

Division of Community Resources Monthly Report

February 2024

Workforce Development

- ✓ The Center for Workforce Development (CWD) has a NYS Systems Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network (NYSCION) grant through NYS DOL. This grant provides funding for a Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) who works to support and expand partnerships, collaborations, service coordination and delivery across workforce, education and disability service systems. The DRC works with businesses and with individuals who are in receipt of SSI or SSDI and want to work.

One event that the CWD is hosting is “Empowering Towards Independence” educational forum for the public and businesses striving to change the capacity of existing employment systems to serve employers and individuals with disabilities. The event is scheduled for March 12, 2024 at the Kartrite.

- ✓ The CWD Director and the DRC staff, along with Action Towards Independence, ACCES-VR and ARC with Kohl’s Distribution Center to put together a program where individuals with disabilities will have the ability to earn money through enrollment in work support programs at Kohl’s. Kohl’s will then reimburse the participating organization(s) providing staffing at \$17.50 per hour. The organization(s) will also provide an onsite Job Coach that will provide real time support to the employee.
- ✓ The County Legislators approved and funded the Welding Trade Class for County residents. The class held at BOCES ran from October 10 through December 21. The adult students met Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30pm to 9 pm. Nine of eleven students completed the course and received a number of industry recognized certifications through Lincoln Tech. Four students graduated with employment. The remaining five continue to receive job placement services from the Center for Workforce Development (CWD).
- ✓ The CWD has been working for last few years with partners to provide Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training. 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

provide training for the Delaware Valley Job Corps (DVJC). The plan is for HC Staffing to will provide an instructor and BOCES will allow the use of their training space at Garnet Catskills Medical Center. A proposal has been received and is under review.

- ✓ CWD has contracted with Work Readiness LLC to work with Fallsburg School district Juniors & Seniors for an after-school work readiness program to become work ready. Recruitment is underway and the class will start in February.
- ✓ The CWD will be assisting Delaware Valley Job Corps with a recruitment event for their Patient Care Technician Trade program. It was scheduled for January 23 but, due to weather, was rescheduled for February 8th.
- ✓ 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 8 presentations have been completed and 3 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.
- ✓ Career Center data updates:
 - Social media:
 - 889 followers; December 2023 had a reach of 9,618 people with 568 Facebook page views, a reduction from November.
 - Center Services:
 - The CWD provided services to 39 business customers and listed 77 jobs in the month of December.
 - The CWD assisted 510 participants that came into the Career Center for the month of December 2023.
 - Welfare to Work caseload profile December 2023:
 - Total Caseload - 297
 - TANF – caseload 123
 - Medical issues – 15%
 - Disabled – 20%
 - Pregnant/Newborn – 1%
 - Needed in Home – 2%
 - No Child Care – 11%

Criminal Justice involved – 29%
Cases closed – 16

Safety Net – caseload – 174
Medical issues – 12%
Disabled – 34%
Needed in Home – 3%
Criminal Justice involved – 49%
Cases closed – 27

Labor Market Data for December 2023 compared to December 2022

- ✓ Sullivan County saw an increase in total nonfarm jobs of 3.4% (1,000) and an increase of 4.3% (1,000) in total private sector jobs.

Please note: The net month (November 2023 – December 2023) showed a loss of -0.7% (-200) nonfarm jobs and a loss of -0.8% (-200) in private sector jobs.

- ✓ For Sullivan County the job gains were:
 - Leisure & Hospitality at 13.5% (500)
 - Mining, Logging & Construction at 7.1% (100)
 - Professional and Business Services at 5.3% (100)
 - Manufacturing at 4.8% (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:

- Information
- Financial Activities
- Other Services
- Government

- ✓ NYS showed an increase of 0.8% (79,600) in total nonfarm jobs and 0.6% (49,200) in private sector jobs.

The largest jobs gains were found in:

- Education and Health Services at 5.7% (126,600)
- Leisure & Hospitality at 3.8% (33,900)
- Government at 2.1% (30,400)

NYS saw job losses in:

- Trade, Transportation and Utilities at -2.9% (-43,800)
- Information at -8.8% (-26,400)
- Professional and Business Services at -1.1% (-15,600)
- Mining, Logging and Construction at -2.9% (-11,600)
- Manufacturing at -2.0% (-8,400)

- Financial Activities at -0.7% (-5,100)
 - Other Services at -0.1 (-400)
- ✓ Within the region, Sullivan County's private employment sector grew the fastest year-over-year, up 4.3 percent. The second fastest growth was recorded in the Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division (+2.9%), followed by Kingston MSA (+1.3%) and Orange-Rockland-Westchester labor market area (+0.2%).
- ✓ The Hudson Valley region showed an increase of 0.7% (6,400) in total nonfarm jobs and an increase of 0.8% (6,100) in private sector jobs.

The largest job gains were found in:

- Education and Health Services at 5.2% (11,100)
- Leisure & Hospitality at 7.4% (6,400)
- Other Services at 1.7% (700)
- Government at 0.2% (300)

The Region's job losses were in:

- Mining, Logging and Construction at -7.5% (-4,500)
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities at -2.4% (-4,300)
- Professional Business Services at -1.6% (-1,900)
- Financial Activities at -1.3% (-600)
- Manufacturing at -1.2% (-500)
- Financial Activities at -1.1% (-500)
- Information at -3.1% (-300)

- ✓ Sullivan County's unemployment rate was 3.9% for December 2023 up from 3.0% in December 2022.

December 2023 had 38,100 people in the labor force (36,600 employed & 1,500 unemployed). The number of employed individuals increased 2.8% (1,000) and the number of unemployed increased by 36.4% (400) leaving the labor force with a net gain of 3.8% (1,400).

The total labor force decreased -2.1% (-800) from November 2023 to December 2023. There was a decrease of -2.4% (-900) in employed workers and an increase of 7.1% (100) in the number of unemployed workers.

- ✓ The Hudson Valley's unemployment rate for December 2023 is 3.7%, an increase from 2.7% in December 2022.
- ✓ NYS's unemployment rate was 4.4% in December 2023 compared to 3.8% in December 2022.

- ✓ The December 2023 unemployment rates across the 62 NYS counties ranged from a low of 3.2% for Columbia County to a high of 7.4% for Hamilton County. Sullivan County with a 3.9% rate ranked 13th in the State along with Genesee, Onondaga, Orange, Schenectady, Ulster and Yates Counties.
- ✓ Hudson Valley unemployment rankings for December 2023:
 - # 3 Putnam County at 3.4%
 - # 5 Rockland County at 3.5%
 - # 7 Dutchess County at 3.6%
 - # 9 Westchester County at 3.7%
 - #13 Orange County at 3.9%
 - #13 Sullivan County at 3.9%
 - #13 Ulster County at 3.9%

Transportation

✓ **County Transportation:**

Month 2023	Veterans Medical Centers	Veterans In- County Medical	Senior Medicals	Shopping Buses
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	50	17	98	131
December	38	9	81	137

Move Sullivan 2023	Average Daily Ridership	Monthly Ridership	Monthly Paratransit
January	224 (21 days)	4,929	84
February	266 (19 days)	5,057	65
March	286 (22 days)	6,301	85
1st Quarter Totals		16,287	234
April	315 (20 days)	6,291	120
May	328 (22 days)	7,221	143
June	362 (22 days)	7,952	110
2nd Quarter Totals		21,464	373
July	438 (19 days)	8,321	163

August	450 (23 days)	10,358	198
September	395 (20 days)	7,895	164
3rd Quarter Totals		26,154	525
October	426 (21 days)	8,940	154
November	413 (20 days)	8,252	173
December	436 (20 days)	8,717	205
4th Quarter Totals		25,909	549
Annual Totals		90,003	1,682

Community Assistance Center (CAC)

- ✓ The team continues to provide referral and assistance to callers looking information and/or resources.
- ✓ Continue distribution of 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.
- ✓ Support HV Food Bank monthly mobile pantry efforts in Freemont, Yulan and Fallsburg.
- ✓ A member of the Sullivan Catskill Food Security Coalition.
- ✓ A quarterly meeting with the area food pantries was held on January 22 at Cornell Cooperative Extension. Sponsored by the Sullivan Catskills Food Security Coalition this meeting provided information on food programs and training in conflict resolution.

Office for the Aging December 2023 Monthly Report

Monthly Accomplishments	
<u>OFA Director:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued participation on Food Security Coalition. Participated in coordination of Hygiene Drive. • Continued participation on New York State Master Plan on Aging Levels of Care subcommittee. • Continued participation on Empowering Towards Independence Forum planning committee, rescheduled for March 12, 2024. • Senior Needs Assessment-received draft of final report received and is being reviewed. 	

- HIIICAP- open enrollment October 15-December 7th. Over 260 individuals assisted with navigating Medicare plans.
- Monthly Hoot distribution continues to increase via mail, email and drop off locations. Direct mail list has grown to 350.
- Over 294 applications processed to date as HEAP alternate certifying site. Emergency HEAP opened January 2-until funds expended. (Must have shut-off notice; or less than ¼ tank of fuel or 10 day or less supply of wood, pellets, corn, coal, etc.)
- Continued distribution of freely available COVID test kits to community organizations.
- Leadership training ongoing for Director, Coordinators and Managers with supervisory responsibilities.
- Participated in Sullivan E-MDT meeting coordinated by JFS Ulster County

RSVP:

- Creation of Driver Contact Cards to ensure clients or medical staff know how to best contact their volunteer driver or OFA during any medical transports.
- Creation of monthly RSVP Newsletter emailed to all active volunteers with updates, new opportunities, congratulations, and more.
- Over 800 volunteer hours logged and reimbursed this month.
- New volunteer station established with Holy Harry Pantry at Sullivan County UMC.

Nutrition:

	Units:	Clients:	Contributions:
Homebound:	1,439	89	\$1,297.00
Congregate served at home:	646	43	
Congregate served at sites:	135	39	\$207 (collected at our 2 active congregate meal sites)
Total:	2,220	171	\$1,504.00

- Seven new clients were enrolled in the Home Delivered (HDM) program
- Our Cookie & Cocoa drive for the HDM program was a wonderful success. 157 seniors received a container of cookies and cocoa for the holiday season. Many staff along with the Fallsburg HS student groups contributed to its success.
- Liberty Rotarians donated gift bags with flashlights and cards for our seniors for the holidays.

Transportation:

- 81 SCT (Sullivan County Transportation) Medical Trips
- 137 SCT Shopping Trips
- 45 RSVP Medical Trips
- 2 OFA Staff provided Medical Trips
- 32 Congregate Nutrition Site Transportation

Legal referrals: 7 referrals made to Rural Law Center

HIICAP:

- 171 Clients entered for December, over 260 assisted during annual election. Medicare Advantage Election is taking place now and goes until March 31.

NY Connects:

- 84 Clients served. Preparing for the upcoming year with outreach events, strategizing funding for promotional expenses.

PERS:

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

EISEP:

EISEP FULL-SERVICE CASEFILES during December

Casefiles already open as of 12/01/23**	22 +2**
Casefiles opened 12/01–12/31/23	06
Casefiles closed 12/01–12/31/23	03
Casefiles open as of 12/31/23**	25 +2**
Casefiles open with PCA as of 12/31/23	13
Casefiles open with no PCA, waitlisted as of 12/31/23	05
Screened for EISEP not opened	16
Casefiles on hold with no PCA, eligibility to be determined as of 12/31/23	07

PCA- Personal Care Aide

Sullivan County Youth Bureau:

- Meeting with Sullivan West Central School regarding Youth Internship.
- Participation in Healing Community Study.
- Participation in United Sullivan meetings.
- Member of Hudson Valley Youth Bureau by-law committee, final draft presented to team.
- Held Government Day for Eldred Central School.
- Continued involvement with several community organizations to spread information on Youth Bureau resources.
- Youth Bureau e-blasts and social media ongoing, increase in followers and engagement.
- Review and processing for applications for State Funding and submission of claims ongoing.
- Successful job placement from St. John school internship.

IN PROGRESS FOR NEXT MONTH

- Continue to work on planning on opening additional Congregate sites in conjunction with Sullivan County Transportation and Jail kitchen. Posting for PT Nutrition Site Operator added to CWD's Hot Jobs.
- Continued participation in Long Term Supports Subcommittee of Master Plan on Aging- Statewide collaborative planning effort between OFA & DOH.
- Continued RSVP site additions ongoing. Recruitment efforts have increased especially for medical transportation. New brochure and marketing in progress.
- Redesign of brochures and informational materials for several programs. Working to create materials in alternative languages.
- Ancillaries to be ordered for EISEP clients bi-annually, ordering underway. Efficiency being realized in systematically ordering.
- Policies and procedure review ongoing for all programs and functions and currently being updated and improved.
- Planning underway for a RSVP Driver recognition event with RSVP Advisory Council.
- End of year reporting and data entry ongoing.