



Joint Council for Economic Opportunity
of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc.

2021 Head Start and Early Head Start Community Needs Assessment



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
Introduction and Methodology	4
Childcare	5
Cost of Childcare.....	6
Childcare Assistance	7
Childcare Providers.....	8
Employment and Income	9
Household Income.....	9
Public Benefits	11
Employment	11
Employers	11
Unemployment.....	12
Mental Health.....	13
Alcohol and Substance Abuse	14
Transportation.....	15
Clinton County Public Transportation	15
Franklin County Public Transportation.....	16
Overview of Clinton and Franklin Counties	17
Head Start Overview.....	18
JCEO	18
Program Overview	18
Head Start Centers	20
Demographic Profile.....	22
Population in Poverty.....	22
Poverty Rate Change, 2015-2019	23
Households in Poverty by Family Type.....	25
Gender	26
Age.....	26
Race and Ethnicity	27
Languages Spoken	28
Veterans	29
Citizenship Status	29
Crime	29

Head Start/Early Head Start Eligible Children and Families	29
Early Head Start Unmet Need	31
Head Start Unmet Need	32
Expectant Mothers	33
Education.....	34
Educational Attainment for those 25 Years and Over.....	35
School Enrollment	36
High School Graduates and Dropouts	36
Literacy Rates	37
Poverty by School District.....	37
Colleges, Universities, and Trade Schools	38
Universal Pre-Kindergarten	38
Resources for Children And Families.....	39
Early Intervention	39
Family Resources	39
Health	40
Uninsured Population.....	41
Persons Receiving Medicaid	41
Prenatal Care	41
Teen Births.....	41
Obesity.....	42
Lead Poisoning.....	42
Food Security.....	43
Food Access	43
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	44
Food Assistance	44
Housing.....	47
Housing Facts.....	48
Fair Market Rent.....	48
Housing Affordability.....	49
Homelessness	50
Housing Assistance	51
Conclusion.....	51
Appendix.....	52

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Head Start provides comprehensive services to children and families in both Clinton and Franklin Counties. This needs assessment was conducted to help inform Head Start’s current programming and future planning.

Meetings with Head Start parents, Head Start Policy Council, as well as community partners and responses to the survey indicate that Head Start is well regarded in the community and one of JCEO’s most well- known programs. As poverty and related complications from it continue to be prevalent in both counties, the need for Head Start has become even more critical for children and parents/caregivers.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Joint Council for Economic Opportunity of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc. (JCEO) conducted a Community Needs Assessment to assist in strategic planning and to understand the emerging and ongoing needs of the community they serve. The information from this assessment will be used in accordance with the Head Start performance standards to help JCEO set long and short term goals, determine component services most needed, and determine areas most in need.

The Community Needs Assessment process utilized the following methodologies:

- Collected and analyzed relevant census and social indicator data
- Conducted six focus groups with JCEO consumers, staff and community partners and members. Feedback from these meetings is incorporated throughout the report.
- Conducted three surveys with JCEO consumers (170 total), JCEO staff, Board members, and volunteers (108 total), and community partners in both Clinton and Franklin Counties (63 total). Surveys were administered in an online version and paper form was offered. Feedback from these surveys is integrated into the report.

This assessment includes data for both Clinton County and Franklin County and both counties combined, referred to as the “report area”. Data for smaller municipalities in the county is included where available and applicable.

When referencing US Census Bureau data, American Community Survey Five Year 2015-2019 estimates were used in order to present the most accurate picture of community need. 5-year estimates are released annually and are recommended for analyzing small populations. The US Census Bureau has changed the way it collects Census data since the 2000 US Census. Instead of the decennial long-form, the Bureau now conducts annual data collection activities via the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey yearly estimates are based on roughly 2% of the population; the 3-year estimates are based on roughly 6% of the population, and the 5-year estimates are based on roughly 10% of the population.

As a result, demographers recommend the use of the 5-year ACS data and caution strongly against year-to-year comparisons. In this report, there are some cases where data was only available in the one year or three year

estimates so that data was used and is noted as such. Additional national, state and local sources were utilized and are noted throughout the report.

KEY FINDINGS

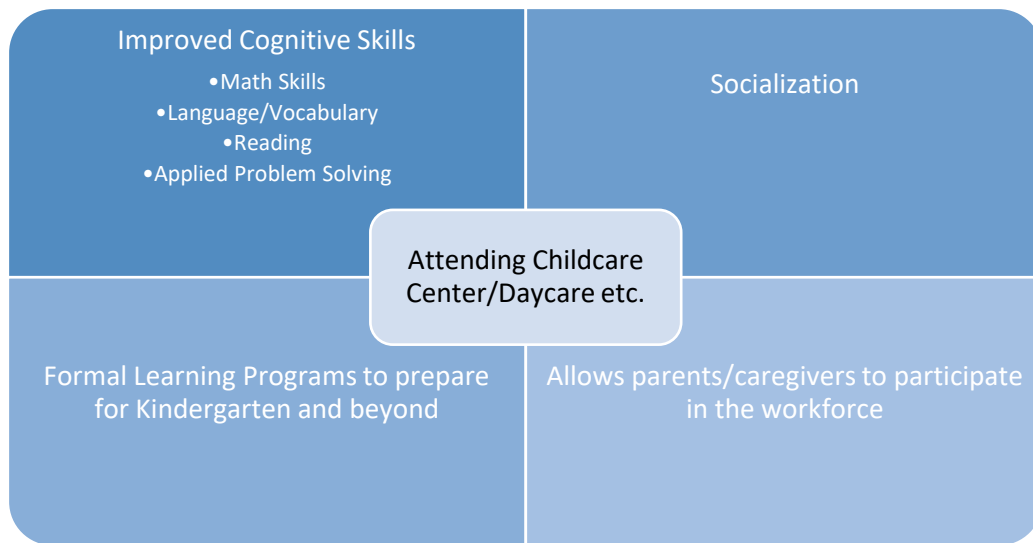
The largest needs/concerns that were expressed during the process are as follows (alphabetical, not necessarily in ranked order):

- Child Care
- Employment
- Home and car repairs
- Mental Health Services
- Transportation

CHILDCARE

Affordable childcare was as an area of great need for low-income households in both focus groups and surveys. Sufficient affordable childcare options were thought to be lacking in both counties and parents noted that they often have to miss work or discontinue working all together due to lack of child care. The pandemic has pushed these issues even more into the forefront as many providers have closed as a result of the pandemic (i.e. increased requirements, concern about contracting the virus etc.)

It is widely known that quality childcare benefits the child, the family, the community, and ultimately, the country. Children in higher quality early learning programs have better cognitive outcomes: measurably better language/vocabulary, reading, math skills, and applied problem solving. They are more likely to attend college and earn higher wages, and less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system. While quality childcare has a positive benefit on all children, the impact is particularly strong for children in low-income families. Unfortunately, with the rising costs of child care and limited spaces available, low income families are more likely to stay home with their children rather than enrolling them in centers or having them attend home daycares which means less socialization, no formal early learning programs etc.



According to the 2020 ALICE Report:

“The child care industry will face new challenges, and so will parents. As the number of families with children continues to decrease (it fell 10% in New York from 2010 to 2018), it will be harder for child care centers to stay in business, making child care more difficult to find and more expensive, especially in less populated areas. In 2018, 64% of New York residents lived in a child care desert, defined as having no child care providers at all, or so few options that there are three times as many children for each available licensed child care slot. Since single-parent families are still more likely to be below the ALICE Threshold, they will also struggle to afford quality child care. According to the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, the high cost of child care in New York makes it unaffordable for many families, preventing parents from participating in the workforce, and depriving children of quality early-childhood learning and education. Compounding this issue is the fact that low-paid child care workers are ALICE as well (with a median hourly wage of \$12.87 in New York).”

In Clinton County, the number of providers has stayed fairly consistent; however, some school districts are more lacking than others based on feedback we receive from families. In Franklin County, the number of providers has been steadily declining over the last 7+ years. Daycare providers in this area state that with both starting and operating a daycare is it extremely difficult to follow all of the strict guidelines and regulations set forth by the state. The Covid-19 pandemic also pushed some providers to close as they realized they no longer wanted to operate a daycare especially in light of the added risks and complications the pandemic created (i.e. exposure, quarantine, remote schooling etc.).

COST OF CHILDCARE

According to The United Way ALICE Report, a household outside of NYC with one infant and one preschooler can expect to pay, on average, \$1,366 per month in New York State for child care.

According to the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, the cost for childcare in “Group 3” counties, including Clinton and Franklin County, is between **\$150** and **\$220** per week, per child. Care is more expensive for infants and toddlers and less so for three and four-year-old children and as, is the case nationwide, centers are usually more expensive than family childcare homes.

CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE

Clinton County Department of Social Services provides subsidies to working parents through the Child Care Development Block Grant. Subsidies are based on the level of need and the family’s household income. Subsidies are not provided to parents enrolled in school. Families who receive a childcare subsidy are required to pay a portion of their childcare costs, known as the family share or copayment.

Franklin County DSS pays childcare costs for families with incomes up to 200% of the state income standard when childcare services are needed for the child’s parent/caretaker to participate in a program providing basic remedial education in reading, writing, math and oral communications for individual functioning below the ninth month of the eighth grade level. Parents/caretakers must be participating in a program that provides literacy training or they must be satisfactorily participating in a four-year college or university program leading to a Bachelor’s Degree and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker’s earning capacity as long as the parent/caretaker is also working at least 17 ½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 and be enrolled with an approved college program.

If you have a child, what do you currently use to meet your childcare needs? Check all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses
Parent, family friends or neighbors	41.96%
Pre-Kindergarten / Preschool	4.46%
Informal / unregistered provider / babysitter	9.82%
Day care center	15.18%
Registered / licensed child care provider	10.71%
Children are old enough to be left on their own	16.07%
After school program	3.57%

Source: JCEO Community Survey, spring 2021

The majority of respondents from JCEO’s Consumer Survey rely on parents, family friends, and neighbors for childcare, as shown in the response summary below.

The chart below shows when JCEO consumers need childcare.

When do you need childcare? Check all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses
Daytime	46.36%
Before / After School	34.55%
Weekends	13.64%
Evening	10%
Summer	27.27%

Source: JCEO Community Survey, spring 2021

Daytime childcare was selected as the most needed for respondents with children – although, there is a strong indication for the need for nontraditional childcare before and after school, on the weekend, evenings, and

during the summer. This question indicates that work/school schedules for parents or guardians are varied. The most need is for daytime care, but just before and after school care were also ranked high.

CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

There are a total of 105 childcare providers in Clinton County and 53 in Franklin County, according to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), as indicated in the chart below. This does not include the legally exempt childcare or non-regulated/informal care. Legally exempt childcare providers are those providers who are not required by law to be licensed or registered to provide childcare. They do not have to follow the State regulations for licensed and registered providers. However, a legally exempt provider must meet health and safety requirements listed in the New York State Code of Rules and Regulations in order to enroll for payment. The table below includes the number of licensed centers, family care providers and group childcare, including JCEO Head Start Centers.

The following definitions for types of childcare were provided by OCFS:

Licensed Day Care Centers provide care for more than six children at a time not in a personal residence. The maximum number of allowable children varies between centers. Head Start Centers are considered Licensed Day Care Centers, and are included in the figures below.

Family Day Care providers provide care for three to six children at a time in a personal residence; they may add one or two school-age children. The maximum allowable number of children is eight, but will depend on whether there are and how many infants are in care.

Group Family Day Care provides care for seven to twelve children at a time in a personal residence; may add one or two school-age children. The maximum allowable number of children is 16, but will depend on whether there are and how many infants are in care. A provider must use an assistant when more than six children are present.

Clinton County	Number of providers 2021	Maximum Capacity 2021	Number of providers 2017	Maximum Capacity 2017
Licensed Day Care Center	17	1,097	17	963*
Family Day Care providers	43	344	47	376
Group Family Day Care	35	560	40	640
Total for Clinton County	105	2,001	104	1,979
Franklin County	Number of providers 2017	Maximum Capacity 2021	Number of providers 2017	Maximum Capacity 2017
Licensed Day Care Center	16	708	16	622**
Family Day Care providers	19	152	23	184
Group Family Day Care	13	208	20	320
Total for Franklin County	53	1,068	75	1,126

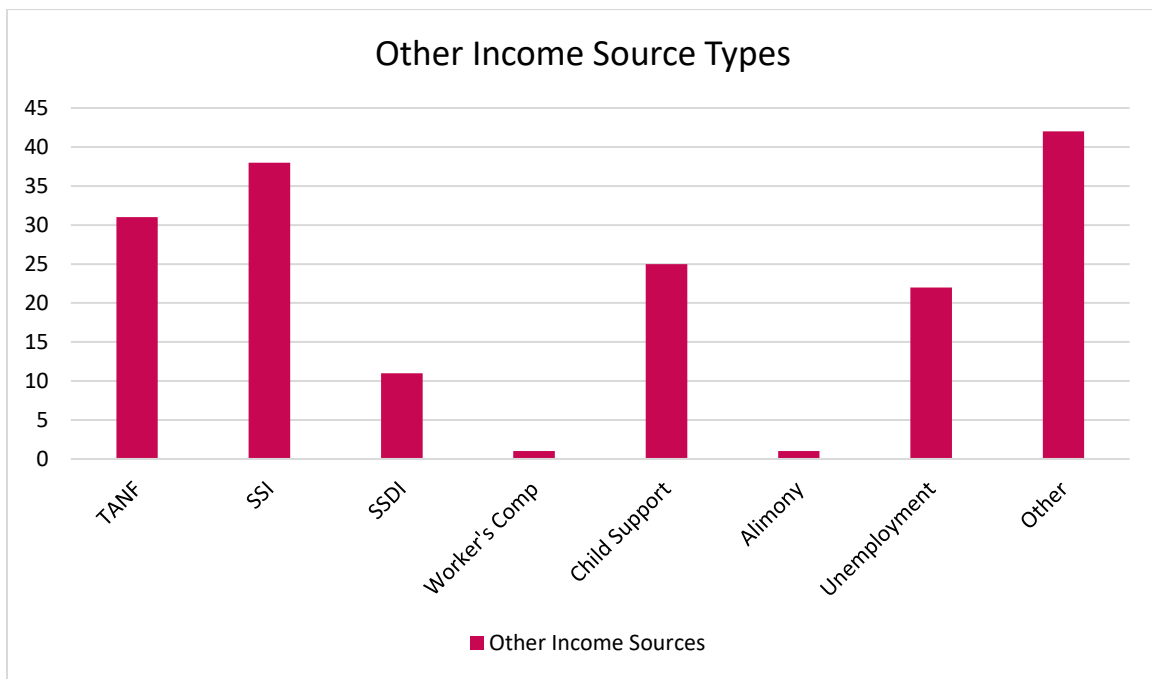
Source: NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), retrieved September 2021

In addition to the childcare facilities above, 5 providers in Franklin County and 10 providers in Clinton County provide care for school-aged children. According to OCFS, six facilities in Clinton County offer “Non-Traditional Hours of Care” meaning that they offer hours outside of “traditional hours” which are Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 7:00pm. There are two such facilities in Franklin County.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

According to the US Census Bureau, median household income in the US was \$68,703 in 2019, an **increase of 6.8 percent** from the 2018 median of \$64,324. This is the third consecutive annual increase in median household income.

Other Income Sources of JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start Adults



Source: JCEO Consumer Data Collected 1/1/2020-12/31/2020

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median annual household incomes for 2015 and 2019 are shown in the table below. **According to the U.S. Census, median annual household income increased from 2015 to 2019 increased in both counties and statewide.**

	2019	2015	Percent Change
Clinton County	\$56,365	\$46,747	17.06
Franklin County	\$50,407	\$45,682	10.34
New York State	\$68,486	\$60,805	12.63

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

Although the Federal Poverty Level indicates a 15.47% poverty rate in the US, we know that many more people live in poverty than the measure indicates. The Federal Poverty Level (FPL), developed in 1965 and updated in 1974, is no longer a realistic measure of poverty, particularly because the FPL does not adjust to cost-of-living rates. **In fact, many federal and state programs use multiples of the FPL to determine eligibility.**

Many households earn more than the FPL but less than the basic cost of living. These households are ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed).

According to the report, a family of four (two adults, two school aged children) in Clinton County needs an annual income of \$57,936 to survive; a family of four (two adults, two school aged children) in Franklin County needs \$54,120 to survive. This “survival budget” only covers housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, taxes, and a 10% miscellaneous category. This does not include putting money aside for savings or retirement or any “extras”. If that family of four has two children in child care instead of school, the survival budget increases by over 21%.

These budgets are significantly more than the U.S. poverty level of \$12,760 for a single adult and \$21,720 for a family of four.

Household Survival Budget, Clinton County

	Single Adult	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$568	\$808
Child Care	\$0	\$1,292
Food	\$276	\$834
Transportation	\$365	\$834
Health Care	\$212	\$705
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$177	\$533
Taxes	\$291	\$782
Monthly Total	\$1,944	\$5,863
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$23,328	\$70,356
Hourly Wage	\$11.66	\$35.18

Household Survival Budget, Franklin County

	Single Adult	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$528	\$726
Child Care	\$0	\$1,292
Food	\$237	\$718
Transportation	\$365	\$834
Health Care	\$212	\$705
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$166	\$506
Taxes	\$266	\$714
Monthly Total	\$1,829	\$5,570
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$21,948	\$66,840
Hourly Wage	\$10.97	\$33.42

Source: New York State United Way ALICE Report, Adirondack Region, 2020

According to the ALICE Report, 12% of the population in Clinton County live in poverty, but another **25%** are ALICE. In Franklin County, 18% of the population live in poverty, but another **25%** are ALICE.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Public benefits are provided to low income individuals in an effort to assist them in meeting their basic needs. Listed below are some of the more common benefits utilized by low-income families and individuals to help make ends meet.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF assists families with children who cannot provide for their family's basic needs. Assistance is in the form of cash assistance.

1,533 persons were receiving TANF in January 2021 in Clinton and Franklin Counties, collectively, at a cost of \$543,834, or \$354.75 per recipient (New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance).

In Clinton and Franklin Counties, the number of recipients **decreased** by 30.4% since 2017 (2,202 participants down to 1,533).

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits are also payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits.

There were 2,903 recipients in Clinton County and 1,805 recipients in Franklin County in January of 2021. The report area averages a payment of **\$608.42** to each recipient, less than the state average of \$614.67 per recipient. The amount for our report area has increased 15% from \$528.41 over the last 11 years.

EMPLOYMENT

The current employment market is in flux. The pandemic caused a lot of people to temporarily be out of work and as now, some have yet to return for various reasons. The unemployment rates are headed towards being more in line with pre-pandemic numbers but you would be hard pressed to find a business or type of career field that is not short for help these days.

There have been some recent strides in the workforce readiness realm, including the new Institute for Advanced Manufacturing at Clinton Community College, RAMP with Coryer Staffing, Ready2Create and Ready4Real with ERS which helps individuals gain relevant training and work experience.

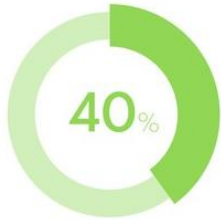
The North County Regional Economic Development Committee's (NCREDC) Annual Report cites that "having affordable and available childcare not only improves long-term workforce recruitment and retention, it also helps with near-term employee work attendance."

A common theme in focus groups was the difficulty in recruiting professionals in fields that require specific credentialing such as education and mental health. The NCREDC reported in their 2021 Annual Report that healthcare is a huge demand field in our region especially in the fields of telemedicine, lab and surgical technicians, public health advocates, certified nursing assistants and medical office assistants. The other fields they specifically noted having shortfalls are lodging and hospitality. "Local workforce shortages, especially in healthcare and hospitality, compounded by the availability of childcare are making it very difficult for employers to maintain stable labor pools."

17.5% percent of JCEO consumer survey respondents indicated that they needed help finding a better job which is up from 10% of respondents in 2017. Over eight percent indicated they need help with job training or retraining services. Focus group participants noted that they have skills and education but aren't sure how to connect that to what jobs are available in the area so instead the work two jobs (not in the field they are trained and educated in) to help makes ends meet in the meantime.

The New York State ALICE report noted that the number of low-wage jobs increased by 33% from 2007 to 2018, and accounted for the largest number of jobs in New York in 2018.

EMPLOYERS



Of the top 20 employers in the region, four are prisons and four are schools.

Top Employers in Clinton and Franklin County

Clinton County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UVM Health Network - CVPH 2. Clinton Correctional Facility 3. State University of NY-Plattsburgh 4. Clinton County Government 5. Wal-Mart and Sam's Club 6. Peru Central School District 7. Advocacy Resource Center 8. City of Plattsburgh 9. Beekmantown Central School 10. Swarovski Lighting, LTD
Franklin County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sunmount Development Center 2. North Star Industries 3. NYS Dept. of Correction – Bare Hill 4. NYS Dept of Correction - Franklin 5. Akwesasne Mohawk Casino 6. Franklin County 7. NYS Dept of Correction - Upstate 8. Alice Hyde Medical Center 9. St Regis Mohawk Tribe Council 10. Paul Smiths College

Source: www.northcountrychamber.com/Business-Development/Demographics

UNEMPLOYMENT

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the unemployment rate in Clinton and Franklin Counties as of August 2021 is 5.0%. At the start of the pandemic in 2020, those rates were over 16 and 17%. As of August 2021, New York's unemployment rate is 7.1% and the US unemployment rate is 5.2%.

In our 2017 Needs Assessment, the unemployment rate in both counties had been steadily decreasing. In large part due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are not following the same trend in 2021. The chart below shows the rate change over the past five years.

Five-Year Unemployment Rates

	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021
Clinton County, NY	5.2%	4.3%	4.4%	10.8%	5.2%
Franklin County, NY	5.4%	4.5%	4.6%	11.8%	5.3%
New York	4.8%	4.1%	4.0%	14.8%	7.4%
United States	4.3%	3.8%	3.6%	10.2%	5.4%

Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

MENTAL HEALTH

Many survey respondents noted a lack of mental health services in the area, especially for children, and 27% of respondents ranked mental health services as their #2 top household in the last 12 months. Focus groups noted that mental health services and concerns had increased in the last 12 months in large part due to the pandemic. Participants and respondents noted that their children needed services for the first time as a result of the stress and isolation and many were on waiting lists for 90+ days.

Partner organization focus groups commented that the demand for mental health services is currently far-outweighing the number of trained and credentialed staff they have and finding additional providers has been near impossible over the last 18 months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2016, the NYS Office of Mental Health conducted a Needs Assessment to determine the scope and plan of action regarding mental health and substance abuse. The assessment is broken into DSRIP regions. The Adirondack DSRIP Region’s assessment includes information on Clinton and Franklin County, as well as Essex, Hamilton, Warren, and Washington counties.

According to the assessment, the Adirondacks region has 20 licensed mental health professionals per 10,000 population, which is the third lowest rate in any DSRIP region. The region’s total psychiatric bed capacity of 27 beds per 100,000 adults and 17 beds per 100,000 children are the second lowest rates in any DSRIP region.

Compared to all DSRIP regions, the region has the highest average rate of self-inflicted injury as well as the highest rate of alcohol related motor vehicle injuries and deaths. On the other hand, the community has a high rate of community service programs, including vocational, self-help and care coordination.

As part of the assessment, consumers and providers were surveyed for input on the community’s needs. The needs most frequently reported by both consumers and providers include: transportation to health care services; reduced wait times for an appointment; assistance with paying for services; convenient provider hours (evenings and weekends); ambulatory substance use disorder detoxification; and inpatient mental health.

Mental Health Services

The following is a list of the larger mental health service providers in Clinton and Franklin County.

In Clinton County, the Clinton County Department of Mental Health provides both mental health and addiction treatment outpatient clinics. Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN) operates in both Clinton and Franklin Counties and provides the following services for adults: Treatment and Care Management, Rehabilitation, and Residential Intervention Services. BHSN also provides the following services for children: Adventure-Based Counseling, Child/Family Clinic, Therapeutic Foster Care services, and various services for children with serious emotional disturbance or special needs. The National Mental Health Alliance – Champlain Valley (NAMI) provides free education, advocacy, and support services to all those affected (individuals and families) by brain disorders – including serious mental illnesses and/or emotional/behavioral disorders – in Clinton, Franklin, and Essex Counties.

In Franklin County, Citizen Advocates provides widespread behavioral health outpatient services for mental health and substance use problems, individualized case management, health home care coordination and other behavioral health services. The organization also provides extensive services for children. In 2017, Citizen Advocates opened a Crisis & Recovery Center in Malone. The facility is a voluntary setting where people with a mental-health, substance-use or co-occurring crisis can receive prompt, recovery-focused services instead of going to the emergency room.

The North Country Behavioral Healthcare Network includes organizations in both Clinton and Franklin County. The network aims to link member organizations to share resources and collaborate.

Focus groups noted the increased utilization and success of peer counselors, however, there are not enough of them in the area for the level of need or they aren't always available when and where it could benefit someone and that individual ends up in full blown crisis before services can be made available.

The pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues for many and created them for those who hadn't experienced them in the past. Focus groups reported that for school aged children the drastic shift to limited socialization and remote school had severe negative impacts on their mental health that will impact them for many years to come. Focus groups also noted that for teens, especially, reintegrating post-COVID has been difficult and there aren't a lot of options for healthy socialization especially when you factor in limited transportation when parents need to work and can't bring their children to and from clubs, meetings etc. It was also noted that having counselors at school is a wonderful resource but many children don't necessarily need that, they just need someone they can "vent" to such as a peer/ mentor but in an appropriate setting or perhaps with some guidelines and training to ensure they know what types of red flags or potential safety concerns to watch for.

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

According to the NYS Opioid Annual Report for 2020: "Among NYS residents, the number of overdose deaths involving any opioid increased each year between 2010 and 2017, with an overall increase of 200 percent from 1,074 in 2010 to 3,224 in 2017. In 2018, overdose deaths involving any opioid decreased from 2017 (3,224) by seven percent to 2,991 deaths. Despite the recent decline, the 2018 age-adjusted rate of 15.1 deaths involving

any opioid per 100,000 population in NYS is still nearly triple that of 5.4 in 2010. The number of overdose deaths involving commonly prescribed opioids increased by 42 percent from 737 deaths in 2010 to 1,044 in 2017, followed by a four percent decrease in 2018 to 998 deaths.”

In Clinton County in 2019, there were two opioid overdose deaths which increased to 10 deaths in 2020. In 2019, there were 14 outpatient emergency room visits compared to 9 in 2020. Opioid overdoses resulting in hospitalization, but not death, remained steady at 7. The rate of Naloxone administration by EMS, law enforcement and registered programs is steadily increasing- 32 times in 2019, 104 in 2020 and for the first quarter of 2021 there were 28 administrations. Admissions into OASAS-certified substance-use disorder treatment programs for any opioid increased from 577 in 2018 to 642 in 2019.

In Franklin County in 2019 and 2020 there were three opioid deaths. In 2019, there were 6 outpatient ER visits and that increased to 15 in 2020. Opioid overdoses resulting in hospitalization, but not death, went from 0 in 2019 to 6 in 2020. The rate of Naloxone administration by EMS, law enforcement and registered programs stayed fairly consistent- 16 times in 2019, 25 in 2020 and for the first quarter of 2021 there were 15 administrations. Admissions into OASAS (Office of Addiction Services and Supports)-certified substance-use disorder treatment programs for any opioid decreased from 322 in 2018 to 267 in 2019.

According to The United Health Foundation’s 2020 Annual Report, 14.8% of women in New York State and 21.9% percent of males in New York State reported excessive drinking. By age, the largest percent reported was 18-44 and it continue to go down from there. New York State ranks 22nd nationwide for excessive drinking. The University of Wisconsin’s Population Health Institute’s Health Rankings Report found that 22% reported excessive drinking in Clinton and Franklin Counties in the 2021 report (2018 data).

Addiction Services

There are several services in both counties to treat addictions as well as St. Lawrence Addiction Treatment Center located in Ogdensburg. In Clinton County, Champlain Valley Family Center (CVFC) provides substance abuse treatment (Outpatient Clinic and a Residential Stabilization and Rehabilitation facility), prevention (including student assistance counseling and community education) and related non-traditional programs: supportive housing, Peer Engagement, a recovery community center, Adult Care Management, Tobacco Free Clinton, Franklin and Essex (ATFC), and adolescent case management. Clinton County Mental Health and Addiction Services has outpatient psychotherapy (individual, group, and family) for Clinton County residents. St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center, Inc. in Saranac Lake provides Inpatient and Outpatient Programs, Citizen Advocates, Inc. - North Star Community Support Services in Malone and Saranac Lake provides chemical dependency services in clinics and schools. A coalition called SPARCC (Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery of Clinton County) is a group comprised of community organization, elected officials, concerned citizens, and treatment providers are raising awareness and addressing issues associated with substance abuse.

TRANSPORTATION

Both Clinton and Franklin Counties are extremely rural and transportation was noted as a top need in both counties as evidenced by focus groups with community partners and JCEO consumers, as well as surveys. In JCEO’s Consumer Survey, those who cited transportation as a challenge indicated they could not afford gas (11.24%) or could not afford car repairs (18.93%).

While both counties have a public transportation system, it was noted that the routes are limited, with transportation to the rural communities once a day, making a one hour doctor's appointment in Plattsburgh or Malone difficult and requiring a full day's worth of time. The limited routes and times can also be challenging for those with transportation needs out of traditional hours. Focus group participants noted that there is a stigma attached to public transportation, and people do not know how to use it. Personal vehicles also present a challenge with cost of insurance, gas, and even costs associated with getting a driver's license. In addition, the weather can take its toll on vehicles.

JCEO's **Medical Transportation** service, in which volunteer drivers bring Medicaid eligible individuals to medical appointments, is extensively utilized in both Clinton and Franklin County. Clinton County coordinates approximately 800 rides per month and Franklin County coordinates approximately 400 rides per month.

It is also important to note that in June 2017, **Lyft** and **Uber**, both ride-hailing apps in which customers request a ride via their smartphone, became available in upstate New York.

Clinton and Franklin County both participate in the **Adirondack Regional Ride Share Program**, in which travelers can request rides from other travelers on the program's website.

CLINTON COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) serves Clinton County and the City of Plattsburgh. It provides fixed route public transportation and has 12 buses with wheelchair lifts (capacity of 800-1000 pounds, depending on bus). CCPT also offers "Rural Zone Dial-A-Ride" Service Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with 7 different stop locations throughout the day (Renal Center, Champlain Centre Mall, Consumer Square, Price Chopper, UVM-CVPH, Beekman Towers and Government Center). To utilize this service, you must contact them at least one business day before your trip. The daily fare for this service is \$10 and seniors (age 60+) may be able to have their fare covered by the Office of the Aging.

CCPT undertook a Transportation Needs Assessment in 2011. From the surveys and meetings conducted during the assessment, the following were gaps in service:

- Lack of information and education about transit in the county, including teaching people how to get from one point to another
- Lack of regional connectivity between Clinton County and Franklin County, New York and Chittenden County, Vermont
- Lack of a south city hub for CCPT
- Lack of service available for persons who work evenings or late night shifts
- Infrequency of fixed route service, specifically in the outlying areas of the county
- Lack of affordable or available options for those that need to travel outside of CCPT operating hours and do not qualify for the various human service transportation programs
- Lack of formal park-and-ride areas with corresponding transit services

In addition to CCPT, there are approximately five taxicab companies providing services in Clinton County and various other agencies, including JCEO, that provide transportation for their clients. Although, these services are typically offered to certain segments of the population, such as seniors or those with a disability.

FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Franklin County is providing public transportation service within northern and southern Franklin County. This transportation service is available for shopping, employment, medical, educational and miscellaneous needs.

In the northern part of the county bus service is provided within Chateaugay, Burke, Fort Covington, St. Regis Falls, Malone and surrounding communities. Service operates from 6:15 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Saturday service provides transportation from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm. No service on Sunday.

In the southern part of the county bus service is provided within Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and Lake Placid with three round trips a day, seven days a week. Shuttle service within the Tupper Lake community is available only Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4pm.

The new Adirondack Route is providing service from Malone to Lake Placid, three times a day, seven days a week.

Taxi service and ride share options in Franklin County remains limited.

Community Partner Focus Groups regularly mentioned the difficulties with transportation for those in Franklin County, especially. Most of their county is incredibly rural and spread out- there are times that families need to travel from Tupper Lake to Malone to access services, nearly 60 miles one way.

OVERVIEW OF CLINTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

Clinton County is the most northeastern county in New York State. It is located just west of Vermont and south of the Canadian province of Quebec. The eastern boundary of Clinton County is Lake Champlain, which serves as the New York-Vermont border. It borders Franklin County to the west and the Ausable River forms a large part of the southern county line. The southwest part of the county is in the Adirondack Park.

Clinton County has a total area of 1,118 square miles of which 1,038 square miles is land and 80 square miles is water. The population density per square mile is 79.1. The county is comprised of 1 city, Plattsburgh, 14 towns, and 3 villages. The city of Plattsburgh is the county seat.

Franklin County is located in the northeastern part of New York State. The northern edge is the border with the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario; its eastern boundary is Clinton County. Franklin County was created in 1808 when it split from Clinton County. The county seat was set in the village of Malone where it remains today. The largest period of growth in the county was between 1820 and 1830, when the population nearly tripled.

Franklin County has a total area of 1,697 square miles of which 1,629 square miles is land and 68 square miles is water. The population density is 31.7 people per square miles. Franklin County is made up of 19 towns and 6 villages; the Village of Malone is the county seat. Franklin County is also home to the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, a Mohawk Indian reservation. It is also known by its Mohawk name, Akwesasne. The reservation is adjacent to the Akwesasne reserve in Ontario and Quebec, straddling 12 miles of the US-Canadian Border. The population is 3,247 according to 2015 ACS 5 year estimates. The reservation is home to the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and the Mohawk Bingo Palace.

Much of Franklin County is within the Adirondack Park; 34% of the county is state land. Land use permits, for sections within the Adirondack Park, are heavily regulated.

Both counties are part of the “north country”, an area notable for its long cold winters. Both counties are predominantly rural with miles between the more populated communities. Franklin County is more isolated, and without a large population center, its residents are spread throughout the county. Clinton County is less rural, especially with the City of Plattsburgh.

HEAD START OVERVIEW

Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood development program, serving low-income, at-risk children ages three to five years old. Early Head Start (EHS), established in 1994, serves low-income, at-risk children prenatal to age three, pregnant women, and their families.

Head Start promotes school readiness by enhancing the cognitive, social, and emotional development of children. Depending on the needs of the local community, Head Start programs services can be based in centers or schools that children attend for part-day or full-day services; family child care homes; and/or home-based. Children and families who receive home-based services connect with other families through events and activities facilitated by Head Start/Early Head Start staff. Home visitors provide children and families with comprehensive services that cover all elements of Head Start/Early Head Start programming.

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Since its inception, Head Start has served more than 34 million children, birth to age five, and their families. In 2016, Head Start was funded to serve nearly one million children and pregnant women in centers, family homes, and in family childcare homes in urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the nation (Office of Head Start).

JCEO

The Joint Council for Economic Opportunity (JCEO) was created in 1966 and was designated as the official anti-poverty agency in Clinton County. The original mandate was to provide resources and services to promote people’s dignity and self-sufficiency. Up to and including the present, JCEO has implemented the philosophy of self-help through practical, timely, and innovative programs and services that emphasize and develop problem-solving skills for people. In addition to being the administrative agency for Head Start/Early Head Start in Clinton and Franklin Counties, JCEO provides an array of services to meet the needs of low-income residents such as Community and Senior Outreach, Day Care technical assistance and information and referral, and Energy Services, among others. JCEO administers the Head Start/Early Head Start programs from its administrative offices in Plattsburgh and Malone and receives a funding allocation of approximately 3.9 million per year for the Head Start/Early Head Start Programs.

As of May 31, 2021, the total number of children served in Head Start was 155: 78 (50%) 4 year olds and 77 (50%) 3 year olds. The total number of children and pregnant women served in Early Head Start was 66: 41 (62%) 2 year olds, 20 (30%) 1 year olds, 5 (8%) children under 1 year, and 0(0%) pregnant women. The demographics of the Head Start/Early Head Start children and families are integrated into this report.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

All JCEO Head Start sites provide a full range of comprehensive services such as dental screenings, nutrition education, resource and referral, and counseling for working families, among many others. Head Start uses the

Creative Curriculum. The Head Start/Early Head Start Director indicated that this curriculum ties very well together with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, NYS Early Learning Standards as well as with the Common Core Learning Standards. Early Head Start uses the research-based Growing Great Kids Prenatal through 36 months home-visiting curriculum. The Growing Great Kids curriculum aligns with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and exceeds to Head Start Program Performance Standards' curriculum requirements.

Family engagement is an essential component of the JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start programs. There are numerous opportunities for families to participate in the program through volunteer opportunities and parent committees, allowing parents to be involved and connect with their children and their schooling. Parent rooms are available at several sites in both Clinton and Franklin Counties. Head Start/Early Head Start offers a calendar of parent trainings and events throughout the year. Trainings for parents range from information about credit reporting/credit scores to positive discipline for young children. Events include social activities for families such as Harvest Fun Nights, cookie making/decorating, and Dads Take Your Child to School Day, a statewide initiative to increase the involvement of fathers with their children's education. A needs survey is distributed to parents at the beginning of the year. The survey results determine topics for the parent trainings. Evaluations at the end of the year help plan training sessions for the following year. The 2020-2021 surveys responses were minimal in large part due to the pandemic.

As a result of sequestration, transportation to Head Start sites was eliminated with JCEO owned vehicles. However, school district transportation is provided for four year olds in Northern Adirondack Center (NAC) and Brushton. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic it was also provided in Malone, however the pandemic has made this too complicated and that service has been suspended indefinitely. It is not anticipated that transportation services by JCEO will be restored.

Head Start provides one Home-Based Visiting programs to 12 children and their families in Northern Franklin County across the Chateaugay, Malone, Brushton, St. Regis Falls, and Salmon River Central school districts; there is no Head Start Home-Based Visiting program in Clinton County.

Early Head Start provides four Home-Based Visiting programs to 36 children and their families in Franklin County, and 12 children and their families in Clinton County. The home-based children receive weekly home visits and while socialization opportunities are required twice per month, JCEO makes an effort to provide socialization opportunities on a weekly basis since some of the children have very limited opportunities to interact with other children due to the relative isolation of their residence. In addition to our home-based services for Early Head Start, we have two Early Head Start Center based classrooms with 8 children in each.

HEAD START CENTERS

Clinton County Centers/Classrooms			
Name of Center	Address/Location	Number of Classrooms	Number of Children
Beekman Center	United Methodist Church 127 Beekman St. Plattsburgh 12901	1	18
Champlain Center	Three Steeples United Methodist Church 491 Rt. 11 Champlain 12919	1	17
Cumberland Head Modular Center	Beekmantown Central School 1187 Cumberland Head Rd. Plattsburgh 12901	1	17
Keeseville Center	1908 RT 22 Keeseville 12944	1	17
Northern Adirondack Central*	5574 RT 11 Ellenburg Depot 12935	1	18
Plattsburgh City South Center	4917 South Catherine St. Plattsburgh 12901	1	18
Peru I, II & Saranac Classrooms	11 Big Hank Plaza Plattsburgh 12901	3	53

* School District transportation provided for 4 year olds.

Franklin County Centers/Classrooms			
Brushton Center*	Brushton Moira Central School 758 Co Rte. 7 Brushton 12916	1	18
Malone I & II Classrooms	JCEO Head Start 19 Webster St. Malone, NY 12953	3	54
Tupper Lake Center	Holy Ghost Academy Marion Ave. Tupper Lake, NY 12986	1	18

* School District transportation provided for 4 year olds.

Description of Centers

Clinton County:

- Beekman Center facilities are located in the City of Plattsburgh within the Plattsburgh City School District in a space leased from the Methodist Church.
- Champlain Center is located in the Village of Champlain in the Northeastern Clinton Central School District where space is leased from the United Methodist Church.
- Cumberland Head Modular Center is located in a JCEO building next to the Cumberland Head Elementary School.
- Keeseville Center is located in the town of Keeseville within the Ausable Valley School District in a building that is owned by JCEO.
- Northern Adirondack Center is located in the Northern Adirondack Central School District in the elementary school. The school district provides transportation for four year olds. Three year olds are self-transported.
- Plattsburgh City South is located in the City of Plattsburgh within the Plattsburgh City School District. Space is leased in a former pre-school building.
- Peru Head Start classrooms I, II & III are located within the town of Plattsburgh in the Beekmantown School District. Though the Center is not located in Peru, it targets children from the Peru and Saranac school districts. JCEO owns the building.

Franklin County:

The Head Start Center on Webster Street in Malone is the location of the administrative, home-based offices and socialization sites for JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start in Franklin County. The building is a former elementary school building.

- Brushton Center is located in the Brushton-Moira Central School. The school district transports four year olds only. Three year olds are self-transported.
- Malone Centers I, II & III are located in the same building as the Franklin County Head Start administrative offices. Three year olds are self-transported.
- Tupper Lake Center is the furthest community from Malone. It is located in the Holy Ghost Academy, a former elementary school.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

According to ACS 5-Year Estimates, (2015-2019) Clinton County has a population of 80,583 and Franklin County has a population of 50,477. Though Franklin County is the larger of the two counties geographically, it has a smaller population. Both Clinton and Franklin Counties are made up of several towns and villages - the only city within the two counties is Plattsburgh, located in Clinton County, with a population of 19,465. In Franklin County, the town of Malone is the most populated municipality with a population of 14,276.

Clinton and Franklin County's population, collectively, has decreased over 5% from 2010-2019 according to U.S. Census data.

POPULATION IN POVERTY

The chart below illustrates poverty in our community. Federal Poverty Levels measure poverty in the US. In 2017, a single person lives in poverty if their income is \$12,060 or less annually. A family of four lives in poverty if their income is \$24,600 annually. According to the US Census Bureau, **16.48%** of the population in Clinton County live in poverty, while **20.26%** of the population in Franklin County live in poverty. The poverty rate is higher in both Clinton County and Franklin County than New York State (15.69%) and the United States (15.47%).

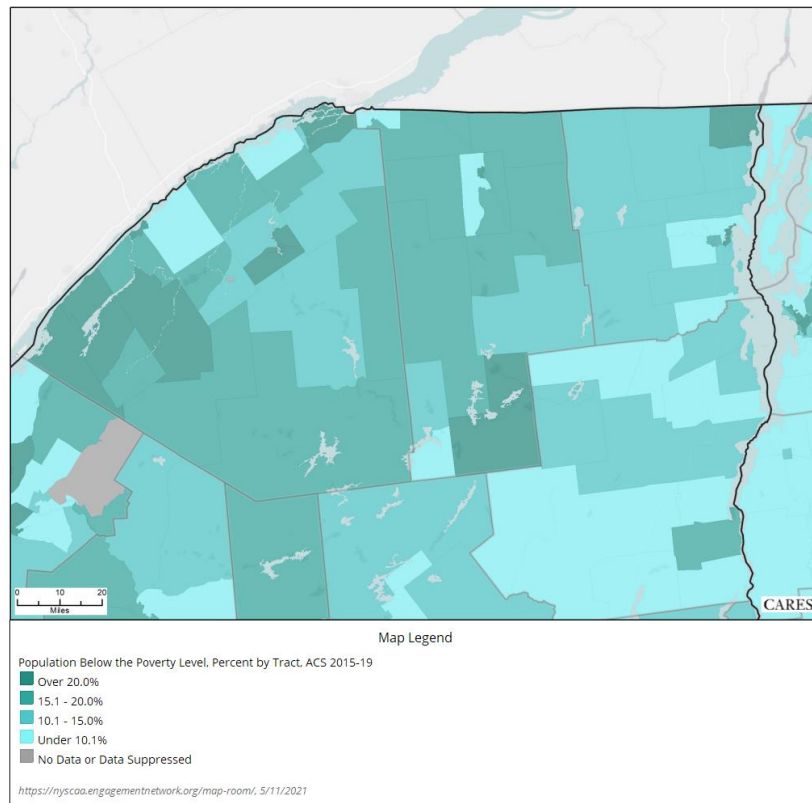
According to the 2020 ALICE Report, the number of ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employed) households rose 39% from 2007-2018 and over the same time period, the number of households living in poverty rose 8%.

Population in Poverty

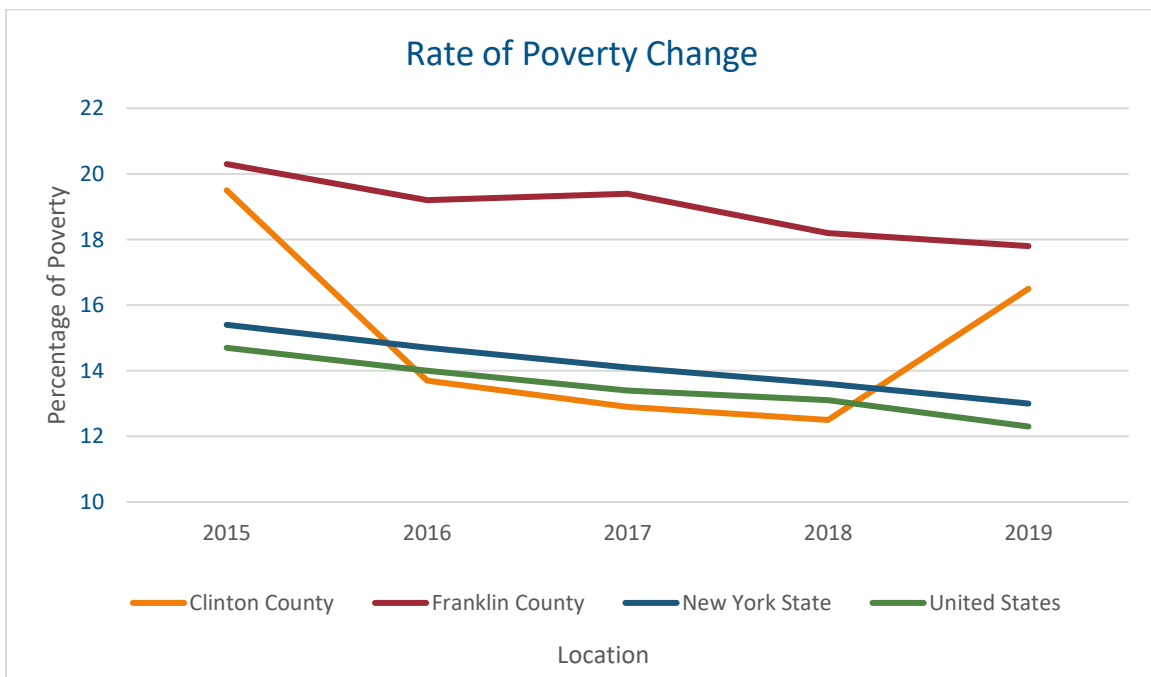
	Population for whom poverty status has been determined	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty (2015-2019)
Clinton County, NY	73,807	10,902	15%
Franklin County, NY	44,890	7,981	17.8%
New York	19,063,180	2,681,277	14.1%
United States	316,715,051	42,510,843	13.4%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015-2019

Population Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015 – 2019



Source: American Community Survey, 2015-2019

Poverty Status in County Subdivisions

The poverty rate for both counties increased from 2006-2015. Franklin County experienced an increase of 2.5% and

		Population for whom poverty status is determined	Percent below poverty level	Population in poverty
	County Subdivisions (Town except where noted)	Total Population	Estimated Population In Poverty	Estimated Percentage of Poverty
Clinton County	Altona	2,407	330	13.7
	Au Sable	3,028	282	9.3
	Beekmantown	5,475	694	12.7
	Black Brook	1,404	170	12.1
	Champlain	5,612	1,166	20.8
	Chazy	4,133	557	13.5
	Clinton	626	52	8.3
	Dannemora	1,323	198	15.0
	Ellenburg	1,816	305	16.8
	Mooers	3,563	550	15.4
	Peru	6,830	986	14.4
	Plattsburgh (city)	16,273	3,430	21.1
	Plattsburgh	11,297	1,213	10.7
	Saranac	3,789	601	15.9
	Schuyler Falls	5,101	368	7.2
Franklin County	Bangor	2,167	488	22.5
	Bellmont	1,332	218	16.4
	Bombay	1,086	290	26.7
	Brandon	510	73	14.3
	Brighton	719	84	11.7
	Burke	1,381	209	15.1
	Chateaugay	1,580	302	19.1
	Constable	1,635	262	16
	Dickinson	999	197	19.7
	Duane	158	18	11.4
	Fort Covington	2,138	361	16.9
	Franklin	1,126	107	9.5
	Harrietstown	5,468	1,181	21.6
	Malone	9,987	2,314	23.2
	Moira	2,804	440	15.7
	St. Regis Mohawk Reservation	3,310	328	9.9
	Santa Clara	381	28	7.3
	Tupper Lake	5,422	547	10.1
	Waverly	911	225	24.7
	Westville	1,776	309	17.4

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019

HOUSEHOLDS IN POVERTY BY FAMILY TYPE

It is widely documented that poverty rates are higher for single parent families, especially families headed by single women. In 2019, one in three families headed by unmarried mothers lived in poverty. According to the National Women’s Law Center, there are nearly 10.5 million children living in poverty in 2019, more than 43% of those children are living in “extreme poverty”. Extreme poverty means that income is at or below 50% of the federal poverty level. 60% of the children living in poverty were in households headed by unmarried mothers.

Data shows that women who work full time, year round in the United States were paid only 82 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts in 2020. Mothers who work full time, year round are typically only paid 70 cents for every dollar that fathers are paid. In addition to the wage gap, women are overrepresented in low-paid jobs. In 2018, women made up nearly two-thirds of the 22,2 million works in the 40 lowest paying jobs in the United States.

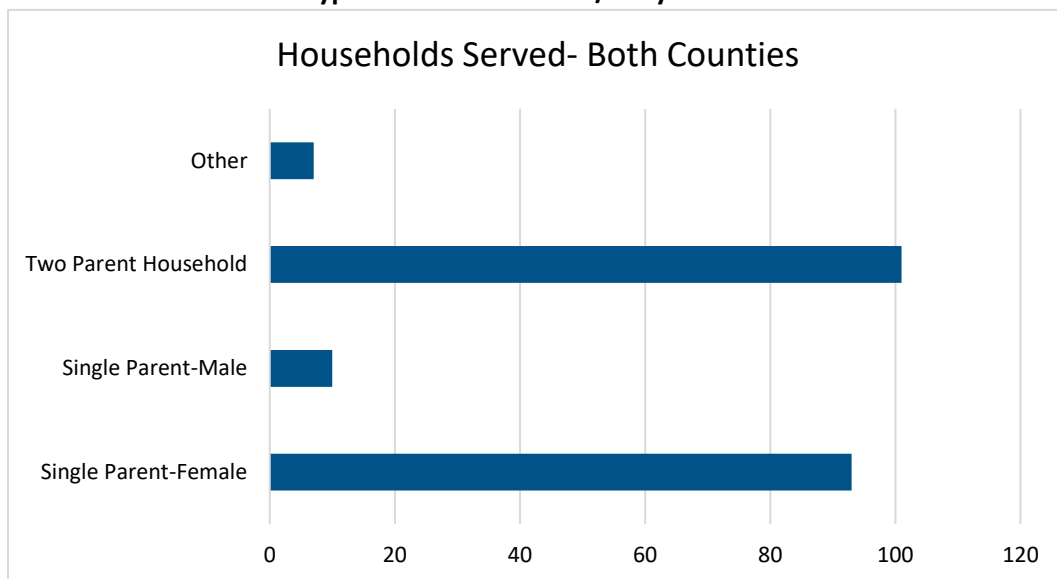
In both Clinton and Franklin County, female householders make up the largest share of families in poverty at 49.6%, followed by married couples at 32.7%, and then male householders at 17.7%. The number of households in poverty by family type is shown in the table below.

Households in Poverty by Family Type

	Total Families	Total Families in Poverty	Married Couples	Male Householder	Female Householder
Clinton County, NY	19,205	1,995	665	329	1,001
Franklin County, NY	11,975	1,426	450	277	699
New York	4,632,289	479,951	177,574	48,113	254,264
United States	79,114,031	7,541,196	2,764,595	803,863	3,972,738

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015-2019

Household Type of JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start Families



Source: JCEO Head Start Data Collected 1/1/2020-12/31/2020

GENDER

The female population comprises 47.87% of the Clinton and Franklin Counties, collectively, while the male population represents 52.13% according to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey.

Population in Poverty by Gender

A larger percentage of females live in poverty in Clinton County (16.4%) than males (14.7%). The same is true in Franklin County, where 19% of females live in poverty and 16.52% of males live in poverty. More females than males live in poverty in New York State and the United States as well.

Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, Head Start served 242 females and 197 males.

AGE

For 2019, 11.8 million children, or 17 percent, were poor, according to The National Center for Children in Poverty. In the report area, the poverty rate for children is 12.6% which is below the national average.

The long-term effects of poverty on children are well documented. According to the American Psychological Association, poor children are at greater risk for poor academic achievement, school dropout, abuse and neglect, behavioral and socioemotional problems, physical health problems, and developmental delays. Poor children are also likely to become poor parents of the future.

Seniors face their own set of problems. According to the US Census Bureau, the nation's 65 and older population grew by over a third in the past decade and by 3.2% just from 2018-2019.

"The first Baby Boomers reached 65 years old in 2011," said Dr. Luke Rogers, chief of the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Branch. "Since then, there's been a rapid increase in the size of the 65-and-older population, which grew by over a third since 2010. No other age group saw such a fast increase. In fact, the under-18 population was smaller in 2019 than it was in 2010, in part due to lower fertility in the United States."

As the cost of living rises, seniors struggle each day with rising housing and health care bills, inadequate nutrition, lack of access to transportation, and diminished savings. As a large portion of the population reaches retirement, greater demand is placed on Social Security and cuts to these benefits are an ongoing worry for Americans. All of these factors ensure that the number of seniors who are struggling to make ends meet is likely to continue to grow.

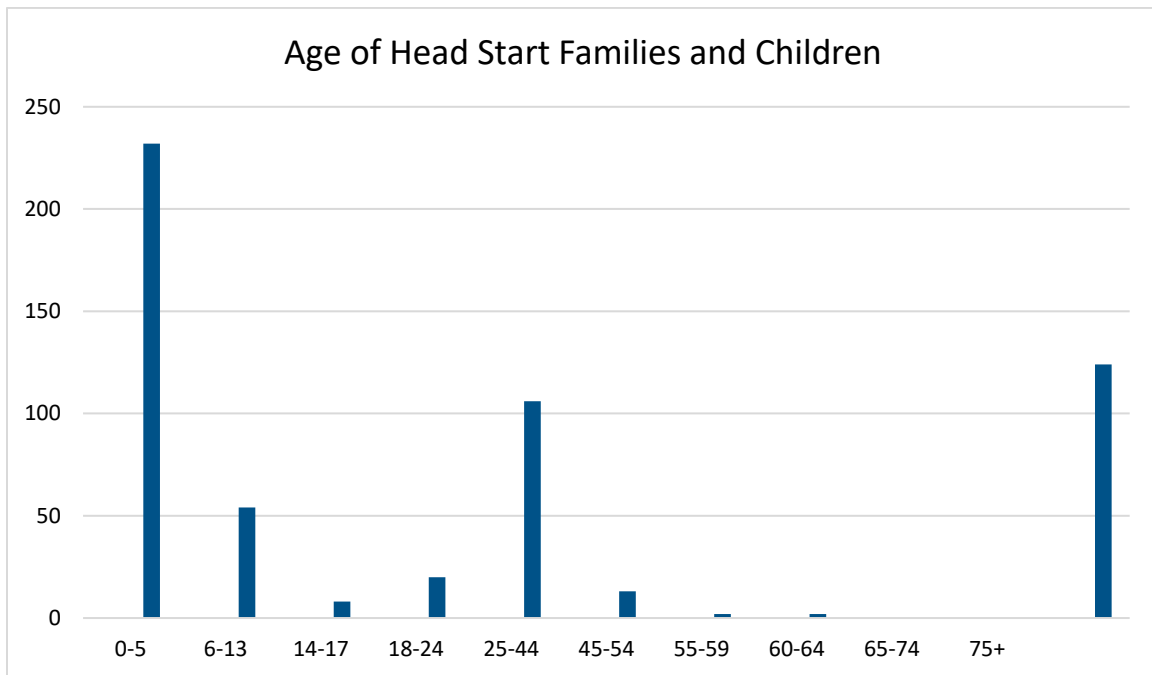
The table below shows the most recent poverty rates by age group. Poverty rates for children ages 0-4 are extremely high and ages 5-17 aren't far behind.

Population and Poverty Rate by Age

Report Area	Ages 0-4		Ages 5-17		Ages 18-64		Ages 65 +	
	Total Population	Poverty Rate	Total Population	Poverty Rate	Total Population	Poverty Rate	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Clinton County, NY	3,680	27.3%	10,328	18.8%	45,844	15.4%	12,825	6.9%
Franklin County, NY	2,432	27.8%	7,169	26.7%	27,108	16.8%	8,181	10.4%
New York	1,131,209	20.8%	2,900,170	19.2%	11,980,002	12.8%	3,051,799	11.50%
United States	19,430,702	20.3%	52,804,998	17.9%	194,990,552	12.6%	49,488,799	9.3%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015-2019

Age of JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start Children and Families



Source: JCEO Head Start Data Collected 01/01/2020-12/31/2020

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Both Clinton and Franklin County have a predominantly white population (87.7% collectively). The black population represents 4.8%, and other races combined represent 5.7% collectively. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 1.5% of the population.

Ethnic and racial minorities are especially vulnerable to discrimination and struggle to escape poverty. Communities are often segregated by race and share common problems: low economic development, poor health conditions, and low levels of education (American Psychological Association).

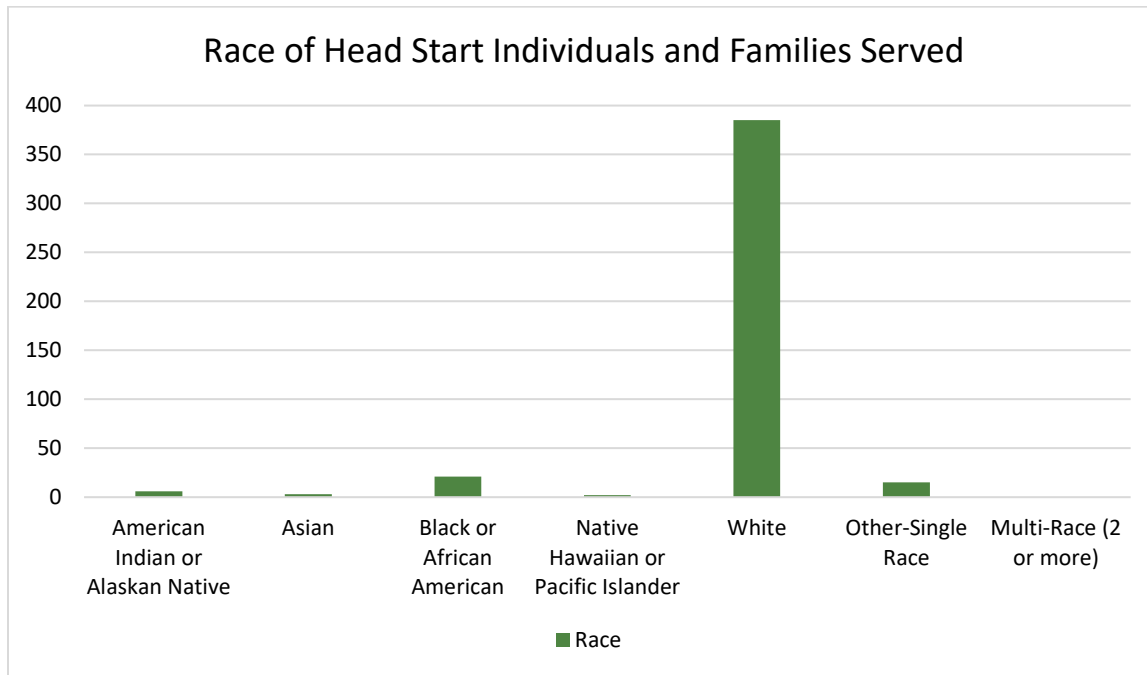
As shown in the table below, both counties have a small minority population. Franklin County has a large population of American Indians; this can be attributed to the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation located in the Northern part of the county.

Population and Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity

RACE OR ETHNICITY	New York State Total	Clinton County Total	Franklin County Total
White	12,459,687	76,237	41,726
Black or African American	3,065,471	3,447	2,863
American Indian and Alaska Native	79,512	221	3,609
Asian	1,647,606	1,133	280
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	8,821	15	111
Some other race	1,694,965	1,407	1,057
Two or more races	616,257	1,123	831

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015-2019

Race/Ethnicity of JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start Children and Families



Source: JCEO Head Start Data Collected 1/1/2020-12/31/2020

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

According to U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 4,640 residents in Clinton County and 3,416 residents in Franklin County speak a language at home that is not English. The most

common other languages are Spanish, Other Indo-European languages, and Asian and Pacific languages. The majority of residents who speak other languages report speaking English very well (68% in Franklin County and 73% in Clinton County).

VETERANS

Clinton County has 5,821 Veterans (census.gov, 2015-2019), making up approximately 8.9% of the total population. In Franklin County, there are 3,189 Veterans (census.gov, 2015-2019), making up approximately 8.3% of the total population. The majority of Veterans in both counties are over age 65.

CITIZENSHIP STATUS

Clinton and Franklin Counties have a total of 2,384 non-Citizens, or 1.82% of the total population of 130,961 persons. Naturalized citizens make up 1.74% of the total population in Clinton and Franklin Counties.

CRIME

According to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services reporting system, a total of 1 murder, 81 assaults, 8 robberies and 106 rapes took place within the Clinton and Franklin Counties in 2019. The incidence of crime has remained fairly consistent (with slight increases) in Clinton County and has declined slightly in Franklin County from 2015-2019.

209 burglaries, 1,228 incidents of larceny, and 39 automotive thefts were recorded in 2019 within Clinton and Franklin Counties. Compared to 2015, there has been a decrease in burglaries (111 fewer) and larcenies (303 fewer) auto thefts rose by 1 from 2015-2019.

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children and their families are eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start if their income is below the poverty level and/or they are receiving services such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). Homeless children and children in foster care are also eligible. The following sections describe the number of children eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start, the number of homeless children, children in foster care, and expectant mothers.

In Clinton and Franklin Counties, there 1,921 children under the age of five living in poverty which is a 26.2% decrease from the 2011-2015 estimates. The poverty rate for children ages 0-5 is higher in Clinton and Franklin Counties than New York State or the US.

Child Poverty Rate: Ages 0-5

	Total Population, Ages 0-5	Ages 0-5 In Poverty	Ages 0-5 Poverty Rate
Clinton County, NY	4,349	1,070	24.6%
Franklin County, NY	2,999	851	28.4%
New York	1,343,818	279,835	20.8%
United States	23,253,254	4,697,964	20.2%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015-2019

Children in Poverty by Gender: Age 0-5

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Clinton County, NY	532	538	23.97%	25.29%
Franklin County, NY	384	467	24.71%	32.32%
New York	141,999	137,836	20.62%	21.03%
United States	2,391,325	2,306,639	20.12%	20.29%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015 - 2019

Children in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity: Age 0-5

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Clinton County, NY	24.77%	29.41%	No data	0%	No data	No data	5.45%
Franklin County, NY	29.37%	14.89%	2.2%	0%	100%	No data	28.42%
New York	14.27%	31.01%	33.59%	16.49%	25%	32.93%	21.32%
United States	12.31%	36.82%	36.62%	10.55%	25.88%	30.91%	20.13%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015-2019

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

In Clinton County, there were 14 children under the age of two in foster care and 18 children between the ages of two and five in foster care on 12/31/20.

Franklin County has more children in foster care. In Franklin County, there were 18 children below the age of two and 40 between the ages of 2-5 in foster care on 12/31/20.

In sum, there were 90 children under the age of five in foster care in Clinton and Franklin Counties which is an increase of 6 children or 7% since 2016.

Source: NYS Office of Children and Family Services, 2016 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles With Selected Trend Data: 2016-2020

Children Experiencing Homelessness

According to the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (TEACHS), Clinton County and Franklin County had 15 homeless students in 2019.

DISABILITIES

On any given year, our program will have a minimum of 10% of children enrolled with a diagnosed disability. In 2020, we served 35 Head Start children with IEPs (Individualized Education Program). Of those 35, 23 had IEPs in place prior to entering the program and 12 received them after beginning Head Start services. Twenty-nine children received speech therapy, 22 special education services, 2 counseling, 18 occupational therapy and 10 physical therapy.

For Early Head Start, there were 12 children with IEPs, 10 who came into the program with them and 2 who were referred after beginning services with JCEO. Twelve children received speech therapy, 4 special education services, 8 physical therapy and 5 occupational therapy.

EARLY HEAD START UNMET NEED

Population data for children ages 0-3 were multiplied by child poverty rates (ages 0-5) to determine the number of infants/toddlers eligible for Early Head Start in each school district. By our calculations, there are 964 Early Head Start eligible infants/toddlers in Clinton and Franklin Counties. Early Head Start serves 88 leaving 876 Early Head Start eligible infants/toddlers underserved.

Early Head Start Eligible Children and Unmet Need

	School District	Population Ages 0-3	Early Head Start Eligible Children	Early Head Start Available Slots	Unmet Need
	Plattsburgh City	445	93	12	81
Clinton County	Beekmantown	400	84	8	76
	Chazy Union	64	13	0	13
	Northeastern Clinton	190	40	12	28
	Northern Adirondack	190	40	0	40
	Peru	545	114	12	102
	Ausable Valley	250	53	0	53
	Saranac	422	89	0	89
	Total-Clinton County	2,506	526	44	482
	Brushton-Moira	207	56	0	56
Franklin County	St. Regis Falls	52	14	0	14
	Malone	542	146	44	102
	Salmon River	286	77	0	77
	Chateaugay	80	22	0	22
	Saranac Lake	238	64	0	64
	Tupper Lake	217	59	0	59
	Total-Franklin County	1,622	438	44	394
	Total- Both Counties	4,128	964	88	876

Explanation of Data:

Population ages 0-3: The number of children ages 0-3 by school district. Population data by single years of age at the school district level of geography are only available from Census data.

Early Head Start Eligible Children: The number of children below the poverty line eligible for Early Head Start. This was calculated by multiplying the number of children ages 0-3 in each school district by the poverty rate for that particular school district.

Served by Early Head Start: The number of children JCEO currently serves in Early Head Start (as of May 2021). Since Early Head Start is a home-based visiting program, the number of children served is throughout multiple school districts.

Unmet Need: The number of Early Head Start eligible children minus the number of children currently served in JCEO’s Early Head Start program. For school districts that share Early Head Start slots, the number of slots were divided by the number of shared school districts and then subtracted from each district. For example, 12 spots are available in Plattsburgh City and Beekmantown, so 6 children were subtracted from Plattsburgh City and Beekmantown to determine unmet need.

HEAD START UNMET NEED

Population data for children ages 3-4 were multiplied by child poverty rates (ages 0-5) to determine the number of children eligible for Head Start by school district. By our calculations, there are 454 Head Start eligible children in Clinton and Franklin Counties. Head Start is currently serving 207 of those eligible children, leaving 247 Head Start Eligible children undeserved in our two county region.

Head Start Eligible Children and Unmet Need

	School District	Population Ages 3-4	Head Start Eligible Children	Served by JCEO Head Start	Served by UPK	Unmet Need Overall	Unmet Need HS
Clinton County	Plattsburgh City	297	46	36	77	184	10
	Beekmantown	266	34	0	139	127	34
	Chazy Union	42	9	0	0	42	9
	Northeastern Clinton	127	19	17	38	72	2
	Northern Adirondack	127	19	18	36	73	1
	Peru	363	58	18	86	259	40
	Ausable Valley	166	20	17	70	79	3
	Saranac	282	45	17	70	195	28
	Total	1,670	250	123	516	1,031	<i>Total Clinton County: 127</i>
Franklin County	Brushton-Moira	138	29	18	30	90	11
	St. Regis Falls	35	6	0	9	26	6
	Malone	361	70	48	103	210	22

	Salmon River	190	44	0	29	161	44
	Chateaugay	53	0	0	74	0	0
	Saranac Lake	159	29	0	51	108	29
	Tupper Lake	144	26	18	48	78	8
		1,080	204	84	344	673	<i>Total Franklin County: 120</i>
	Total	2,750	454	207	860	1,704	Total Both Counties: 247

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Explanation of Data

Population ages 3-4: The number of children ages 3-4 by school district. Population data by single years of age at the school district level of geography are only available in the 2010 Census. As such, 2010 Census data was used to determine the number of children ages 3-4.

Child Poverty Rate: Child poverty rates by school district are available from the American Community Survey in select age groups. Poverty rates for children ages 0-5 were used, as it is the closest age group available.

Head Start Eligible Children: The number of children below the poverty line eligible for Head Start. This number was calculated by multiplying the number of children ages 3-4 in each school district by the corresponding poverty rate.

Served by Early Head Start: The number of children JCEO currently serves in Head Start (January 2018).

Head Start Eligible Children Served by UPK (Universal Pre-K): The total number of UPK and 3PK slots (found on page 30 of this report) multiplied by the corresponding poverty rate by school district.

Unmet Need: The number of Head Start eligible children minus the number of children served by JCEO's Head Start Program and the number of Head Start eligible children served by UPK.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS

The chart below shows the number of live births by school district over a 5-year period from 2013-2017. There is, on average, **1,275** expectant mothers in Clinton and Franklin Counties. On average, approximately 3.5% of births are multiples (twins, triplets etc.) meaning there were approximately **1,230** expectant mothers on average per year in Clinton and Franklin Counties.

	School District	Number of Live Births					Average
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Clinton County	Plattsburgh City	153	162	160	144	167	157
	Beekmantown	129	138	130	137	124	132
	Chazy Union	18	25	22	38	31	27
	Northeastern Clinton	92	107	88	94	78	92
	Northern Adirondack	59	54	62	57	50	56
	Peru	120	119	117	116	125	119
	Ausable Valley	87	86	82	88	71	83
	Saranac	121	109	110	98	93	106
							Total Clinton: 772
Franklin County	Brushton-Moira	68	64	60	82	56	66
	St. Regis Falls	18	19	24	18	15	19
	Malone	174	143	161	146	141	153
	Salmon River	105	87	101	101	98	98
	Chateaugay	30	36	39	25	32	32
	Saranac Lake	86	89	77	87	75	83
	Tupper Lake	60	41	55	51	53	52
							Total Franklin: 503
							TOTAL: 1,275

Source: NYS of Health

Expectant mothers: An estimate of the number of expectant mothers was calculated by taking an average of live births by school district over 5 years.

EDUCATION

Quality education from pre-kindergarten through adulthood is one of the best tools for moving individuals out of poverty and toward self-sufficiency. Research has shown that a quality education has benefits for both the individual and community.

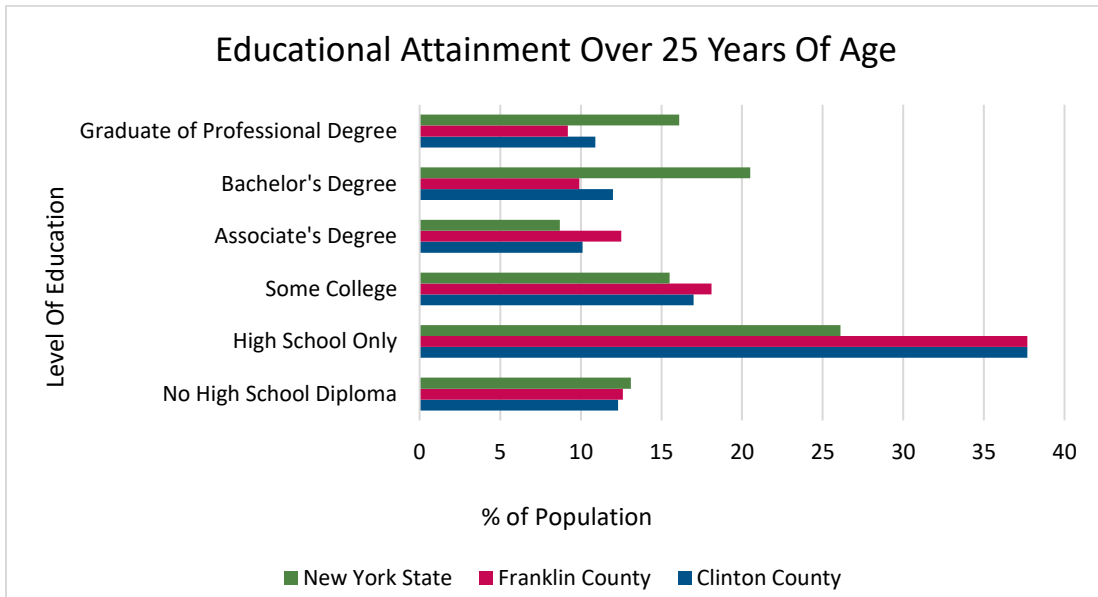
In recent years, there has been a movement around alternative post-secondary paths, rather than just encouraging students to attend college which is not a fit for everyone. Locally, Coryer Staffing offers a program called RAMP to help high school juniors and seniors explore options before graduation. Students “take a RAMP year” which allows them to work in different industries around the area to see what might interest them. While doing so, they get paid, gain experience and earn a micro-credential career development badge from Clinton Community College.

ETS offers an eight-week program to help individuals prepare for a manufacturing career called Ready2Create. There are ten different sessions that address a variety of topics including talent, emotions, energy, time, money, goals, your brand, relationships and more. ETS also offers a professional and skill-based training program for youth and adults.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THOSE 25 YEARS AND OVER

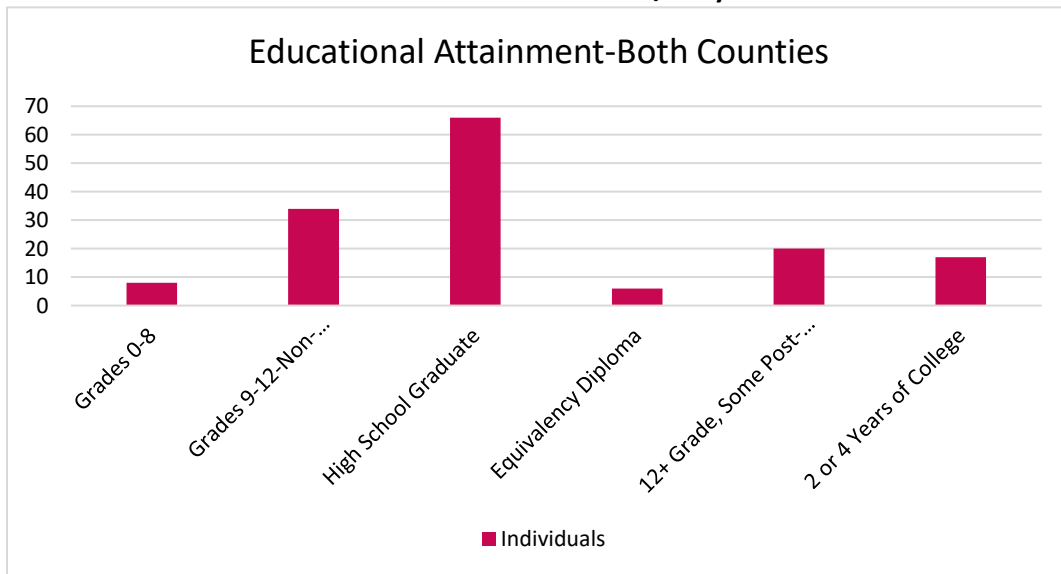
The following chart shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in Clinton and Franklin Counties. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, and is an average for the period from 2011 to 2015. The two counties closely mirror each other in percentage of individuals who have some college or less. Clinton County has a slightly larger percentage of individuals with either a Bachelors or Graduate Degree.

Educational Attainment in Clinton and Franklin Counties



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015-2019

Educational Attainment of JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start Adults



Source: JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start Family Data Collected 1/1/2020-12/31/2020

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

There is limited private school enrollment in both counties. As of June 2019, Clinton County had a public school enrollment of 10,519 and Franklin County had a public school enrollment of 6,911 (NYS Education Department).

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND DROPOUTS

The graduation rate is defined as the number of students in a cohort who earned a Regents or local diploma divided by the total number of students in a cohort. A cohort is the group of students who entered 9th grade together; for a 2020 graduation, they are the 2016 cohort. Statewide, the average graduation rate for the 2016 cohort increased to 84.8%, up 1.4 percentage points from the year before.

Clinton and Franklin County both averaged 88% graduation rates vs. New York State’s average of 85% in 2020. Educational attainment for individuals over 25 years old is shown in the chart below. Both Clinton and Franklin Counties have lower rates of advanced education compared to the state averages.

High School Graduates in 2020

Clinton County School Districts	Total Count of Cohort	June Graduates (includes advanced regents, regents & local diploma)	Graduation Rate	Dropout
Ausable Valley	75	66	88%	11%
Beekmantown	155	145	94%	3%
Chazy Union	33	31	94%	6%
Northeastern Clinton	117	95	81%	9%
Northeastern Adirondack	79	68	86%	9%
Peru	137	122	89%	7%
Plattsburgh City	138	116	84%	8%
Saranac	99	89	90%	7%

Franklin County School Districts	Total Count of Cohort	June Graduates (includes advanced regents, regents & local diploma)	Graduation Rate	Dropout
Brushton-Moira	60	50	83%	5%
Chateaugay	32	31	97%	3%
Malone	156	136	87%	4%
Salmon River	97	82	85%	6%
Saranac Lake	90	84	93%	4%
St. Regis Falls	22	21	95%	0%
Tupper Lake	53	47	89%	2%

Source: New York State Department of Education

LITERACY RATES

The most recent data on adult literacy rates from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) estimates that **13%** of the population 16 and older in Clinton County and **15%** in Franklin County lacked basic prose literacy skills. These adults “were unable to read and understand any written information in English to being able to locate easily identifiable information in short, commonplace prose text, but nothing more advanced”. The previous study, in 1992, indicated low literacy rates of 12% in Clinton County and 14% in Franklin County.

Clinton County provides adult literacy services largely through the Champlain Valley Educational Services Career and Technical Education. High School Equivalency and Adult Basic Education literacy services are offered at the OneWorkSource Centers in Plattsburgh. Tutoring and classes are also offered at other community sites; JCEO Head Start sites in Keeseville and on the Military Turnpike are used as community sites. Home study is also available to students who cannot attend classes, with assignments delivered to local libraries. The only other providers in Clinton County are the state correctional facilities and the Clinton County jail.

In Franklin County, the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES provides Adult GED and Adult Basic Education classes. A variety of classes is offered throughout the area including Malone, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake and the Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve. Program options consist of morning, afternoon or evening sessions. In addition, opportunities to participate in distance learning (home study) are available for those students who are unable to attend traditional programming. Literacy Volunteers of Essex/Franklin Counties provides Basic Literacy and High School Equivalency/GED preparation. Literacy Volunteers also provides services in Bare Hill Correctional Facility and Franklin County Jail, working with inmates who do not qualify for the GED program because their testing results are too rudimentary. In Bare Hill, educated offenders are trained to tutor other inmates who are not educationally ready for the GED program.

POVERTY BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

From 2015 to 2019, 5 of the 15 school districts in Clinton and Franklin County had an increase in poverty of the population ages 5-17. Of the 5 school districts with increases, 3 of them are in Franklin County.

Population Ages 5-17 in Poverty by School District

County	School District	2019				2015
		Total Population	Population Ages 5 to 17	Population Ages 5 to 17 in Families in Poverty	Percent of Population Ages 5 to 17 in Poverty	Percent of Population Ages 5 to 17 in Poverty
Clinton	AuSable Valley	8,564	1,342	165	12.3	16.2
Clinton	Beekmantown	12,598	1,560	318	18.4	18.6
Clinton	Chazy Union	3,353	479	35	7.3	12.8
Clinton	Northeastern Clinton	9,021	1,525	450	29.5	19.3
Clinton	Northern Adirondack	5,431	949	148	15.6	24.6
Clinton	Peru	12,877	1,744	179	10.3	15.5
Clinton	Plattsburgh City	16,273	1,960	500	25.5	25.3

Clinton	Saranac	9,552	1,297	214	16.5	18.6
Franklin	Brushton-Moira	4,722	782	268	34.3	28
Franklin	Chateaugay	2,741	404	96	23.8	25.5
Franklin	Malone	15,328	2,585	679	26.3	21.6
Franklin	Salmon River	8,042	1,412	271	19.2	30.1
Franklin	Saranac Lake	10,766	1,641	516	31.4	21
Franklin	St. Regis Falls	2,113	380	70	18.4	29.9
Franklin	Tupper Lake	5,609	769	53	6.9	13.5

Source: New York State Department of Education

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TRADE SCHOOLS

Both counties are home to two and four year schools. Paul Smith’s College, a four-year private college is located in Franklin County. North Country Community College, sponsored by both Franklin and Essex Counties, has two campuses in Franklin County: its main campus is located in Saranac Lake and one of its satellite campuses is located in the Village of Malone.

Clinton County is home to the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, a four-year school, and Clinton Community College. Clinton Community College’s Institute for Advanced Manufacturing opened in 2017 and serves as a regional hub for manufacturing education. Two trade schools are also located in Clinton County: Clinton Essex Warren Washington BOCES Practical Nursing Program, and CVPH Medical Center of Radiologic Technology, both located in Plattsburgh (National Center for Education Statistics).

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) is a free pre-kindergarten program funded and regulated by the NYS Department of Education. UPK programs must operate a minimum of two and one-half hours per day, five days per week for a minimum of 180 days per year. UPK grants requires that districts use a minimum of 10% of their UPK grant award to contract with community agencies to provide instructional programs in community-based settings. Kindergarten for three-year olds (3PK) is another pre-kindergarten program in Clinton County.

The table below represents the number of funded slots for UPK and 3PK in Clinton and Franklin Counties. Each district was contacted for the number of slots in their UPK program.

County	School District	UPK Slots 2020-2021	3PK
Clinton	Ausable Valley	70 FD	0
	Beekmantown	103 FD	36 FD
	Chazy Union	0	0
	Northeastern Clinton	38 HD	0
	Northern Adirondack	0 FD	0
	Peru	86 FD	0
	Plattsburgh City	77 HD	0

	Saranac	70 FD	0
	Clinton County Total:	444	36
Franklin	Brushton-Moira	30 FD	0
	Chateaugay	56 FD	18 FD
	Malone	103FD	0
	Salmon River	29 FD	0
	Saranac Lake	51 HD	0
	St. Regis Falls	9 FD	0
	Tupper Lake	48 HD	0
	Franklin County Total:	326	18

HD – Half-day slots

FD – Full day slots

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

EARLY INTERVENTION

The Early Intervention (EI) Program is a statewide program for children from birth to age three. The program serves children with diagnosed disabilities and children at risk of developmental delays for other reasons. The Early Intervention Program provides services to assist families with the growth and development of eligible children. EI programs are operated in both counties through the respective health departments.

According to the 2020 Clinton County Public Health Services Department Annual Report, 312 unduplicated children were served in the Early Intervention Program. The largest need of the children was Speech Therapy. Speech Therapy consistently was the service provided to most children followed by Special Instruction across the three-year period of 2018-2020.

In 2016, the Franklin County Early Intervention Program had 132 children that were found eligible for the Early Intervention Program. Currently, Franklin County Early Intervention has 48 children receiving services in our Early Intervention Program, with 70 active Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs). Speech Therapy is the number one need. There continues to be a critical shortage in providers of Early Intervention Services in all therapy areas, including Special Education. The Child Find component of our Early Intervention Program currently has 10 children that we monitoring their development. These children were identified as being at risk for developmental delays or have failed their newborn hearing screen.

FAMILY RESOURCES

The following is a list of the programs available for children and their families in Clinton and Franklin Counties.

The Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country serves both Clinton and Franklin Counties. They provide services such as parent-child play groups, parent support groups, parent education, developmental

screenings, and referrals. They also have one of four Family Resource Centers in the area, in Tupper Lake. The three other Family Resource Centers are in Malone, Plattsburgh, and Elizabethtown.

Behavioral Health Services North's (BHSN) Families Involved Together program provides support to families with children with disabilities. The Families Together in the Northeastern Region program empowers families through education and support to increase family involvement.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Champlain Valley, provides mental health services for families in Clinton and Franklin Counties.

Birth - 3

The Healthy Families New York (HFNY) program at BHSN provides services to families in Clinton and Franklin Counties. According to the Healthy Families New York website, the program to help parents with the changes and needs of their family that come along with the birth of a new child. HFNY offers services to expecting parents and new families, beginning weekly and decreasing over time, until the child starts school or Head Start.

Catholic Charities in the Dioceses of Ogdensburg provides parent education, counseling, and maternity support for families in Clinton and Franklin Counties.

HEALTH

A 2015 report by the Urban Institute, *How Are Income and Wealth Linked to Health and Longevity?*, explains the link between income and health. Low-income American adults have higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and other chronic disorders than wealthier Americans do. Infant mortality and children's health are strongly linked to family income and maternal education. Rates of low birth weight are highest among infants born to low-income mothers. Lower-income children experience higher rates of asthma, heart conditions, hearing problems, digestive disorders, and elevated blood lead levels.

On JCEO's consumer survey, 14% of respondents indicated that they were nervous or afraid to get medical help in the past year which was up from 10% in 2017. Over 25% reported that it costs too much to receive medical care and 23% reported it takes too long to get an appointment. Surprisingly, only 4% reported difficulty getting to appointments which was a significant decrease from 2017.

According to The 2021 County Health Rankings by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Clinton County has a Health Outcome Rank of **33** out of the 62 counties in New York State (1 being the best and 62 being the worse) while Franklin County has a rank of **32**. Clinton County dropped in rankings from 29 in 2017 to 33 in 2021. Franklin County jumped up the list, from 46 in 2017 to 32 in 2021. The ranks are based on two types of measures: how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive.

Health in Clinton County

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 13 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in the third quarter of 2020 for Clinton County.

Clinton County is home to one hospital, Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH). In 2014, the hospital partnered with the University of Vermont Health Network to become The UVM Health Network – Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital. The hospital is part of UVM's [six-hospital network](#) serving northern New York and Vermont. According to CVPH and the Clinton County Health Departments (CCHD) Community Health

Assessment, the new partnership provides additional medical specialists, establishes a medical residency program in the community and supports further development of the local system that links residents to services and care. The ultimate goal is to build strong prevention based care and reduce access-to-care issues.

The Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) and CVPH undertook a Community Health Assessment in 2019 to identify and prioritize the healthcare challenges faced by Clinton County residents. According to the report, the selected priority areas are **Prevent Chronic Diseases** and **Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental Substance Use Disorders**. The goal is to promote healthy eating and food security, tobacco prevention and chronic disease preventive care and management. They also cited the need to address the over-arching issue of income disparity in relation to the priority areas.

Health in Franklin County

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 19 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in the third quarter of 2020. Franklin County has two hospitals, The UVM Health Network - Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone and Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake.

Franklin County Department of Health, Alice Hyde Medical Center and the Adirondack Rural Network also undertook a Community Health Needs Assessment to “identify and prioritize the health care challenges currently faced by the residents of Franklin County.” For 2019-2021, the identified prioritized health needs in Franklin County are similar to Clinton County - **Prevent Chronic Disease** and **Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders**. The report notes that both priorities reflect disparities of poverty and access to care.

Within the goal of preventing chronic disease there are four additional focus areas- healthy eating and food security, physical activity, tobacco prevention and chronic disease preventive care and management.

UNINSURED POPULATION

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s *Small Area Health Insurance Estimates* for 2019, 3.75% of the population age 18-64 are without health insurance in Clinton County which is down from 8.1% in 2017. 4.94% of the population age 18-64 are without health insurance in Franklin County which is down from 9.26% in 2017. These rates are both below New York States rate of 4.97% uninsured persons (Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2019) and the United States rate of 8.93%. The uninsured population in Clinton and Franklin County has steadily decreased since 2010.

PERSONS RECEIVING MEDICAID

As of August 2021, there are 22,158 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Franklin County has 16,028 enrolled. Both counties combined account for approximately .5% of total enrollees in New York State. Both Counties have seen significant increases in enrollments in the last 12 months.

PRENATAL CARE

Proper and timely prenatal care is important for healthy births. Pregnancy risk factors include age, chronic diseases, genetic disorders, heredity, and sexually transmitted diseases. Increased risk levels are seen in the very young or older females, and those involved in substance abuse including over the counter drugs and prescription medications, and domestic violence.

According to the New York State Department of Health, the report area had 1,186 births in 2018. According to The March of Dimes, 11.7% of live births in Clinton County and 13.9% of live births in Franklin County received inadequate prenatal care. Adequacy of prenatal care is measured by timing of prenatal care, number of visits and the infants’ gestational age.

TEEN BIRTHS

According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and more likely to end up on welfare compared to women who delay childbearing. The children of teen mothers are at significantly increased risk of low birth weight and prematurity, poverty, poor school performance, insufficient health care, and abuse and neglect.

Teen pregnancy and teen birth rates are at historic lows. **The teen birth rate in New York declined 68% between 1991 and 2015.** Even so, in 2018 there were 6,889 births to teens. Most teen births in New York (75%) are to older teens (age 18-19). It is estimated that the public cost of teen childbearing in the United States is approximately \$9.4 billion per year. Teen birth rates have fallen for all racial and ethnic groups, and in some cases, the gap in teen birth rates by race/ethnicity has narrowed, but disparities remain.

Births to teens in Clinton and Franklin County totaled 52 in 2018, less than 1% of the total teen births in New York State.

Teen Births, 2018

Report Area	Age Under 15	Age 15 to 17	Age 18 to 19	Total Live Births	Births to Teens	Births to Teens
Clinton County, NY	0	6	20	719	26	3.62%
Franklin County, NY	0	6	20	467	26	5.57%
New York	57	1,641	5,191	225,162	6,889	3.06%

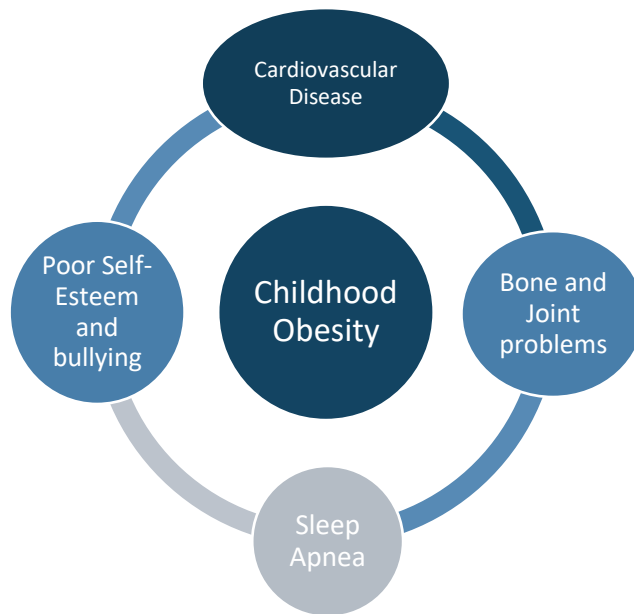
Source: New York State Department of Health

OBESITY

Both county health assessments identify obesity as a top issue and are actively working to reduce obesity in the community, as noted earlier in this report.

According to *The State of Obesity* project, obesity rates are generally inversely correlated with income, with low-income individuals far more likely to be obese than higher-income individuals. Children from low-income families and individuals with lower education levels are more likely to be obese. Individuals in rural communities face their own set of challenges – healthy grocery stores may be far away, children cannot walk to school, sidewalks are not available, and recreational centers are not easily accessible.

Childhood obesity in particular has long-term health impacts: obese youth are more likely to develop cardiovascular disease, bone and joint problems, and sleep apnea. Obese youth may also suffer from poor self-esteem and bullying.



Over the last several years, there has been an increase in the number of non-traditional food outlets (i.e. convenience stores, dollar stores etc.) which provide less healthy food options and are often in areas where low income individuals live, many without transportation so their options are more limited.

In Franklin County the rate of children who are obese is 21.2% and adults is 32.7%. Clinton County reports 36.7% of adults and 20.9 of children are obese.

LEAD POISONING

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at least 4 million households have children living in them that are exposed to high levels of lead. There are approximately half a million U.S. children ages 1-5 with blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter, the reference level at which CDC recommends public health actions be initiated. No amount of lead is safe for a child. Unfortunately, lead exposure often occurs with no obvious symptoms and frequently goes unrecognized. Even at very low levels of exposure in children, lead causes reduced IQ and attention span, hyperactivity, impaired growth, reading and learning disabilities, and a range of other health, intellectual, and behavioral problems.

According to the NYS Child Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, in 2017 there were a total of 6 cases of confirmed high blood lead level on 1,252 tested children aged under 72 months in Clinton County. In Franklin County, there were 17 cases during the same period; 787 children were tested. **Both counties report about 26.2% of children under 72 months were tested in 2017 which is just above the New York State average of 25.86%.**

FOOD SECURITY

Food assistance was identified as #9 for top needs in JCEO’s consumer survey – 14% of respondents said they needed food assistance in the past 12 months. This was a significant drop from our 2017 Needs Assessment when it was the #1 need and 45% reported needing assistance in the past 12 months. 49% of respondents

utilized food assistance programs in the last year (i.e. Backpack Program, free community meals, food pantries, meals on wheels, school meal programs, SNAP, WIC etc.).

JCEO's partner survey indicated that food assistance is the most successful service provided to low income households (65.5% of respondents). Although food is a huge need, food pantries and food programs in both counties do a remarkable job feeding their communities.

In the rural communities, with limited transportation, many families are restricted to shopping at convenience stores where the food is more expensive and the selection more limited, especially fresh fruits and vegetables. There are several food pantries in both counties and they are heavily used. Pantries are one way families can save on food costs so they can make ends meet. There have been additional pantries opened in the last couple years and even some with extended evening hours which has been greatly needed for those who work a traditional daytime schedule and can't access the pantries during those times.

Adults in food insecure households are more likely to have poor or fair health, reduced nutrient intake, be overweight, and have a lower quality of life. Children in food insecure households are more likely to have poor health, behavior problems, frequent stomachaches and headaches, and worse developmental outcomes.

FOOD ACCESS

According to *Feeding America*, 13.7% of the population in Franklin County are food insecure, and 13% of the population in Clinton County are food insecure. However, food insecurity rates for children are much higher. 19.2% of children in Clinton County and 21.3% of children in Franklin County experienced food insecurity at some point during the report year. **21% of food insecure children in Clinton County and 20% of food insecure children in Franklin County were not eligible for assistance programs such as SNAP, WIC, and school meals.**

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net, making it easier for many working households to apply and gain access to critical nutritious food. Monthly benefits are used to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. In New York State, benefits are provided through an electronic benefit card. Eligibility and benefit levels are based on household size, income, expenses and other factors.

According to the New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance, 10,756 individuals in Clinton County and 6,257 individuals in Franklin County were receiving SNAP benefits as of January 2021. The average benefit per household was \$351.15/month in Clinton County and \$365.85/month in Franklin County. The average monthly payment in Clinton and Franklin Counties has increased a staggering 69% since 2017.

According to JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start data collected August 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 there were 550 persons receiving SNAP benefits.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

JCEO has 12 food pantries in Clinton County and 2 in Franklin County. A mobile outreach vehicle containing a food pantry was discontinued in 2017 because of low utilization. The number of consumers using the food pantries is shown below. The numbers are unduplicated and it is important to note that consumers may use the food pantry up to eight times per year. These numbers also do not account for the consumers that come into the pantry for bread or fruits and vegetables, which anyone can take.

Unduplicated Persons Using the Food Pantry

	2017	2020
Clinton County	3,704	3,881
Franklin County	2,440	2,089

Source: JCEO Consumer Data Collected 8/1/2016-7/31/2017 and 1/1/2020-12/31/2020

The Franklin County food pantry at Valco Drive in Malone has seen an increase in the number of veterans served since the program started allowing veterans to come at a specified time, before the public.

JCEO partners with several local grocery stores and retailers and receives the food that stores would otherwise dispose of. In 2020, food recovered was in excess of 818,091 pounds.

There are a number of food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in both counties. The following is a partial list of such programs, provided by the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. The Franklin County list is much more extensive, perhaps due to the size of the county and the more limited transportation system.

Clinton County

Behavioral Health Services North
 Champlain Home for Children
 JCEO - 12 sites
 Mooers Wesleyan Food Pantry
 Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Pantry

Salvation Army – Plattsburgh Food Pantry
 Salvation Army – Plattsburgh Soup Kitchen
 St. Alexander’s/St. Joseph’s Soup Kitchen

Franklin County

Bangor Community Food Pantry
 Barnabus House-Community Connections, Inc.
 Behavioral Health Services
 Bombay Food Pantry
 Brandon Wesleyan Food Pantry
 Brushton Food Pantry
 Catholic Community Constable
 Chateaugay Food Pantry
 Citizen Advocates
 Community Lunch Box – Saranac
 Community Supper – Soup Kitchen
 Dickinson Food Pantry
 First Baptist Church Malone Food Pantry
 Fort Covington Helping Hands Food Pantry

Good Samaritan Food Pantry
 Grace Pantry
 Joint Commission on Economic Opportunity of
 Clinton & Franklin Counties Pantry
 JCEO – Duane Food Pantry (volunteer run)
 JCEO – Malone Food Pantry
 Lifeway Neighborhood Food Pantry
 Moira New Hope Food Pantry
 Saranac Lake Interfaith Food Pantry
 St. Joseph’s Addiction Treatment & Recovery Center
 St. Paul’s Assumption Vermontville
 Town of Bellmont Food Pantry
 Tupper Lake Community Pantry
 Waverly Food Pantry

Another form of food assistance is the **Free and Reduced Lunch Program**. This program is federally assisted and operates in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The following is a list of schools and the number of students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. **Beekmantown CSD, Northern Adirondack CSD, and Plattsburgh City CSD in Clinton County have over 60% of children eligible for free and reduced lunch. Brushton-Moira CSD and Salmon River CSD in Franklin County have over 60% of children eligible.**

	Total Student Enrollment (January 2019)	Students Eligible	Percent of Student Eligible
Report Location	18,715	10,189	54.44%
Clinton County	11,316	6,144	54.29%
Franklin County	7,399	4,045	54.67%
New York State	3,058,426	2,286,046	74.75%

Free and Reduced Lunch Program by School

County Name	School Food Authority	Enrollment	Free Eligible	Reduced Eligible	Free and Reduced
Clinton County	Ausable Valley CSD	1,175	43%	8.4%	51.4%
Clinton County	Beekmantown CSD	2,061	70.7%	0%	70.7%
Clinton County	Chazy UFSD	464	24.6%	2.8%	27.4%
Clinton County	Northeastern Clinton CSD	1,313	39.1%	6.1%	45.2%
Clinton County	Northern Adirondack CSD	835	78.4%	0%	78.4%
Clinton County	Peru CSD	1,884	39.6%	4.4%	44%
Clinton County	Plattsburgh City SD	1,862	71.2%	0%	71.2%
Clinton County	Saranac CSD	1,467	32.1%	3.5%	35.6%
Clinton County	Seton Academy	255	9.8%	2.4%	12.2%
Clinton County	Seton Catholic Central High School	11,316	51.4%	2.9%	54.3%
Clinton County	Clinton County	793	54%	7.6%	61.5%
Franklin County	Brushton-Moira CSD	519	46.1%	5.4%	51.4%
Franklin County	Chateaugay CSD	2,341	48.2%	5.4%	53.6%
Franklin County	Malone CSD	1,496	63.2%	5.8%	69.1%
Franklin County	Salmon River CSD	1,212	36.4%	3.8%	40.2%
Franklin County	Saranac Lake CSD	266	49.6%	4.9%	54.5%
Franklin County	St Regis Falls CSD	772	39.5%	8.5%	48.1%
Franklin County	Tupper Lake CSD	7,399	48.9%	5.8%	54.7%
Franklin County	Franklin County	3,058,426	73.2%	1.5%	74.7%
New York State	New York State	1,175	43%	8.4%	51.4%

Source: New York State Education Department, January 2020

HOUSING

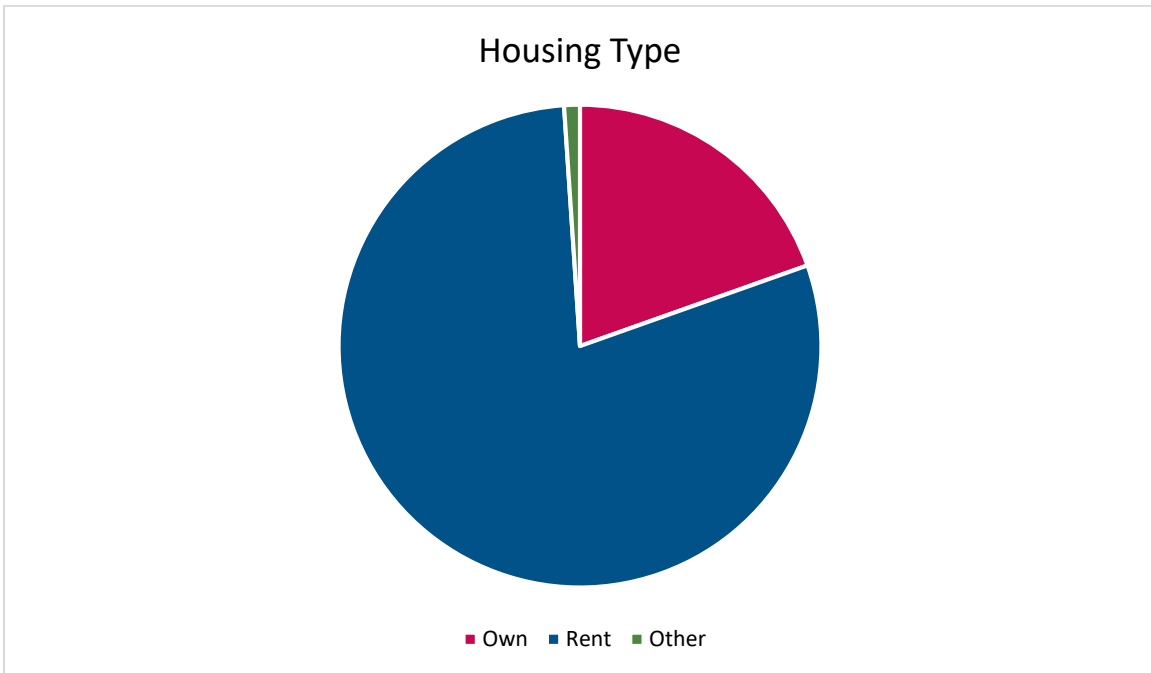
Survey respondents identified safe, affordable housing as the top need in Clinton and Franklin Counties across all surveys. High housing costs leave families vulnerable to eviction if there is a crisis such as loss of employment, increased medical costs, or temporary disability of a family member. For some families, any increase in expenses, such as those in heating and other utility costs, could place them in crisis. There are limited units available and often the housing that is available is often not in good condition.

Low-income housing assistance such as rent vouchers and public housing apartments are intended to provide struggling households with temporary support while families and individuals gain an economic foothold as a safeguard against homelessness. Although, demand for housing assistance far outweighs the supply and many housing applicants must get on a waiting list to receive assistance.

JCEO's Consumer Survey reflected the housing issues low-income families and individuals face. In the past 12 months, 17.61% of respondents reported their homes need major repairs and 19.11% could not afford those repairs. 11.46% reported being unable to afford their heating bill and 10.83% could not afford their electric bill.

Focus groups noted a lack of affordable family housing, especially to purchase. Many families are just making ends meet each month; therefore, they do not have extra income to save towards a down payment. In the past, 20% was needed for a down payment however, there are a variety of funding options with lower requirements or no down payment required. The tricky part is closing costs which are still hard for low income families to save towards. Even if they could save the funds, there aren't many quality houses in their price range, if any.

JCEO Head Start/Early Head Start Housing Types



Source: JCEO Consumer Data Collected 1/1/2020-12/31/2020

As seen in the table above, the majority of Head Start/Early Head Start households rent.

HOUSING FACTS

Franklin County has fewer housing units than Clinton County; however, Franklin County has more vacant units on average. Both Clinton and Franklin County have a lower rental vacancy rate than New York State. Franklin County also has a large percentage of “other” vacant units which may be attributed to the many summer camps and hunting camps throughout the county. Vacancy rates are shown in table below.

According to the U.S. Census, there was an increase of 1,771 housing units (or 2.98%) from 2005 to 2015 in Clinton and Franklin Counties, collectively, compared to a 3.66 % increase statewide.

U.S. Census data shows 194 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in the ACS five year estimate (92 in Clinton and 102 in Franklin) were without plumbing averaged over the 2015-2019 timeframe.

Vacancy Rates

Report Area	Total Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	Homeowner Vacancy Rate	Rental Vacancy Rate
Clinton County, NY	36,576	5,275	1.9	3.2
Franklin County, NY	19,148	6,739	1.4	3.6
New York State	8,322,722	979,488	1.7	4.2

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2015-2019

FAIR MARKET RENT

Fair market monthly rent is HUD’s best estimate of what a household seeking a modest rental can expect to pay for rent and utilities in the current market. Fair Market Rent for 2021 (0-4 bedrooms) is shown below.

Renters make up approximately 34% of Clinton County Residents, 29% of Franklin County Residents and 46% of total New Yorker Residents.

	Fair Market Rent(Monthly) 0 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent(Monthly) 1 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent(Monthly) 2 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent(Monthly) 3 Bedrooms	Fair Market Rent(Monthly) 4 Bedrooms
Clinton County, NY	\$692	\$697	\$884	\$1,150	\$1,266
Franklin County, NY	\$532	\$680	\$775	\$1,041	\$1,051
New York	\$1,453	\$1,524	\$1,770	\$2,242	\$2,429

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition Out of Reach 2021 Report

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

The National Low Income Housing Coalition reports each year on the hourly wage a renter must earn in order to afford a rental unit based on Fair Market Rents. According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the generally accepted definition of affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30 percent of its annual income on housing. Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are “cost burdened” and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

According to the US Census Bureau’s 2019 American Community Survey, 43.2% of renters in Clinton County and 47.3% of renters in Franklin County pay more than 30% of their income on rent.

In New York State, an individual making minimum wage (\$12.50/hour in 2021) would need to work 94 hours per week to afford a modest 1 bedroom rental. In no state can a person working full-time at the federal minimum wage afford a two-bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent. In only 218 counties out of more than 3,000 nationwide can a full-time worker earning the minimum wage afford a one-bedroom rental home at the Fair Market Rent.

In both Clinton and Franklin Counties, an individual would need to make \$29.31/hour to afford a one bedroom rental while the average hourly wage is only \$24.45.

Hourly Wage Needed to Afford a Fair Market Rent, 2018

	Average Hourly Wage of Renter	Hourly Wage Needed For 0 Bedrooms	Hourly Wage Needed For 1 Bedroom	Hourly Wage Needed For 2 Bedrooms	Hourly Wage Needed For 3 Bedrooms	Hourly Wage Needed For 4 Bedrooms
Clinton County, NY	\$12.13	\$12.23	\$12.90	\$16.19	\$21.00	\$22.46
Franklin County, NY	\$9.92	\$10.25	\$12.54	\$14.31	\$19.10	\$19.38
New York	\$25.68	\$26.51	\$28.02	\$32.53	\$41.27	\$44.66

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2018

Work Hours/Week at Average Renter Wage Needed to Afford Fair Market Rent

	Average Hourly Wage of Renter	Work Hours/Week For 0 Bedrooms	Work Hours/Week For 1 Bedrooms	Work Hours/Week For 2 Bedrooms	Work Hours/Week For 3 Bedrooms	Work Hours/Week For 4 Bedrooms
Clinton County, NY	\$12.13	57	57	73	95	104
Franklin County, NY	\$9.92	54	69	78	105	106
New York	\$25.68	33	36	44	56	61

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2021

In no state can a person working full-time at the federal minimum wage afford a two-bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent.

HOMELESSNESS

Each year in January, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development conducts a physical assessment designed to measure the scope of homelessness across the country, called a Point-in-Time Count. From 2018 to 2019, Franklin County reports a 43% decrease in homelessness while Clinton County reported a 167% increase over 2018.

	Overall Homeless	Sheltered Homeless	Unsheltered Homeless
Clinton County	164	163	1
Franklin County	24	21	22

Source: Homeless Shelters Directory and HUD

Clinton and Franklin County both lack adequate homeless shelters. Clinton County has no homeless shelter. In Franklin County, Malone has a small men’s shelter called Barnabas House and Saranac Lake has a women’s shelter called the Good Samaritan Homeless Shelter. The Department of Social Services in both counties house homeless individuals and families in hotels and motels. As a result, homeless families are frequently shuffled around.

Emergency housing assistance for those at risk of becoming homeless is available from JCEO, The Department of Social Services, and The Evergreen Townhouse Community. Assistance may be in the form of short-term lodging, emergency rent payments to prevent eviction, and help finding permanent housing.

The Oasis Project, provides educational and social support for homeless children in Clinton County. The project has two sites, one in Plattsburgh and the other in Keeseville. Their vision is to impact generational poverty by providing tutoring, access to learning resources, and promote self-sufficiency for homeless children and their families.

STOP Domestic Violence, a program of Behavioral Health Services North, operating in Clinton, Franklin, and Essex Counties has safe apartments for victims of domestic violence. Evergreen Townhouse Community, located

in Plattsburgh, NY, provides temporary housing units for Social Services and permanent housing for homeless individuals and families.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Housing assistance for low-income families and individuals is available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Housing assistance programs are intended to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Housing assistance is typically **project-based** or **tenant-based**. Project-based assistance requires you to live in a housing unit at the property that is subsidized (referred to as “public housing”). Tenant-based assistance provides a voucher to you to choose where you want to live in the community and lease from a private landlord that will accept the voucher. For both types of assistance, the tenant is usually required to pay at least 30% of their income toward their rent/utilities. This amount can adjust through deductions including childcare expenses and medical expenses, among others.

The demand for housing assistance often exceeds the resources available. **Right now, there is approximately an 18-month wait for services in Clinton County and a 12-month wait for services in Franklin County.**

Approximately 3,300 Public Housing Agencies manage housing assistance programs across the country.

Clinton County

The Plattsburgh Housing Authority operates several low-income properties in the city. There are three buildings specifically for seniors: Lake View Towers, Robert S. Long Apartments and Russell H. Barnard Apartments. Family housing is available at Hortense Sterns Apartments, John Collins Park, John Collins Extension, Leander A. Bouyea Court, and Thomas Conway Apartments. Plattsburgh Housing Authority opened 26 new affordable apartments (Atlas Heights) that are filled by lottery, in July 2021. The agency also provides housing vouchers.

The Clinton County HUD provides housing vouchers.

Franklin County

The Franklin County Housing Authority provides subsidized apartments and housing vouchers. The Franklin County HUD provides housing vouchers. The Malone Housing Authority operates offers three apartment communities that are dedicated to senior/disabled individuals and one apartment community for families.

The following properties in Malone provide subsidized housing: Webster St. Manor, Trails at Malone, and Elm St. Manner. Harrietstown Housing in Saranac Lake also offers subsidized housing.

CONCLUSION

Survey and focus group results and feedback were used to inform the agency’s strategic planning sessions which occurred in September and October of 2021.

APPENDIX

Partners involved in surveys and focus groups were as follows:

- Behavioral Health Services North-Community Based
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg-Faith/Community Based
- Champlain Valley Educational Services-Public Education
- Champlain Valley Family Center-Community Based
- Chazy Central Rural School-Public Education
- Clinton County Child Protective Services-Community Based
- Clinton County Department of Social Services-Community Based
- Clinton County Veterans Services Agency-Community Based
- Community Connections of Franklin County- Community Based
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County-Community Based
- Employee Assistance Services-Community Based
- Glasgow Elementary School-Public Education
- Hospice of the North Country- Community Based
- Hudson Headwaters- Community Based
- Oak Street Elementary School-Public Education
- Saranac Lake Central School- Public Education
- St. Joseph's Outreach Center-Community/Faith Based