



Schenectady Community
Action Program

Creating Opportunity in Partnership

Schenectady County Community Needs Assessment

May 2020 Update



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I. Introduction

The **Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP)** is Schenectady County's **Community Action Agency (CAA)**. Incorporated in 1965, with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status granted in 1966, SCAP was established to provide services and operate programs that address the causes and effects of poverty. **Community Action Agencies** are federally designated as the frontline resource for people living in poverty, providing direct services and support for low-income individuals and families. In addition to the direct services they provide, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) promote community economic development through partnerships and inter-agency collaborations.

Regular assessment of needs and resources at the community level is the foundation of Community Action and a vital management tool that is used across the organization to set the course for agency resources, confirming the need for current programming, predicting future needs and guiding strategic initiatives. SCAP conducts an extensive Community Needs Assessment every three years, with regular updates in between. Results of the assessment are utilized to inform SCAP's **Community Action Plan**. The Community Needs Assessment is also utilized by multiple community-based organizations and groups, as well as local government entities, to guide program and planning efforts.

II. Executive Summary

This community needs assessment update reviews the indicators of need for Schenectady County and its low-income residents, as well as the strengths and resources in place to support these residents. It includes both quantitative and qualitative data. It provides an overview of SCAP and its programs and an overview of the area served. It incorporates detailed demographics, an economic profile, and the most up-to-date data available regarding poverty, employment, education, housing, homelessness, early childhood, health, nutrition, food insecurity, and other community and social service need indicators. **This update also includes a special section dedicated to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the community's response to date.** The data presented, combined with SCAP's extensive community engagement process, as well as information regarding community resources, provides the basis for continued analysis of community needs and key findings.

Needs

As of the 2014 – 2018 American Community Survey, 17,200 residents in Schenectady County lived below the federal poverty level, with 67% of these residents residing in the City of Schenectady, down 5 percentage points from the 2012 – 2016 American Community Survey. The city's poverty rate went from 21.1% to 18.4%. County-wide, over 19.4% of households make less than \$25,000 per year and 28.2% make less than \$35,000. These percentages increase significantly within the City of Schenectady where 28.7% of households make less than \$25,000 annually and 40.2% of households earn less than \$35,000 per year, as well as the Village of Scotia, where 28.2% households earn less than \$25,000 annually and 33.7% of households earn less than \$35,000 per year. Multiple barriers continue to affect the ability of SCAP's target population to achieve long-term stability, including but not limited to: housing, transportation, child care, health/mental health, education, training, employment and safety concerns. SCAP expects these barriers to increase significantly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strengths and Resources

Schenectady County providers continue to engage in many strategic partnerships to provide support for the county's low-income individuals and families. This has been especially true in the community's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in which SCAP has played a primary role. SCAP continues to lead partnership efforts in each of the agency's service areas. SCAP's program development activities continue to feature collaboration.

III. Key Findings Updates: *Conditions and Causes of Poverty*

- There have not been statistically significant changes in Schenectady County’s overall population over the past ten years. While the total population was not projected to change dramatically, notable changes in the population age profile for persons 45-54 and 65-74 years of age were predicted, including a 19% decrease amongst the age cohort of 45-54 years (from 2010 to 2020). Conversely, the 65-74 age cohort has been expected to increase by 55%. Updated age statistics (updated from the 2018 CNA) show a .6% increase in the percent of Schenectady County residents over age 65 (from the 2012 – 2016 ACS to the 2014 – 2018 ACS), and a .5% increase in the 65 – 74 age group (8.3 – 8.8%). There was a decrease of .4% in the 45 – 54 age group (13.6% to 13.2%).
- The number of non-United States citizens residing in Schenectady County is over 5,602, with 63.4% residing in the City of Schenectady.
- The largest percentage of county residents living in poverty is in the City of Schenectady. However, poverty in the county’s other communities continues to increase. While 67% of those in poverty reside in the city (2014 – 2018 American Community Survey), this is down five percentage points from the 73% living in poverty as of the 2012 – 2016 American Community Survey, and five percentage points from the 78% reported in SCAP’s 2015 Community Needs Assessment. Additionally, while 68.6% of children under 18 years of age in poverty are in the city, this compares to 79.5% originally reported in the 2018 assessment, which was already 12.5 percentage points less than the 92% reported in the 2015 assessment. While the percent and number of economically disadvantaged students continues to remain highest for the Schenectady City School District, this district experienced a 7% decrease in economically disadvantaged students between 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 (from 84% down to 77%). The percent of economically disadvantaged students in the Niskayuna School District increased by 3% (12% to 15%); in the Rotterdam-Mohonasen District the percent increased by 4% (41% to 45%); in the Scotia-Glenville District it increased by 3% (29% - 32%); and in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake District it increased by 5% (13% to 18%).
- At 9.2%, the City of Schenectady’s unemployment rate has continued to be higher than both the county (6.6%) and NYS rates (6%). Within the city, the highest unemployment rate, 21.8%, continues to be in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood. County-wide, 39% of residents over the age of 25 have only a high school diploma or less (2014–2018 American Community Survey). **As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, NYS’s unemployment rate has risen to 15% (for April 2020). While county level rates for April are not yet available, unemployment claims in Schenectady County have risen drastically.**
- Homelessness has continued to be significant. According to Schenectady County’s 2019 Point in Time (PIT) count, 22 homeless people were unsheltered, 300 homeless people were in emergency shelter, and 50 homeless people were transitionally housed on a given night in January 2019. The total count of 372 homeless people compares to 393 in 2018 and 274 in 2017. The most recent annual Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) report, for the period ending September 30, 2019, indicates that 3,992 individuals in Schenectady County required homeless-related services. 66.8% of adults and 12.5% of children served reported at least one physical, emotional or other health condition, with 652 adults served reporting conditions that met the criteria to be considered a disability.
- Lack of safe and affordable housing within the City of Schenectady continues to be a primary concern. Contributing factors include cost burden and substandard older housing stock.
- There are 8,964 children under age five living in Schenectady County, 1,798 of which live in poverty (2014–2018 American Community Survey). There are 38 licensed child care centers in the county with



a total of 3,133 slots for infant to school-age children. None of Schenectady’s Child Care Centers or School Age Programs offer care during non-traditional hours. Only 8 of the Group Family Child Care Homes, and 10 of the Family Child Care Homes offer care during non-traditional hours. Twenty-four Census Tracts in Schenectady County have been designated as child care deserts, defined as areas with an insufficient supply of licensed child care; this represents 59% of all Census Tracts in the county. Overall, there is a shortage of infant and toddler care available in Schenectady County. Families continue to struggle with the cost of care, whether they receive a subsidy or not. Lack of child care options leads to employee absence. Low-income families need access to quality early childhood development services.

- Selected by the Schenectady Prevention Agenda Prioritization Work Group for the 2019 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment, prevention priority areas for Schenectady County remain the same as those chosen by the Schenectady Coalition for a Healthy Community as focus areas through 2018: Prevent Chronic Diseases and Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders.
- **NEW:** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, SCAP has experienced increased customer needs for assistance, especially by customers accessing resource navigation and homeless/homeless prevention supports. Due to massive layoffs, this has included a larger customer base; customers have included individuals and families that have not had to utilize services previously. SCAP also expects a surge in multiple longer-term needs moving forward. These needs are expected to continue for low-income residents, even as the economy slowly re-opens.

IV. **Conclusions & Recommendations Updates:**

Summary Analysis of Qualitative and Quantitative Data

- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** SCAP should monitor the predicted increase in the population group ages 65 – 74 to identify and help ensure any associated increases in need are met.
- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** SCAP should consider opportunities to support Schenectady County’s immigrant population.
- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** Resource development and expansion efforts should consider poverty increases in areas outside the City of Schenectady.
- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** Employment services remain essential and should focus on training and education needed for a variety of in-demand career pathways that offer attainment of a livable wage.
- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** Services and supports to prevent homelessness need to focus on meeting the multifaceted, complex needs of this population. Ongoing support to prevent future crises is critical.
- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** SCAP should continue working with community partners to address the priority need for safe and affordable housing.
- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** Early learning programs throughout the county must work collaboratively to provide comprehensive early childhood development and child care support that adequately meets the needs of all of the area’s most vulnerable families.



- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** Continued collaboration with the Schenectady Coalition for a Healthy Community will contribute to health and quality of life outcomes for low-income individuals and families.
- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** Services and supports must be integrated and accessible to successfully address the multifaceted needs of low-income families. A two-generation, whole family approach to service provision offers the best chance for long-term stability. Services must be flexible; this should be a primary consideration of resource development efforts.
- **Remains relevant from 2018 assessment:** SCAP should continue to focus on creating more awareness of services and resources available for the agency’s target low-income population.
- **NEW:** SCAP should continue as a lead community partner in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring emergency, intermediate- and long-term needs of the county’s low-income population are met effectively without duplication of services. Resource Development efforts should focus both on the customer supports and agency capacity needed to deliver services using the safest and most efficient approach.

V. Strategic Planning

In November of 2017, SCAP’s Board of Directors approved SCAP’s current five-year **Strategic Plan** to guide the work of the agency through the year 2022. This plan resulted in revised agency-wide mission and vision statements:

Mission:

In partnership with the community, SCAP develops and implements lasting solutions for people of all ages to move out of poverty.

Vision:

SCAP envisions a community without poverty where everyone’s health, wellness and safety is a priority and where everyone:

- has safe and affordable housing;
- has quality education and learning experiences;
- seeking employment can earn a livable wage;
- is treated with dignity and respect; and
- feels invested in and connected to the community.

SCAP’s 2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan incorporates goals in **five focus areas**:

1. Integration
2. Community Engagement
3. Service Expansion/Sustainability
4. Assessment, Evaluation & Quality Improvement
5. Facilities/Space

Following approval of the plan, SCAP’s Executive Team developed a **Work Plan** to direct efforts to achieve identified goals. The Work Plan incorporates the systematic utilization of this community assessment (and any subsequent updates) to inform SCAP’s work.

Work Plan activities have progressed steadily, with annual **State of the Agency Reports** completed in February 2018, 2019 and 2020 summarizing progress to date.



VI. Methodology

The qualitative and quantitative data collected for this 2020 Community Needs Assessment Update represents the most current and relevant information available related to the people and communities of Schenectady County. Data sources utilized to inform the 2018 assessment and this update include:

- **Qualitative:** SCAP’s Strategic Plan updates (State of the Agency Reports), SCAP Early Learning Parent/Guardian Satisfaction Surveys, and SCAP Career Readiness Class Surveys.
- **Quantitative:** Local, statewide and national data sources, including: United States Census Bureau, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), National Low Income Housing Coalition, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Living Wage Calculator, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), New York State Department of Education, New York State Department of Labor (DOL), New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), New York State Division of Criminal and Justice Services (DCJS), New York State Department of Health (DOH), New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS), New York State Kids’ Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), Brightside Up, Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC), Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC), Healthy Capital District Initiative (HCDI), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Schenectady Coalition for a Healthy Community, Schenectady County, City of Schenectady, Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority (SMHA), Schenectady City School District (SCSD) and SCAP’s centralized data collection and program management system (CAP60).

Key Sector Information

SCAP continues to utilize information from key sectors of the community to assess needs and resources. Keys sectors that informed SCAP’s 2018 Schenectady County Community Needs Assessment and/or this assessment update process include:

- **Community-based Organizations/Entities/Coalitions:** Schenectady County Homeless Services Planning Board, Supportive Housing Solutions Advisory Council, Brightside Up, Schenectady Coalition for a Healthy Community, Healthy Capital District Initiative, YWCA Northeastern NY, and United Way of the Greater Capital Region.
- **Faith-based Organizations:** Community Resource Network (CRN) faith-based partners, including Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM), City Mission, Catholic Charities, and area congregations.
- **Private Sector:** SCAP’s Board of Directors, including private sector representatives, participated in a focus group discussion to inform this assessment process; regular board and committee meetings allow for ongoing input. The City of Schenectady’s 2017 Needs Assessment process provided access to private sector input for SCAP’s 2018 assessment process (*through survey and roundtable information; SCAP also participated in the roundtable process*). Private sector early childhood information is detailed in the Brightside Up’s Restoring the Grid, An Intersectional Approach to the Child Care Shortage and The Capital Region’s Child Care Landscape.
- **Public Sector:** SCAP’s Board of Directors, including public sector representatives, participated in a focus group discussion to inform the 2018 assessment process; regular board and committee meetings allow for ongoing input. Information provided by both the City and County of Schenectady (*both qualitative and quantitative*) informed multiple areas of this assessment update.
- **Educational Institutions:** New York State Department of Education and Schenectady City School District.



VII. Schenectady Community Action Program Overview

SCAP continues to serve the community and its residents in three program areas:

- **Early Learning:** Head Start, Pre-K and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships for children from birth to age five. These early learning programs provide comprehensive education, special needs, health, nutrition, mental health, parent engagement and family development services for low-income children and families in Schenectady County. SCAP's new Project LAUNCH serves children from birth to age eight. Program components include: behavioral/mental health assessments and screenings, intervention and treatment, parent education and training, and professional development and support for staff in child-serving organizations. In addition to early childhood supports in Schenectady County, SCAP also collaborates with the Albany Community Action Partnership to facilitate Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership services in Albany County.
- **Employment Services:** Assessment of skills and needs, career readiness training/soft skills development, educational and occupational training, goal planning, career/therapeutic counseling, reentry supports and job placement/retention supports. This range of services is designed to support career pathways that assist individuals and families achieve long-term economic self-reliance. In addition to the primary service area of Schenectady County, SCAP Employment Services are provided in neighboring Fulton and Montgomery Counties. SCAP offers its full range of career readiness supports in these counties, and also leads an Employer Resource Network (ERN) in the Mohawk Valley Region.
- **Housing & Community Services:** Community Resource Network (CRN)/Emergency and Resource Navigation Services, Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing, Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing, Supportive Case Management and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Community Resource Navigation and Supportive Case Management are provided through SCAP's primary resource center location at 913 Albany Street as well as multiple satellite locations throughout the community. Many customers come into SCAP with an emergency need and are first assisted through the CRN's Emergency Fund and/or SCAP's Homeless Prevention or Rapid Re-housing programs. Longer-term case management support helps households develop skills and strategies to effectively address and manage multiple family needs, permanently stabilize their living conditions and work towards greater self-reliance.

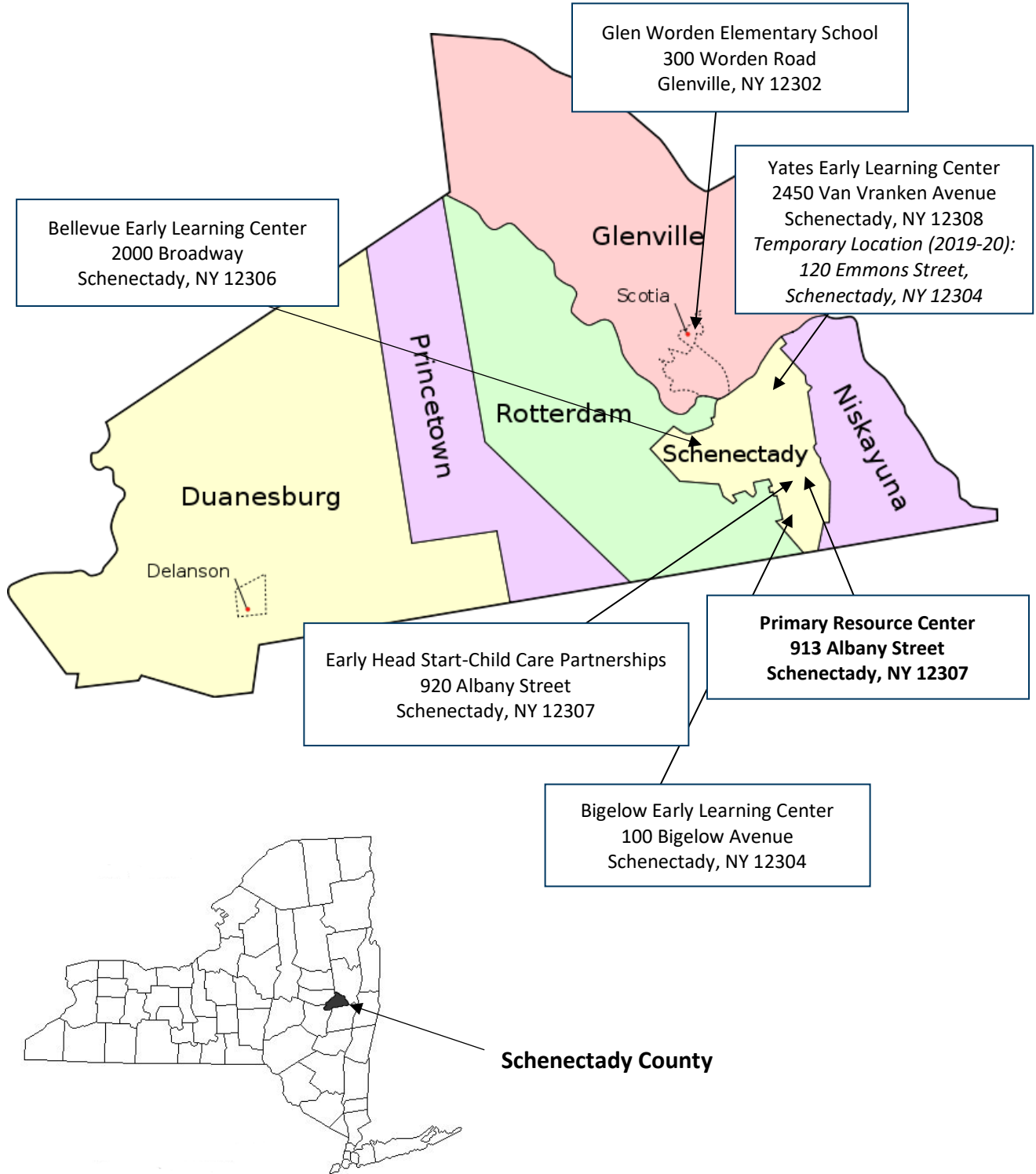
SCAP is governed by a tripartite Board of Directors that includes low-income representatives, business and community leaders, and local elected officials. This ensures SCAP is representative of its diverse community and meets its obligation to the community and low-income population the agency serves. SCAP's data and program management system, CAP60, is a confidential, centralized, fully integrated web-based data collection and assessment system.

Services are provided utilizing the evidence-based **Family Development** model, an empowerment, strengths-based approach to working with families. SCAP also utilizes the evidence-based practice of **Trauma-Informed Care**. This treatment framework involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Additional evidence-based practices implemented include Housing First, Peer Mentoring, SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery), Solution-Focused Therapy/Case Management, Two-Generation/Whole Family Approach, and ROMA (Results Oriented Management and Accountability).

SCAP maintains several community partnerships to ensure comprehensive resources for customers, and is engaged in numerous key community initiatives.

Schenectady County

SCAP Primary Resource Center & Early Learning Locations



VIII. Community Overview

SCAP's primary service area of **Schenectady County** is geographically one of the smallest counties in New York State. It is the smallest most densely populated county in the eight county area covered by the Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC). Although the smallest county in size in the eight county CREDC area, Schenectady County contains the region's second largest city. As estimated by the Census Bureau's 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS), the City of Schenectady is populated by 65,482 people. There are eight municipalities in Schenectady County, one city, five towns and two villages: City of Schenectady; Towns of Duanesburg, Glenville, Niskayuna, Princetown and Rotterdam; and Villages of Delanson and Scotia:

- **Duanesburg:** The western-most town in the county, Duanesburg includes 73.5 square miles. It is bordered by Montgomery County in the north, Schoharie County in the west and southwest, and Albany County in the south. The **Village of Delanson** is located in the town.
- **Glenville:** Located north of the Mohawk River, the Town of Glenville covers an area of 50.9 square miles and includes the **Village of Scotia**.
- **Niskayuna:** At 15.1 square miles, Niskayuna is geographically the smallest town in Schenectady County. It is located in the southeastern part of the county, east of the City of Schenectady, and is the eastern-most town in the county.
- **Princetown:** Located in the central part of the county, west of the City of Schenectady, Princetown is bordered by Montgomery County to the north and Albany County to the south.
- **Rotterdam:** Also located in the central part of Schenectady County, bordering the City of Schenectady, Rotterdam covers 36.5 square miles. The Mohawk River defines the northeast town line and the New York State Thruway passes through the town.
- **City of Schenectady:** The county seat, the City of Schenectady covers 11 square miles. The most densely populated municipality in the county, it includes the following neighborhoods: Bellevue, Central State Street, Downtown, Eastern Ave, Hamilton Hill & Vale, Mont Pleasant, Northside, Stockade, Union Street, and Woodlawn.

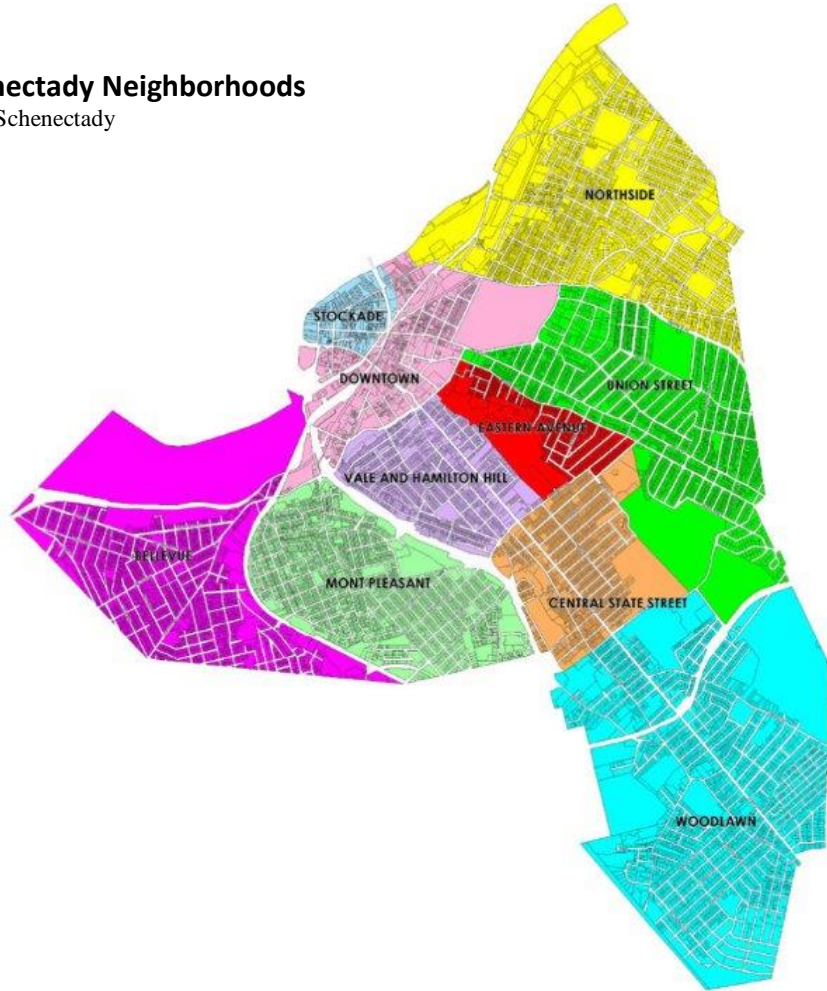
The **Capital Region Neighborhood Analysis Health Equity Report** published by the Healthy Capital District Initiative (HCDI) in September 2019, *“examines the relationship between socioeconomic and health indicators by looking at the variation among the Capital Region’s 58 neighborhoods”*. These neighborhoods (HCDI identified 58 zip-code aggregate neighborhoods) cover a six-county region: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties. From the report:

Using summary indicators such as years of potential life lost (YPLL) and area deprivation index (ADI- 17 indicators including income, education, employment, and housing quality) the Capital Region’s 58 neighborhoods are ranked with detailed analysis to show the difference in the 6 high-need and 6 low-need neighborhoods.

Two neighborhoods in Schenectady County both in the City of Schenectady, were rated among the top six high-need neighborhoods: Hamilton Hill and City/Stockade. No Schenectady County neighborhoods were rated among the six lowest need neighborhoods. The Hamilton Hill neighborhood had the highest ADI (93%) of all 58 neighborhoods ranked.

City of Schenectady Neighborhoods

Source: City of Schenectady



Immigration: The number of non-United States citizens residing in Schenectady County has risen slightly, with over 60% residing in the City of Schenectady. Of note is the decrease in United States citizens born in Puerto Rico or United States island areas.

Nativity and Citizenship Status

	Schenectady County	City of Schenectady	Schenectady County	City of Schenectady
	2012 – 2016		2014 – 2018	
Total Population	154,845	65,554	154,883	65,482
US Citizen, born in the US	136,507	53,882	136,074	53,190
US Citizen, born in Puerto Rico or US Island Areas	1,530	1,340	1,281	936
US Citizen, born abroad of American Parent(s)	986	359	887	410
US citizen by naturalization	10,321	6,449	11,039	7,392
Not a US Citizen	5,501	3,524	5,602	3,554

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

IX. Demographics

Schenectady County is populated by **154,883** people, with approximately 42% of its residents living in the City of Schenectady. The towns of Glenville and Rotterdam continue to be the most populated municipalities outside of the city. The total population of the county reported in the 2000 Census was 146,555. As of the 2014-2018 American Community Survey, the population of 154,883 represented an increase of 8,328 people (5.68% increase). There have not been statistically significant changes in population since the 2008-2012 American Community Survey.

Total Population

Municipality	ACS 2008-2012	ACS 2009-2013	ACS 2010-2014	ACS 2011-2015	ACS 2012-2016	ACS 2014-2018
Schenectady County	154,466	154,821	155,178	154,796	154,845	154,883
City of Schenectady	65,921	65,990	66,055	65,735	65,554	65,482
Duanesburg	5,889	6,012	6,218	6,280	6,407	6,501
Village of Delanson	352	373	367	390	379	376
Glenville	29,448	29,504	29,560	29,489	29,490	29,371
Village of Scotia	7,720	7,723	7,742	7,744	7,732	7,715
Niskayuna	21,784	21,895	22,022	22,050	22,177	22,225
Princetown	2,370	2,281	2,124	2,068	1,953	1,856
Rotterdam	29,054	29,139	29,199	29,174	29,264	29,448

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey Selected Characteristics of Total Population, Table S0601

Age Distribution: According to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS), 48.7% of Schenectady County's population is male and 51.3% is female. The lowest median age occurs in the Village of Delanson and City of Schenectady. The highest median age occurs in Princetown, followed by the Towns of Glenville, Niskayuna and Rotterdam. While the City of Schenectady continues to have the greatest number of individuals in each age category, municipalities with the highest percentage of their total population by age category varies. The three highest percentages in each category are found in the following municipalities (not including Villages of Delanson and Scotia):

- **Under 5 years:** Niskayuna (7.1%), Duanesburg (6%) and City of Schenectady (5.8%)
- **5-17 years:** Niskayuna (18.9%), Duanesburg (17.6%) and Glenville (17.2%)
- **18-64 years:** City of Schenectady (66.2%), Duanesburg (65.8%) and Rotterdam (61.1%)
- **64 years and above:** Princetown (22.8%), Glenville (19.9%) and Niskayuna (19%)

Age cohort projections by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission have not changed since SCAP's 2015 & 2018 Community Needs Assessments. While the total population was not projected to change dramatically, notable changes in the population age profile for persons 45-54 and 65-74 years of age were predicted, including a 19% decrease amongst the age cohort of 45-54 years (from 2010 to 2020). Conversely, the 65-74 age cohort has been expected to increase by 55%. Updated age statistics (updated from the 2018 CNA) show a .6% increase in the percent of Schenectady County residents over age 65 (from the 2012 – 2016 ACS to the 2014 – 2018 ACS), and a .5% increase in the 65 – 74 age group (8.3 – 8.8%). There was a decrease of .4% in the 45 – 54 age group (13.6% to 13.2%).

Age Distribution and Percent of Total Population

Municipality	Under 5 Years % of Total	5 – 17 Years % of Total	18 – 64 Years % of Total	65 Years and Above % of Total	Median Age (Years)
Schenectady County	5.8%	15.8%	61.9%	16.4%	39.9
City of Schenectady	5.8%	14.3%	66.2%	13.7%	36.6
Duanesburg	6%	17.6%	65.8%	10.6%	37.7
Village of Delanson	13.3%	17%	62.1%	7.5%	31.5
Glenville	4.9%	17.2%	58%	19.9%	42.3
Village of Scotia	6.7%	17.8%	60.4%	15.2%	37.9
Niskayuna	7.1%	18.9%	54.9%	19%	43.4
Princetown	5.1%	13.7%	58.5%	22.8%	47.3
Rotterdam	5.7%	15.1%	61.1%	18.2%	42.1

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey Selected Characteristics of Total Population, Table S0601

Race and Ethnicity: The City of Schenectady remains a diverse community, while Schenectady County residents outside the city continue to identify primarily as White. The municipality with the most diversity outside the City of Schenectady continues to be Niskayuna.

Race and Ethnicity

(Race alone or in combination with one or more other races)

Municipality	White		Black / African American		Asian		Some Other Race		Hispanic/ Latino (any race)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Schenectady County	124,363	80.3%	19,766	12.8%	8,800	5.7%	8,741	5.7%	10,707	6.9%
City of Schenectady	41,019	62.6%	16,228	24.8%	5,439	8.3%	7,456	11.4%	6,786	10.4%
Duanesburg	6,340	97.5%	80	1.2%	66	1.0%	136	2.1%	455	7.0%
Village of Delanson	367	97.6%	6	1.6%	3	.8%	0	0%	12	3.2%
Glenville	28,483	97.0%	646	2.2%	508	1.7%	316	1.1%	1,246	4.2%
Village of Scotia	7,493	97.1%	234	3.0%	44	.6%	35	.5%	446	5.8%
Niskayuna	19,054	85.7%	1,072	4.8%	2,341	10.5%	422	1.9%	891	4.0%
Princetown	1,825	99.8%	10	.5%	0	0%	0	0%	21	1.1%
Rotterdam	27,615	93.8%	1,730	5.9%	446	1.5%	411	1.4%	1,308	4.4%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey Demographic and Housing Estimates, Table DP-05



Veterans: There are 8,528 Veterans living in Schenectady County, representing 7.0% of the civilian population over the age of 18. Veterans with disabilities constitute 26.1% of the Veteran population. (2014-2018 American Community Survey)

X. Economic Profile

Schenectady County’s median household income of \$63,785 continues to be below the New York State median income of \$65,323. There continues to be significant variation in median incomes across municipalities within the county; the municipality with the highest median income continues to be Niskayuna (109,685), and the municipality with the lowest median income continues to be the City of Schenectady (\$44,826).

Median Household Income by Municipality

Municipality	Median Income
Schenectady County	\$63,785
City of Schenectady	\$44,826
Duanesburg	\$86,729
Glenville	\$75,085
Niskayuna	\$109,685
Princetown	\$88,077
Rotterdam	\$70,255

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

The City of Schenectady’s median income is far above what its residents with low-income earn. People with low-income struggle to meet basic needs such as clothing, food and shelter. For example, a family of four, supported by one full-time minimum wage earner (at New York State’s minimum wage, which increased to \$11.80/hour December 31, 2019), earns just \$24,544 annually, which is below the federal poverty level of \$26,200 for a family of this size.

Household Income by Municipality

	Less than \$10,000	\$10,000 to \$14,999	\$15,000 to \$24,999	\$25,000 to \$34,999	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 to \$74,999	\$100,000 to \$149,999	\$150,00 to \$199,999	\$200K+
New York State	6.7%	5.2%	8.8%	8.2%	10.9%	15.6%	11.9%	15.4%	7.6%	9.7%
Schenectady County	5.0%	5.3%	9.1%	8.8%	11.9%	17.3%	13.9%	17.1%	6.8%	4.9%
City of Schenectady	7.9%	8.0%	12.8%	11.5%	14.4%	18.5%	11.3%	11.2%	3.2%	1.3%
Duanesburg	1.5%	.5%	8.3%	3.6%	7.3%	21.9%	16.4%	18.4%	15.9%	6.1%
Village of Delanson	4.7%	0.0%	3.8%	8.5%	2.8%	27.4%	23.6%	24.5%	3.8%	.9%
Glenville	3.2%	5.3%	7.6%	7.0%	10.9%	16.0%	16.0%	20.5%	7.9%	5.6%
Village of Scotia	6.6%	9.1%	12.5%	5.5%	15.7%	13.8%	13.8%	15.8%	5.3%	1.9%
Niskayuna	2.2%	1.2%	3.0%	4.7%	7.1%	12.3%	12.1%	26.7%	14.3%	16.3%
Princetown	3.5%	1.0%	.7%	9.8%	7.1%	14.0%	27.2%	20.4%	6.6%	9.6%
Rotterdam	3.4%	3.2%	7.5%	8.5%	12.0%	19.2%	17.5%	19.1%	6.5%	3.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey Selected Economic Characteristics, Table DP-03

Countywide, over 19.4% of households make less than \$25,000 per year and over 28.2% make less than \$35,000. These percentages increase significantly within the City of Schenectady where 28.7% of households make less than \$25,000 annually and 40.2% of households earn less than \$35,000 per year, as well as the Village of Scotia, where 28.2% households earn less than \$25,000 annually and 33.7% of households earn less than \$35,000 per year. After the City of Schenectady and Village of Scotia, communities with the highest percent of households with income less than \$25,000 per year are the Towns of Glenville (16.1%) and Rotterdam (14.1%). Of note is that the percent of households in the Village of Scotia making less than \$25,000 annually, 28.2%, is 4.2% higher than reported in the 2012 – 2016 American Community Survey.

Regional Economic Development Councils

In 2011, Governor Cuomo established 10 Regional Councils to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. The Councils are public-private partnerships made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations. New York State's annual **Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)** process, which incorporates review by the Regional Councils, and considers applicants for multiple funding sources for economic development projects through submission of one application, continues. The **Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC)** represents eight counties: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties.

Schenectady County's Economic Development and Planning Department provides advice and technical assistance to the County Manager, the Schenectady County Legislature, and municipal governments. In addition to the CREDC, economic development resources for the City of Schenectady (many of which provide county-wide support) include: City of Schenectady Department of Development, Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority, Capital Region Chamber, Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, Capital Region Land Bank, Get Your Business Online, Schenectady Smart City Advisory Commission, and Cornell University Rust to Green Urban Studio.

Opportunity Zone Community Development Program

New York State continues to participate in the federal Opportunity Zone community development program, offered through the **Tax Cuts and Job Acts of 2017**. An Opportunity Zone is an economically-distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. Localities qualify as Opportunity Zones if they have been nominated for that designation by the state and that nomination has been certified by the Secretary of the United States Treasury via delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service. Based on analyses by Empire State Development (ESD), New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), New York State Department of State (DOS) and the state's Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs), New York State recommended 514 census tracts to the United States Department of the Treasury for designation as Opportunity Zones. In Schenectady County, three census tracts continue to be designated as Opportunity Zone areas; all are within the City of Schenectady: 202, 210.01 and 335.

XI. Poverty

The highest level of poverty in Schenectady County continues to be in the City of Schenectady. Of all Schenectady County residents living below the poverty level, 67% reside in the City of Schenectady (down from 73% according to 2012 – 2016 ACS and down from 78% reported in SCAP’s 2015 Community Needs Assessment). Of note below is the decrease in the city’s poverty level, as well as the increases in poverty levels within the Town of Duanesburg and Village of Delanson, Town of Glenville and Village of Scotia, and Town of Rotterdam.

Percent below Poverty Level by Municipality

Municipality	Below Poverty Level	Percent Below Poverty Level	Below Poverty Level	Percent Below Poverty Level
	<i>US Census Bureau, 2012-2016 ACS</i>		<i>US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 ACS</i>	
Schenectady County	18,055	12.0%	17,200	11.4%
City of Schenectady	13,219	21.1%	11,509	18.4%
Duanesburg	327	5.1%	507	7.8%
Village of Delanson	16	4.2%	33	8.8%
Glenville	1,507	5.2%	2,009	7.0%
Village of Scotia	592	7.7%	960	12.4%
Niskayuna	1,184	5.4%	902	4.1%
Princetown	75	3.9%	64	3.5%
Rotterdam	1,743	6.0%	2,209	7.6%

Age

Poverty by Age

Municipality	Under 18 years			18 to 64			65 and Over		
	Total	# Below Poverty Level	% In Poverty	Total	# Below Poverty Level	% In Poverty	Total	# Below Poverty Level	% In Poverty
Schenectady County	33,031	5,328	16.1%	93,417	10,201	10.9%	24,366	1,671	6.9%
City of Schenectady	12,964	3,657	28.2%	40,892	6,927	16.9%	8,582	925	10.8%
Duanesburg	1,531	165	10.8%	4,277	325	7.6%	693	17	2.5%
Glenville	6,445	711	11.0%	17,001	1,070	6.3%	5,409	228	4.2%
Niskayuna	5,756	139	2.4%	12,201	599	4.9%	4,074	164	4.0%
Princetown	331	10	3.0%	1,084	23	2.1%	423	31	7.3%
Rotterdam	6,004	646	10.8%	17,962	1,257	7.0%	5,185	306	5.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, S1701



When compared to Schenectady County’s other municipalities, the City of Schenectady continues to have the largest percentage of individuals living in poverty in all age categories: children under 18 years (28.2%), adults ages 18 to 64 (16.9%) and residents 65 and over (10.8%). The municipalities with the highest percentage of total population in each age category living in poverty are:

- **Under 18 years:** City of Schenectady (28.2%), Glenville (11.0%), and Rotterdam & Duanesburg (both at 10.8%)
- **18 to 64 years:** City of Schenectady (16.9%), Duanesburg (7.6%) and Rotterdam (7.0%)
- **65 and over:** City of Schenectady (10.8%), Princetown (7.3%) and Rotterdam (5.9%)

Low-income Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool Age Children

The table below utilizes 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) poverty data to estimate the number of birth to two, and three- and four-year old children in Schenectady County living in poverty. The highest concentration of children under age five in poverty live in the City of Schenectady; 75.6% of all children under age five in the county living in poverty reside in the City of Schenectady. This percentage, however, is significantly lower than the 87.4% reported in SCAP’s 2018 Community Needs Assessment (utilizing 2012 – 2016 ACS data), which had decreased from 92% reported in SCAP’s 2015 Community Needs Assessment.

Children Under Age Five in Poverty

Municipality	Total # of Children		% < 5 in Poverty	Estimated # in Poverty	
	0-2 years	3 & 4 years		0-2 years	3 & 4 years
City of Schenectady	2,360	1,406	36.1%	852	508
Town of Duanesburg	201	189	34.4%	69	65
Town of Glenville	802	648	7.0%	56	45
Town of Niskayuna	930	659	0.6%	6	4
Town of Princetown	59	35	--	--	--
Town of Rotterdam	989	686	11.5%	114	79
Total:	5,341	3,623	-----	1,097	701

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Gender

There continue to be more females than males in Schenectady County living in poverty:

Poverty by Gender

	Male	Female	Male	Female
	<i>US Census Bureau, 2012-2016 ACS</i>		<i>US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 ACS</i>	
Total in Poverty	7,943	10,112	7,453	9,747
% of Total Males/Females	10.83%	13.04%	10.16%	12.58%



Single Parent Families: Poverty rates for single parent female head of household families are higher than those for married couple families; 32.1% of Schenectady County’s single parent female head of household families with related children under 18 years old live in poverty. This number increases to 43.8% in the City of Schenectady, and 46.3% in the Town of Duanesburg.

Percentage of Families Living in Poverty by Type and Municipality

Municipality	All Families	% in poverty	With Related Children < 18	% in poverty	Married Couple Families	% in poverty	With Related Children < 18	% in poverty	Families w/Female Head of Household	% in poverty	With Related Children < 18	% in poverty
Schenectady County	31,928	7.1%	13,450	12.7%	24,134	2.3%	8,775	3.2%	5,837	23.7%	3,516	32.1%
City of Schenectady	11,301	12.9%	4,881	23.1%	7,253	4.2%	2,377	6.9%	2,994	32.3%	1,846	43.8%
Duanesburg	1,409	3.6%	659	7.7%	1,213	.8%	518	1.9%	111	34.2%	82	46.3%
Glenville	6,693	4.1%	2,799	8.1%	5,317	.8%	1,928	.7%	1,199	15.7%	784	21.2%
Niskayuna	5,372	2.0%	2,438	2.3%	4,745	1.9%	2,050	2.5%	482	2.9%	307	1.6%
Princetown	442	2.3%	129	--	397	1.3%	113	--	24	20.8%	12	--
Rotterdam	6,711	5.5%	2,544	9.7%	5,209	2.0%	1,789	2.5%	1,027	16.7%	458	23.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, S1702

Race and Ethnicity

At 30.3%, the race in Schenectady County with the highest poverty rate continues to be Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, followed by the Black/African American population at 28.2%. 27% of Schenectady County’s Hispanic population lives in poverty.

Schenectady County Poverty by Race: Percent in Poverty

	White	Black/African American	Native American/ Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races
% in Poverty	8.6%	28.2%	16.5%	10.6%	30.3%	17.9%	17.6%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

Poverty by Ethnicity Alone

Total Hispanic Population for Whom Poverty is Determined	Total Population Hispanic/Latino in Poverty	Percent Hispanic/Latino Population in Poverty
10,400	2,808	27%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey



As highlighted below, minority populations in Schenectady County continue to be more likely to experience poverty.

Poverty Status in the Past 12 months, Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin

Area	White			Black/African American		
	Total	# in Poverty	%	Total	# in Poverty	%
New York State	12,205,360	1,312,096	10.8%	2,954,161	638,823	21.6%
Schenectady County	116,488	9,979	8.6%	15,555	4,388	28.2%
City of Schenectady	35,772	4,736	13.2%	13,205	4,227	32.0%
Duanesburg	6,248	504	8.1%	31	2	6.5%
Village of Delanson	367	33	9.0%	6	0	0%
Glenville	27,588	1,814	6.6%	321	5	1.6%
Village of Scotia	7,402	938	12.7%	157	0	0%
Niskayuna	18,329	820	4.5%	728	22	3.0%
Princetown	1,828	60	3.3%	4	4	100%
Rotterdam	26,723	2,045	7.7%	1,266	128	10.1%
Area	Hispanic/Latino			Two or more races		
	Total	# in Poverty	%	Total	# in Poverty	%
New York State	3,623,015	855,022	23.6%	580,830	114,990	19.8%
Schenectady County	10,400	2,806	27.0%	6,238	1,096	17.6%
City of Schenectady	6,500	2,211	34.0%	4,294	942	21.9%
Duanesburg	455	1	.2%	121	0	0%
Village of Delanson	12	0	0%	0	0	0%
Glenville	1,246	346	27.8%	530	135	25.5%
Village of Scotia	446	298	66.8%	91	4	4.4%
Niskayuna	882	163	18.5%	645	11	1.7%
Princetown	21	0	0%	6	0	0%
Rotterdam	1,296	85	6.6%	642	8	1.2%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, S1701

Educational Attainment and Poverty: 40,765 residents 25 years of age or older in Schenectady County have a high school diploma or less, 5,989 of which have incomes below the poverty level.

Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, Educational Attainment (Population 25 Years and Over)

Area	Less than High School Graduate			High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)		
	Total	Below Poverty Level	%	Total	Below Poverty Level	%
New York State	1,780,604	511,057	28.7%	3,473,876	513,853	14.8%
Schenectady County	10,017	2,194	21.9%	30,748	3,795	12.3%
City of Schenectady	6,941	1,693	24.4%	14,828	2,470	16.7%
Duanesburg	231	6	2.6%	1,421	71	5.0%
Village of Delanson	14	4	28.6%	48	1	2.1%
Glenville	810	145	17.9%	5,044	419	8.3%
Village of Scotia	257	75	29.2%	1,559	223	14.3%
Niskayuna	350	75	21.4%	2,282	180	7.9%
Princetown	142	25	17.6%	454	23	5.1%
Rotterdam	1,543	250	16.2%	6,719	632	9.4%
Area	Some College, Associate's Degree			Bachelor's Degree or Higher		
	Total	Below Poverty Level	%	Total	Below Poverty Level	%
New York State	3,287,627	348,016	10.6%	4,865,120	245,892	5.1%
Schenectady County	31,324	2,805	9.0%	33,436	1,279	3.8%
City of Schenectady	12,601	1,719	13.6%	9,739	682	7.0%
Duanesburg	1,348	126	9.3%	1,076	3	.3%
Village of Delanson	104	5	4.8%	59	0	0%
Glenville	6,756	352	5.2%	7,523	260	3.5%
Village of Scotia	1,702	88	5.2%	1,766	107	6.1%
Niskayuna	3,088	272	8.8%	9,332	221	2.4%
Princetown	363	0	0%	450	0	0%
Rotterdam	7,168	336	4.7%	5,316	113	2.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, S1701



Income and Disabilities: Individuals with disabilities are more likely to have low incomes. The differential in median income for residents with disabilities vs. those who are not disabled is substantial.

Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status by Gender for the Civilian Non-institutionalized Population 16 Years and Over with Earnings

	New York	Schenectady County
Median Earnings	\$37,806	\$32,568
With a disability	\$25,021	\$19,487
Male	\$27,762	\$21,242
Female	\$21,761	\$16,649
Without a disability	\$38,860	\$34,050
Male	\$43,720	\$40,023
Female	\$33,385	\$30,796

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

SSI (Supplemental Security Income): While many individuals with disabilities can support themselves through work, many cannot and must rely on public support. As of February 2020, **5,822** individuals in Schenectady County were receiving SSI. Maximum SSI benefit amounts for 2020, which include both federal and state SSI benefits, are shown below (not all recipients receive maximum benefit amount).

Maximum Monthly SSI Payments effective January 1, 2020

Category	Maximum
Individual Living Alone	\$870
Individual Living with Others (paying own expenses)	\$806
Couple Living Alone	\$1,279
Couple Living with Others (paying own expenses)	\$1,221
Couple living with Others (receiving some amount of free or subsidized food & shelter)	\$829

Source: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (**SOAR**) is a model for assisting individuals that are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorder, or other physical disability to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). SOAR seeks to maximize income supports through benefits and employment in order to stabilize housing and enhance recovery. SCAP’s Housing and Community Services staff are SOAR-trained to assist households with the application process by completing a thorough assessment, collecting medical and functional records, assisting with accurate completion of forms, and writing a medical summary report that is co-signed by a physician or psychologist and submitted as part of the application packet. SCAP’s Director of Housing and Community Services is the **Local Lead** for SOAR, and designated as Schenectady County’s point person for training and SOAR applications.

Living Wage: The 2018 living wage for Schenectady County (most recent data available) shows the hourly rate an individual must earn to support their family if they are the sole provider and working full-time (2,080 hours per year). The poverty rate is typically quoted as gross annual income. In the chart that follows, it has been converted to an hourly wage for the sake of comparison:

Schenectady County Hourly Living Wage: 2018 Update

Hourly Wages	1 Adult	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	1 Adult, 3 Children	2 Adults (1 working)	2 Adults (1 working), 1 Child	2 Adults (1 working), 2 Children	2 Adults (1 working), 3 Children
Living Wage	\$12.79	\$28.20	\$38.25	\$50.47	\$20.38	\$24.72	\$27.38	\$30.92
Poverty Wage	\$6.00	\$8.13	\$10.25	\$12.38	\$8.13	\$10.25	\$12.38	\$14.50
NYS Minimum Wage (as of 12/31/19)	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator

Income/Public Benefits: As reported in August 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, the number of SNAP, TANF and Safety Net Assistance recipients in Schenectady County continued to decrease, following steady increases from 2010 to 2014. As reported in August 2019, for the third time since 2010, there was a decrease in the number of SSI recipients.

Schenectady County Public Benefit per Household, August 2010 - 2019

Program	August 2010	August 2011	August 2012	August 2013	August 2014	August 2015	August 2016	August 2017	August 2018	August 2019
SNAP Recipients	21,387	23,587	24,483	25,519	25,673	24,764	23,259	22,096	21,009	20,528
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	3,179	3,535	3,659	4,174	4,536	4,207	3,738	3,522	3,279	3,016
Safety Net (SN) Assistance Recipients	1,433	1,567	1,681	1,815	2,072	1,899	1,681	1,601	1,391	1,317
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients	5,029	5,260	5,477	5,570	5,758	5,971	6,027	5,885	5,875	5,846

Source: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

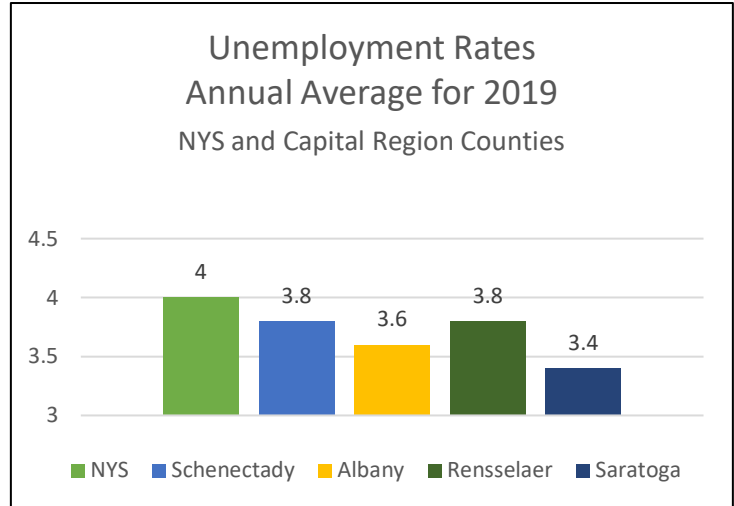
XII. Employment & Education

Unemployment: The annual unemployment rate for Schenectady County was 3.8% for 2019 (down from 4.5% for 2017), remaining tied with Rensselaer County for the highest within the four county Capital Region area including Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties.

The New York State Department of Labor reports unemployment data for the following municipalities within Schenectady County. The only municipality with a rate higher than the county's annual average for 2019 was the City of Schenectady:

- City of Schenectady – 4.6%
- Rotterdam – 3.7%
- Glenville – 3.3%

As reported in the Census Bureau's 2014-2018 American Community Survey, the City of Schenectady's unemployment rate of 9.2% was higher than both the county (6.6%) and NYS rates (6%). Within the city, the highest unemployment rate, 21.8%, was found in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood (Census Tract 210.02), followed by 15.5% in the Mont Pleasant Neighborhood (Census Tract 215).



According to the February 2020 issue of "Employment in NYS", in 2019: "The Capital Region's private sector job count grew by 1,200, or 0.3%, to 450,700. Job gains were largest in natural resources, mining and construction (+2,000); educational and health services (+1,200); and financial activities (+500). Losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-900); leisure and hospitality (-800); manufacturing (-400); and professional and business services (-400).

Preliminary unemployment data for the **month of March 2020**, when the effects of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic began ramping up in New York State, shows increases from the 2019 annual data:

- New York State: 4.4% (**for month of April jumped to 15%; county-level data not yet available**)
- Schenectady County: 4.2%
- Albany County: 3.9%
- Rensselaer County: 4.3%
- Saratoga County: 3.8%

Rates for the Capital Region's tri-city area were higher than the rates of each city's corresponding county:

- City of Schenectady: 5.3%
- City of Albany: 4.4%
- City of Troy: 5.3%

NYS DOL's release of March 2020 unemployment rates were accompanied by the following note:

Data in this release are based partly upon the results of the March 2020 Current Population Survey of households. While these data broadly reflect the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and related public health efforts on the state's labor market, it is important to note the March reference period for this

survey occurred before many coronavirus-related business and school closures were implemented. In addition, data collection rates were lower than normal due to coronavirus-related challenges. As a result, the scope of coronavirus-related unemployment from March is not fully reflected in these figures.

More telling information about the **effects of COVID-19 on employment** can be derived from the following information posted by NYS DOL:

- For the week ending April 18, 2020, initial claims for Unemployment Insurance increased over the past year by 1,102% in New York State’s **Capital Region** (from 612 a year ago to 7,359 for the week ending April 18, 2020). For the week ending May 8, 2020, initial claims increased over the past year by 1,394%, from 538 a year ago to 8,039 for the week ending May 8, 2020.
- Over-the-year changes in initial claims for Unemployment Insurance in the **Capital Region** for the cumulative weeks ending March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, 18, 25; and May 2 & 9 showed an increase of 1,312% (from 6,034 to 85,200).
- For the week ending April 11, 2020, 2,547 **Schenectady County** residents submitted an initial claim for unemployment. For the week ending April 18, 2020, initial claims for Unemployment Insurance in Schenectady County increased by 1,084% from one year ago (from 101 to 1,196). For the week ending May 8, 2020, initial claims increased over the past year by 1,498%, from 89 a year ago to 1,422 for the week ending May 8, 2020.

Data for Schenectady County (2014-2018 American Community Survey) that continues to have workforce implications includes:

- 10% of residents (age five and older) speak a language at home other than English
- 39% of residents over age 25 have a high school diploma or less
- High level of poverty within the City of Schenectady (18.4%)

Education: English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Assessments: According to New York State Report Card Data for Grades 3 – 8 2019 ELA and Math Assessments, overall proficiency rates for students at all school districts in Schenectady County remain below 50%: 40% ELA proficient and 36% math proficient. Proficiency rates are lower than those of NYS as a whole: 45% ELA proficient and 47% math proficient.

As indicated in the chart that follows, the four-year graduation rate for the Schenectady City School District continues to be low, but is significantly higher (7 percentage points) than the 2013 cohort’s August rate of 61%. While the percent and number of economically disadvantaged students continues to remain highest for the Schenectady City School District, this district experienced a 7% decrease between 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 (from 84% down to 77%). The percent of economically disadvantaged students in the Niskayuna School District increased by 3% (12% to 15%); in the Rotterdam-Mohonasen District the percent increased by 4% (41% to 45%); in the Scotia-Glenville District it increased by 3% (29% - 32%); and in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake District it increased by 5% (13% to 18%).

The New York State Department of Education defines economically disadvantaged students as *“those who participate in, or whose family participates in, economic assistance programs, such as the free or reduced-price lunch programs, Social Security Insurance (SSI), Food Stamps, Foster Care, Refugee Assistance (cash or medical assistance), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Safety Net Assistance (SNA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), or Family Assistance: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). If one student in a family is identified as low income, all students from that household (economic unit) may be identified as low income”*.



2018-2019 New York State School Report Card Data

Student Group	Schenectady CSD	Niskayuna CSD	Duanesburg CSD	Rotterdam-Mohonasen CSD	Schalmont CSD	Scotia-Glenville CSD	Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake CSD
2015 Cohort Four – Year Graduation Rate – as of August 2019 (all students)	68% of 773	95% of 363	94% of 64	87% of 216	91% of 172	92% of 207	95% of 251
Total # of students in district	9,256	4,250	664	2,788	1,821	2,438	3,059
White	2,007 / 22%	2,965 / 70%	617 / 93%	2,181 or 78%	1,575 / 86%	2,202 or 90%	2,824 / 92%
Black/African American	2,837 / 31%	184 / 4%	5 / 1%	112 / 4%	32 / 2%	93 / 4%	31 / 1%
Multiracial	706 / 8%	177 / 4%	10 or 2%	169 / 6%	81 / 4%	7 / 0%	80 / 3%
Asian or Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	1,719 / 19%	705 / 17%	5 / 1%	92 / 3%	30 / 2%	43 / 2%	54 / 2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	12 / 0%	8 / 0%	2 / 0%	12 / 0%	6 / 0%	4 / 0%	-----
Hispanic or Latino	1,975 / 21%	211 / 5%	25 / 4%	222 / 8%	97 / 5%	89 / 4%	70 / 2%
English Language Learners	418 / 5%	111 / 3%	-----	34 / 1%	9 / 0%	15 / 1%	11 / 0%
Students with Disabilities	1,635 / 18%	484 / 11%	69 / 10%	403 / 14%	270 or 15%	367 / 15%	455 / 15%
Economically Disadvantaged Students	7,152 / 77%	654 / 15%	182 / 27%	1,250 / 45%	544 / 30%	792 / 32%	549 / 18%

Source: NYS Department of Education

As indicated above, the Schenectady City School District (SCSD) has the lowest graduation rate of any district in the county. SCSD graduation rates by student group vary:

Student Group	% Grad Rate (2015 cohort as of August 2017)	Student Group	% Grad Rate
Female	77%	General Education Students	74%
Male	60%	Students with Disabilities	46%
Black/African American	62%	English Language Learners	31%
Hispanic	65%	Not Economically Disadvantaged	71%
White	67%	Economically Disadvantaged	67%

Source: NYS Department of Education



XIII. Housing & Homelessness

Housing

Housing Occupancy, Conditions and Affordability: In Schenectady County, 47% of all housing units are located in the City of Schenectady. The city also contains the largest percent (50%) of the county’s vacant units. Of note is the fact that 75% of the city’s housing stock was constructed prior to 1960, with 56% of the housing stock constructed prior to 1940.

Housing Occupancy

County	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	Homeowner Vacancy Rate	Rental Vacancy Rate
Schenectady County	69,302	53,295	16,007	1.9%	7.2%
City of Schenectady	32,564	22,694	9,870	2.7%	8.4%
Duanesburg	2,337	1,828	509	0.3%	0.0%
Glenville	12,812	10,488	2,324	.9%	7.5%
Niskayuna	8,389	7,426	963	0.2%	3.9%
Princetown	824	602	222	3.1%	17.1%
Rotterdam	12,376	10,257	2,119	3.1%	2.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

Current Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data published by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, which demonstrates extent of housing problems and housing needs by income bracket, is based on the Census Bureau’s 2012 – 2016 American Community Survey:

- 55,025 occupied housing units in Schenectady County are inhabited by 36,995 homeowner and 18,030 renter households. In the City of Schenectady, approximately 50% of 23,285 occupied units are rental units (11,615 rental units compared to 11,670 homeowner units).
- The percent of households in the City of Schenectady with incomes below 80% of the HUD Area Median Family Income (63.7%) is significantly higher than the percent of Schenectady County households with incomes below 80% of the HUD Area Median Family Income (47%).
- Close to one third (30.8%) of all households in Schenectady County are cost-burdened, defined as over 30% of income expended on housing related costs. In the City of Schenectady, 39.4% of households are cost-burdened. Approximately 49.4% of renters in the county and 52.6% of renters in the city are cost-burdened. Comparatively, 26.4% of homeowners in the city and 21.9% of homeowners countywide are cost-burdened.
- 78.9% of the lowest income households in Schenectady County – 8,885 households with



incomes at or below 30% of the HUD Area Median Family Income – experience at least one of four “housing problems”, defined as incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, and cost burden greater than 30%. The majority of these lowest income households, 67.5%, are located in the City of Schenectady.

- Renters in the City of Schenectady are more likely to experience housing problems than homeowners. 53.4% of renters experience housing problems, and 33.6% of renters experience severe housing problems. 27.7% of homeowners experience housing problems and 11.7% of homeowners experience at least one of four “severe housing problems”, defined as incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room and cost-burden greater than 50%.

Lead-based paint hazards have been prevalent in many of the City of Schenectady’s dwellings. The city and county continue to work collaboratively on this issue, utilizing funds received through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to address lead hazards; most recently, in 2017 the City was awarded additional federal funds, in the amount of \$3 million, to address this issue.

Fair Market Rents (FMR) are estimated annually by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

FY2020 Fair Market Rents (FMR) for Schenectady County & Albany-Schenectady-Troy MSA and Hourly Wage to Afford a Fair Market Rent

	Efficiency	1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms
FMR	\$747	\$855	\$1,054	\$1,313	\$1,428
Hourly Wage Needed for FMR	\$14.77	\$17.38	\$21.44	\$26.87	\$28.98

Sources: HUD and National Low Income Housing Coalition

The hourly wage needed to afford an apartment at FMR defines affordable as not more than 30% of gross income spent on gross housing costs. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s **2019 Out of Reach** report, the maximum affordable monthly housing cost for families with an annual income at 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) is \$674 per month. As detailed above, the 2020 FMR for a two-bedroom unit in Schenectady County is \$1,054. A family in Schenectady County would need to earn at least \$44,600 per year, with an hourly wage of \$21.44, to afford a two-bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent. However, the county’s hourly mean renter wage is only \$15.16.

Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority (SMHA): SMHA operates seven conventional public housing developments in the City of Schenectady, serving 1,018 low-income families. Three properties (Schonowee Village, Ten Eyck Apartments and Lincoln Heights) serve the elderly and disabled, while the four other properties (Yates Village, Steinmetz Homes, MacGathan Townhouses and Maryvale Apartments) serve families with children. The Housing Authority’s largest housing development, Yates Village, originally constructed in 1948, has offered eligible residents 300 apartments, including a mixture of one to five bedroom units. Late last year, work began to rehabilitate this aging apartment complex.

SMHA’s Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program serves 1,387 households, helping residents afford apartments by paying a portion of their rent directly to the landlord on their behalf. As reported in the City of Schenectady’s 2017 Community Needs Assessment, there has been a 5+ year waiting list for the Section

8 Housing Choice Voucher program. In 2018, SMHA opened up the waitlist, accepting applications from June 19, 2018 through June 22, 2018. Most recently, applications for the waitlist were accepted electronically from April 7, 2020 through April 10, 2020.

Affordable Housing Development and Rehabilitation Activities: Local entities that focus on affordable housing development and rehabilitation activities in the City of Schenectady and Schenectady County include Better Community Neighborhoods, Inc. (BCNI) and Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County. BCNI is the result of a recent merger between two New York State-designated Neighborhood Preservation Companies, Community Land Trust of Schenectady and Better Neighborhoods, Inc., to create and build the capacity of a single, well financed, locally supported, high quality not for profit community development organization. Working with an experienced multifamily housing developer, BCNI is currently developing 55+ units of affordable rental housing on Eastern Avenue.

The Land Reutilization Corporation of the Capital District (Capital Region Land Bank) works to promote the redevelopment and revitalization of derelict properties in the City of Schenectady and Schenectady County (as well as the City of Amsterdam). The Capital Region Land Bank's mission is to strengthen neighborhoods by mitigating blight.

Efforts within the past five years to increase affordable and supportive housing opportunities in Schenectady's distressed neighborhoods include a 51-unit new construction rental project by DePaul Properties, and The Community Builders' (TCB's) Hillside View housing development (58 units), both located in Schenectady's Hamilton Hill neighborhoods. TCB is currently working on phase two of its efforts to create affordable and supportive housing units in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood; Hamilton Hill II will create 85 additional units of housing in this neighborhood.

The threat of eviction for low-income renters is a significant concern, particularly in the City of Schenectady. In 2019, there were 2,140 evictions filed in Schenectady City Court, with 906 evictions executed by the Schenectady County Sheriff's Department.

Homelessness

The most recent annual Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) report, for the period ending September 30, 2019, indicates that 3,992 individuals in Schenectady County required homeless-related services:

- 2,654 required residential assistance, and another 1,268 accessed supportive services only.
- Of 2,550 heads of household, 1,495 (58.6%) indicated prior residence of Emergency Shelter, the streets or Safe Haven, with 759 (50.8%) reporting one previous episode within the last three years. 267 (17.9%), 118 (7.9%), and 298 (19.9%) had been homeless 2, 3, or 4+ times (respectively) within the last three years.
- 66.8% of adults and 12.5% of children served reported at least one physical, emotional or other health condition, with 652 adults served reporting conditions that met the criteria to be considered a disability.

According to Schenectady County's 2019 **Point in Time (PIT)** count, 22 homeless people were unsheltered, 300 homeless people were in emergency shelter, and 50 homeless people were transitionally housed on a given night in January 2019. The total count of 372 compares to 393 in 2018 and 274 in 2017.



The New York State Department of Education reports that during the 2018-19 school year, 520 children enrolled in a Schenectady County school district experienced homelessness at some point during the school year. 469 of these children were enrolled at the Schenectady City School District.

Schenectady County's **Homeless Services Planning Board (HSPB)** governs Schenectady County's Continuum of Care (coordinating body for federal funding for homeless related services). The HSPB works to identify community needs and service gaps for the target population, maintain an awareness of available supports and services, and oversee a coordinated entry process for households seeking support through a Schenectady County Continuum of Care (CoC)-funded entity. SCAP maintains a leadership role on Schenectady's Homeless Services Planning Board (HSPB). SCAP's Chief Executive Officer is co-chair of the HSPB Board of Directors. Both SCAP's Chief Executive Officer and Director of Housing & Community Services participate on multiple HSPB committees. The HSPB's Strategic Plan, approved by the HSPB Board of Directors in May 2018, includes the following goals:

- **Goal #1:** Expand community engagement among service providers county-wide to increase and enhance service delivery at a systems level.
- **Goal #2:** Develop resources to support increasing the supply of Permanent Supportive Housing units, and continue to develop effective access to these units and Intensive Case Management by prioritizing the most vulnerable.
- **Goal #3:** Increase development of and access to quality affordable housing.
- **Goal #4:** Engage additional partners and seek additional resources to identify and provide necessary support services to homeless households and previously homeless households.
- **Goal #5:** Identify methods to prevent and divert homelessness when appropriate.
- **Goal #6:** Ensure a strong, sustainable, and comprehensive community system of services for homeless households, from providing appropriate emergency housing to permanent housing options.
- **Goal #7:** Advocate as a community to address barriers to success in meeting the above goals.

XIV. Early Childhood

Child Care & Development Programs/Education

According to **The Capital Region’s Child Care Landscape** (2019, Brightside Up), in Schenectady County licensed/registered child care capacity includes:

	Number of Programs	Enrollment Capacity
Child Care Centers	38	3,133
Family Child Care Homes	57	456
Group Family Child Care Homes	43	670
School Age Programs	21	1,062

None of Schenectady’s Child Care Centers or School Age Programs offer care during non-traditional hours. Only 8 of the Group Family Child Care Homes and 10 of the Family Child Care Homes offer care during non-traditional hours. Twenty-four Census Tracts in Schenectady County have been designated as child care deserts, defined as areas with an insufficient supply of licensed child care; this represents 59% of all Census Tracts in the county. Overall, there is a shortage of infant and toddler care available in Schenectady County. Since 2018, the number of registered family child care/school-age programs in Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer Counties has declined by 131, representing a decrease of 69%.

According to Brightside Up’s (formerly the Capital District Child Care Council), **Restoring the Grid** (2019):

- 6,000 children age five or under in Schenectady County lack consistent regulated care.
- There is an average of 10 children per regulated child care slot in the county.
- 700 children ages five or under do not have a well care visit.
- There is only one pediatrician for every 2,412 children.

Pre-Kindergarten: The only two school districts in Schenectady County that currently offer a pre-kindergarten program are the **Schenectady City School District** (501 four year olds) and the **Duanesburg Central School District** (26 four year olds).

The Schenectady City School District operates full-day Pre-Kindergarten classrooms at each of the district’s 11 elementary schools, and also contracts with four community-based organizations for half- and full-day programs: SCAP, Parsons Child & Family Center, Schenectady Day Nursery and Rosa Venerini. Since funding and spots are limited, enrollment is by lottery. The Duanesburg Central School District has full-day Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms at Duanesburg Elementary School and Whispering Pines Preschool, serving a total of 26 students. From the Schenectady City School District’s 2019 – 2020 budget:

“While the District is not mandated to provide pre-kindergarten education, the District is currently able to educate 501 students through the support of four grants. There is at least one full-day prekindergarten class at each of our 11 elementary schools and two schools house a second full-day classroom. In addition, to our District programs, the grants also funds 4 community based programs. Approximately 200 students are served at the Parsons Early Childhood Center, Rosa Venerini, Schenectady Day Nursery, and SCAP Headstart.”

SCSD’s pre-kindergarten program continues to be limited to four-year old children. There continues to be a community-wide need in the City of Schenectady to focus on the coordination of program waitlists to ensure accuracy of waitlist information and maximum benefits for eligible children through incorporation of continuity of care considerations. There are approximately 1,406 three- and four-year



old children in Schenectady, an estimated 508 of which live in poverty (see p. 16). SCAP's Head Start program continues to have a large waiting list for three-year old Head Start slots, indicating that future pre-school expansion efforts should consider incorporating programs for three-year old children. This would enable SCAP's Early Learning component to maximize support for the city's low-income families.

Head Start and Early Head Start: As Schenectady County's Head Start provider, SCAP is funded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for 287 center-based and 10 home-based slots. As an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) grantee, SCAP works with YWCA Northeastern NY and three licensed group family day care providers in the City of Schenectady to provide EHS-CCP services for 46 children and their families (additional SCAP EHS-CCP slots are located in Albany County for a total of 94 slots available through the program). Parsons Child & Family Center is funded for 122 Early Head Start slots (64 center-based and 58 home-based) in Schenectady County.

Education: Prekindergarten, Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in Schenectady County continue to collaborate to promote an aligned approach to early learning and smooth transitions between programs. SCAP, Parsons Child & Family Center, YWCA Northeastern NY, and EHS-CCP group family day care providers utilize the Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system to comprehensively address Head Start, Early Head Start and EHS-CCP children's early learning needs. In the City of Schenectady, the Schenectady City School District (SCSD) works collaboratively with its community-based partners to promote smooth transitions. Professional development opportunities related to early learning are aligned. SCSD also utilizes the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system.

Home-Based Services: Home-based services available in Schenectady County include the 10 home-based slots available through SCAP's Head Start Program, home-based Early Head Start services available through Northern Rivers (Parsons Child & Family Center) and Healthy Schenectady Families (HSF). HSF is a free and voluntary home visiting program for pregnant women and parents of infants and toddlers. HSF services, which may continue for three to five years, provide support, nurturing, and education to help parents with the changes and needs of their family that can come along with the birth of a child. HSF provides home visitors in collaboration with Schenectady County Public Health Services and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County. Collaboration amongst all three home-based service providers has identified pervasive enrollment related issues; community demand for early childhood support in Schenectady County continues to be primarily for center-based support.

Project LAUNCH: In 2019, SCAP received a Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Project LAUNCH) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The goal of this program is to prepare children to thrive in school and beyond. Service components include: behavioral/mental health assessments and screenings, intervention and treatment, parent education and training, and professional development and support for staff in child-serving organizations. SCAP will work closely with project partners to:

- Screen 500 individuals for mental health or related interventions annually (2,500 over five-years).
- Refer 300 individuals annually to mental health or related services with 250 receiving services.
- Provide 75 staff in early education settings with training in relevant areas each year (150 over project period).

Ellis Medicine, SCAP's primary treatment partner, will use multiple evidence-based practices to provide screening and treatment support. Additional project partners include:

- Early Learning Providers: Brightside Up, YWCA Northeastern NY, Schenectady Day Nursery, and two Group Family Day Care Providers
- Schenectady County Public Health Services: Healthy Schenectady Families, Early Intervention and WIC



- Hometown Health Centers: Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)

Minimum Wage Impact: New York State has adopted a minimum wage plan that is having a significant impact on Head Start and Early Head Start programs in this state. While the federal minimum wage remains \$7.25 per hour, New York State has adopted the following minimum wage schedule for the geographic area that includes Schenectady County (not including tipped food service workers):

New York State Minimum Wage Schedule

Date	12/31/19	12/31/20
Hourly Minimum Wage	\$11.80	\$12.50

Source: NYS Department of Labor

Minimum wage increases are scheduled to continue until the rate reaches \$15 per hour. These increases will affect the ability of low-income working families to meet income eligibility for enrollment in Head Start and Early Head Start.

The eligibility threshold for low-income child care subsidies through Schenectady County’s Department of Social Services is 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Assistance is also available for eligible working families through the Workforce Development Institute’s (WDI’s) Child Care Subsidy Facilitated Enrollment Program. To qualify for WDI assistance, residents must work a minimum of 25 hours a week, have children under 13 years of age, and have a household income that falls within the income guidelines.

Expectant Mothers

Vital statistics available through the New York State Department of Health for 2017 indicate a total of **2,608 pregnancies** in Schenectady County, in the following age groups:

Pregnancies in Schenectady County: 2017									
Total	<18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Not Specified
2,608	48	141	559	712	684	364	91	6	3

Source: NYS Department of Health

The pregnancies in women between the ages of 15 and 19 equate to a rate of 39.5 per 1,000, which is significantly higher than the New York State rate of 25.0. Only two other counties in the state, Bronx and Jefferson counties, had higher rates. The overall pregnancy rate for women of all ages in Schenectady County is 88.2/1,000, compared to the New York State rate of 79.7. The percent of teen births for Schenectady County is significantly higher than the New York State rate.

Teen Births

	Age < 15	Age 15 to 17	Age 18 to 19	Total Live Births	Total Births to Teens	% Births to Teens
Schenectady County	0	15	68	1,725	83	4.81%
New York State	68	1,794	5,659	228,501	7,453	3.26%

Source: NYS Department of Health (2017 data)

Foster Care

In 2019 there were 2,279 reports of child abuse regarding children in Schenectady County; 511 of these reports were indicated. **116 children** were **admitted to foster care**, with a total of 186 in care at some point during the year. This equates to a rate of 4.5/1,000, higher than the rate of 3.7 for the 15 NYS



counties in the comparison group established by NYS Office of Children and Family Services to permit meaningful comparison between counties with similar populations. Fifty-nine (59) of children admitted to care in 2019 were age five or under; 63 of children in care during the year belonged to this age group.

Disabilities & Early Intervention

Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education services in Schenectady County are coordinated through the county's Children with Special Needs Program. To be eligible for **Early Intervention** services, children must be under 3 years of age and have a confirmed disability or established developmental delay, as defined by NYS, in one or more of the following areas of development: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive. The NYS Department of Health reports that for the 2018 federal fiscal year, 1% of children under age one, and 3.6% of children birth to age three received Early Intervention support. At 5,341 children under age three in Schenectady County (2014-18 ACS), 3.6% is equal to 192 children receiving Early Intervention support. **Four** children served by SCAP's Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership providers in the City of Schenectady during the 2018-19 program year had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) indicating they have been determined eligible to receive early intervention services under (IDEA).

Preschool Special Education services are available for children ages three to five who are approved by their school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education as eligible for services in accordance with Part 200 of the NYS Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. During the 2018-19 school year, **79** of the 356 children between the ages of 3 and 5 served through SCAP Head Start had an **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**, indicating that they had been determined eligible to receive Preschool Special Education and related services. According to the 2018-19 NYS School Report Cards, public school districts in Schenectady County served 3,228 students with disabilities, representing 15% of 21,217 students. For the 2017-18 school year (most recent data available), **Preschool Special Education** services were provided for a total of **316** children:

District	Preschool Students with Disabilities: 2017-18
Burnt Hills- Ballston Lake Central School District (CSD)	38
Duanesburg CSD	6
Niskayuna CSD	48
Rotterdam-Mohonasen CSD	30
Schalmont CSD	18
Schenectady City School District	150
Scotia-Glenville CSD	26
Total	316

Source: NYS School Report Cards

Family Schedules

Most families seeking early learning services from SCAP are single parent families; 67% of Head Start families and 89% of EHS-CCP families are headed by single parents (2018-19). This is in line with poverty related statistics for the different types of households in the county. Of 221 single parent families served by SCAP Head Start (2018-19), 62% percent were employed. EHS-CCP services provide full-day, full-year support to accommodate work schedules. Center-based slots are full-day, with both extended day and summer program options to accommodate family schedules.



XV. Health & Nutrition/Food Insecurity

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program, in 2020 Schenectady County ranks **38** out of New York State’s 62 counties for **Overall Health**, which considers length and quality of life. The county’s ranking for **Health Factors**, which includes health behaviors, clinical care, social & economic factors, and physical environment is **24**. Individual health factor rankings include health behaviors (Schenectady County ranked 26), clinical care (ranked 9), social and economic factors (ranked 29) and physical environment (ranked 51).

As reported by the NYS Department of Health, the leading cause of death in Schenectady County, for each year from 2008 through 2016 has been heart disease, followed by cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases and stroke. The fifth leading cause of death has alternated between diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease, until 2016; the fifth leading cause of death in 2016 was unintentional injury. There are 3.55 physicians per 1,000 persons in Schenectady County; the statewide average is 4.51 physicians per 1,000 persons (*US Census Bureau American Community Survey & NYS Education Department*).

During SCAP’s most recent agency-wide reporting year, 409 (5.46%) out of 7,492 customers reported that they did not have health insurance. County-wide, 4.8% of residents are uninsured. Approximately 19% of SCAP customers have one or more disability. For the 2018-19 program year, 89% of all children ages zero to five enrolled in SCAP’s Head Start and EHS-CCP programs were up-to-date on a schedule of preventative and primary health care, and 97% of children had an ongoing source of continuous accessible health care.

Health Insurance

Area	Persons Eligible for Insurance (under 65 years)	Insured	Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Schenectady County	126,156	120,138	6,018	4.8%

Source: 2018 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

The Healthy Capital District Initiative’s **2019 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment** includes summary health needs information for Schenectady County:

Chronic Disease

- Schenectady County adult asthma prevalence of 12.9% was higher than NYS excl. NYC (10.4%);
- Schenectady’s asthma emergency department visit rate (56.7/10,000), and ED visit rate to the 1-4 year old population (122.6) were higher than NYS excl. NYC (47.6, 105.8);
- Hamilton Hill had 5.2 times the asthma ED visit rate and 2.1 times the asthma hospitalization rate as NYS excl. NYC;
- Schenectady’s adult smoking rate of 19.9% was higher than NYS excl. NYC (17.0%) but a slight decrease from its rate in 2013-14 (20.3%);
- The County’s CLRD ED visit rate (116.2/10,000), hospitalization rate (24.4) and CLRD mortality rate (39.7/100,000) rate were higher than NYS excl. NYC (71.9, 23.7, and 35.0);
- Hamilton Hill had 5 times the CLRD ED visit rate, while City/Stockade and had 2.7 times the CLRD hospitalization rate compared to NYS excl. NYC;
- Schenectady County’s adult obesity rate of 28.5% (30,744 adults), and child and adolescent obesity rate of 18.8% (4,725 children) were both higher than NYS excl. NYC (27.5%, 17.3%);
- Schenectady County adult diabetes prevalence of 9.0% was higher than NYS excl. NYC (8.5%);

- Schenectady's diabetes mortality rate of 18.3/100,000 was higher than NYS excl. NYC (15.3);
- The County's diabetes short-term complication hospitalization rate (5.2/10,000) was higher than NYS excl. NYC (4.1);
- Hamilton Hill neighborhood had 6.5 times the diabetes ED rates, and 3 times the diabetes hospitalization rates compared to NYS excl. NYC;
- Schenectady's heart attack hospitalization rate of 18.0/10,000 was higher than NYS excl. NYC (14.8);
- The County's congestive heart failure hospitalization (21.6/10,000) and mortality (19.9/100,000) rates were higher than NYS excl. NYC (21.4, and 16.9);
- Schenectady's stroke hospitalization (27.0/10,000) and mortality (31.2/100,000) rates were higher than NYS excl. NYC (23.1, and 28.6);
- Hamilton Hill neighborhood had 1.4 times the coronary heart disease hospitalization rate, 1.8 times the congestive heart failure hospitalization rate, and 1.6 times the stroke hospitalization rate compared to NYS excl. NYC;
- Schenectady's colorectal screening rate of 76.2% was better than NYS excl. NYC (69.7%), while the county's colorectal cancer mortality rate (13.1/100,000) was slightly higher than NYS excl. NYC (12.9);
- Schenectady's mammography screening rates were lower than NYS excl. NYC for women 50-74 years of age (78.6% vs 79.2%);
- Schenectady County had higher female breast cancer incidence (144.8/100,000) and late stage incidence (51.5) than NYS excl. NYC (139.5, 43.0).

Healthy and Safe Environment

- Schenectady's incidence rate of elevated blood lead levels (10+ug/dl) in children under 6 years of age of 14.9/1,000 was over twice as high as NYS excl. NYC (6.0);
- The County's lead screening rates for children 9-17 months (76.9%) and 2 screens by 36 months (59.2%) were both higher than NYS excl. NYC (71.7%, 55.9%);
- The percent of Schenectady's low income population with low access to a supermarket of 5.72% was higher than NYS excl. NYC (3.93%);
- Schenectady's assault ED visit (62.1/10,000) and hospitalization (3.1) rates were higher than NYS excl. NYC (35.0, 2.2);
- Hamilton Hill neighborhood had 6.3 times the assault ED visits and 5.7 times the assault hospitalization rates compared to NYS excl. NYC.

Healthy Women, Infants, and Children

- Schenectady's teen (15-17 years) pregnancy rate of 21.5/1,000 was markedly higher than NYS excl. NYC (9.9), but has decreased 35% from 2009 to 2016;
- Hamilton Hill neighborhood's teen pregnancy (15-19 years) was 5.5 times higher NYS excl. NYC; Schenectady County had a slightly higher late or no prenatal care rate (4.6% compared to NYS excl. NYC (4.4%);
- Schenectady's rate of premature births (< 37 weeks gest.) of 9.8% was higher than NYS excl. NYC (9.1%);
- The County's rate of low birthweight (< 2.5 kg.) of 8.8% was higher than NYS excl. NYC (7.7%);
- Schenectady County's infant mortality rate of 9.1/1,000 live births was higher than NYS excl. NYC (5.0);
- Hamilton Hill neighborhood had 1.4 times the rate of premature and 2 times the rate of low birthweight births compared to NYS excl. NYC;
- For Schenectady's children (0-21 years) on public insurance, the well-child visit rate of 67.7% of having the recommended number of visits was lower than NYS excl. NYC (72.7%).



Infectious Disease

- Schenectady's gonorrhea case rates in the 15-44 year population of 418.5/100,000 for females and 321.0 for males were markedly higher than NYS excl. NYC (197.1 and 230.0);
- Schenectady's chlamydia case rate for women 15-44 years of 1943/100,000 was higher than NYS excl. NYC (1352); with a 25% increase from 2009 to 2013;
- The County's gonorrhea rate increased 130% and the chlamydia rate 25% from 2013 to 2017;
- Schenectady's 65 + years population had a lower influenza vaccination rate (55.5%) than NYS excl. NYC (59.6%).

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- About 14.9% of adult Schenectady residents indicated that they had 14+ poor mental health days in the past month, and higher than NYS excl. NYC (11.2%);
- Schenectady's mental disease and disorder ED visit rate (235.8/10,000), and hospitalization rate (97.1/10,000) were higher than NYS excl. NYC (147.8, 64.1);
- Schenectady's suicide mortality rate of 11.7/100,000 was higher than NYS excl. NYC (9.6), but a 7% decrease since 2011-13;
- The self- inflicted injury ED visit rate for Schenectady residents 15+ years of age of 12.6/10,000, and self-inflicted injury hospitalization rate of 9.5/10,000 were higher than NYS excl. NYC (7.1, and 5.3);
- City/Stockade neighborhood had 4.8 times the mental disease and disorder ED visit rates, and 5.2 times the mental disease and disorder hospitalization rates than NYS excl. NYC;
- Schenectady residents had higher rates of opioid overdose mortality (20.8/100,000), and opioid overdose ED visits (81.2) compared to NYS excl. NYC (19.4, 79.7);
- Schenectady County's opioid overdose mortality rate increased over 200%, and the ED visit rate increased 160% from 2013 to 2017;
- Hamilton Hill 2.7 times the opiate-related ED visit rate and opiate-related hospitalization rate than NYS excl. NYC;
- Schenectady's cirrhosis mortality rate (9.1/10,000) was higher than NYS excl. NYC (7.2).

As selected by the Schenectady Prevention Agenda Prioritization Work Group for the 2019 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment, prevention priority areas for Schenectady County remain the same as those chosen by the Schenectady Coalition for a Healthy Community as focus areas through 2018:

- I. PRIORITY AREA: **Prevent Chronic Diseases**
Focus Area: Tobacco Prevention
- II. PRIORITY AREA: **Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders**
Focus Area: Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevention

Nutrition/Food Insecurity

Schenectady County's **Equitable and Healthy Food Action Plan**, published in March 2017, continues to guide efforts to address food insecurity in Schenectady County,

In 2018, 24.8% (8,280) of all children in Schenectady County received SNAP benefits. This is higher than the statewide rate of 23.0%. 10,538 children in grades K – 12 received free or reduced-price school lunches (*Kids' Well-Being Indicators Clearinghouse*).



XVI. Other Community/Social Service Need Indicators

There continue to be multiple other indicators which influence the need for a range of support services in Schenectady County.

Ability to Speak English

A significant number of residents in Schenectady County speak a language other than English, 34% of which speak English less than very well. The majority of residents that speak English less than very well (59.4%) reside in the City of Schenectady.

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English

Subject	Schenectady County	City of Schenectady
Population 5 years and over	145,866	61,664
Speak language other than English	14,637 / 10.0%	7,802 / 12.7%
Speak English less than “very well”	4,983 / 3.4%	2,960 / 4.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

There continues to be a significant number of grandparents in certain areas of Schenectady County living with, and responsible for their grandchildren under 18 years of age.

Grandparents as Caregivers

	Schenectady County	City of Schenectady	Duanesburg	Glenville	Niskayuna	Princetown	Rotterdam
Number of grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years	2,628	1,437	60	503	252	12	364
Responsible for grandchildren	787	446	12	201	3	0	125
Years responsible for grandchildren							
< than 1 year	97	57	0	23	3	0	14
1 or 2 years	212	86	0	109	0	0	17
3 or 4 years	105	20	12	0	0	0	73
5 or more years	373	283	0	69	0	0	21

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey



Crime

The Violent and Property Index Crime Rate per 100,000 for Schenectady County (3,018.7) is higher than all but one of NYS’s 62 counties. The county’s violent crime with firearm rate (62.8) is the 5th highest of all NYS counties (2018, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services [DCJS]). The City of Schenectady’s Violent and Property Index Crime Rate (3,494/100,000) is significantly higher than the county rate (2019, NYS DCJS GIVE). **220** individuals in the county were released from prison for the first time in 2018 (NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision [DOCCS], most recent data). Schenectady County Correctional Facility, situated in the target service area, houses an average of **228** inmates daily (2019, NYS DCJS). The total number of county residents sentenced to jail and prison (adult status) is significant:

**Sentences to Jail and Prison: Adults in Schenectady County
Felony, Violent Felony, Drug Felony and Misdemeanor Categories**

	2016	2017	2018
Prison	446	469	397
Jail/ Jail & Probation	714	629	573
Total	1,160	1,098	970

Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

Of 253 homeless adults served by SCAP’s Supportive Housing Solutions Program, nearly half (47%) were previously incarcerated.

XVII. Community Engagement

SCAP continues to utilize the feedback received through the focus groups and surveys conducted as part of the full assessment completed in 2018. Customers served through each service area of the agency – Early Learning, Employment, and Housing & Community Services, continue to be asked to provide evaluative feedback on a regular basis.

The City of Schenectady’s Draft Consolidated 5-Year Strategic Plan incorporates public and service provider input; this input was instrumental in developing the plans goals and objectives, and the identification of the following high priority needs: Housing, Youth Engagement, Workforce Development and Public Infrastructure. The plan’s three goals include:

GOAL #1: Housing Opportunities – Priority 1

Support programs that provide quality, affordable housing options and initiatives for rehabilitation of the existing housing to help stabilize neighborhoods and meet the needs of all residents.

GOAL #2: Expand Economic & Workforce Development – Priority 2

Assist small businesses and non-profit organizations located in the target areas to remove major barriers to the City’s growth and prosperity by supporting and increasing access through infrastructure upgrades and programs that provide training, technical assistance and work opportunities.

GOAL #3: Strengthen Local Neighborhoods - Priority 3

Enhance community assets and advance cultural and recreational initiatives to engage residents, improve health, safety and education, while creating jobs.

XVIII. Community Resources

SCAP's Resource Navigation component continues to maintain up-to-date knowledge of the range of human services available in Schenectady County.



In 2019, SCAP relaunched the Community Crisis Network (CCN) as the Community Resource Network (CRN). The Community Crisis Network was originally formed in 1998 as a community partnership in response to concerns by area congregations of an increase in people seeking assistance, and a desire to improve assessment and response. Over the past 20 years, the Network has emerged as a best practice model for people to receive the support they need in times of crisis.

The Community Resource Network continues to provide an array of services to assist approximately 2,000 local residents annually in meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, utilities, medical care, employment supports, and transportation. The objective is to maximize resources available while reducing the duplication of services, thereby eliminating the frustrating search for assistance that people in crisis often endure. The network's Emergency Fund helps support individuals and families experiencing crisis when no other community resources are available. Partners with SCAP in the Community Resource Network include Catholic Charities of Schenectady, Schenectady Community Ministries (SCM), City Mission of Schenectady, and area congregations including First Reformed Church, Schenectady and Congregation Gates of Heaven.

XIX. COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 global health pandemic, SCAP has conducted an assessment to capture some of the emerging needs in Schenectady County, as well as to forecast how those needs may evolve over the coming weeks and months. On March 20, 2020, NYS Governor Cuomo signed the New York PAUSE (Policies Assuring Uniform Safety for Everyone) order, effective March 22, 2020 at 8:00pm, which included the directive that all nonessential workers stay at home, temporarily banned all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason, and directed a 90-day moratorium on any residential or commercial evictions (which has been extended to August 20, 2020). This Executive Order initiated the framework for this state's response to the pandemic.

10-point NYS on PAUSE Plan

1. Effective at 8PM on Sunday, March 22, all non-essential businesses statewide will be closed;
2. Non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason (e.g. parties, celebrations or other social events) are canceled or postponed at this time;
3. Any concentration of individuals outside their home must be limited to workers providing essential services and social distancing should be practiced;
4. When in public individuals must practice social distancing of at least six feet from others;
5. Businesses and entities that provide other essential services must implement rules that help facilitate social distancing of at least six feet;

6. Individuals should limit outdoor recreational activities to non-contact and avoid activities where they come in close contact with other people;
7. Individuals should limit use of public transportation to when absolutely necessary and should limit potential exposure by spacing out at least six feet from other riders;
8. Sick individuals should not leave their home unless to receive medical care and only after a telehealth visit to determine if leaving the home is in the best interest of their health;
9. Young people should also practice social distancing and avoid contact with vulnerable populations; and
10. Use precautionary sanitizer practices such as using isopropyl alcohol wipes.

Each of the state's 10 regions must meet seven metrics for ending NY PAUSE. The Capital Region, including Schenectady County, met these seven metrics on May 19, 2020, and was granted permission to begin the reopening process on May 20, 2020. This reopening process includes four incremental phases designed to promote safety and minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus as the region begins the process of economic recovery.

Because of the urgent and widespread needs affecting all sectors of the community, this COVID-19 assessment component is intended to provide some initial information to describe the scope of this crisis on Schenectady County and to support the many different responses that will be required to address emerging, evolving needs. It is likely that as needs evolve, some of those needs will not be captured in this update and therefore some necessary responses may not connect to the needs identified in this update.

Schenectady County Response

Schenectady County's Community Update for May 20, 2020

- Positive COVID-19 Cases: 624 (lab-confirmed)
- Hospitalizations: 17 (includes all hospitalizations, regardless of county of residence)
- Quarantines (potentially exposed): 409
- Isolations: 161 (includes lab-confirmed positives, presumed positives and hospitalized positives)
- Recoveries: 579 (isolation recoveries, which include lab-confirmed positives and presumed positives)
- Deaths: 29

Demographic Data

Demographic information is not truly representative of actual situation, as testing has been limited. As more people are tested, additional data will be shared. Demographic data is self-reported. No one is obligated to share race or ethnicity information.

Race and Ethnicity of COVID Patients

Race	Missing or Unknown	Hispanic	Not-Hispanic
African American	1	9	101
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	1	51
Native American or Alaskan	0	1	0
White	7	24	290
Other	0	28	96
Unknown	10	2	3
Total	18	65	541

Age and Gender of COVID Patients

Gender	Under 10	Under 20	Under 30	Under 40	Under 50	Under 60	Over 60	Total
Male	9	18	43	40	40	44	76	270
Female	9	14	63	52	56	66	90	350
Total	18	32	106	92	96	110	166	620

Four Cases Missing Either Gender or Age Information

The **Schenectady County COVID-19 Emergency Response Coalition**, a coordinated effort between county government services and community stakeholders, has been operating a hotline and providing emergency food and basic supplies for residents, primarily for residents under quarantine or isolation, seniors, and others at high-risk who are unable to provide for their basic needs. Representatives from the County Department of Social Services have been on hand to assist with shelter, temporary assistance programs and Medicaid issues. Hotline personnel have been equipped with referral information about resources available to address other identified needs. Members of the Schenectady County COVID-19 Emergency Response Coalition include: Bethesda House; Better Community Neighborhoods; Boys & Girls Club; Capital Roots; City Mission; Food Pantries for the Capital District; Foundation for Ellis; Habitat for Humanity; Hometown Health; Mohawk Opportunities; Peter Young Housing, Industry & Treatment; Regional Food Bank; Safe Inc.; Salvation Army; Save Our Streets; Schenectady ARC; SCAP; Schenectady City School District; Schenectady County; Schenectady JCC; Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority; Schenectady Community Ministries; Schenectady Foundation; Scotia Relief; Union College; YMCA; YWCA; and Animal Protective Foundation. The Schenectady Foundation has launched a Rebuilding Families Fund that is providing financial resources to help keep people safely in their homes, while getting them the food and supplies they need.

Weekly, and sometimes daily coordination of the Coalition members has resulted in a streamlined, efficient and non-duplicative response to Schenectady County's emergency needs. As a key member of the Coalition and leader of Schenectady's Community Resource Network, SCAP has been responsible for providing more in-depth assessment of individual and family needs beyond the emergency food, hygiene and household products provided through the Response Hotline. SCAP support has included **\$54,400** in financial assistance provided to **114** families. Schenectady County government is scaling back their involvement with the hotline as of the week ending May 21, 2020; SCAP is participating in plans to ensure continued operation of the county-wide hotline.

As of May 20, 2020, efforts of the Coalition and Rebuilding Families Fund have included:

- Approximately **22,000** calls handled by the county-wide hotline.
- Approximately **13,000** deliveries made to homes, each with a 3-day supply of food, hygiene and household products, reaching approximately **20,000** people.
- **35,000** prepared meals provided to community members.
- **\$54,400** in financial assistance provided to families for rent, utilities and basic needs.
- **3,000** children of essential workers provided with child care.

SCAP has experienced an increased need for assistance by customers accessing resource navigation, and homeless/homeless prevention supports. Due to massive layoffs, this has included a larger customer base; customers have included individuals and families that have not had to utilize services previously. SCAP also expects a surge in the longer-term needs moving forward. These needs are expected to

continue for low-income residents, even as the economy slowly re-opens. Potential intermediate- and long-term needs identified by SCAP and coalition members include, but may not be limited to:

- Rent/mortgage assistance
- Utility assistance
- Phone bill assistance
- Occupational training for unemployed and underemployed workers
- Career readiness class stipends
- Educational supplies, i.e. laptops/iPads/Chromebooks to support home-based learning activities
- Internet access
- Public health support activities/guidance and supplies
- Transportation
- Child care
- Mental and behavioral health support
- Food Insecurity
- Health & safety related home repairs

SCAP is currently conducting a customer technology survey; information gathered will be utilized to assist with service delivery strategies moving forward.

COVID-19 assistance in Schenectady County will remain coordinated to ensure maximum support without duplication of resources. Specific strategies will target the demographic groups most affected by the pandemic. Though immediate data may not yet be easily obtained/accurate regarding the demographics of those most impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic, SCAP continues to recognize the obligation to ensure that the barriers of structural race, gender, and other inequities are addressed during this time of crisis and beyond.

Employment Impacts

As indicated in the employment section of this assessment update (pp. 22 -23), unemployment claims in the Capital Region and Schenectady County have experienced large increases. The NYS Department of Labor’s online filing system has experienced multiple issues due to the overwhelming increase. While adjustments have been made to the system, challenges remain. SCAP’s Employment Services component has provided support for individuals trying to submit claims. Increased employment supports have also included sharing information about potential job opportunities, particularly in the healthcare, manufacturing and supply chain industries. A distance learning platform to provide online career readiness instruction for customers is being developed in partnership with the Albany Community Action Partnership in neighboring Albany County. SCAP has also been able to pilot a virtual GED/TASC classroom for participants in SCAP’s Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO) program.

Early Learning

SCAP’s Early Learning component has been utilizing **Seesaw** to provide an online learning experience for the children (and families) enrolled in the component’s programs. As planning for the eventual transition back to center- and home-based programming continues, emerging concerns include:

- Challenges that smaller class size requirements might have on space and staffing needed to meet required ratios, including the associated expenses.
- Accessibility and cost of additional supplies (including cleaning supplies) and equipment that may be needed, including the increases in costs of items as a result of the high demand.
- Capacity to address different and new levels of child care needs.

**Housing & Community Services**

As indicated, SCAP's Housing & Community Services component has led SCAP's participation in the Schenectady County COVID-19 Emergency Response Coalition, addressing emergency and basic needs supports, as well as ongoing challenges faced by members of the community. As of May 29, 2020, a total of 1,548 households have been served through the CRN (Community Resource Network) since March 29, 2020, with 114 of these households provided with financial assistance. Fifty-eight of these households received rental assistance (many for multiple months of rent). Most of the remaining 56 households received assistance with either phone or utility bills. Staff have also provided ongoing case management support for customers participating in SCAP's permanent supportive housing programs. Sojourn House, SCAP's transitional housing residence for homeless mothers and their children, has remained fully open with 24/7 staff coverage.

Agency Capacity

While SCAP had the IT capacity to coordinate work from home resources for staff quickly, moving forward, especially as all staff transition back the work place, additional IT resources will likely be needed, and may include, but not be limited to: webcams for desktop computers, headphones, scanners, printers, laptop computers, software/web-based subscriptions, electronic signature tools, and training. SCAP is continuing to analyze the infrastructure needed to promote both in-person and remote customer interaction, considering carefully the safest, and most effective, efficient and sustainable capacity.



XX. Fulton and Montgomery Counties

SCAP’s Employment Services Department has operated a Displaced Homemaker Program (DHP), funded through the New York State Department of Labor, since 1978. In addition to services for residents in Schenectady County, this program also serves residents of neighboring Fulton and Montgomery counties. Schenectady County Community College’s second five-year federally-funded Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG), in which SCAP continues to be a key partner, also serves Fulton and Montgomery counties. Building on these employment supports, in 2016 SCAP was awarded funding to build an Employer Resource Network (ERN) in this region. SCAP’s services and supports in this area, adjacent to Schenectady County, complement the work of the **Fulmont Community Action Agency**, which continues to provide the following services for residents of Fulton, Montgomery and surrounding counties:

Fulton County Senior Transportation
A joint program of the Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. and Fulton County Office for the Aging. Provides free transportation to Fulton County Senior Citizens for medical appointments, day care, food sites, shopping, banking and social events.
Early Childhood Services
Comprehensive preschool program that provides children ages 3-5 and their families a wide range of services. All families who are enrolled receive services in the areas of education, health, nutrition, disabilities and family services.
Community Services
Food pantries, clothing, baked goods, and information & referrals for income-eligible families to other interagency programs - WIC, Early Childhood Services (Head Start, Universal Pre-Kindergarten), Home Energy Assistance Program (Montgomery County Only) application assistance, Emergency Food and Shelter, Family Development, Weatherization, Employment Support, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) - as well as referrals to other programs within the community.
Energy Services
Provides Energy Services to HEAP eligible households in both Fulton and Montgomery counties. These services are open to both homeowners and renters.
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
WIC is the supplemental food program for pregnant, breast-feeding and post-partum Women, Infants & Children up to the age of five (5). WIC provides nutrition education and nutritious foods to income eligible families.

Source: <http://www.fulmont.org/departments.shtml>

Fulmont Community Action’s most recent Community Needs Assessment (2017) provided extensive information about the conditions and needs in Fulton and Montgomery counties. This information helps to direct SCAP’s work in these areas. New assessment information will be reviewed/considered when available. The 2017 assessment and additional information about Fulmont Community Action can be viewed at: <http://www.fulmont.org>. Fulmont’s mission is *to improve and expand human services and programs in order to promote self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of the socially and economically disadvantaged, as well as provide services to promote economic efficiency and stability in Fulton, Montgomery and Surrounding Counties.*