

# Division of Community Resources Monthly Report December 2023

## Workforce Development

- ✓ The County Legislators approved and funded the Welding Trade Class for County residents. The class, held at BOCES, started October 10 and will run through December 21. The 10-week program meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30pm to 9 pm. Resumes are being polished and interviews set up with local businesses who are hiring. A small gathering is planned for the last class on December 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ The CWD has been working for last few years with partners to provide Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training which is in high demand. While SUNY Sullivan were able to develop an approved program, they have been unable to secure an instructor. Recently, a meeting was held with HC Staffing and Training who work with the DV Job Corps. They can provide an instructor and BOCES will allow the use of their training space at Garnet Medical Center Catskills. A proposal is expected in the near future.
- ✓ The Center for Workforce Development (CWD) hosts onsite recruitment events from March through November. There are no events for December. Feedback from businesses has been very positive. For the month of October CWD hosted 14 businesses and had 70 potential hires in attendance.
- ✓ The CWD sent an email blast to County departments and vendors offering a presentation/review of services of the CWD and other departments under the Division of Community Resources. This is being conducted for outreach purposes to bring awareness of what services are available with new and changing staff. To date 5 presentations have been completed and 2 are scheduled.
- ✓ Workforce Innovation & Opportunities Act (WIOA) updates: Bi-weekly, statewide calls for Directors are held; NYS Department of Labor (DOL) is rolling out Virtual Career Centers; Virtual Reality Training & Solutions; Digital Literacy to all Career Centers; Community Colleges as Group Program Sponsors.
- ✓ A meeting was held between CWD, Work Readiness Training and the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce to address

the need for businesses to train and retain staff. CWD has current materials that were put together for in-house and virtual training, and will look at licensing this material, modifying some of the information, working with the Chamber to sell these services for a fee, and train on these business services.

- ✓ The CWD will begin work on developing a Financial Literacy program for Career Center customers with special focus on those who are receiving public benefits.
- ✓ In an effort to increase outreach to youth, the CWD sent out over 19,000 postcards to Sullivan county homes. There has been a strong positive response to the mailing. The CWD also updated the youth webpage to make it more appealing to current youth.
- ✓ Career Center data updates:
  - Social media:
    - 874 followers; October 2023 had a reach of 16,109 people with 1,120 Facebook page views. Although there was a reduction in reach from September there was an increase in followers and a 50% increase in Facebook page views.
  - Center Services:
    - The CWD provided services to 55 business customers, including 12 new businesses, and listed 150 jobs in the month of October.
    - The CWD assisted 545 participants that came into the Career Center for the month of October 2023.
    - Welfare to Work caseload profile October 2023:
      - Total Caseload - 273
      - TANF – caseload 115
      - Medical issues – 13%
      - Disabled – 11%
      - Pregnant/Newborn – 1%
      - Needed in Home – 7%
      - No Child Care – 20%
      - Criminal Justice involved – 26%
      - Cases closed – 7
    - Safety Net – caseload – 158
    - Medical issues – 10%
    - Disabled – 26%
    - Needed in Home – 1%
    - Criminal Justice involved – 51%
    - Cases closed – 32

## **Labor Market Data for October 2023 compared to October 2022**

- ✓ Sullivan County saw an increase in total nonfarm jobs of 4.1% (1,200) and an increase of 5.1% (1,200) in total private sector jobs.

*Please note:* The net month (September 2023 – October 2023) showed a loss of -1.3% (-400) nonfarm jobs and a loss of -1.6% (-400) in private sector jobs.

- ✓ For Sullivan County the job gains were:
  - Leisure & Hospitality at 15% (600)
  - Manufacturing at 10% (200)
  - Information at 100% (100)
  - Professional and Business Services at 5.3% (100)
  - Trade, Transportation & Utilities at 2.1% (100)
  - Educational and Health Services at 1.4% (100)

For Sullivan County the sectors that showed no job growth were:

- Mining, Logging & Construction
  - Financial Activities
  - Other Services
  - Government
- ✓ NYS showed an increase of 1.2% (113,200) in total nonfarm jobs and 1.2% (97,400) in private sector jobs.

The largest jobs gains were found in:

- Education and Health Services at 5.7% (124,600)
- Leisure & Hospitality at 3.9% (35,000)
- Government at 1.1% (15,800)
- Other Services at 1.1% (4,200)
- Mining, Logging and Construction at 0.4% (1,600)

NYS saw job losses in:

- Information at -10.1% (-30,200)
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities at -1.8% (-26,400)
- Manufacturing at -1.4% (-5,800)
- Professional and Business Services at -0.3% (-4,000)
- Financial Activities at -0.2% (-1,600)

- ✓ Within the region, Sullivan County's private employment sector grew the fastest year-over-year, up 5.1 percent. The second fastest growth was recorded in the Kingston MSA (+1.1%) followed by Orange-Rockland-Westchester labor market area (+1.0%) and the Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division (+0.8%).

- ✓ The Hudson Valley region showed an increase of 0.9% (9,000) in total nonfarm jobs and an increase of 1.1% (8,600) in private sector jobs.

The largest job gains were found in:

- Education and Health Services at 5.8% (12,200)
- Leisure & Hospitality at 4.6% (4,200)
- Government at 0.3% (400)
- Other Services at 0.5% (200)

The Region's job losses were in:

- Mining, Logging and Construction at -7.1% (-4,400)
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities at -0.8% (-1,400)
- Professional Business Services at -0.7% (-800)
- Financial Activities at -1.3% (-600)
- Manufacturing at -1.2% (-500)
- Information at -2.3% (-300)

- ✓ Sullivan County's unemployment rate was 3.3% for October 2023 up from 2.7% in October 2022.

October 2023 had 38,700 people in the labor force (37,400 employed & 1,300 unemployed). The number of employed individuals increased 3.0% (1,100) and the number of unemployed increased by 30% (300) leaving the labor force with a net gain of 3.8% (1,400).

The total labor decreased -1.8% (-700) from September 2023 to October. There was a loss of -2.1% (-800) in employed workers and an increase of 8.3% (100) in the number of unemployed workers.

- ✓ The Hudson Valley's unemployment rate for October 2023 is 3.5%, an increase from 2.6% in October 2022.
- ✓ NYS's unemployment rate was 4.4% in October 2023 compared to 3.7% in October 2022.
- ✓ The October 2023 unemployment rates across the 62 NYS counties ranged from a low of 2.8% for Saratoga County to a high of 7.3% for Bronx County. Sullivan County with a 3.3% rate ranked 19th in the State along with Albany, Cayuga, Clinton, Madison, and Wyoming Counties.
- ✓ Hudson Valley unemployment rankings for October 2023:
  - #10 Putnam County at 3.2%
  - #19 Sullivan County at 3.3%
  - #25 Rockland County at 3.4%
  - #25 Dutchess County at 3.4%

#25 Ulster County at 3.4%  
 #33 Westchester County at 3.5%  
 #36 Orange County at 3.6%

**Transportation**

✓ **County Transportation:**

<b>Month 2023</b>	<b>Veterans Medical Centers</b>	<b>Veterans In-County Medical</b>	<b>Senior Medicals</b>	<b>Shopping Buses</b>
January	45		86	70
February	35		77	66
March	33		108	67
April	46		82	68
May	52	7	91	89
June	41	14	92	97
July	42	8	71	73
August	51	18	93	111
September	51	69	74	130
October	59	22	91	166
November				
December				

<b>Move Sullivan 2023</b>	<b>Average Daily Ridership</b>	<b>Monthly Ridership</b>	<b>Monthly Paratransit</b>
January	235 (21 days)	4,929	84
February	266 (19 days)	5,057	65
March	286 (22 days)	6,301	85
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Totals</b>		<b>16,287</b>	<b>234</b>
April	315 (20 days)	6,291	120
May	330 (22 days)	7,267	143
June	362 (22 days)	7,952	110
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Totals</b>		<b>21,510</b>	<b>373</b>
July	416 (19 days)	7,901	163
August	450 (23 days)	10,358	198
September	416 (19 days)	7,895	164
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Totals</b>		<b>26,154</b>	<b>525</b>
October	425 (21 days)	8,932	154
November			
December			
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Totals</b>			
<b>Annual Totals</b>			

## **Community Assistance Center (CAC)**

- ✓ The team continues to provide referral and assistance to callers looking information and/or resources.
- ✓ Significant increase in requests for test kits.
- ✓ The CAC remains active providing food assistance deliveries as well as connections to community resources.
- ✓ The Food Bank deliveries to the pantries are bi-monthly.
- ✓ Supporting DSS Housing staff by providing food boxes for clients.
- ✓ Supported HV Food Bank mobile pantry efforts in Fremont, Yulan and Foxcroft Village.
- ✓ A member of the Sullivan Catskill Food Security Coalition.

## Office for the Aging October 2023 Monthly Report

### Monthly Accomplishments

#### **OFA Director:**

- Continued participation on Food Security Coalition.
- Continued participation on New York State Master Plan on Aging Levels of Care subcommittee.
- Continued participation on Empowering Towards Independence Forum planning committee, now postponed until March 2024.
- Annual Public Hearing and Senior Resource Fair was a success, over 100 attendees and strong collaboration with community organizations to provide attendees with current information.
- Senior Needs Assessment ongoing- Surveys, marketing, promotion visits and focus groups. Over 500 responses to date.
- Unite Us onboarding complete.
- HIICAP (Medicare election) - open enrollment started October 15<sup>th</sup>. Website updated to have current forms and information for this year.
- *Monthly Hoot* distribution continues to increase via mail, email and drop off locations.
- Towns of Lumberland & Bethel outreach to promote senior needs assessment, Public Hearing and annual election period.
- Alzheimer's PAC meeting participation.
- Public Health PAC meeting participation.
- Monitoring visit by NY State Office for the Aging, exit interview primarily positive about general status of operations.
- Participated in mock interviews with students at St. John St. School.
- HEAP applications processed to date: 215 with most of those (174) in October.

**RSVP:**

- Welcomed new volunteer who is a retired Spanish teacher. She will be located at Literacy Volunteers.
- Successful outreach through Senior Resource Fair and Radio Catskill on air about RSVP and OFA services.
- Sizeable donation of shoes, gloves, hats and more to Assemblywoman Gunther’s Holiday Clothing Drive.
- Increased collaboration with AmeriCorps manager Rebecca McCormick for more clarity regarding program guidelines and increased awareness of reporting expectations and procedure.
- RSVP page on County Website simplified and updated with latest information.

**Nutrition:**

	<b>Units:</b>	<b>Clients:</b>	<b>Contributions:</b>
<b>Homebound:</b>	1,847	96	\$1,704.00
<b>Congregate served at home:</b>	875	43	
<b>Congregate served at sites:</b>	203	39	\$338 (collected at our 2 active congregate meal sites)
<b>Total:</b>	2,925	178	\$2,042.00

- Full Time Nutrition staff continues to fill vacancies due to vacations/sick time, staff shortages.
- Continuing to work closely with Transportation Dept. to work on re-opening additional congregates sites.

**Transportation:**

- 91 SCT (Sullivan County Transportation) Medical Trips
- 166 SCT Shopping Trips
- 46 RSVP Medical Trips
- 3 OFA Staff provided Medical Trips
- 39 Congregate Nutrition Site Transportation

**HIICAP:**

- 82 Clients served including annual election period assistance.

**NY Connects:**

- 72 Clients served.
- OFA/NY Connects outreach at Liberty Library, Lumberland Seniors, Bethel Seniors and Golden Gems.

**PERS:**

- 22 clients currently receive PERS through CSE, EISEP & IIIE funding

**EISEP:**

- 19 Case Files open for full EISEP-type services including PCA
- 3 New case files open in October
- 3 Case files closed in October
- 5 Case files open without aides

- 2 Case files reassessed in October
- 18 Currently active on waitlist
- More clients may now categorically eligible for Medicaid services, however, their needs may better met by EISEP. This has resulted in increased screenings.

**Sullivan County Youth Bureau:**

- YB Manager attended HCS Data Staff meeting at Community Services.
- Youth Bureau Blast posted on social media pages throughout the month.
- The Youth Internship Program started at St. John Street School. There are 10 youth enrolled. Classes covered expectations, responsibilities, what it means to be a good employee, following directions, attendance, Promise Scholarship, resume development, work ethic, & wrapped up with mock interviews.
- Youth Internship Coordinator held meeting with the Chamber and businesses who are interested in providing internship opportunities.
- Youth Bureau Funding meeting held via Zoom with 11 people in attendance.
- Meeting with Hospice to go over proposed partnership with Youth Bureau.
- Meeting with Commissioner of Jurors to go over government days in November and December.
- Meeting with Dr. Bressler and Sheri Parucki at Sullivan West Central School to go over Youth Internship Program.
- Attended SUNY Sullivan Provider's Day-presented an overview of Youth Bureau services including the Internship Program.
- Youth Internship Coordinator did a site visit at the Town of Mamakating Park for their Halloween event.
- Youth Internship Coordinator met with Kathleen Bressler, Sheri Parucki and Jaime Schmeiser to go over how to attract businesses for youth employment.
- Claims and applications continue to be processed.

**IN PROGRESS FOR NEXT MONTH**

- HEAP season and HIICAP Annual Election period continue to bring much more traffic into the office, efforts to ensure all are registered and learn about other OFA services when possible.
- Preparing for submission of 4-year plan in Fall, 2023.
- Continued recruitment for RSVP sites. Recruitment efforts have increased especially for medical transportation.
- Redesign of brochures and informational materials for several programs. Working to create materials in alternative languages.
- Ordering ancillaries for EISEP clients is underway.

