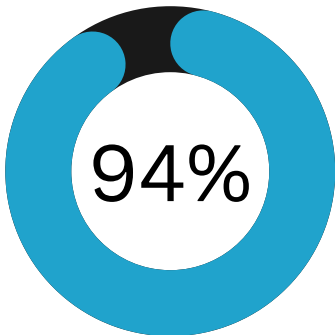
The Chenango County Early Head Start program delivered an array of early education and comprehensive services, conducting 1,396 home visits by 5 Home-based Visitors and 1 Family Advocate. The Early Head Start Home-Based program offers 26 group socializations that provide families with learning opportunities that occur in a classroom setting. Program activities focused on family development, health, nutrition, literacy, and parent involvement.

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

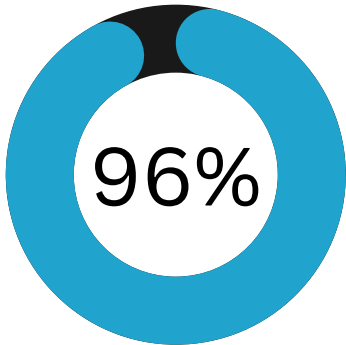
**Total Number Served:**  
131 children  
6 pregnant women

**Average Attendance**  
Toddler Classroom-  
82.3%  
Monthly Enrollment-  
100%

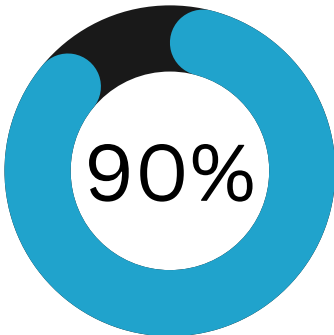
EHS 2024 Outcome Results



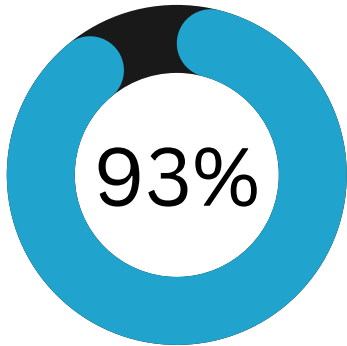
Children demonstrated gains  
in social/emotional  
development



Children exceeded widely  
held expectations for math  
skills in math evaluations.



EHS children that 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 shapes in their scribbling.

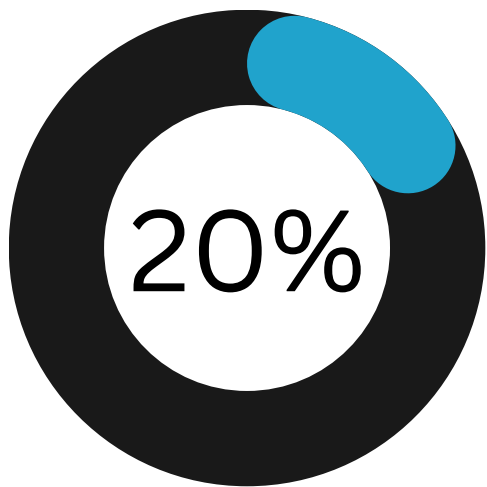


Children exhibited gains in  
basic gross motor skills  
and moving with purpose  
and coordination.

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. Early Head Start uses the Partners for a Healthy Baby Curriculum which consists of information for parents about their child's health and development.

## 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.

### Participation

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, the Broome Head Start program served 155 children and their families. This included 68 three-year-old children and 87 were four years old in 146 families. The average monthly enrollment was 93.1% with all children being eligible for programming. By June, we had attained an average daily attendance of 84.1%. This increased 3.21% over the 2022-2023 school year.

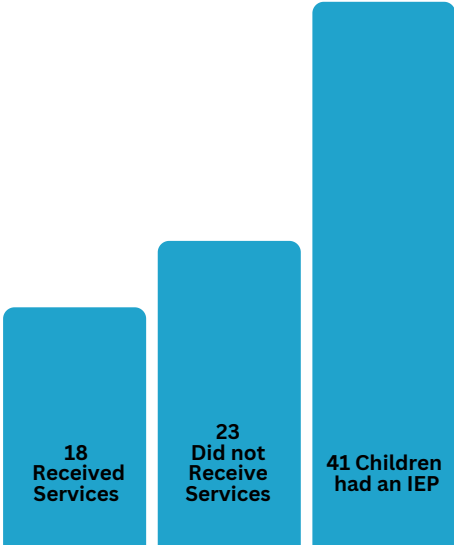
The most common reasons for absenteeism were child illness and temporary transportation issues.

### 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 who received special education and related services. Although 41 children had an IEP, many of them received multiple services for a total of 59 services. Some of these children were able to receive partial services.

**Funded Slots:**  
150 children  
3-5 years of age

**Total Number Served:**  
155 children and their families



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, Policy Council, and other hands-on activities. Additionally, center-based activities were encouraged and included monthly male engagement activities, participation in the Eat Well, Play Hard Program, and center-specific nutrition activities. Parenting education classes were offered through the Positive Solutions for Families curriculum. Parent committees play a crucial role in planning and implementing center specific activities.

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 was completed in October 2023. This was a week-long, in-depth look at regulations and performance standards and included interviews with staff, parents, Policy Council Members, and Board of Directors members. A data review was conducted across all component areas including Fiscal and Human Resources. The program met the applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws and Policy Requirements. A copy of the report is available at our Broome Main Office.

Health and Dental Services

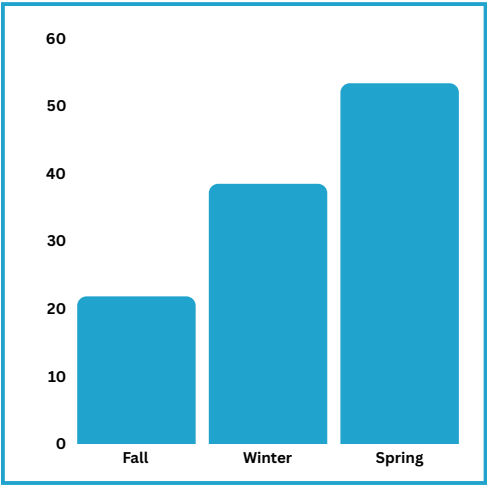
Broome Head Start partners with Guthrie Dental Services, provides classroom lessons and parent education to the children and families in our program. The Guthrie Dental Van provides dental services to students at each of the centers. All centers participate in the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) Program.



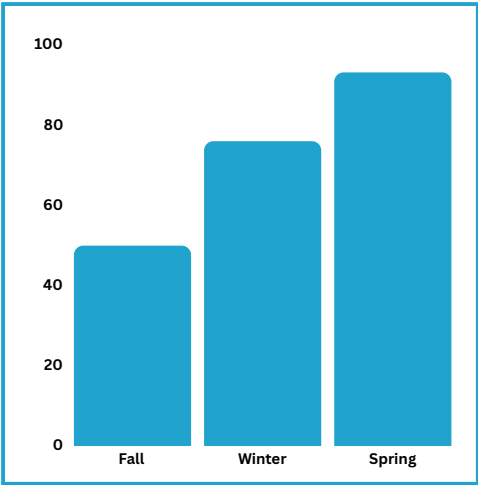
BROOME  
HEAD START

School Readiness Goals

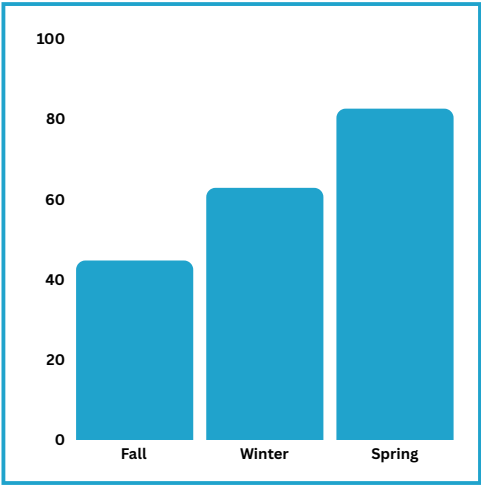
School Readiness Goals are developed to assist children in preparing for their Kindergarten experience and future school success. These goals encompass all areas of development including perceptual-motor and physical development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language and literacy, and cognition. Tracking of progress is completed through the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment system three times per year and is shared with families, staff, Policy Council, and Board members.



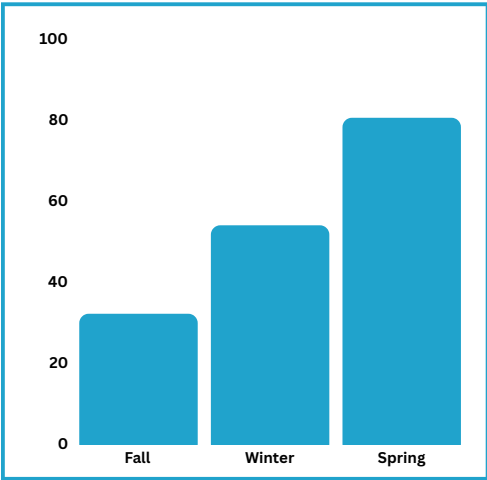
Children will show an increased use of healthy and safe habits



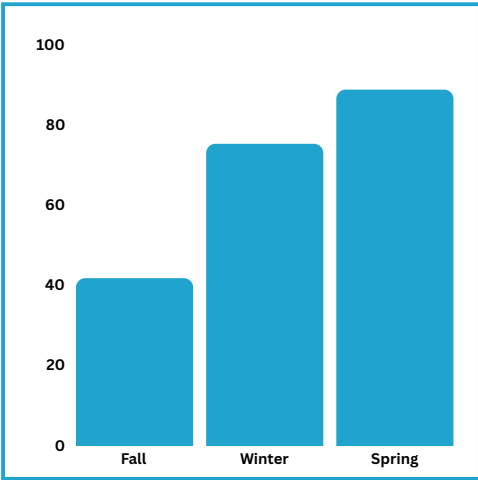
Children will show growth in their gross-motor coordination



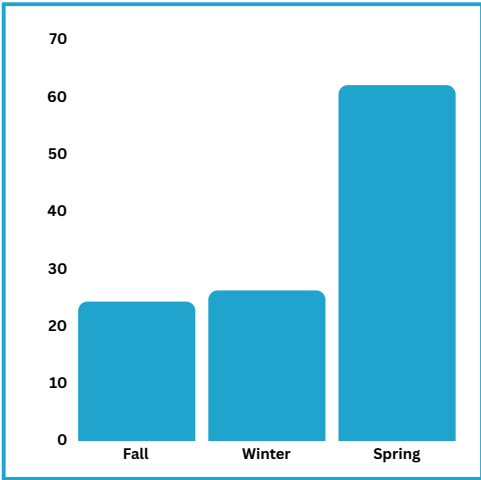
Children will show growth in developing friendships with peers and adults



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



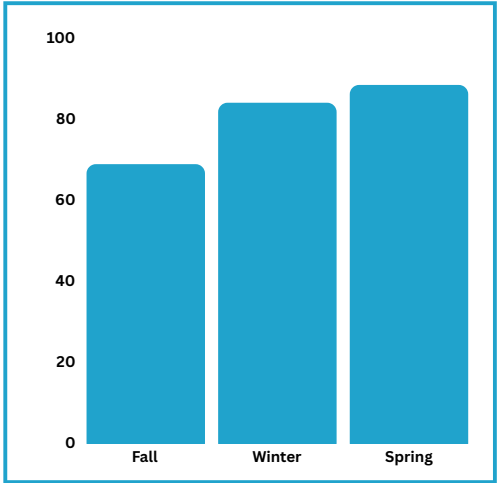
Children will follow classroom rules and routines.



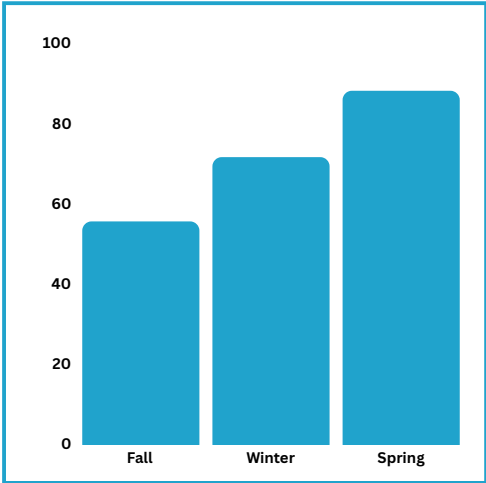
Children will show growth in their ability to communicate creative ideas and actions with and without prompting from adults.

# BROOME HEAD START

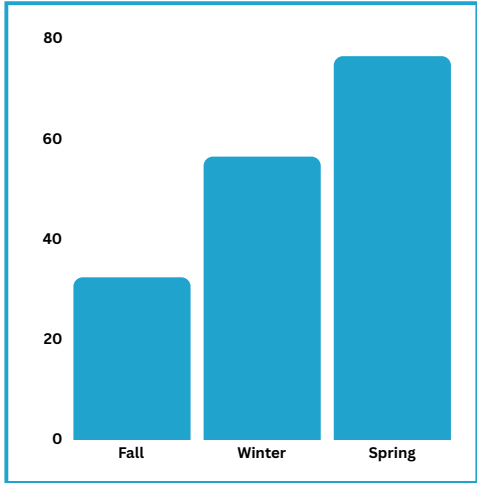
## School Readiness Goals



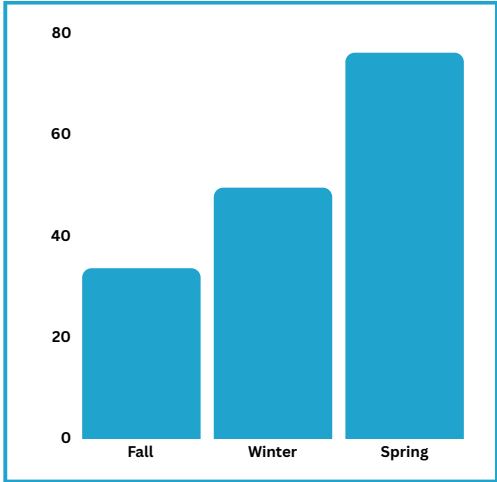
Children will have an increased awareness of the names and sounds associated with letters



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



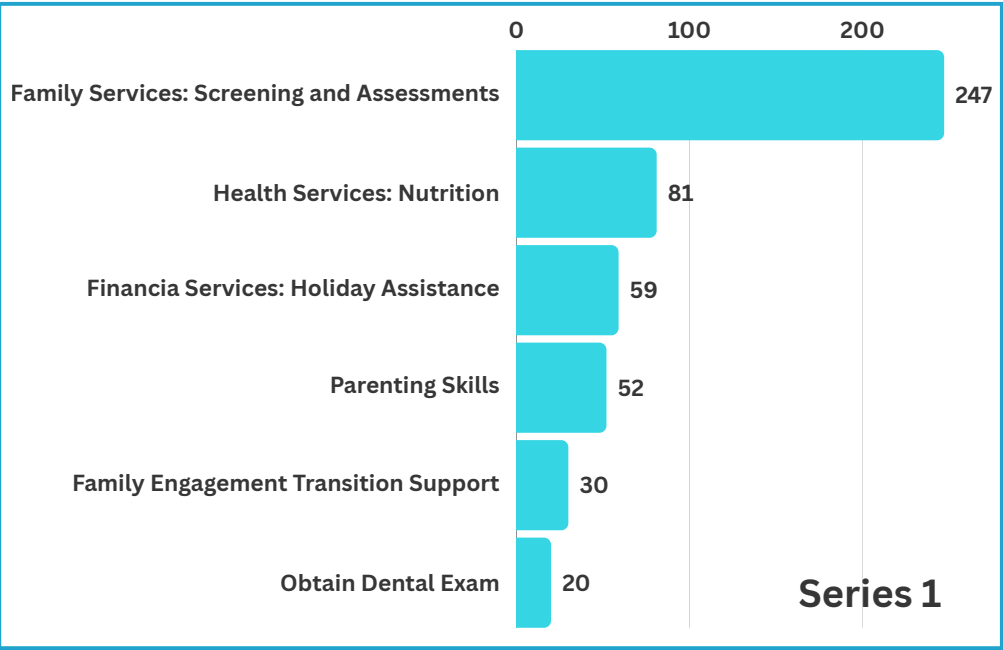
Children will show growth in associating numbers and the names of numbers with written numerals



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

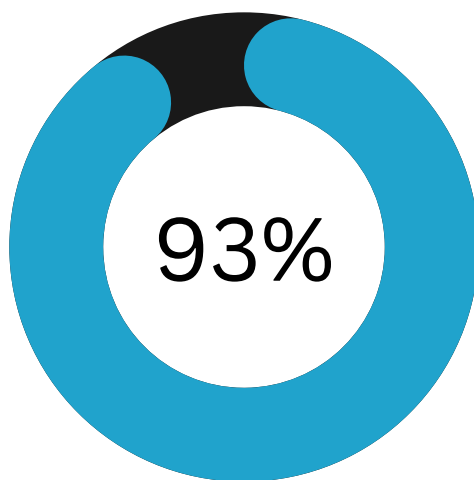
The Broome Head Start Program provides resources either directly or through referrals, to other community service providers. For the 2023-2024 school year, the service most often received by families included:



## HOUSING SUCCESS STORIES

### MANUFACTURED HOUSING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Greater Opportunities Housing Rehabilitation Department was able to help Client A replace her manufactured home with a brand-new certified handicap accessible manufactured home through our Manufactured Home Replacement Program through NYS HOME grant funds. Client A had financial restraints when it came to making her home handicap accessible for herself. Through this program, we were able to request a ramp outside her new home, as well as a handicap accessible bathroom and shower. The Manufactured Housing Replacement Program was able to satisfy her needs for a handicap accessible home. Client A can now safely navigate around her home. This client was extremely grateful for this grant and what it was able to provide for her and her spouse.



of tenants stabilized or increased their incomes

### HOME REHABILITATION

Client B came to Greater Opportunities in desperate need of a new roof, siding, and electrical work for her home, which were posing health and safety risks in her home. We were able to assist her with all of these requests with our CDBG Home Rehab grant funds. The work on Client B's home was completed in a timely manner. Client B was very satisfied with the results of her home and how quickly we were able to complete these large renovations before the winter weather approached.

## HOUSING SUCCESS STORIES

### **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING- NYSSHP**

Tenant A is a single mother with one young child, and pregnant, who was experiencing homelessness and was able to obtain permanent housing through Greater Opportunities. While residing in our supportive housing program, Tenant A gave birth a healthy baby boy. In addition, Tenant A was able to get her other son into the Pre-K program at the Family Enrichment Network. The Greater Opportunities Intensive Family Advocate continues to provide referrals for services as deemed necessary.

### **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING- ESSHI**

Tenant D, a chronically homeless male, was admitted into Greater Opportunities Supportive Housing Program after several years of living on the streets. Through our advocacy and housing programs, Tenant D has been able to acquire new medical insurance, which will pay for pricey medical services in order to monitor his brain tumor and prevent him from going into further debt with his medical bills. The Greater Opportunities Housing Advocate and Life Skills Advocate continue to assist Tenant D with accessing services and transportation to medical appointments.

### **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING- SHELTER PLUS CARE**

Tenant F was experiencing homelessness due to untreated mental health issues and with the assistance of Greater Opportunities housing staff, was able to obtain housing in our program. Tenant F continues to struggle with his impulses and mental health, but has made great strides while working with multiple therapists on coping techniques, as well as medication management. Tenant F has improved his overall communication with staff and residents. He has increased his self-awareness on how his behaviors affect others and will show remorse for inappropriate actions. Tenant F continues to seek our Housing Advocate for referrals and resources as needed.



## AGENCY STATISTICS



### HUD COUNSELING

42 Individuals and Families  
received services

### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

244 Individuals and Families  
received services

### HOME REHAB/MANUFACTURED HOUSING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

38 Households received Home  
Rehab. Services or Manufactured  
Housing Replacement

### SECTION 8

234 Vouchers were used  
by individuals/families

### RAPID RE-HOUSING

65 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

### FOOD BANK OF THE SOUTHERN TIER

384 Individuals/Families served  
7,680 pounds of food distributed

## TOTAL SERVED IN 2024

2,281- Individuals

778- Families

## 2023 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Click on each title  
to view full report

[2023 Source Funding](#)

[Broome Head Start](#)  
[Funding Sources 2023](#)

[Chenango Head Start](#)  
[Funding Sources 2023](#)

[Summary of Audit Results](#)  
[and Findings](#)