

Schenectady County Community Needs Assessment

2025



Schenectady Community
Action Program

Creating Opportunity in Partnership

2025 Schenectady County Community Needs Assessment

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I. Introduction

The **Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP)** serves as Schenectady County's designated Community Action Agency (CAA). Founded in 1965 and granted 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in 1966, SCAP has dedicated nearly six decades to addressing both the immediate effects and underlying causes of poverty. As a federally designated CAA, SCAP is at the forefront of poverty alleviation, delivering direct services and vital support to low-income individuals and families. Beyond providing essential direct services, Community Action Agencies foster community economic development through strategic partnerships and collaborative initiatives across organizations.

Community Action Promise

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

The foundation of Community Action remains the regular assessment of community-level needs and resources. This assessment process serves as both a vital management tool and a strategic compass, guiding the allocation of agency resources, validating existing programs and services, anticipating future needs, and informing strategic initiatives. SCAP conducts a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment every three years, with annual updates in between. The findings from these assessments inform SCAP's **Community Action Plan**, which is widely used by community-based organizations, groups, and local government entities to guide program development and planning.

How to Use This Document:

This Community Needs Assessment (CNA) serves as a comprehensive resource for understanding the current state of needs and services in Schenectady County. The following guide will help you navigate and effectively utilize this document:

Document Structure

- This CNA is organized into 18 major sections (I through XVIII), each focusing on specific aspects of community needs and resources
- Each section begins with an overview, followed by detailed data analysis and findings
- Data is presented through a combination of narrative text, tables, charts, and maps

Key Components

1. Executive Summary (Section III): Start here for a high-level overview of key findings and recommendations
2. Data Sections (VI-XV): These sections contain detailed analyses of:
 - a. Demographics and population trends
 - b. Economic indicators
 - c. Housing and homelessness
 - d. Early childhood education
 - e. Health and nutrition
 - f. Other social service indicators
3. Community Input (Section XVI): Provides direct feedback from community members through focus groups and surveys
4. Resource Information (Section XVII): Details available community resources and services

Using the Data

- Current data is presented alongside historical trends where available
- Tables and charts include source citations for reference
- Geographic comparisons are provided between:
 - The County and City of Schenectady
 - Other municipalities within the county
 - Regional and state benchmarks

Finding Specific Information

- Use the table of contents to locate specific topics
- Look for subsection headers within each major section
- Reference maps and charts for visual representation of data
- Note data sources and dates for context

Practical Applications

This document can be used for:

- Grant writing and funding requests
- Program planning and development
- Policy recommendations
- Resource allocation decisions
- Community education and awareness
- Strategic planning initiatives

Updates and Currency

- The CNA undergoes a major update every three years, with smaller annual updates between
- Latest data used, though collection dates may vary by source.
- Specific data sources and dates are cited within each section

For questions about this CNA or to request additional information, please contact SCAP.

II. Strategic Planning

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

Vision: SCAP envisions a community without poverty 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
- Feels invested in and connected to the community, and
- Has equitable access to health and wellness supports

Strategic Plan:

SCAP has identified six (6) areas of focus for 2023-2028:

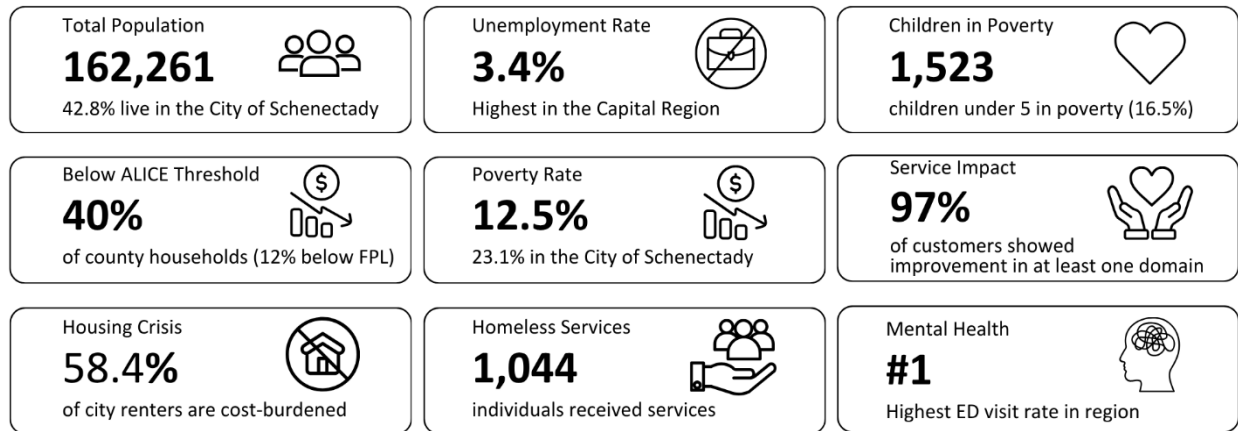
1. Adaptability – SCAP builds new and refines existing strategies to sustain and improve the Agency. SCAP builds new levels of resilience that strengthens, restores, and rebuilds the community.
2. Service Expansion - SCAP meets changing needs by expanding services and resources when a gap exists.
3. Community Engagement- SCAP develops and shares expertise through partnership, advocacy, leadership, and participation in community initiatives.
4. Data, Analysis & Quality Improvement – SCAP implements comprehensive systems to guide internal & external efforts.
5. Facilities and Agency Footprint – SCAP locations meet comprehensive community and Agency needs.
6. 21st Century Workforce – SCAP is committed to developing our human potential and investing in our workforce

SCAP's Strategic Work Plan guides the implementation of the agency's key objectives and priorities. The Work Plan integrates findings from this community assessment and its regular updates to inform and shape SCAP's ongoing initiatives and services.

III. Executive Summary

This 2025 CNA examines indicators of need for Schenectady County and its low-income residents, and evaluates the community's strengths and available resources. The assessment combines extensive quantitative data with qualitative insights gathered through focus group surveys completed by community members and diverse stakeholders. It provides a comprehensive overview of SCAP and its programs, along with a detailed analysis of the service area. The CNA incorporates current demographics, economic indicators, and the most recent available data on poverty, employment, education, housing, homelessness, early childhood development, health, nutrition, food insecurity, and other critical social service needs. The findings are based on both statistical analysis and direct community input, including feedback from program participants, service providers, and community partners. This assessment will guide SCAP's strategic planning and program development through 2027 and will be updated annually to incorporate new data and meet emerging community needs.

Schenectady County Key Metrics 2025



Needs & Challenges:

19,384 residents in Schenectady County live below the federal poverty level, with 76.9% of these residents residing in the City of Schenectady. The city's poverty rate stands at 23.1%. While economic indicators show some improvement in certain suburban areas, significant challenges persist throughout the county. County-wide, 14.7% of households make less than \$25,000 per year, and 21.0% make less than \$35,000 per year. Within the City of Schenectady, 23.9% of households make less than \$25,000 annually, and 32.7% earn less than \$35,000 annually. According to the most recent ALICE Report (2022 data), 40% of Schenectady County's 65,758 households were below the ALICE Threshold (including 12% below the Federal Poverty Level and 28% ALICE). The ALICE threshold captures all households unable to afford the basic cost of living, regardless of whether they fall above or below the federal poverty line. When examined by household type, the rate of hardship is disproportionately high for certain groups: 78% of single-female-headed households with children and 84% of households under age 25 fall below the threshold. These figures represent the rate of hardship within each household type, not a subset of the county-wide 40%. Housing affordability, access to mental health services, childcare availability, transportation barriers, and workforce development needs continue to impact residents' ability to achieve long-term economic stability. Recent community focus groups and surveys highlight increasing challenges in accessing affordable housing, mental health services, and childcare (particularly the need

for center-based infant-toddler child care and childcare options available during non-traditional hours). While some economic indicators show modest improvement, substantial disparities persist, especially within the City of Schenectady.

Strengths and Resources:

Schenectady County providers continue to engage in strategic partnerships to support low-income individuals and families. SCAP demonstrates strong leadership in coordinating services across multiple program areas through its extensive community partnerships and involvement in vital local initiatives. This includes leading the Community Resource Network to optimize housing and emergency services, partnering with Albany Community Action Partnership to extend Early Head Start-Child Care services into Albany County, coordinating workforce development programs across three counties, and strengthening behavioral health access through integrated service delivery and professional development support.

Resource navigation, case management, and therapeutic supports continue to utilize evidence-based practices, including the Family Development model, the Trauma-Informed Care framework, the Housing First approach, Peer Mentoring, Solution-Focused Therapy/Case Management, the Two-Generation/Whole Family Approach, and ROMA (Results-Oriented Management and Accountability).

The agency's expertise in coordinating multiple funding streams with varying eligibility requirements, combined with flexible resources like the Community Resource Network (CRN) Emergency Fund, enables comprehensive support solutions for residents. This coordinated approach optimizes resource utilization while minimizing service duplication.

SCAP's demonstrated ability to adapt quickly to emerging community needs remains a core strength. The agency has maintained and enhanced the service delivery innovations developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, including its integrated online portal providing 24/7 multilingual access to services and information management.

SCAP's integrated services approach continues to show a significant impact through its agency-wide outcome matrix. A recent evaluation by Dr. Ken Robin of Helgerson Solutions (December 2024) demonstrates substantial progress across six essential domains:

- 97% of clients showed improvement in at least one domain
- 86% showed progress in multiple areas
- Particularly strong outcomes in housing (50% reaching "thriving" status), childcare (82% reaching "thriving" status), and health (57% reaching "thriving" status)

The agency's service model recognizes that each household faces unique challenges requiring individualized solutions. Support duration is flexible, accommodating both short-term interventions for immediate needs and extended case management for complex situations. SCAP's centralized data collection and program management system (CAP60) strengthens its capacity to deliver and measure coordinated services and outcomes. At the same time, the Integrated Services Committee provides ongoing oversight through bi-weekly meetings.

Key Findings: Conditions and Causes of Poverty

- According to the 2024 Population Estimates from the US Census Bureau, Schenectady County has a population of 162,261, with 69,495 (42.8%) residents living in the City of Schenectady. The towns of Glenville and Rotterdam remain the most populated municipalities outside the city. Overall, the county's population has increased by 15,706 since the 2000 Census, which reported 146,555. Non-U.S. citizens comprise 3.6% of county residents (5,825 people), with a higher concentration in the City of Schenectady (5.8%). The county's foreign-born population totals 16,354 residents, of whom 10,582 (64.7%) reside in the City of Schenectady.
- Current county-wide age cohort data shows 19,496 residents aged 45-54 and 27,622 65 and over, demonstrating a significant aging population requiring targeted services.
- In Schenectady County, an estimated 19,384 people (12.5%) live below the poverty level. The highest concentration of poverty continues to be in the City of Schenectady, with 15,103 people (23.1%) living below the poverty level. Of all Schenectady County residents living below the poverty level, 76.9% reside in the City of Schenectady.
- The City of Schenectady contains the highest concentration of children under age five in poverty, with 1,158 children (76.0% of the county's children in poverty) residing in the city. The Schenectady City School District continues to serve the highest proportion of economically disadvantaged students in the county, with 81% (7,046 students) qualifying.
- According to the most recent ALICE Report (2022 data), 40% of Schenectady County's 65,758 households were below the ALICE Threshold (12% below the Federal Poverty Level and 28% ALICE). When examined by household type, hardship rates are significantly higher for certain groups: 78% of single-female-headed households with children and 84% of households under age 25 fall below the threshold. These figures reflect the rate of hardship within each household type, not a subset of the county-wide 40%.
- Schenectady County's unemployment rate was 3.4% in December 2024, remaining the highest among Capital Region counties.
- Homelessness remains a significant challenge. The most recent annual HMIS report indicates that 1,044 individuals in 726 households received homeless-related supportive services, including 47 children under age five. The 2023 Point-in-Time count showed 430 homeless individuals, a significant increase from previous years.
- Safe and affordable housing within the City of Schenectady remains the most pressing community need, identified by 88.46% of survey respondents. The city shows the highest rental cost burden, with 58.4% of renters spending 30% or more of their income on housing.
- There are approximately 9,212 children under the age of five in Schenectady County, with 1,523 (16.5%) living in poverty. A significant shortage of infant and toddler care persists, with only 10 childcare slots available for every 100 children aged 0-1.
- The 2022 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment highlights critical health priorities, including preventing communicable diseases and addressing mental health and

substance use disorders. The county shows the region's highest rates of mental health-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

Conclusions & Recommendations: Summary Analysis of Qualitative and Quantitative Data

- SCAP should continue monitoring demographic trends, particularly the significant immigrant population (16,354 foreign-born residents) and growing linguistic diversity in Schenectady County, to ensure culturally competent and accessible services across all programs.
- While some economic indicators show improvement, targeted resource development should address persistent poverty concentration in the City of Schenectady, where 76.9% of the county's poverty-level residents reside, and the poverty rate stands at 23.1%.
- Employment support remains crucial, particularly given the 3.4% unemployment rate (highest in the Capital Region) and the widening gap between housing costs and wages. The focus should remain on connecting residents with training and education for living-wage careers, especially as minimum wage increases have not fully addressed economic challenges.
- Homeless services should continue addressing complex needs through comprehensive support, as evidenced by the significant increase in the 2023 Point-in-Time count (430 individuals) and the 1,044 individuals receiving homeless-related services annually.
- Safe and affordable housing remains the highest priority need (identified by 88.46% of survey respondents), particularly given that 58.4% of city renters are cost-burdened. SCAP should strengthen partnerships to expand access to housing and support housing stability.
- Mental and behavioral health services require continued expansion, as indicated by the county's highest regional rates of mental health-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations. Focus groups consistently identified access to mental health care as a critical need.
- The demonstrated success of SCAP's integrated service model (97% of clients showing improvement in at least one domain) supports continuing the two-generation, whole-family approach to addressing complex needs.
- SCAP should build upon its successful outcome matrix implementation, particularly given strong results in housing (50% reaching "thriving" status), childcare (82%), and health (57%), to further enhance service delivery and evaluation.
- Early childhood support should remain a priority, addressing the significant childcare shortage (only 10 slots per 100 infants) and the concentration of child poverty in the City of Schenectady (76.0% of the county's children in poverty).
- SCAP should maintain its adaptable service delivery model, including the 24/7 multilingual online portal, while strengthening coordinated support systems through the Community Resource Network and other partnerships to address emerging community needs.

IV. Methodology

The qualitative and quantitative data collected for this 2024 Community Needs Assessment represent the most current and relevant information available related to the people and communities of Schenectady County. Data sources utilized to inform the assessment include:

- **Qualitative:** Focus Groups conducted in late 2024, engaging 33 community members across multiple SCAP programs and a Community Survey taken by 150 respondents representing diverse stakeholders; SCAP Early Learning 2023-24 Parent/Guardian Satisfaction Surveys; SCAP Customer Portal Usage Data (January-April 2024); Homeless Services Planning Board (HSPB) Strategic Plan (2023); SCAP Customer Outcome Matrices; City of Schenectady 2020 – 2024 Consolidated 5-Year Strategic Plan; and Schenectady City School District "Schenectady 2030" Strategic Plan.
- **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), ALICE Report (United Way), Schenectady County, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), City of Schenectady, Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority (SMHA), and SCAP's centralized data collection and program management system (CAP60).

Key Sector Information:

SCAP continually utilizes information from key community sectors to assess needs and resources. Key sectors that inform SCAP's assessment processes include:

- **Community-based Organizations/Entities/Coalitions:** Schenectady County Homeless Services Planning Board, One Schenectady, Brightside Up, 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' Program & Evaluation Committee, including private sector representation, participated in a meeting/discussion to help inform the assessment process. Private sector early childhood information is detailed in the Capital District Child Care Council's Child Care Landscape (2019).
- **Public Sector:** Information provided by both the City and County of Schenectady informed multiple areas of this assessment.
- **Educational Institutions:** New York State Department of Education, Schenectady City School District, and Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District.

Limitations and Data Considerations:

While this assessment strives to provide a comprehensive analysis of community needs, several limitations should be noted:

- Many data sources lag by 1-2 years, with some specialized datasets updated only every 3-5 years
- Some data is only available at the county level, potentially masking neighborhood-level variations
- Focus groups and surveys, while informative, represent a limited sample of community voices
- Certain populations (e.g., homeless, highly mobile, undocumented residents) are difficult to count accurately
- Different agencies may use varying definitions for key terms, affecting data comparability

Despite these limitations, the assessment uses the most reliable and current data available, supplemented by local expertise and community input, to provide actionable insights for community planning.

V. Schenectady Community Action Program Overview

Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) delivers vital services across four primary program areas that comprehensively address community needs:

- **Community Services** encompasses a range of support services centered on housing stability and resource access. The Community Resource Network (CRN) serves as the foundation, providing emergency assistance and navigation support at its main resource center on Albany Street and at satellite locations throughout Schenectady County. This division implements a continuum of housing support, from immediate homeless prevention and rapid re-housing interventions to longer-term transitional and permanent supportive housing programs. Through intensive case management, households receive support to build skills, stabilize their living situations, and advance toward self-sufficiency. While primarily serving Schenectady County, the division extends employment services to residents in Fulton and Montgomery Counties.
- **Early Learning Programs** focus on comprehensive child development and family support for children from birth through age five through Head Start, Pre-K, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs. These services integrate education, health, nutrition, and mental health support, emphasizing family engagement and development. Through collaboration with Albany Community Action Partnership, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership services extend into Albany County. Additionally, Project LAUNCH expands services through age eight, offering behavioral health screenings, interventions, parent education, and professional development for child-serving organizations.
- **Employment Services** creates pathways to economic self-sufficiency through comprehensive career development support. Services include skills assessment, career readiness training, educational advancement, occupational training connections, individualized career counseling, reentry support, and job placement assistance, along with ongoing retention services.
- **Behavioral Health Services** delivers accessible therapeutic mental and behavioral health care to low-income individuals and families while providing professional development and consultation support to case management staff.

SCAP's organizational structure ensures community representation through its tripartite Board of Directors, which combines low-income representatives, business leaders, and local officials. Program delivery is supported by CAP60, a secure, integrated data management system, and grounded in evidence-based practices, including:

- Family Development model
- Trauma-Informed Care framework
- Housing First approach
- Peer Mentoring
- Solution-Focused Therapy/Case Management
- Two-Generation/Whole Family Approach
- Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA)

Through extensive community partnerships and involvement in key local initiatives, SCAP maintains a coordinated approach to service delivery that maximizes resources and impact for community members.

Integration: SCAP continues to advance its comprehensive integration initiative, enhancing the agency's capacity to deliver and measure coordinated services and outcomes. An Integrated Services Committee provides ongoing oversight of centralized program delivery through bi-weekly meetings, while refined internal referral systems ensure clients receive thorough intake assessments and are connected with all relevant SCAP supports.

The SCAP Online Portal, integrated with the CAP60 Data Management and Reporting System, provides 24/7 multilingual access to services and information management. This digital platform has maintained its effectiveness since its 2020 implementation, with consistently high self-registration rates and user satisfaction.

SCAP's agency-wide outcome matrix measures client progress across six essential domains: job skills, employment, housing, childcare, health, and income. Based on Dr. Ken Robin's most recent evaluation for Helgerson Solutions (December 2024), SCAP has significantly expanded its data collection, completing 5,835 matrices as of June 30, 2024. The evaluation demonstrates substantial impact:

- 97% of clients showed improvement in at least one domain, with 86% showing progress in multiple areas
- Particularly strong outcomes in housing (50% reaching "thriving" status), childcare (82% reaching "thriving" status), and health (57% reaching "thriving" status)
- Demographic analysis reveals varying patterns of improvement:
 - Female clients show higher improvement rates in most domains except income
 - Young adults (24-44) demonstrate the strongest gains in job skills, employment, and housing
 - Older clients (55+) show greater income improvement
 - Black/African-American clients generally report higher improvement rates than White clients, except in housing and childcare

The evaluation shows significant needs among SCAP's client population, with risk assessments showing:

- 53% at risk in job skills
- 77% at risk in employment
- 38% at risk in housing
- 32% at risk in childcare
- 11% at risk in health
- 75% at risk in income

SCAP continues to strengthen its data infrastructure, with significant improvements in collection completeness and standardization since 2020. The agency maintains its focus on aligning program data-tracking processes in CAP60 to enhance agency-wide reporting, analysis, and quality-improvement capabilities.

VI. Community Overview

Schenectady County stands as one of New York State's most compact yet densely populated counties. Among the eight counties comprising the Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC), it has the smallest geographical footprint but maintains significant population density. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest estimates (July 1, 2024), Schenectady County's population reached 162,261. The City of Schenectady, the region's second-largest city with a population of 69,495, serves as the county's urban center. The county encompasses eight distinct municipalities:

City of Schenectady: As the county seat, this 11-square-mile urban core features ten distinct neighborhoods: Bellevue, Central State Street, Downtown, Eastern Ave, Hamilton Hill & Vale, Mont Pleasant, Northside, Stockade, Union Street, and Woodlawn.

Duanesburg: Marking the county's western boundary, this expansive 73.5-square-mile town borders Montgomery County (north), Schoharie County (west and southwest), and Albany County (south). The Village of Delanson lies within its borders.

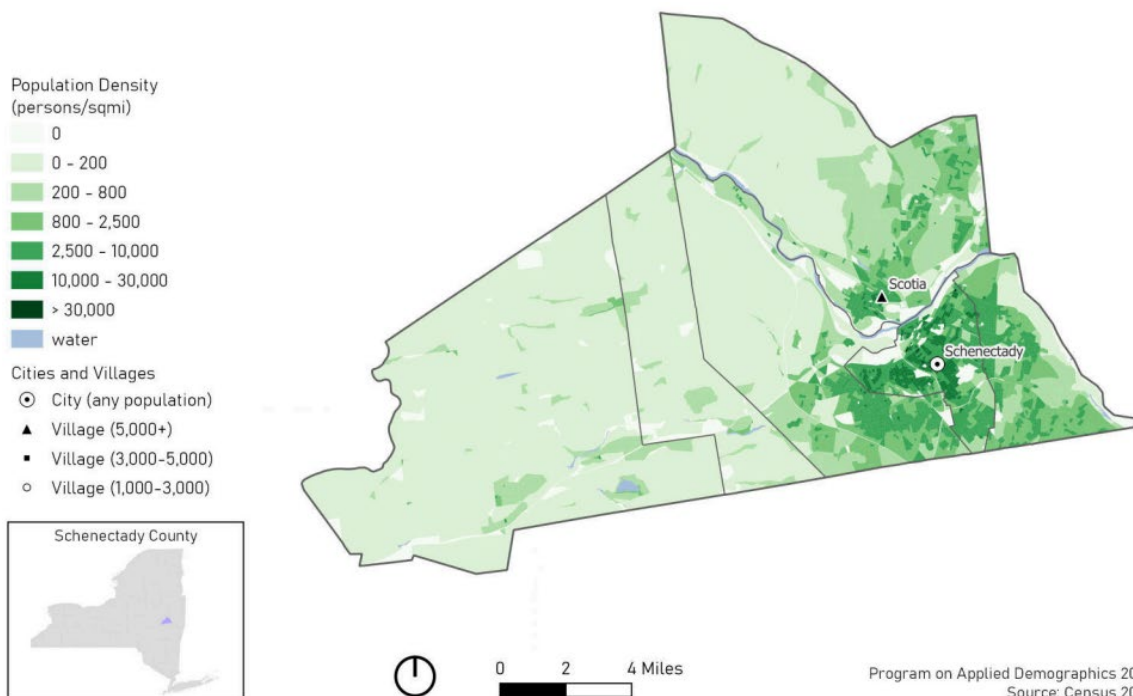
Glenville: Situated north of the Mohawk River, this 50.9-square-mile municipality incorporates the Village of Scotia within its boundaries.

Niskayuna: Occupying the southeastern corner of the county, this 15.1-square-mile town is the county's smallest municipal area and its easternmost point, adjacent to the City of Schenectady.

Princetown: Located in the county's central region west of Schenectady City, this town shares borders with Montgomery County to the north and Albany County to the south.

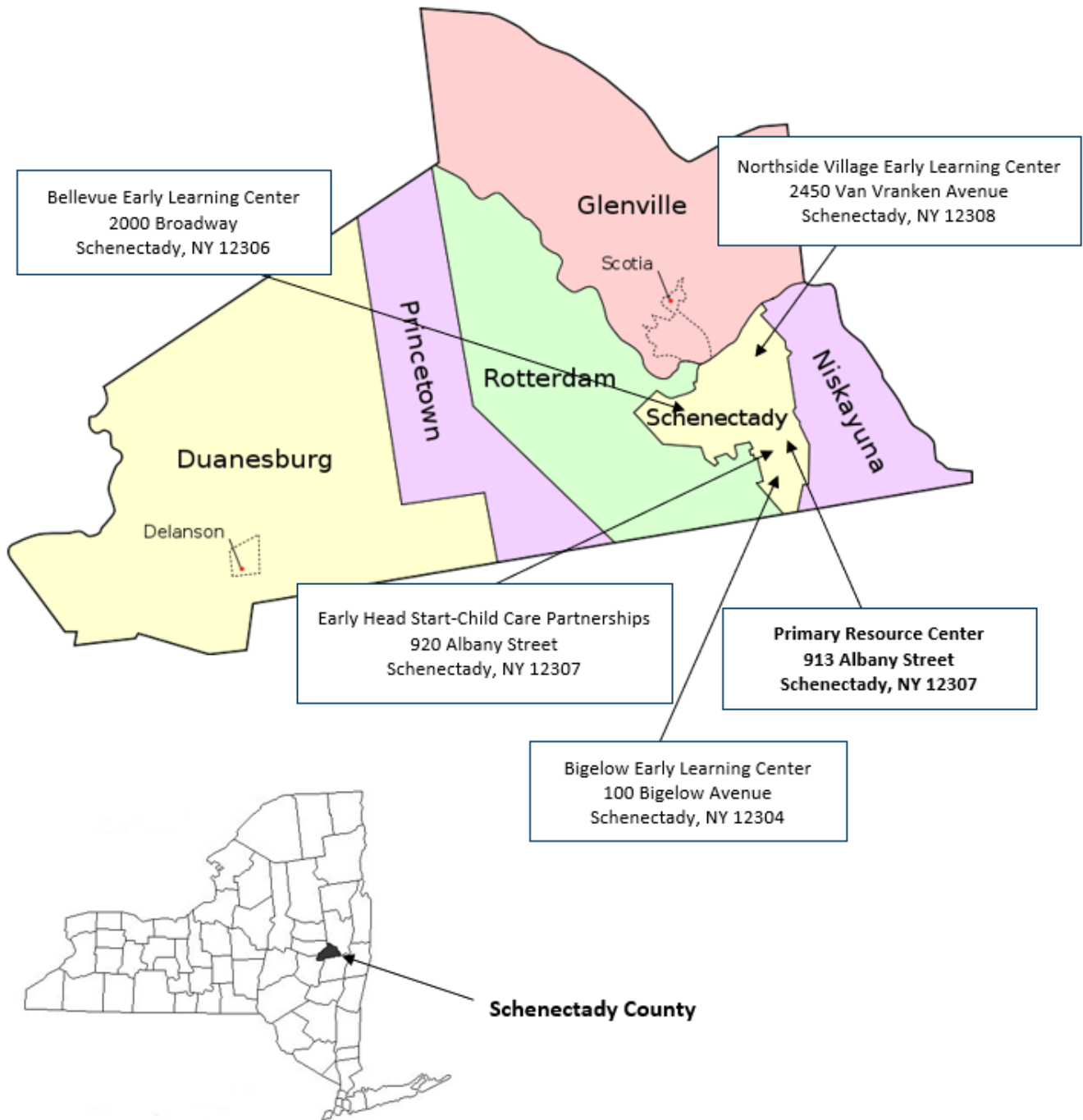
Rotterdam: This 36.5-square-mile town adjoins the City of Schenectady in the county's central area. The Mohawk River defines its northeastern boundary, while the New York State Thruway traverses its territory.

Schenectady County Population Density Map

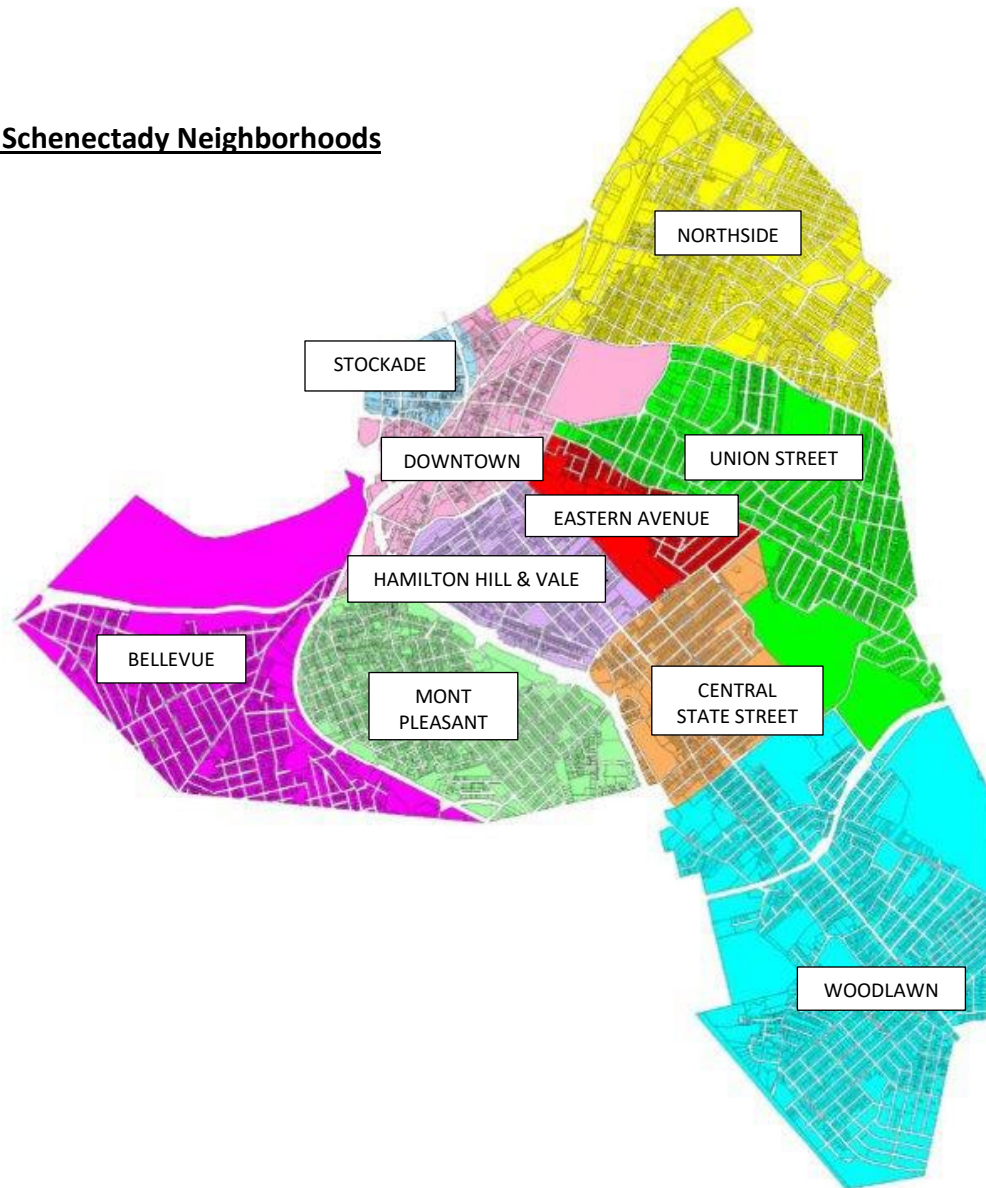


Program on Applied Demographics 2024
Source: Census 2020

SCAP Primary Resource Center & Early Learning Locations in Schenectady County



City of Schenectady Neighborhoods



Health Disparities and Community Health Status:

The Healthy Capital District Initiative's (HCDI) 2022 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment reveals Schenectady County's unique health challenges within the six-county Capital Region. As the region's most urban county, with 759.6 people per square mile, Schenectady County presents a distinctive demographic profile that impacts its health outcomes.

Sociodemographic factors significantly influence health disparities across the county. With a poverty rate of 11.4% (exceeding the NYS excluding NYC rate), and the region's second-highest percentage of non-White population (23.7%) and highest percentage of Hispanic residents (7.1%), the county faces complex challenges in achieving health equity. These disparities are particularly pronounced in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood, where the poverty rate reaches 37.5%, and 68.2% of residents are non-White.

The assessment identifies several critical health concerns:

Chronic Disease Burden

- The county leads the region in adult asthma prevalence (15.9%)
- Diabetes impacts 10.3% of adults, with the region's highest rate of diabetes-related ER visits
- Obesity affects 33.7% of adults and 18.8% of children, above state averages
- County trends in heart disease and stroke are concerning, with region-high hospitalization rates

Maternal and Child Health

- The infant mortality rate of 6.9 per 1,000 births significantly exceeds the state average
- The City/Stockade neighborhood's infant mortality rate (17.5 per 1,000 births) is 3.6 times higher than the state average
- 9.3% of births are low birthweight, the highest in the Capital Region
- Teen pregnancy rates are double the state average, though showing improvement with a 43% decrease from 2009 to 2018

Mental Health and Substance Use

- The county records the region's highest rates of mental health-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations
- The opioid overdose mortality rate (19.7 per 100,000) tripled between 2013-15 and 2016-18
- Self-inflicted injury rates significantly exceed state averages

These health indicators, particularly in the City/Stockade and Hamilton Hill neighborhoods, demonstrate the complex interplay between socioeconomic conditions and health outcomes. The assessment underscores the need for targeted interventions that address both immediate health needs and underlying social determinants of health.

Immigration and Foreign-Born Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (Tables B05001 and B05006), Schenectady County's population of 159,603 includes significant immigrant communities, particularly in the City of Schenectady (population 68,521).

Nativity and Citizenship Status

Schenectady County:

- U.S. citizens born in the United States: 140,398 (88.0%)
- U.S. citizens born in Puerto Rico or U.S. Island Areas: 1,469 (0.9%)
- U.S. citizens born abroad of American parent(s): 1,382 (0.9%)
- Naturalized U.S. citizens: 10,529 (6.6%)
- Non-U.S. citizens: 5,825 (3.6%)

City of Schenectady:

- U.S. citizens born in the United States: 55,918 (81.6%)
- U.S. citizens born in Puerto Rico or U.S. Island Areas: 1,258 (1.8%)
- U.S. citizens born abroad of American parent(s): 763 (1.1%)
- Naturalized U.S. citizens: 6,575 (9.6%)
- Non-U.S. citizens: 4,007 (5.8%)

Foreign-Born Population

The county's foreign-born population totals 16,354 residents, with 10,582 (64.7%) residing in the City of Schenectady. The regional origins of these residents are distributed as follows:

Schenectady County | City of Schenectady

- Americas: 9,241 (56.5%) | 7,705 (72.8%)
 - Latin America: 8,891 | 7,562
 - Northern America: 350 | 143
- Asia: 3,612 (22.1%) | 1,459 (13.8%)
- Europe: 2,468 (15.1%) | 818 (7.7%)
- Africa: 1,025 (6.3%) | 598 (5.6%)
- Oceania: 8 (<0.1%) | 2 (<0.1%)

This data shows that the City of Schenectady has a higher concentration of foreign-born residents and a notably larger share of immigrants from the Americas than the county as a whole.

VII. Demographics

According to the 2024 Population Estimates from the US Census Bureau, Schenectady County has a population of 162,261, with 69,495 (42.8%) residents living in the City of Schenectady. The towns of Glenville and Rotterdam remain the most populated municipalities outside the city. Overall, the county's population has increased by 15,706 since the 2000 Census, which reported 146,555. Please note that the 2024 estimates are only available for Schenectady County and the City of Schenectady.

Total Population: Decennial Census and Estimates

Municipality	2024 Census Data	2020 Census	2010 Census	2000 Census
Schenectady County	162,261	158,061	154,727	146,555
City of Schenectady	69,495	67,049	66,135	61,821
Duanesburg	N/A	5,863	6,122	5,808
Village of Delanson	N/A	335	377	385
Glenville	N/A	29,326	29,480	28,183
Village of Scotia	N/A	7,272	7,729	7,957
Niskayuna	N/A	23,278	21,781	20,295
Princetown	N/A	2,024	2,115	2,132
Rotterdam	N/A	30,523	29,094	28,316

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage 2024 Population Estimates (Release Date: 2025). Annual Resident Population Estimates for Counties and Cities in New York: July 1, 2024

Age Distribution:

The most recent detailed age data (2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates) shows significant demographic variations across Schenectady County. While maintaining a relatively even gender distribution, the municipalities show distinct age patterns. The City of Schenectady has the youngest median age (35.8 years, down from 37.8 years) and the highest share of working-age residents (65.2%), while the county's median age decreased slightly to 39.6 years from 40.4 years.

Age Distribution and Percent of Population

Municipality	Under 5	% of Total	5 – 17	% of Total	18 – 64 Years	% of Total	65+ Years	% of Total	Median Age (Years)
Schenectady County	9,253	5.8%	25,191	15.8%	97,068	60.8%	28,091	17.6%	39.6
City of Schenectady	3,872	5.7%	9,973	14.6%	44,678	65.2%	9,998	14.6%	35.8
Duanesburg	257	4.3%	851	14.3%	3,949	66.1%	913	15.3%	44.0

Glenville	1,595	5.5%	4,703	16.1%	16,534	56.5%	6,451	22.0%	43.0
Niskayuna	1,622	6.9%	4,550	19.4%	12,467	53.3%	4,766	20.4%	42.3
Princetown	11	5.7%	217	11.2%	1,152	59.6%	454	23.5%	N/A*
Rotterdam	1,795	5.9%	4,897	16.1%	18,288	60.0%	5,509	18.1%	40.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0101 "Age and Sex"

*Note: Median age data for Princetown is not available in the 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates due to the municipality's small population size.

Race and Ethnicity:

According to the 2023 Population Estimates from the US Census Bureau, Schenectady County's racial and ethnic composition is as follows:

- White alone: 74.7%
- Black or African American alone: 14.0%
- Asian alone: 6.0%
- Two or More Races: 4.3%
- Hispanic or Latino: 8.3%
- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino: 69.3%

For the City of Schenectady, the racial distribution is:

- White: 51.98%
- Black or African American: 20.18%
- Asian: 6.64%
- Some other race: 7.84%
- Two or more races: 12.65%
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race): 12.56%

The City of Schenectady remains the most diverse community in the county. Outside the city, residents continue to identify primarily as White, with Niskayuna likely remaining the most diverse municipality outside the City of Schenectady.

Race and Ethnicity of Schenectady County Municipalities
(Race alone or in combination with one or more other races)

Municipality	White		Black / African American		Asian		Some Other Race		Hispanic / Latino	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Duanesburg	6,293	97.2%	48	0.7%	28	0.4%	79	1.2%	436	6.7%
Village of Delanson	323	97.0%	7	2.1%	3	0.9%	0	0%	14	4.2%
Glenville	27,340	93.6%	397	1.4%	52	1.8%	424	1.5%	1,196	4.1%
Village of Scotia	7,231	94.6%	194	2.5%	51	0.7%	43	0.6%	422	5.5%
Niskayuna	18,622	84.4%	508	2.3%	2,384	10.8%	377	1.7%	685	3.1%
Princetown	1,868	99.6%	4	0.2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Rotterdam	26,266	89.4%	1,391	4.7%	588	2.0%	497	1.7%	1,554	5.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05 "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Note: The table above shows the most recent municipal-level data available. Updated 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates with detailed racial and ethnic breakdowns at the town level have not yet been published by the Census Bureau.

Veterans: Schenectady County is home to 7,086 veterans, representing 5.6% of the civilian population aged 18 and over. Veterans with disabilities represent a significant portion of this population, with 2,085 veterans (29.4%) reporting a disability. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Veteran Status." ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2101, 2023).

VIII. Economic Profile

Schenectady County's median household income of \$76,989 has improved from prior years but continues to vary significantly across municipalities. The median income in Niskayuna (\$131,633) is more than double that of the City of Schenectady (\$56,398), highlighting persistent economic disparities within the county.

Median Household Income by Municipality

Municipality	Median Income
Schenectady County	\$76,989
City of Schenectady	\$56,398
Duanesburg	\$98,255
Glenville	\$94,866
Niskayuna	\$131,633
Princetown	\$95,833
Rotterdam	\$83,754

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1901

The City of Schenectady's median income of \$56,398 remains significantly higher than the incomes of its lowest-income residents. As of January 1, 2025, New York State's minimum wage is \$15.50/hour for most of the state, including Schenectady County. A family of four supported by one full-time minimum-wage earner would earn \$34,320 annually (based on 2,080 hours per year), which exceeds the 2025 federal poverty guideline of \$32,150 for a family of this size by \$2,170, but falls well short of a living wage.

On January 1, 2026, the minimum wage for most of the state, including Schenectady County, will increase to \$16.00 an hour. Starting in 2027, minimum wage increases will be tied to inflation, with annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Northeast Region.

Household Income by Municipality

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 \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$149,999	\$150,000 to \$199,999	\$200K+
New York State	5.7%	4.1%	6.5%	6.2%	9.1%	13.8%	11.4%	16.8%	10.1%	16.4%
Schenectady County	5.2%	3.2%	6.3%	6.3%	10.8%	16.7%	14.1%	18.1%	9.8%	9.6%
City of Schenectady	8.7%	5.6%	9.6%	8.8%	12.6%	18.9%	12.2%	14.0%	5.5%	4.1%
Duanesburg	11.1%	0.0%	0.4%	3.9%	6.2%	18.7%	11.3%	15.1%	14.8%	18.6%
Glenville	2.3%	1.3%	4.4%	5.0%	10.9%	14.8%	14.0%	22.8%	11.6%	12.8%
Niskayuna	1.5%	0.9%	2.3%	2.1%	5.5%	10.1%	11.9%	22.6%	17.6%	25.5%
Princetown	1.1%	2.3%	5.9%	4.1%	13.9%	13.7%	13.3%	21.3%	15.2%	9.2%
Rotterdam	2.0%	2.1%	4.6%	5.2%	10.9%	17.9%	20.3%	19.8%	10.9%	6.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1901

Examining household income distribution across municipalities reveals:

- Countywide, 14.7% of households make less than \$25,000 per year, and 21.0% make less than \$35,000
- In the City of Schenectady:
 - 23.9% of households make less than \$25,000 annually
 - 32.7% of households earn less than \$35,000 per year
- After the City of Schenectady, the communities with the highest percentage of households with incomes less than \$25,000 per year are:
 - Duanesburg (11.5%)
 - Princetown (9.3%)
 - Rotterdam (8.7%)
 - Glenville (8.0%)

Key observations:

- The City of Schenectady continues to have the highest concentration of low-income households
- Niskayuna shows the strongest economic indicators
- Duanesburg demonstrates significant income inequality, with both the second-highest percentage of households under \$25,000 (11.5%) and the second-highest percentage earning \$200,000+ (18.6%)
- Rotterdam and Glenville maintain relatively stable middle-income populations
- Income disparities between municipalities persist, particularly between the City of Schenectady and its suburban neighbors

Regional Economic Development

The Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC), established in 2011, continues to serve as a vital public-private partnership representing eight counties: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington. The Council brings together local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations to implement long-term strategic plans for economic growth.

CREDC Vision: "To foster an ecosystem in which the private sector, academia, and government work in harmony to stimulate economic growth. Locally collaborative. Globally competitive. Economically vibrant."

Through New York State's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process, which incorporates CREDC review, applicants can access multiple funding sources for economic development projects through a single application. The state's Workforce Development Initiative operates through a similar CFA process, supporting strategic regional efforts that:

- Address immediate workforce needs
- Meet long-term industry demands
- Improve regional talent pipelines
- Enhance the flexibility of local workforce entities
- Expand workplace learning opportunities

In 2023, New York State demonstrated its continued commitment to workforce development with a \$150 million investment in these initiatives. The state has maintained this commitment, allocating \$175 million annually through the CFA Workforce Development Initiative and an additional \$200 million in 2025 for advanced manufacturing training centers through the ON-RAMP program.

Schenectady County Economic Development

Economic development in Schenectady County operates through two primary entities:

1. The County Economic Development and Planning Department provides technical assistance and guidance to:
 - The County Manager
 - The Schenectady County Legislature
 - Municipal governments

2. The Schenectady County Metroplex Development Authority, established in 1998 as a public benefit corporation, focuses on economic development along the Route 5 and Route 7 corridors, particularly in downtown Schenectady. Its mission includes:
 - Enhancing long-term economic and social vitality
 - Attracting and leveraging private investment
 - Assisting with site acquisition and development
 - Providing technical assistance for development projects

Opportunity Zones

Schenectady County participates in the federal Opportunity Zone community development program, originally established by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Three census tracts within the City of Schenectady have been designated as Opportunity Zones:

- Tract 202
- Tract 210.01
- Tract 335

These zones offer preferential tax treatment for qualifying investments in economically distressed communities. In July 2025, the Opportunity Zones program was made permanent through the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," replacing the previous December 31, 2047 sunset date. The program now offers a rolling five-year deferral period for capital gains realized on investments made after January 1, 2027, and enhanced incentives for rural investments.

Current OZ designations will remain in effect through December 31, 2026, with a new round scheduled to take effect in January 2027. At that time, at least 33% of newly designated zones nationwide will be required to be in rural areas, and investors in rural zones will receive enhanced tax benefits, including a 30% basis step-up (compared to 10% for standard zones).

IX. Poverty

In Schenectady County, an estimated 19,384 people (12.5%) are living below the poverty level. The highest concentration of poverty continues to be in the City of Schenectady, with 15,103 people (23.1%) living below the poverty level. According to the 2023 data, the percentage of people living below the poverty level in New York State is 13.6%. While this state rate is higher than Schenectady County's 12.5%, both are significantly lower than the City of Schenectady's 23.1%. Of all Schenectady County residents living below the poverty level, 76.9% reside in the City of Schenectady.

Percent Below Poverty Level by Municipality

Municipality	Below Poverty Level	Percent Below Poverty Level 2023 ACS	Percent Below Poverty Level 2021 CNA	Percent Below Poverty Level 2018 CNA
Schenectady County	19,384	2.5%	11.4%	12.0%
City of Schenectady	15,103	23.1%	19.4%	21.1%
Duanesburg	604	10.1%	8.5%	5.1%
Glenville	1,304	4.5%	5.8%	5.2%
Niskayuna	615	2.7%	3.4%	5.4%
Princetown	81	4.2%	4.8%	3.9%
Rotterdam	1,557	5.1%	7.4%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

Key observations:

- The City contains 42.9% of the county's population but 76.9% of its poverty, demonstrating a nearly 2:1 concentration of economic distress in the urban core.
- The overall poverty rate in Schenectady County has increased to 12.5% from 11.6% in the previous period
- The City of Schenectady's poverty rate has increased to 23.1%, showing the highest concentration of poverty in the county
- Niskayuna shows the lowest poverty rate at 2.7%, continuing a downward trend
- Duanesburg has experienced the most significant increase in poverty rate, rising to 10.1%
- Rotterdam's poverty rate has decreased notably from 7.4% to 5.1%
- Significant disparities in poverty rates persist between the City of Schenectady and surrounding municipalities

Age:

The City of Schenectady continues to have the highest poverty rates across all age groups: children under 18 (34.2%), adults ages 18 to 64 (21.0%), and residents 65 and older (16.7%). The municipalities with the highest percentage of total population in each age category living in poverty are:

- Under 18 years: City of Schenectady (34.2%), Duanesburg (9.5%), and Glenville (3.0%)
- 18 to 64 years: City of Schenectady (21.0%), Duanesburg (12.3%), and Rotterdam (4.7%)
- 65 and over: City of Schenectady (16.7%), Princetown (7.0%), and Rotterdam (5.0%)

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	34,105	5,713	16.8%	94,382	11,306	12.0%	38,067	3,363	8.8%
City of Schenectady	13,609	4,664	34.2%	42,083	8,846	21.0%	9,397	1,593	16.7%
Duanesburg	1,104	105	9.5%	3,949	484	12.3%	913	38	4.2%
Glenville	6,287	186	3.0%	16,516	692	4.2%	7,884	335	4.2%
Niskayuna	6,054	251	4.1%	12,416	371	3.0%	4,611	156	3.4%
Princetown	328	22	6.7%	1,152	53	4.6%	454	32	7.0%
Rotterdam	6,692	485	7.2%	18,288	860	4.7%	5,467	273	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

Key observations:

- The City of Schenectady leads in poverty across all ages, with nearly 1/3 of children affected
- Duanesburg has emerging poverty concerns, particularly among working-age adults
- Niskayuna maintains the lowest poverty rates, especially in child poverty
- Senior poverty varies significantly, with the highest rates in the City of Schenectady

Low-income Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool-Age Children

According to 2023 American Community Survey data, there are 9,212 children under age 5 in Schenectady County, with 1,523 living in poverty (16.5%). The highest concentration of children under age five in poverty continues to be in the City of Schenectady, where 1,158 children live in poverty.

Children Under Age Five in Poverty

Municipality	Total Children Under 5	Number in Poverty	Poverty Rate
City of Schenectady	3,868	1,158	29.9%
Town of Duanesburg	253	0	0.0%
Town of Glenville	1,595	111	7.0%
Town of Niskayuna	1,590	50	3.1%
Town of Princetown	111	7	6.3%
Town of Rotterdam	1,795	197	11.0%
Total:	9,212	1,523	16.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17001

Key observations:

- County child poverty has decreased to 16.5% (from 19.1%), with 76.0% of affected children living in the City of Schenectady
- The City's 29.9% child poverty rate remains significantly higher than other municipalities
- Rotterdam shows the second-highest rate at 11.0%, followed by Glenville at 7.0%
- The county's under-five population has remained relatively stable
- The concentration of poverty indicates a continued need for targeted early childhood services

Poverty by Gender: Women in Schenectady County experience higher poverty rates than men, with over 2,500 more women living in poverty.

	Male	Female
Total in Poverty	8,405	10,979
% of Total Males/Females	11.0%	13.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

Key Observations:

- The gender gap in poverty has widened, with the disparity increasing from 2.0% to 2.9%
- The substantial difference suggests a continued need for targeted support services
- The gender gap in poverty likely reflects broader economic challenges, including wage disparities and caregiving responsibilities

Single-Parent Families (female head of household): Poverty rates for single-parent female-headed households continue to be substantially higher than those for married-couple families. In Schenectady County, 32.2% of female-headed households with children under 18 live in poverty, compared to 5.2% of married-couple families with children. This disparity is most pronounced in the City of Schenectady, where 43.3% of female-headed households with children under 18 live in poverty.

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	38,978	9.0%	17,384	14.5%	27,594	3.9%	10,862	5.2%	8,223	22.5%	4,888	32.2%
City of Schenectady	15,216	19.3%	6,983	30.3%	8,429	10.2%	3,149	15.1%	5,066	31.5%	3,063	43.3%
Duanesburg	1,647	4.0%	628	8.9%	1,417	1.1%	508	1.2%	187	26.7%	97	51.5%
Glenville	7,722	2.3%	3,139	3.3%	6,217	1.0%	2,311	0.2%	1,010	7.4%	522	12.6%
Niskayuna	6,253	1.7%	3,123	2.5%	5,411	0.9%	2,617	0.9%	563	6.9%	307	12.7%
Princetown	549	4.6%	202	5.9%	465	0.9%	151	0.0%	44	11.4%	30	16.7%
Rotterdam	7,591	2.6%	3,309	4.9%	5,655	1.5%	2,126	2.4%	1,353	6.5%	869	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1702



Key Observations:

- Female-headed households with children face dramatically higher poverty rates than married-couple families, with all municipalities showing double-digit rates (over 50% in Duanesburg, 43.3% in the City of Schenectady)
- The City of Schenectady shows consistently higher poverty rates across all family types, demonstrating stark geographic concentration of poverty
- The presence of children correlates with substantially higher poverty rates for all family structures
- Even municipalities with lower overall poverty rates, like Duanesburg, show concerning disparities for female-headed households

Race and Ethnicity

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	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
% in Poverty	8.2%	27.6%	24.6%	11.0%	53.7%	29.4%	19.5%	26.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

Key observations:

- Significant racial disparities in poverty rates persist in Schenectady County
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents experience the highest poverty rate at 53.7%
- Some Other Race populations show poverty rates of 29.4%
- Black/African American residents have the third-highest poverty continuing an upward trend
- Hispanic/Latino residents experience poverty rates three times higher than White residents
- American Indian/Alaska Native poverty decreased significantly to 24.6% from 36.6%
- The Asian population shows an increase, with the poverty rate rising to 11.0% from 8.5%
- Multiple Races category shows an increase, with the poverty rate rising to 19.5% from 17.0%
- White residents continue to have the lowest poverty rate at 8.2%

Important Note: Some racial/ethnic groups are relatively small in Schenectady County, which can lead to larger margins of error in the estimates. The dramatic changes in some categories (particularly Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native) may reflect statistical volatility due to small sample sizes. However, these figures clearly demonstrate persistent racial and ethnic disparities in poverty rates, indicating a continued need for targeted support and interventions for these communities.

Poverty by Ethnicity Alone

Total Population Hispanic/Latino in Poverty	Total Population Not Hispanic/Latino in Poverty	Percent Hispanic/Latino Population in Poverty	Percent Not Hispanic/Latino Population in Poverty
3,353	16,031	26.7%	10.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

Poverty rates for different racial and ethnic groups in the City of Schenectady:

- White (not Hispanic or Latino) – 16.5%
- Black/African American – 31.0%
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race) – 36.5%
- Two or More Races – 27.2%

Key observations:

- The Hispanic/Latino population in Schenectady County shows a slight increase in poverty rate from 26.2% to 26.7%
- The non-Hispanic/Latino population shows an increase in poverty rate from 10.3% to 11.2%
- In the City of Schenectady:
 - White (not Hispanic or Latino) poverty rate increased from 15.7% to 16.5%
 - Black/African American poverty rate increased from 30.3% to 31.0%
 - Hispanic or Latino poverty rate increased from 34.9% to 36.5%
 - Two or More Races showed an increase from 21.5% to 27.2%
- Racial and ethnic disparities persist, with minority populations continuing to experience disproportionately higher poverty rates
- Geographic concentration of poverty remains evident, with minority populations and higher poverty rates concentrated within the City of Schenectady
- All measured groups in the City of Schenectady show increasing poverty rates, with Hispanic/Latino residents experiencing the highest rate at 36.5%
- The disparities between racial and ethnic groups remain substantial, with Hispanic/Latino residents experiencing poverty at more than twice the rate of White non-Hispanic residents

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	11,477,552	1,156,701	10.1	2,911,731	597,402	20.5
Schenectady County	108,854	8,880	8.2	16,781	4,631	27.6
City of Schenectady	31,652	5,411	17.1	13,890	4,307	31.0
Duanesburg	5,372	505	9.4	80	48	60.0
Glenville	26,248	971	3.7	412	79	19.2
Niskayuna	17,796	443	2.5	904	119	13.2
Princtown	1,740	101	5.8	33	4	12.1
Rotterdam	26,046	1,449	5.6	1,462	74	5.1
Area	Hispanic/Latino			Two or more races		
	Total	# in Poverty	%	Total	# in Poverty	%
New York State	3,815,356	767,815	20.1	1,456,900	235,698	16.2
Schenectady County	12,560	3,353	26.7	14,843	2,894	19.5
City of Schenectady	8,847	3,230	36.5	9,789	2,661	27.2
Duanesburg	300	0	0.0	445	74	16.6
Glenville	931	38	4.1	1,436	56	3.9
Niskayuna	997	22	2.2	1,522	20	1.3
Princtown	4	4	100.00	75	2	2.7
Rotterdam	1,481	59	4.0	1,576	81	5.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

Note: New York State data is from the 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates



Key Observations:

- The poverty rate for White residents in Schenectady County (8.2%) remains lower than the state average for White residents (10.1%), but has increased from 7.7%
- Black/African American residents continue to experience disproportionately high poverty rates:
 - 27.6% countywide (higher than the state average of 20.5%), increased from 26.8%
 - 31.0% in the City of Schenectady, increased from 30.3%
 - Notably high rates in some smaller municipalities, though small population sizes may affect these percentages
- Hispanic/Latino residents face significant challenges:
 - 26.7% poverty rate countywide, increased from 26.2%
 - 36.5% in the City of Schenectady, increased from 34.9%
 - Rates vary significantly, from 0.0% in Duanesburg to 36.5% in the City of Schenectady
- The Two or More Races population shows increased poverty:
 - 19.5% countywide, increased from 17.0%
 - 27.2% in the City of Schenectady, increased from 21.5%
- Geographic disparities are evident:
 - City of Schenectady consistently shows higher poverty rates across all racial/ethnic groups
 - Suburban towns like Niskayuna and Glenville generally show lower poverty rates
 - The City of Schenectady's poverty rates are roughly double or more compared to the county average for most racial/ethnic groups
- Intersectional patterns:
 - All minority groups experience higher poverty rates than White residents across most municipalities
 - The disparity is particularly pronounced in the City of Schenectady
 - Some smaller municipalities show extreme variations, likely due to very small population sizes affecting statistical reliability
- Poverty rates increased across nearly all racial/ethnic groups from 2022 to 2023, indicating worsening economic conditions for vulnerable populations

Income and Disabilities: Individuals with disabilities continue to face significant income disparities. Current data show substantial differences in median earnings between residents with disabilities and those without disabilities.

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

	New York	Schenectady County
Median Earnings	\$50,071	\$49,563
With a disability	\$33,574	\$31,737
Male	\$37,639	\$39,068
Female	\$30,888	\$19,561
Without a disability	\$50,758	\$50,596
Male	\$51,949	\$51,949
Female	\$44,442	\$46,694

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B18140

Key observations:

- In Schenectady County, individuals with disabilities earn approximately 62.7% of what individuals without disabilities earn
- The gender gap in earnings is particularly pronounced for individuals with disabilities. Females with disabilities earn only about half of what males with disabilities earn
- The earnings disparity between those with and without disabilities is more pronounced at the local level than at the state level

These figures highlight the continuing economic challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and the intersection of disability status with gender-based income disparities.

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	1,686,897	463,843	27.5	3,423,168	525,600	15.4
Schenectady County	8,656	2,794	32.3	28,345	3,840	13.5
City of Schenectady	6,449	2,540	39.4	13,605	2,773	20.4
Duanesburg	266	11	4.1	1,072	48	4.5
Glenville	927	64	6.9	4,650	382	8.2
Niskayuna	176	64	6.9	4,650	382	8.2
Princetown	50	6	12.0	478	53	11.1
Rotterdam	788	132	16.8	6,397	392	6.1
Area	Some College, Associate’s Degree			Bachelor’s Degree or Higher		
	Total	Below Poverty Level	%	Total	Below Poverty Level	%
New York State	3,323,413	350,569	10.5	5,417,403	274,613	5.1
Schenectady County	33,341	3,054	9.2	38,263	1,184	3.1
City of Schenectady	14,204	2,365	16.7	10,634	626	5.9
Duanesburg	1,834	150	8.2	1,277	36	2.8
Glenville	6,225	233	3.7	8,565	159	1.9
Niskayuna	3,038	54	1.8	10,676	160	1.5
Princetown	532	6	1.1	445	5	1.1
Rotterdam	7,508	256	3.3	6,666	198	3.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701.

Note: New York State data is from the 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Key Observations:

- The correlation between educational attainment and poverty rates remains strong
- The highest poverty rates are consistently found among those without a high school education:
 - 32.3% countywide, increased from 30.1%
 - 39.4% in the City of Schenectady, increased from 36.6%
 - 23.3% in Niskayuna (down from 32.2%, though still affected by small population size)
- Bachelor's degree holders show significantly lower poverty rates:
 - 3.1% countywide, unchanged from the previous period
 - 5.9% in the City of Schenectady, increased from 5.4%
 - Most municipalities show rates below 3%
- Geographic disparities persist:
 - City of Schenectady shows higher poverty rates across all educational levels
 - Suburban towns generally show lower rates regardless of educational attainment
- The education-poverty gap is most pronounced in the City of Schenectady, with a 33.5 percentage point difference between the lowest and highest education levels
- Poverty rates increased across nearly all educational categories from 2022 to 2023:
 - Less than high school: 30.1% -> 32.3% countywide
 - High school graduate: 12.5% -> 13.5% countywide
 - Some college: 9.0% -> 9.2% countywide
 - Bachelor's or higher: remained stable at 3.1% countywide
- The City of Schenectady shows increases across all educational levels, indicating worsening economic conditions even for more educated residents

SSI (Supplemental Security Income): While many individuals with disabilities can support themselves through work, many cannot and must rely on public support. As of December 2023, 4,762 individuals in Schenectady County were receiving SSI. Of these recipients:

- 432 were aged recipients
- 4,330 were blind and disabled recipients
- 664 were under 18
- 3,049 were aged 18-64
- 1,049 were 65 or older
- 1,472 were also receiving OASDI (Social Security) benefits

Maximum SSI benefit amounts for 2026, including both federal and state benefits, are shown below (not all recipients receive the maximum benefit).

Maximum Monthly SSI Payments effective January 1, 2023

Category	Maximum
Individual Living Alone	\$1,081
Individual Living with Others (paying own expenses)	\$1,017
Individual Living with Others (receiving free or subsidized food & shelter)	\$685.67
Couple Living Alone	\$1,595
Couple Living with Others (paying own expenses)	\$1,537
Couple living with Others (receiving some amount of free or subsidized food & shelter)	\$1,040

Source: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), 2026 SSI and SSP Maximum Monthly Benefit Levels Chart



While the maximum monthly SSI payments have increased across all categories, reflecting a 2.8 percent federal cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2026, it's important to note that even with these increases, many SSI recipients continue to struggle to meet basic needs, especially in areas with high living costs. The modest COLA increase may not fully offset the rising costs of housing, utilities, food, and other essential expenses in Schenectady County.

Living Wage:

As of January 1, 2025, New York State's minimum wage increased to \$15.50/hour for Schenectady County. The 2025 living wage for Schenectady County 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. The following chart has been converted to an hourly wage for comparison.

Schenectady County Hourly Living Wage: 2025

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	\$22.85	\$42.77	\$55.70	\$69.44	\$32.47	\$38.93	\$42.97	\$48.23
Poverty Wage	\$7.52	\$10.17	\$12.81	\$15.46	\$10.17	\$12.81	\$15.46	\$18.10

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator (2022 data, updated February 10, 2025)

Key Observations: Despite the increase in minimum wage to \$15.50 per hour, it continues to fall significantly short of the living wage for all family types in Schenectady County. The gap between the living wage and both the minimum wage and poverty wage has continued to widen, highlighting the intensifying economic challenges faced by families in Schenectady County. This disparity is particularly acute for single-parent households and larger families, where the living wage requirement can exceed four times the poverty wage and four times the minimum wage (as in the case of a single adult with three children, who requires \$69.44 per hour).

Income/Public Benefits:

The number of public benefit recipients in Schenectady County shows various trends over recent years.

Schenectady County Public Benefits, December 2021 – January 2025

Program	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	Jan 2025
SNAP Total Recipients	22,714	20,651	21,407	21,389	21,073
TANF Total Recipients	2,145	2,037	2,231	2,430	2,504
Safety Net Assistance Total Recipients	985	1,045	1,175	1,175	1,217
Supplemental Security Income Total Recipients	5,708	5,674	5,301	4,762	5,301

Source: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Social Security Administration



Key Observations: Recent data shows evolving patterns in public benefits usage in Schenectady County. SNAP (food stamp) recipients declined slightly from December 2024 to January 2025, falling from 21,389 to 21,073. TANF recipients continued to increase, rising from 2,430 in December 2024 to 2,504 in January 2025. Safety Net Assistance has shown slight growth, increasing from 1,175 to 1,217 recipients. SSI recipients increased from 4,762 in December 2024 to 5,301 in January 2025, returning to levels comparable to those in December 2023. These trends reflect the complex interplay of economic conditions, policy changes, and ongoing community needs in Schenectady County.

ALICE Report:

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) is a United Way initiative to raise awareness of the challenges faced by low-income working families and to help initiate strategies and policies that alleviate them. It represents households earning above the Federal Poverty Level but below the county's basic cost of living. The 2022 data shows:

- 40% of Schenectady County's 65,758 households were below the ALICE Threshold:
 - 12% below Federal Poverty Level
 - 28% ALICE households
 - 60% above ALICE Threshold

Key Observations:

- Median Household Income: \$76,989 (below state average of \$79,557)
- Labor Force Participation: 65% (above state average of 63%)
- Financial hardship varies significantly by demographics:
 - 78% of single-female-headed households with children
 - 84% of households under age 25
 - 53% of households 65 years and over
 - 60% of single-male-headed households with children (*note: The percentages above reflect the rate of hardship within each household type — that is, the share of households in each category that fall below the ALICE threshold. They are not subsets of the county-wide 40%; rather, they illustrate how disproportionately certain household types are affected when compared to the overall rate*)
- The minimum survival budget for Schenectady County (2022):
 - Single Adult: \$34,320 annually (\$17.16/hour)
 - Family of Four (2 adults, 2 children): \$77,940 annually (\$38.97/hour)
 - Two Adults (65+): \$58,404 annually (\$29.20/hour)

These costs include only basic necessities (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology, and taxes), excluding savings and emergency expenses.

Note: ALICE Reports utilize comprehensive cost and income data with approximately a 2-year lag. The 2022 data constitute the most recent ALICE analysis available at the time of this assessment.

Self-Sufficiency Standard: The Self-Sufficiency Standard, prepared by the Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington, provides a more comprehensive measure of income adequacy than the federal poverty level. It calculates the income required to meet basic needs without public or private assistance for various family types across all New York counties.

2023 Self-Sufficiency Standard for Schenectady County

MONTHLY COSTS	Adult	Adult Preschooler	Adult Infant Preschooler	Adult Preschooler School-age	Adult School-age Teenager	2Adults Infant	2Adults Infant Preschooler	2Adults Preschooler School-age
Housing	\$1,106	\$1,236	\$1,236	\$1,236	\$1,236	\$1,016	\$1,236	\$1,236
Child Care	\$0	\$1,449	\$2,786	\$2,212	\$875	\$1,449	\$2,786	\$2,212
Food	\$354	\$512	\$522	\$615	\$896	\$681	\$940	\$887
Transportation	\$336	\$347	\$347	\$347	\$347	\$658	\$658	\$658
Health Care	\$227	\$604	\$606	\$615	\$690	\$660	\$700	\$681
Miscellaneous	\$319	\$541	\$531	\$495	\$607	\$469	\$803	\$643
Taxes	\$516	\$1,109	\$1,042	\$889	\$1,026	\$657	\$1,656	\$1,165
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$50)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$50)	(\$50)	(\$50)	(\$100)	\$0	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$167)	(\$167)	(\$167)	(\$333)	\$0	(\$333)	(\$333)
SELF-SUFFICIENCY								
Hourly	\$15.73	\$31.70	\$30.70	\$27.58	\$21.92	\$11.64	\$18.46	\$17.93
Monthly	\$2,768	\$5,580	\$5,403	\$4,854	\$3,859	\$4,098	\$6,498	\$6,312
Annual	\$33,222	\$66,958	\$64,840	\$58,245	\$46,302	\$49,178	\$77,974	\$75,747
Emergency Savings Fund (Monthly)	\$118	\$338	\$323	\$270	\$190	\$94	\$151	\$150

The Self-Sufficiency Standard demonstrates that many households earning above the federal poverty level still struggle to cover basic needs. This data from the Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington provides crucial insights into the actual costs of living in Schenectady County.

Key Observations:

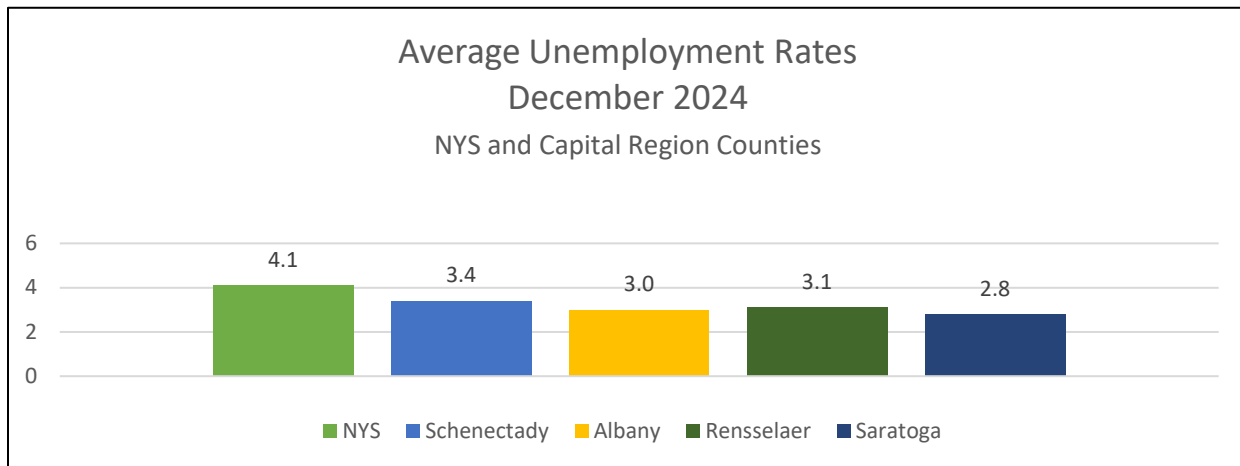
- **Wage Requirements:** All required wages exceed the 2025 NY State minimum wage of \$15.50 (with increases to \$16.00 scheduled for January 1, 2026)
- **Housing & Child Care Impact:**
 - Child care represents largest expense for families with children
 - Child care often exceeds housing costs
- **Family Size Effects:**
 - Adding children increases required annual income by \$33,736-\$44,752
 - Emergency savings requirements increase significantly with family size (\$118-\$338)
- **Tax Implications:**
 - Tax credits provide modest relief (\$167-\$333 monthly)
 - Larger families benefit more from child tax credits
 - Tax burden increases significantly with income level
- **Basic Needs Gap:**
 - Even simplified "no-frills" budget requires substantial income
 - Many common jobs in Schenectady County pay below self-sufficiency levels
 - Emergency savings requirements suggest financial vulnerability

X. Employment & Education

Unemployment: According to the New York State Department of Labor (December 2024), Schenectady County's unemployment rate was 3.4%. Here's how it compares to the other counties in the Capital Region:

- Schenectady County: 3.4%
- Albany County: 3.0%
- Rensselaer County: 3.1%
- Saratoga County: 2.8%

Schenectady County continues to have the highest unemployment rate among these four counties.



Schenectady County data shows:

- Total employed: 73,300
- Total unemployed: 2,600
- Labor force: 75,900
- Net employment change from previous year: -1,500

Key trends:

- Schenectady maintains the highest unemployment rate among Capital Region counties
- County rate is below the NY State average (4.1%)
- Unemployment decreased 0.6 percentage points from December 2023 (4.0%)
- Labor force decreased by 1,500 workers year-over-year
- Despite a lower unemployment rate, continued workforce contraction indicates labor force participation challenges

Based on the 2019-2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates for Schenectady County:

- 9.7% of residents speak a language at home other than English (slight decrease from 9.8%)
- 29.5% of residents over age 25 have only a high school diploma or less (continued improvement from 30.8%)
- The poverty rate within the City of Schenectady is 23.1% (increase from 21.2%)
- The labor force participation rate for Schenectady County is 64.3% (slight increase from 64.2%)
- The median household income in Schenectady County is \$76,989 (increase from \$75,343)
- 12.5% of the county population lives below the poverty line (increase from 11.6%)

Key Changes:

- Educational attainment continues to improve, with fewer residents having only a high school education or less
- Slight decrease in non-English speakers at home
- City poverty rate shows a concerning increase to 23.1%
- Labor force participation rate remains relatively stable with a modest increase
- Median household income increased by \$1,646
- Overall county poverty rate increased to 12.5%

These trends present a mixed picture: while educational attainment improves and median incomes rise, poverty rates have increased both countywide and, particularly, in the City of Schenectady, suggesting growing income inequality and persistent challenges in achieving economic security for low-income residents.

Education: The four-year graduation rate for the Schenectady City School District (70%) remains significantly lower than other districts in the county, showing a concerning decline from previous years (80% in 2021-22). The district continues to serve the highest proportion of economically disadvantaged students in the county.

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.”*

2023-2024 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
2020 Cohort Four – Year Graduation Rate – as of August 2024	70% of 802	92% of 330	95% of 76	84% of 214	88% of 146	83% of 204	96% of 243
Total # of students in the district	8,727	4,322	635	2,792	1,781	2,146	3,114
White	1,436 / 16%	2,737 / 63%	589 / 93%	1,955 / 70%	1,420 / 80%	1,856 / 86%	2,799 / 90%
Black/African American	2,175 / 25%	238 / 6%	4 / 1%	146 / 5%	46 / 3%	95 / 4%	31 / 1%
Multiracial	922 / 11%	286 / 7%	7 / 1%	212 / 8%	115 / 6%	2 / 0%	123 / 4%

Asian or Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	2,085 / 24%	752 / 17%	6 / 1%	119 / 4%	49 / 3%	40 / 2%	35 / 1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	10 / 0%	12 / 0%	0	35 / 1%	12 / 1%	3 / 0%	0
Hispanic or Latino	2,099 / 24%	297 / 7%	29 / 5%	325 / 12%	139 / 8%	150 / 7%	126 / 4%
English Language Learners	433 / 5%	117 / 3%	0	124 / 4%	10 / 1%	14 / 1%	18 / 1%
Students with Disabilities	1,597 / 18%	589 / 14%	84 / 13%	403 / 14%	237 / 13%	328 / 15%	583 / 19%
Economically Disadvantaged Students	7,046 / 81	918 / 21%	191 / 30%	1,358 / 49%	575 / 32%	752 / 35%	669 / 21%
Homeless	548 / 6%	29 / 1%	0	106 / 4%	8 / 0%	22 / 1%	20 / 1%

Source: NYS Department of Education

Key findings from the NYS School Report Card Data:

- Graduation Rates (2020 Cohort):
 - Schenectady CSD: 70% (802 students)
 - Other districts range from 83% to 96%
 - Highest: Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake & Duanesburg (95-96%)

- Schenectady CSD Demographics & Economic Factors:
 - Serves 8,727 students
 - 81% economically disadvantaged (highest in the county)
 - Most diverse student population

These statistics highlight persistent educational and economic disparities within Schenectady County, with the city school district facing unique challenges in supporting its diverse and economically disadvantaged student population.

The Schenectady City School District (SCSD) continues to have the lowest graduation rate in the county, declining from 80% to 70%. SCSD graduation rates by student group for the 2020 cohort as of August 2024:

Student Group	% Grad Rate	Student Group	% Grad Rate
Female	75%	General Education Students	76%
Male	65%	Students with Disabilities	52%
Black/African American	66%	English Language Learners	58%
Hispanic	68%	Not Economically Disadvantaged	82%
White	77%	Economically Disadvantaged	67%

Source: NYS Department of Education

Key observations:

- SCSD's graduation rate has declined from 80% to 70%
- The percentage of economically disadvantaged students remains high at 81%
- The achievement gap between economically disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students has widened (15 percentage points)
- The percentage of English Language Learners has decreased from 9% to 5%, though the graduation rate for this group remains concerning
- Significant disparities persist across racial/ethnic groups and between general education students and those with disabilities

These updates indicate concerning trends in graduation rates and continuing challenges in addressing educational disparities, particularly for economically disadvantaged students, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities.

XI. Housing & Homelessness

Housing Occupancy, Conditions, and Affordability: In Schenectady County, according to the most recent five-year American Community Survey estimates, approximately 44.1% of all housing units are in the City of Schenectady. The city also has the highest percentage of vacant units in the county (8.2%). Notably, 71.2% of the city's housing stock was constructed before 1960, with 50.3% constructed before 1939.

Housing Occupancy

County	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	Homeowner Vacancy Rate	Rental Vacancy Rate
Schenectady County	71,051	67,124	3,927	---	---
City of Schenectady	31,342	28,769	2,573	1.2%	3.9%
Duanesburg	2,661	2,456	205	0.4%	0.0%
Glenville	13,050	12,121	929	1.4%	7.1%
Niskayuna	9,555	9,065	490	0.5%	15.6%
Princetown	882	834	58	0.5%	0.0%
Rotterdam	13,551	13,079	472	0.7%	1.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Key observations:

- The total number of housing units in Schenectady County has increased to 71,051
- The City of Schenectady contains 44.1% of the county’s housing stock
- Vacancy rates vary significantly across the county:
 - Niskayuna has the highest rental vacancy rate at 15.6%
 - Duanesburg and Princetown show 0% rental vacancy rates
 - Homeowner vacancy rates remain low countywide, from 0% to 1.4%
- Age of housing remains a significant factor in the City of Schenectady:
 - 50.3% of units were built before 1939
 - Only 7.9% of units have been built since 2000
 - The aging housing stock continues to present maintenance and renovation challenges

These updates reflect modest changes in housing occupancy patterns across the county, with mixed vacancy rates. The City of Schenectady's aging housing stock remains a significant consideration for housing policy and community development efforts.

Current housing data from the 2020-2024 American Community Survey shows:

- There are 66,324 occupied housing units in Schenectady County, with 28,769 (43.4%) in the City of Schenectady



- In the City of Schenectady:
 - 44.8% owner-occupied units (12,880 units)
 - 55.2% rental units (15,889 units)
 - This continues to represent a higher proportion of rental units than the county overall

Housing Cost Burden (spending >30% of income on housing):

- In the City of Schenectady:
 - 31.1% of homeowners with a mortgage spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs (23.9% spend 35% or more)
 - 18.9% of homeowners without a mortgage spend 30% or more on housing costs (12.5% spend 35% or more)
 - 58.4% of renters spend 30% or more of their income on rent (44.4% spend 35% or more)

Housing Problems:

- In the City of Schenectady:
 - 0.2% of units lack complete plumbing facilities
 - 0.7% lack complete kitchen facilities
 - 3.2% of units have more than one occupant per room
 - 96.8% of units have 1.00 or fewer occupants per room

The current data shows continuing affordability challenges, particularly for renters in the City, with nearly three in five experiencing cost burden. While basic housing quality measures (plumbing, kitchen facilities) show relatively few problems, overcrowding affects a small but significant portion of households.

Current Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data published by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which demonstrates the extent of housing problems and housing needs by income bracket, shows:

- Of 61,040 occupied housing units in Schenectady County:
 - 39,235 are homeowner households (64.3%)
 - 21,805 are renter households (35.7%)
- Housing Affordability:
 - 46.1% of households in Schenectady County (28,155 households) have incomes at or below 80% of the HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI)
 - Cost burden affects 26.2% of all households in the county:
 - 42.1% of renters are cost-burdened (9,185 households)
 - 17.2% of homeowners are cost-burdened (6,764 households)
 - Severe cost burden (>50% of income) affects:
 - 26.0% of renters (5,680 households)
 - 6.4% of homeowners (2,519 households)
- Housing Problems:
 - 75.7% of the lowest income households (7,580 out of 10,015 households with incomes ≤30% HAMFI) experience at least one of four housing problems
 - Renters are more likely to experience housing problems:
 - 44.6% of renters experience housing problems (9,730 households)
 - 28.7% of renters experience severe housing problems (6,245 households)
 - Homeowner housing problems:
 - 18.2% of homeowners experience housing problems (7,130 households)
 - 7.4% of homeowners experience severe housing problems (2,900 households)

The four housing problems are incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, and a cost burden greater than 30%. Severe housing problems use the same criteria, but with a cost burden greater than 50%. This data shows significant housing affordability challenges, particularly for lower-income and renter households. The high percentage of cost-burdened households, especially among renters and those with the lowest incomes, indicates an ongoing need for affordable housing options in the county.

Regarding lead-based paint hazards: As of 2024, the City of Schenectady continues to address them in its older housing stock. The city was awarded \$3.5 million in federal funding in 2022 to address lead hazards in approximately 175 housing units over 42 months. This is in addition to the \$3,406,500 awarded in 2020 to address lead issues in 203 housing units, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to environmental health and housing safety.

FY2025 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	\$1,074	\$1,230	\$1,487	\$1,792	\$1,971
Hourly Wage Needed for FMR	\$20.65	\$23.65	\$28.60	\$34.46	\$37.90

Sources: HUD FY2025 Fair Market Rent Documentation System and National Low Income Housing Coalition

Fair Market Rents are estimated annually by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2025 Out of Reach report:

- The maximum affordable monthly rent for Schenectady County families with an annual income at 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) is \$871 per month.
- The 2025 FMR for a two-bedroom unit in Schenectady County is \$1,487.
- A family in Schenectady County would need to earn at least \$59,480 per year, with an hourly wage of \$28.60, to afford a two-bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.
- The county's estimated median renter wage is \$22.00 per hour (based on median renter household income of \$45,550).

Key observations:

- Fair Market Rents have continued to increase across all unit sizes from 2024 to 2025, with the most significant increase in two-bedroom units (from \$1,374 to \$1,487, an 8.2% increase).
- The hourly wage needed to afford FMR has also increased for all unit sizes.
- The gap between the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom unit (\$28.60) and the county's median renter wage (\$22.00) remains substantial, with renters needing to earn approximately 30% more than the median to afford Fair Market Rent.
- The maximum affordable rent for families at 30% AMI (\$871) remains significantly below the FMR for even a one-bedroom apartment (\$1,230), highlighting the severe affordability crisis for extremely low-income households.

These updates continue to highlight the persistent and worsening affordability challenges in the Schenectady County rental market, particularly for low-income renters. The widening gap between wages

and rents underscores the ongoing need for targeted affordable housing initiatives and strategies to support wage growth in the county.

Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority (SMHA):

SMHA operates seven conventional public housing developments in the City of Schenectady, managing 719 public housing units. The properties serve different populations:

- Four properties serve families with children:
 - Yates Village
 - Steinmetz Homes (244 units)
 - MacGathan Townhouses (50 units)
 - Maryvale Apartments (8 units)

- Three properties serve the elderly and disabled:
 - Schonowee Village (208 units)
 - Ten Eyck Apartments (100 units)
 - Lincoln Heights (105 units)

SMHA's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program provides between 1,400 and 1,450 vouchers each month, serving households throughout the city through a \$16.1 million federal allocation. The program helps residents afford apartments by paying a portion of their rent directly to landlords. However, as Fair Market Rents increase, the fixed federal allocation serves fewer households, making it difficult to reduce the program's waitlist.

The Section 8 program waitlist remains closed, with approximately 2,300 households. The public housing program has a waitlist of approximately 3,500 households. The Section 8 waitlist was last open for four days in June 2018, when it received thousands of applications. These substantial waitlists underscore the significant and ongoing demand for affordable housing in Schenectady.

2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing:

The City of Schenectady's 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing remains the foundational assessment of fair housing conditions. Analysis of current data reveals both persistent challenges and significant demographic shifts that warrant attention in the city's housing landscape.

Several key impediments identified in the 2020 analysis remain significant concerns. The city's aging housing stock, predominantly constructed before 1960, continues to present maintenance and accessibility challenges. This structural age contributes to ongoing concerns about housing quality and safety standards. The city has maintained its commitment to addressing these challenges through various initiatives, notably including the ongoing implementation of a \$3.5 million federal grant awarded in 2022 for lead hazard reduction in approximately 175 housing units. Additionally, Schenectady was designated as one of 25 New York State Communities of Concern for childhood lead exposure, a designation that requires participation in the state's Lead Rental Registry program beginning in November 2025. This program requires property owners of rental housing built before 1978 to register properties, conduct lead hazard inspections, remediate or abate hazards, and obtain certification every three years.

Housing affordability remains a significant barrier for low- and moderate-income households seeking to purchase single-family homes in Schenectady. This challenge intersects with continuing concerns about property tax rates, which impact both current and prospective homeowners. The presence of vacant and abandoned properties remains a persistent challenge, although targeted redevelopment and demolition efforts continue through established programs.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a Racial or Ethnically Concentrated Area of Poverty (R/ECAP) is defined by specific demographic and economic thresholds. A neighborhood qualifies as an R/ECAP if its poverty rate exceeds 40% or is three times the average tract poverty rate for the metropolitan area, whichever is lower. Additionally, the area must have a non-white population of at least 50% to meet the racial/ethnic concentration criterion.

Current analysis of 2023 American Community Survey data reveals significant changes in the city's R/ECAP landscape. While Census Tracts 209 and 210.01 no longer meet R/ECAP criteria due to decreased poverty rates (25.9% and 20.3% respectively), three census tracts now qualify as R/ECAPs:

Census Tract 210.02 maintains its R/ECAP designation with a poverty rate of 64.3% and a non-white population of 75.9%. Additionally, Census Tract 214 now qualifies as an R/ECAP with a 45.1% poverty rate and a 77.2% non-white population, as does Census Tract 215, with a 57.3% poverty rate and a 70.2% non-white population.

This shift in R/ECAP designations suggests both improvements and emerging challenges in different areas of the city. The departure of Tracts 209 and 210.01 from R/ECAP status indicates potential economic improvements in these areas, though their significant non-white populations (86.9% and 63.9%, respectively) underscore the ongoing need to maintain equitable access to housing opportunities. Conversely, the emergence of Tracts 214 and 215 as new R/ECAPs underscores the need for targeted intervention and resource allocation in these neighborhoods to address concentrated poverty and ensure fair housing access.

The expansion in the number of census tracts meeting R/ECAP criteria emphasizes the ongoing need for comprehensive strategies to address both poverty concentration and racial/ethnic disparities in housing access throughout Schenectady. This data should inform future housing policy decisions and resource allocation to promote more equitable housing outcomes across all city neighborhoods. The city's participation in the state's Lead Rental Registry program is a significant step toward improving housing quality in older rental properties, particularly in neighborhoods with higher concentrations of poverty and minority populations.

Fair Housing Actions and Compliance:

The City of Schenectady continues to implement and monitor fair housing initiatives as outlined in the 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. Significant developments in the city's ongoing commitment to housing quality and safety include:

- Lead Hazard Reduction: The city is implementing a \$3.5 million federal grant awarded in 2022 to address lead hazards in approximately 175 housing units, targeting a critical environmental health concern particularly affecting low-income families in the city's aging housing stock.
- Lead Rental Registry: As one of 25 New York State Communities of Concern for childhood lead exposure, Schenectady will participate in the state's Lead Rental Registry program beginning in November 2025. This program requires property owners of pre-1978 rental housing to register

properties, conduct lead hazard inspections, remediate or abate hazards where necessary, and obtain certification every three years.

- Vacant Property Management: The Capital Region Land Bank continues its work to address vacant and abandoned properties throughout the city.
- Affordable Housing Support: The city maintains its support for affordable housing development and homeownership programs, including incentives for affirmative housing actions.

Coordination among city departments, housing organizations, and community partners remains essential to promoting fair housing access and maintaining housing quality standards throughout Schenectady. As of the most recent information available, the City of Schenectady has not faced any formal actions regarding fair housing violations. As new data from HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and local housing authorities become available, it will provide additional insight into the effectiveness of these ongoing initiatives and inform any necessary adjustments to the city's fair housing strategies.

Recent Housing Development and Initiatives:

The City of Schenectady continues to demonstrate its commitment to improving housing conditions and expanding affordable housing opportunities through several significant initiatives.

Lead Hazard Reduction and Housing Quality:

A cornerstone development in addressing environmental health concerns is the ongoing implementation of a \$3.5 million federal grant awarded in 2022 for lead hazard reduction in approximately 175 housing units. This funding particularly benefits families residing in older housing stock where lead exposure risks are highest. Additionally, beginning in November 2025, Schenectady will implement New York State's Lead Rental Registry program as one of 25 designated Communities of Concern. This program requires property owners of pre-1978 rental housing to register properties, conduct lead hazard inspections, remediate hazards, and obtain certification every three years, representing a comprehensive approach to addressing lead hazards across the city's rental housing stock.

Housing Development:

Over the past two decades, thousands of new homes and apartments have been built in Schenectady, outpacing neighboring Capital Region communities. Notable projects include the Mosaic affordable housing development in the Mont Pleasant neighborhood, the redevelopment of Northside Village (a public housing development operated by SMHA), and hundreds of units built downtown, including Mohawk Harbor, Frog Alley Brewing, and developments at Clinton and State streets. Additional units are expected as renovations continue at the Wedgeway Building (271-277 State Street) and the adjacent Masonic Temple (302 State Street). Of the 2,910 living units that have come online or are in the pipeline, 1,422 are income-restricted, requiring residents to meet specific income criteria.

Neighborhood Stabilization:

The Capital Region Land Bank plays an essential role in neighborhood revitalization through rehabilitation and demolition projects, which are crucial components of the city's strategy to address property deterioration and support neighborhood stabilization.

Ongoing Challenges:

Housing affordability remains a central focus, with the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority reporting waitlists of approximately 2,300 households for Section 8 vouchers and 3,500 households for public housing. According to recent analysis, the average renter in Schenectady County earns \$38,903 annually—\$10,297 less than the \$49,200 needed to afford a one-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent, and

\$20,577 less than needed for a two-bedroom unit. This wage gap demonstrates the persistent affordability challenges despite new housing development.

The persistence of the core challenges identified in the 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing underscores the importance of ongoing programs and initiatives. While progress continues through various municipal efforts, the complexity and scope of these housing challenges necessitate sustained, long-term commitment and resource allocation.

Affordable Housing Development and Rehabilitation:

Schenectady's affordable housing landscape continues to evolve through the coordinated efforts of multiple organizations working to expand and improve housing options for residents.

Better Community Neighborhoods, Inc. (BCNI) remains a pivotal force in neighborhood revitalization following its 2020 merger, with significant projects in the Eastern Avenue neighborhood that have created new affordable housing opportunities.

Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County has maintained its commitment to providing homeownership opportunities for low-income families, having completed its 59th home in Schenectady County in 2023. Their focused efforts in the Hamilton Hill and Mont Pleasant neighborhoods demonstrate their ongoing dedication to community development.

Several major housing developers have contributed to the expansion of the city's affordable housing stock. The Barrett Street Apartments project by DePaul Properties, completed in 2022, added 52 affordable housing units to the community. The Community Builders' work on the Yates Village redevelopment represents a significant investment in mixed-income housing, with plans for 211 apartments upon completion. Home Leasing's rehabilitation of 150 scattered-site units in 2022-2024 has helped preserve existing affordable housing resources.

The Elmer Avenue Apartments development by Pennrose aims to further expand affordable housing options, with 51 units projected for completion in April 2025. This project represents another step forward in addressing the community's housing needs.

The Capital Region Land Bank continues to play a vital role in neighborhood stabilization, with a particular focus on the Hamilton Hill neighborhood through the rehabilitation of two-family homes, initiated in 2024. Their efforts complement broader affordable housing initiatives and address property vacancy.

The Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority maintains its essential function of providing housing access through direct management of 719 public housing units across seven properties and through administration of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, which serves between 1,400 and 1,450 households monthly with a \$16.1 million federal allocation. SMHA's waitlists of approximately 2,300 households for Section 8 vouchers and 3,500 households for public housing underscore the continued high demand for affordable housing in Schenectady.

Housing Initiatives Timeline:

✔ Complete
🕒 In Progress
🕒 Planned

2022-2024

🕒 **Lead Hazard Reduction Program**

Federal grant of \$3.5 million targeting approximately 175 housing units for lead abatement.

2023

🕒 **Downtown Revitalization Initiative**

\$5.7 million state funding including provisions for mixed-use and affordable housing projects.

2022-2023

✔ **Barrett Street Apartments**

DePaul Properties completed 52 new affordable housing units.

2022-2024

✔ **Scattered-Site Rehabilitation**

Home Leasing completed rehabilitation of 150 scattered-site units.

2023-2025

🕒 **Yates Village Redevelopment**

The Community Builders' mixed-income housing development, targeting 211 apartments upon completion.

2024-2025

🕒 **Elmer Avenue Apartments**

Pennrose development of 51 units projected for completion in April 2025.

2024

🕒 **Hamilton Hill Initiative**

Capital Region Land Bank rehabilitation of two-family homes in Hamilton Hill neighborhood.

Recent Housing Developments and Eviction Landscape: The City of Schenectady continues to advance its housing initiatives through significant funding and strategic development efforts. A major development in 2023 was the city's receipt of \$5.7 million through New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative. This funding allocation includes provisions for mixed-use and affordable housing projects, demonstrating the city's commitment to integrated community development that combines housing opportunities with broader neighborhood revitalization.

The emphasis on mixed-income development has become a key strategy in Schenectady's housing approach. This approach aims to create more diverse, economically sustainable neighborhoods while expanding housing opportunities across income levels. The strategy aligns with contemporary urban development practices that seek to avoid the concentration of poverty and promote community integration. Of the 2,910 living units that have come online or are in the pipeline in Schenectady, 1,422 are income-restricted, representing 49% of new housing development dedicated to affordability.

The post-pandemic housing landscape continues to present challenges, particularly for the housing stability of low-income residents. The expiration of COVID-19-related eviction protections has created increased housing insecurity for vulnerable populations. The Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority's Section 8 waitlist of approximately 2,300 households and public housing waitlist of approximately 3,500

households demonstrate the sustained demand for affordable housing assistance. Additionally, the affordability gap continues to widen: the average renter in Schenectady County earns \$38,903 annually—\$10,297 less than the Fair Market Rent (\$1,230/month) for a one-bedroom apartment and \$20,577 less than the Fair Market Rent (\$1,487/month) for a two-bedroom unit.

Beginning November 2025, Schenectady will implement New York State's Lead Rental Registry program as one of 25 designated Communities of Concern for childhood lead exposure. This program requires property owners of pre-1978 rental housing to register properties, conduct lead hazard inspections, remediate hazards, and obtain certification every three years. This represents a comprehensive, systematic approach to addressing lead hazards across the city's rental housing stock, supplementing the ongoing implementation of the \$3.5 million 2022 federal grant for lead abatement in approximately 175 housing units.

The convergence of aging housing stock challenges, evolving development strategies, and post-pandemic housing pressures underscores the importance of continued investment in housing initiatives. These factors shape the current housing landscape in Schenectady and influence the city's approach to addressing both immediate housing needs and long-term community development goals.

Implementation of Consolidated Plan Housing Initiatives (2020-2024): The City of Schenectady's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan directed the implementation of federal funding through CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs, focusing on three core goals: Housing Opportunities, Economic and Workforce Development, and Neighborhood Strengthening. As this planning cycle has concluded, the city is implementing strategies for the next cycle and building on achievements from the previous period.

Several key developments marked progress in housing initiatives during the 2020-2024 period. The 2022 federal grant of \$3.5 million for lead hazard reduction, currently being implemented, targets 175 housing units for environmental safety improvements and complements existing programs, including the First-Time Homebuyer Program and the Home Improvement Program. Emergency housing services adapted to post-pandemic needs through continued ESG funding for shelter services and homelessness prevention.

The Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority maintains comprehensive resident support through community partnerships, providing essential services for mental health, substance use recovery, and employment. SMHA manages 719 public housing units across seven properties and administers between 1,400 and 1,450 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers monthly through a \$16.1 million federal allocation. The Capital Region Land Bank has advanced property rehabilitation efforts, exemplified by its 2024 Hamilton Hill neighborhood initiative to rehabilitate two-family homes.

Homeownership remains a priority through the city's First-Time Homebuyer Program and Better Community Neighborhoods, Inc.'s counseling services. Major housing developments completed or underway during this period include the Barrett Street Apartments (52 affordable units completed in 2022), Home Leasing's rehabilitation of 150 scattered-site units (2022-2024), and the ongoing Yates Village redevelopment (211 mixed-income apartments). The Elmer Avenue Apartments development (51 units) is projected to be completed in April 2025.

Looking ahead, the implementation of New York State's Lead Rental Registry program, beginning in November 2025, represents a significant expansion of lead hazard reduction efforts beyond the federal grant, requiring property owners of pre-1978 rental housing to register properties, conduct inspections,

and remediate hazards on a three-year certification cycle. These coordinated efforts demonstrate substantial progress toward the Consolidated Plan's objectives while adapting to evolving community needs and laying groundwork for the next planning period.

Strategic Housing Initiatives and Policy Adaptations:

The City of Schenectady has strengthened its housing strategy through several key developments and policy adaptations that address both immediate needs and long-term sustainability.

Funding and Development Strategy:

In 2023, the city secured \$5.7 million from the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative, with a portion allocated to mixed-use and affordable housing projects. This funding complements ongoing mixed-income developments, such as the Yates Village redevelopment (211 apartments) and the Elmer Avenue Apartments (51 units, projected completion April 2025), which aim to create economically diverse neighborhoods. Of the 2,910 living units that have come online or are in the pipeline, 1,422 (49%) have been designated as income-restricted, demonstrating a substantial commitment to affordable housing development.

Regulatory Modernization:

The city has undertaken zoning code modernization to facilitate diverse housing development and remove barriers to the construction of affordable housing. This regulatory update represents a systematic approach to expanding housing options throughout the community while supporting the mixed-income development strategy.

Lead Hazard Reduction Policy:

Beginning November 2025, Schenectady will implement New York State's Lead Rental Registry program as one of 25 designated Communities of Concern for childhood lead exposure. This comprehensive program requires property owners of pre-1978 rental housing to register properties, conduct lead hazard inspections, remediate hazards, and obtain certification every three years. This systematic policy approach complements the city's ongoing implementation of the \$3.5 million 2022 federal grant for lead abatement in approximately 175 housing units, thereby supporting a dual strategy of targeted, grant-funded intervention and broad regulatory oversight.

Post-Pandemic Adaptations:

As the city transitions from the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan to its next planning cycle, it has adapted its approach to address post-pandemic challenges, particularly in eviction prevention and the accessibility of affordable housing. With SMHA reporting waitlists of approximately 2,300 households for Section 8 vouchers and 3,500 households for public housing, and wage gaps of \$10,297 (one-bedroom) to \$20,577 (two-bedroom) between average renter earnings and the Fair Market Rent affordability threshold, the city continues to prioritize affordable housing development and housing stability programs.

The combination of new funding, ongoing development projects, updated regulations, and comprehensive lead hazard reduction policies positions the city to address current housing challenges while planning for future community needs. These strategic initiatives demonstrate Schenectady's commitment to balancing established housing programs with emerging community needs and evolving best practices in housing policy.

Homelessness:

The most recent annual Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) report for federal fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023) indicates that 1,044 individuals in 726 households in Schenectady County received homeless-related supportive services through emergency shelters, transitional housing, or safe-haven programs. From the report:

- 94 households were chronically homeless in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven programs, with an additional 13 chronically homeless households in rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing.
- 795 people were served in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven programs, with an additional 269 served in rapid re-housing and 549 in permanent supportive housing.
- 368 households in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven programs reported conditions that met the criteria to be considered a disability.
- 47 children under the age of five spent time in emergency shelter or transitional housing.

According to the Point in Time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January in Schenectady County, the following numbers were reported:

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
434	266	289	430	362

The following compares detailed PIT data over the past three years:

Point-in-Time Overview						
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven	Total Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
2024	287	56	1	34	18	362
2023	339	84	0	423	7	430
2022	233	49	0	282	7	289
2021	189	57	0	246	20	266
2020	263	46	0	409	25	434

Key observations from recent trends:

- The 2024 PIT count showed a 15.8% decrease from 2023 (430 to 362), though counts remain elevated compared to the 2021-2022 period
- Emergency shelter utilization decreased from 339 in 2023 to 287 in 2024
- Transitional housing utilization also declined from 84 beds in 2023 to 56 in 2024
- Unsheltered homelessness increased from 7 individuals in 2023 to 18 in 2024
- The addition of one Safe Haven bed in 2024 represents a new resource type for the county
- Despite the 2024 decrease, homelessness levels remain significantly higher than 2021

In 2024, the Schenectady City & County Continuum of Care (NY-507) received \$6,874,341 in federal funding allocations, an 11% increase from the \$6,187,423 awarded in 2023. This funding supports permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, transitional housing, coordinated entry, HMIS operations, and CoC planning activities.

Note: The HMIS data does not include information from domestic violence dedicated projects, which are prohibited from entering data into HMIS, and some emergency shelter and transitional housing projects that do not participate in HMIS.

Governance and Coordination of Homeless Services: Schenectady County's Homeless Services Planning Board (HSPB) governs the county's Continuum of Care (NY-507) and serves as the coordinating body for homeless services planning and federal funding. The HSPB membership encompasses a broad coalition including homeless assistance providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, legal services providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, nonprofit affordable housing developers, law enforcement, veteran service organizations, the Department of Social Services, Emergency Solutions Grant Program providers, and homeless and formerly homeless individuals.

The HSPB holds regular meetings twice yearly (March and November), with the Board of Directors meeting four additional times annually and special meetings called as needed. The Continuum of Care committee reviews and prepares plans and recommendations for the Board of Directors' approval regarding funding applications.

In 2024, the Continuum of Care received \$6.87 million in federal funding allocations, an 11% increase from 2023. Major funding categories include:

- Permanent Supportive Housing programs
- Rapid Re-Housing programs
- Transitional Housing
- Domestic Violence services (including consolidated RRH and transition programs)
- Coordinated Entry system
- HMIS operations and CoC planning

The HSPB's Strategic Plan, originally approved in May 2018 and updated in 2023, includes nine goals that guide policy, procedure, and decision-making:

- 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.
- Goal #8: Engage youth providers to coordinate and enhance youth services, including the provision of supportive housing to youth 18 – 25.
- Goal #9: Create a Racial Justice Advocacy Committee (RRJAC) and incorporate approved goals into HSPB operations.

Recent developments and initiatives include:

- Significant expansion of permanent supportive housing capacity, with 435 beds currently available across multiple providers
- Enhanced rapid re-housing programs serving both individuals and families, with 88 beds/units currently in service
- Strengthened coordinated entry system to ensure efficient allocation of resources to those most in need
- Focus on addressing racial disparities in homelessness, as current data shows disproportionate impacts on Black/African American individuals
- Increased integration of data systems and performance measurement through HMIS
- Expanded partnerships with healthcare providers to address medical needs of homeless individuals
- Development of additional permanent housing solutions, including both supportive housing and affordable housing options

The Coordinated Entry system serves as the primary access point for housing and services, prioritizing the most vulnerable households for available resources. The system includes:

- Emergency shelter access
- Assessment of household needs and vulnerability
- Prioritization for permanent housing placements
- Coordination among multiple service providers
- Regular case conferencing to ensure appropriate placements

SCAP maintains a leadership role on the HSPB and participates in multiple committees, helping to ensure coordinated service delivery and strategic resource allocation across the continuum of care.

The 2024 Point-in-Time count showed 362 individuals experiencing homelessness, a 15.8% decrease from 2023 (430 individuals) but still elevated compared to 2021-2022 levels. While emergency shelter utilization decreased, unsheltered homelessness increased from 7 to 18 individuals. This trend, coupled with HMIS data showing over 1,000 individuals receiving homeless-related services annually, highlights ongoing challenges in housing affordability and stability in Schenectady County. The HSPB has responded by expanding permanent supportive housing capacity, enhancing rapid re-housing programs, and implementing strategic initiatives focused on racial equity and youth services. These efforts, supported by \$6.87 million in federal funding, demonstrate the community's comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness through prevention, emergency response, and permanent housing solutions.

XII. Early Childhood

Child Care & Development Programs/Education: According to the *2024 Picture of Child Care in the Capital Region* by **Brightside Up**, licensed/registered child care capacity in Schenectady County includes:

Licensed/registered child care capacity in Schenectady County (2025)

	Number of Programs	Enrollment Capacity
Child Care Centers (including Head Start)	42	2955
Family Child Care Homes	45	346
Group Family Child Care Homes	58	564
School Age Programs	25	884

According to this report, the total potential childcare slots in Schenectady County are approximately 4,749, serving only 17% of the county's child population. Based on 80% of the child population (the typical calculation for childcare needs), there is sufficient care available to accommodate only 21% of the needs in Schenectady County. The report indicates a significant shortage of infant and toddler care in Schenectady County: for every 100 children aged 0-1, only 10 childcare slots are available.

Child Care Deserts: According to the *2024 Picture of Child Care in the Capital Region* by Brightside Up, a child care desert analysis of Schenectady County examined the geographic locations of licensed child care facilities (including centers and family child care homes) alongside census data for children residing in those areas. The study identified several areas with an insufficient supply of licensed child care programs.

The areas with the highest child care demand are observed in three neighborhoods where there are no available child care slots for more than 48 children under 5 years old:

- Lenox Rd/Oakland Avenue area (80.5 diversity index, 46.78% families below 200% poverty level)
- Front Street/Seward area (61 diversity index, 55.47% families below 200% poverty level)
- Campbell Ave area (48.2 diversity index, 30.62% families below 200% poverty level)

Additional areas with limited access include:

- ZIP code 12302: 11 children per slot (11.71% families below 200% poverty level)
- ZIP code 12303: 10 children per slot (24.45% families below 200% poverty level)
- ZIP code 12306: 14 children per slot (26.96% families below 200% poverty level)
- ZIP code 12307: 16 children per slot (47.55% families below 200% poverty level)

Notable variations in access exist across the county:

- Some areas like ZIP codes 12301, 12305, and 12308 show better access with approximately 1 child per slot
- The highest need areas correlate strongly with higher poverty rates, particularly in ZIP codes 12307 and 12308, where over 45% of families live below 200% of the federal poverty level
- Areas with higher diversity indices tend to have more limited child care access

This distribution pattern suggests a need for targeted expansion of child care services in specific neighborhoods, particularly those with high poverty rates and limited current access.

Pre-Kindergarten: According to the 2024-2025 Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Allocation List from the New York State Education Department, there are five school districts in Schenectady County that receive state funding for pre-kindergarten programs:

1. Schenectady City School District (SCSD):
 - 3-Year-Old Full-Day: 40 slots
 - 4-Year-Old Full-Day: 242 slots
 - Total Allocation: \$4,748,555
2. Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District:
 - 4-Year-Old Full-Day: 170 slots
 - Total Allocation: \$1,100,256
3. Duanesburg Central School District:
 - 4-Year-Old Full-Day: 26 slots
 - Total Allocation: \$146,640
4. Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District:
 - No data available in the current allocation list for 2024-2025
5. Niskayuna Central School District:
 - 4-Year-Old Full-Day: 235 slots
 - Total Allocation: \$1,269,000

This updated data reflects changes in pre-kindergarten capacity in Schenectady County. Most notably, the Schenectady City School District allocates funding to both 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds, with an emphasis on full-day programming. This aligns with research indicating that full-day programs can yield greater benefits for children.

Head Start and Early Head Start: SCAP and Northern Rivers Family of Services (formerly Parsons Child & Family Center) are the primary Head Start providers in Schenectady County.

SCAP Programs:

- Head Start: 297 funded slots
 - 287 center-based
 - 10 home-based
 - Serves predominantly 3-4 year olds (44.1% age 3, 55.9% age 4)
 - 39.2% of children have IEPs
- Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership: 94 slots
 - 46 center-based
 - 48 family child care
 - Serves ages 0-3 (3.2% under 1, 26.6% age 1, 34% age 2)

Northern Rivers Programs:

- Early Head Start: 94 slots
 - 72 center-based
 - 17 home-based
 - 5 pregnant women
 - 22.6% of children have IFSPs

Key Service Data:

- High healthcare access (90%+ across both providers)
- Significant homeless population served (5.3% SCAP HS, 9.6% SCAP EHS, 15.1% Northern Rivers)

- Foster care engagement (1.3% SCAP HS, 8.5% SCAP EHS, 12.9% Northern Rivers)
- Strong family engagement with 95%+ families receiving services
- Mental health services utilized by 23% of SCAP HS families
- Housing assistance is needed by 20.7% of EHS families
- 22.6% of Northern Rivers children have Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), indicating they receive early intervention services

It's important to note that, although these are the funded slot numbers, actual enrollment may vary due to ongoing challenges, such as workforce shortages.

Education: The Pre-kindergarten, Head Start, and Early Head Start Programs in Schenectady County continue to collaborate to promote an aligned approach to early learning and to facilitate smooth transitions between programs. Many providers, including SCAP and its partners, continue to use the Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system. The Schenectady City School District partners with five community-based organizations, including SCAP's Early Learning, to provide prekindergarten instruction to three- and four-year-old students. This partnership fosters a shared understanding of high-quality early childhood education and care, thereby aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment strategies across the city.

QUALITYstarsNY participation by several programs in the county has encouraged shared professional development and quality improvement efforts. The Schenectady County Early Childhood Education Network, a collaboration of various early childhood providers, continues to offer aligned professional development opportunities. SUNY Schenectady's Early Childhood Education program partners with local providers to offer relevant training and education for early childhood professionals. While specific details of each provider's current practices may vary, the overall trend indicates a continued commitment to collaboration, aligned curricular approaches, and smooth transitions between programs. The significant expansion of Pre-K slots in the Schenectady City School District, in particular, demonstrates an increased focus on early childhood education in the county.

Home-Based Services: Home-based services in Schenectady County include 22 home-based Early Head Start services through Northern Rivers (Parsons Child & Family Center). Healthy Families New York (HFNY) Schenectady County (formerly Healthy Schenectady Families) continues to operate in Schenectady County, providing free, voluntary home-visitation services. It serves pregnant women and new parents, with services potentially continuing until the child is 5 years old. The program is implemented by Northern Rivers Family of Services in partnership with Schenectady County Public Health Services.

These programs collectively provide support, education, and resources to help parents navigate the challenges of pregnancy and early parenthood. They focus on promoting healthy child development, positive parenting practices, and family self-sufficiency. The collaboration between these programs and local organizations like Schenectady County Public Health Services and the Schenectady City School District remains strong, ensuring a comprehensive approach to home-based early childhood services.

Project LAUNCH: SCAP's Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health), funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) since 2019, provides families with young children from birth to age 21 with free mental health and related resources. As of

2024, Project LAUNCH is in its seventh year of implementation in Schenectady County. The goal of this program is to prepare children to thrive in school and beyond. The program helps all families—regardless of economic status—navigate the often complicated mental health and special education systems. SCAP's dedicated clinical providers offer integrated Special Education advocacy alongside mental health services, creating a comprehensive support system for vulnerable children and their families. Service components include:

- Behavioral Health Services
 - Early identification through mental health screenings and assessments
 - Community-based mental health services for children and families
 - Support for children at risk or identified with mental health, developmental delays, disabilities, or behavioral concerns
 - Special education advocacy and navigation support
 - Assistance accessing mental health supports, Special Education Services, and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics
- Early Childhood/School-Age Support
 - On-site mental health consultation and screening
 - Coaching and professional development opportunities
 - Support in early learning, primary care, and home settings
- Family Support Services
 - Resource navigation and case management
 - Support accessing and maintaining treatment services
 - Parent/guardian education and one-on-one support
 - Advocacy support for families navigating special education services

Project LAUNCH employs multiple evidence-based practices to provide screening and treatment support, including the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and the Pyramid Model to support social-emotional competence.

Recent Developments:

- During the 2024-2025 school year, SCAP experienced increased referrals for parent education and support, particularly for children requiring special education services
- Expanded services to 5 of 6 school districts in Schenectady County
- Four districts now make direct referrals
- Integration with Schenectady City School District's Crisis Prevention Team

Current Partnerships include:

- Schenectady County Early Intervention
- Hometown Health Center
- Ellis Hospital
- Primary Care Centers
- Local school districts
- Schenectady County Children and Family Services
- Various childcare settings

Minimum Wage Impact:

According to the New York State Department of Labor, as of January 1, 2025, the New York State

minimum wage for the Schenectady County area is \$15.50 per hour. This rate represents a \$0.50 increase from the 2024 rate of \$15.00 per hour. On January 1, 2026, the rate will increase again to \$16.00 per hour. These changes are part of New York State's planned series of minimum wage increases and affect most industries in Schenectady County. The federal minimum wage remains at \$7.25 per hour. Different rates still apply for tipped workers in hospitality and other service industries. Starting in 2027, minimum wage increases will be tied to inflation, with annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Northeast Region.

These wage increases continue to impact eligibility for various assistance programs. They affect family eligibility for Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and some families may exceed income thresholds for subsidized child care. Working families may lose eligibility for other benefits while still struggling to meet basic needs, creating a "benefits cliff" in which modest wage increases can result in a net loss of resources because increased income doesn't offset the loss of various supports and subsidies.

Child Care Subsidies: Working families in Schenectady County have access to childcare subsidies through multiple programs. The Schenectady County Department of Social Services administers the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which has expanded eligibility to help more families secure affordable child care. As of June 1, 2024, families with incomes up to 85% of the New York State Median Income may qualify for assistance. Additionally, the Workforce Development Institute's (WDI) Child Care Subsidy Program continues to offer support for eligible working families.

Schenectady County has also introduced the Schenectady County Cares Childcare Assistance program, which includes an online portal to streamline the application process, making it easier for eligible families to access support. This initiative represents the first online portal for childcare assistance in NYS.

WDI Eligibility Threshold for Child Care Subsidies (June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025)

Family Size	Maximum Income for NYS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	Maximum Income for WDI Child Care Subsidy Program
2	\$73,869.56	\$124,800
3	\$91,250.63	\$124,800
4	\$108,631.70	\$124,800
5	\$126,012.77	\$143,393.84
6	\$143,393.84	\$143,393.84

Source: New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Note: These income thresholds are valid through May 31, 2025 and will be updated for the 2025-2026 program year.

The WDI program has expanded eligibility, allowing families with incomes higher than the standard CCAP limits to qualify. For example, a family of four with gross income up to \$124,800 remains eligible for the WDI scholarship. Note: The CCAP income limits represent 85% of the New York State Median Income. To qualify for these subsidies, families must generally meet the following criteria:

- Require child care for employment, education, or job searching
- Have children under 13 years of age
- Meet the income guidelines

While this dual subsidy system helps bridge gaps in childcare accessibility for Schenectady County's working families, challenges remain. Childcare prices in New York are among the highest in the nation, and many areas still face issues with availability.

Expectant Mothers and Teen Births:

The most recent vital statistics available through the NYS Department of Health indicate a total of 1,662 live births in Schenectady County for 2022, distributed across the following age groups:

Pregnancies in Schenectady County: 2022									
Total	< 15	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+
1,662	0	11	46	270	461	540	288	45	1

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	11	46	1,662	57	3.43%
New York State	70	1,154	3,867	206,8012	5,091	2.46%

Source: NYS Department of Health, Vital Statistics, Table 7: Live Births by Mother's Age and Resident County - 2022

Key observations:

- The teen birth rate in Schenectady County (3.43%) is higher than the state average (2.46%)
- Among teen births in Schenectady County, the majority (46 out of 57) were to older teens aged 18-19
- The largest number of births were to mothers aged 30-34 (540 births), followed by mothers aged 25-29 (461 births)
- These numbers indicate a continued need for comprehensive reproductive health education and targeted support services, particularly given the higher proportion of teen births compared to the state average

Foster Care:

The following data are sourced from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, County-Level Data for 2021, which represents the most current comprehensive information available for Schenectady County. The county received 1,229 reports of child abuse and maltreatment, with 478 of these reports being substantiated. This led to 133 children being admitted to foster care, contributing to a total of 203 children in the foster care system at some point during the year. This translates to a rate of 4.8 children in foster care per 1,000 children in the county population, notably higher than the 3.5 per 1,000 average rate observed in comparable New York State counties.

Age Distribution and Care Duration: Of particular concern is the high number of young children entering the foster care system. In 2021:

- 59 children admitted to care were age five or under
- 77 of the total children in care during the year were in this youngest age group (0-5 years)

For children discharged from foster care in 2021, the median length of stay was 16.6 months. The outcomes for these children varied:

- 53.7% were reunified with their parents or caretakers

- 24.4% were adopted
- The remaining percentage likely includes those who aged out of the system or had other outcomes

Although the number of children entering foster care decreased slightly compared with the previous year, Schenectady County's rate remains higher than the average of its comparison group. Established by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, this comparison group comprises 15 counties with similar child-welfare populations, enabling meaningful benchmarking. These statistics highlight several key points:

- The continued need for robust child protection services in Schenectady County
- The importance of early intervention programs, given the high number of young children in foster care
- The potential for strengthening family reunification efforts, as over half of the discharged children were reunited with their families
- The need for continued support for adoption services, which provided permanent homes for nearly a quarter of discharged children

Key observations: while progress has been made, the data indicate that Schenectady County continues to face challenges in child welfare, particularly for young children. This suggests a continued need for comprehensive family support services, early childhood interventions, and strategies to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the community.

Disabilities & Early Intervention:

Preschool Special Education and Early Intervention 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 New York State, in one or more of the following areas of development: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive. **Preschool Special Education** services are available for children ages three to five who are approved by their individual school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education as eligible for services in accordance with Part 200 of the New York State Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

For the 2023-2024 school year, Schenectady County Public Health Services continues to provide Preschool Special Education services to eligible children ages 3-5 who are suspected of developmental delays that affect their ability to learn. The services generally follow a school calendar, with a six-week summer program available for children who qualify to prevent substantial regression of their skills.

The most recent data on the number of children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) in SCAP's Head Start program are from the 2022-2023 program year, in which 41 of the 229 children (17.9%) aged 3-5 had an IEP. This indicates that they had been determined eligible to receive Preschool Special Education and related services. In comparison, during the 2021-2022 program year, 36 of the 170 children (21%) had an IEP.

No updated information is available for the number of Preschool Students with Disabilities by school district for the 2023-2024 school year. The most recent data remains from the 2021-2022 NYS School Report Cards. According to the 2021-2022 NYS School Report Cards, public school districts with students

in Schenectady County provided Preschool Special Education services for a total of 364 children:

District	Preschool Students with Disabilities
Burnt Hills- Ballston Lake Central School District (CSD)	46
Duanesburg CSD	5
Niskayuna CSD	50
Rotterdam-Mohonasen CSD	39
Schalmont CSD	25
Schenectady City School District	149
Scotia-Glenville CSD	50
Total	364

Source: NYS School Report Cards 2021-2022

The most recent data from the New York State Department of Health (Federal Fiscal Year 2023) reports that 0.7% of children in Schenectady County under the age of 1 year received Early Intervention support. 4.4% of children under the age of three received Early Intervention support. Based on the estimated 5,629 children under age three in Schenectady County (2017-2021 ACS), 4.4% (approximately 248 children) received Early Intervention support. For the 2023-2024 school year, the Schenectady City School District is offering full-day Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) programs for both 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds. This expansion of early childhood education services may impact the identification and support of children with special needs.

Family Schedules: Based on the most recent data available from the 2024 Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report, in the 2023-2024 program year, 60.3% of families served by Head Start programs were single-parent families. Of the total number of families enrolled, 66.4% had at least one parent or guardian employed at the time of enrollment.

Head Start continues to offer a range of program options to accommodate families. Center-based options include slots that provide 1,020 annual hours or more for preschool children and 1,380 annual hours or more for infants and toddlers. Of these, 17.5% are available for the full working day and full calendar year. This flexibility helps support working families and those engaged in job training or education.

Additionally, some programs offer transportation services, with 1,513 children receiving transportation to and from classes. This further helps families manage their schedules and ensure access to early learning services.

Infant and Toddler Care Needs: The need for infant and toddler childcare in Schenectady County is well-documented across multiple data sources and reinforced by direct program experience. According to the 2024 Picture of Child Care in the Capital Region by Brightside Up, Schenectady County faces a severe shortage of infant care, with only 10 childcare slots available for every 100 children aged 0-1. This represents a 90% gap between available infant care capacity and the number of infants in the county.

The demand for center-based infant-toddler care is further evidenced by SCAP's experience with the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) program. During the 2023-2024 program year, SCAP operated 94 funded EHS-CCP slots: 46 center-based and 48 family group child care. Program enrollment

data shows that 63.8% of children served were ages 0-2 (3.2% under age 1, 26.6% age 1, and 34% age 2), with 20.7% of EHS families requiring housing assistance and 9.6% experiencing homelessness. These demographic characteristics indicate significant economic vulnerability among families needing infant-toddler care.

SCAP's operational experience with the EHS-CCP program reveals ongoing challenges in maintaining consistent service delivery through family child care partnerships. Staff observations indicate difficulties with partner recruitment and retention, periodic gaps in family child care partnerships, and sustained demand reflected in the program's waitlist. While formal survey data on family preferences for center-based versus family child care have not been collected, program staff report consistent feedback from families expressing a preference for center-based care, particularly for families with multiple children or complex work schedules requiring extended hours of care.

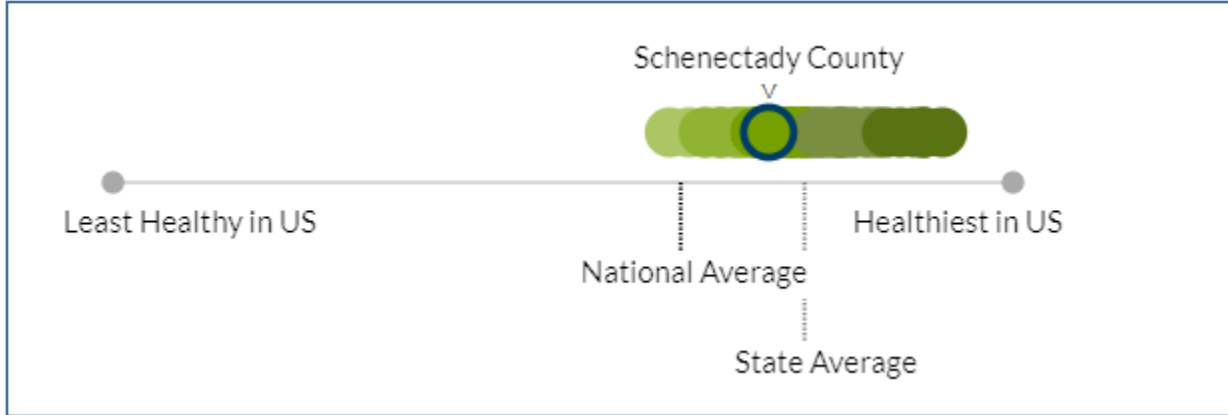
Northern Rivers Family of Services operates an additional 94 Early Head Start slots, with 72 center-based, 17 home-based, and 5 serving pregnant women. Their program serves a similarly vulnerable population, with 15.1% of families experiencing homelessness and 22.6% of children having Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) indicating early intervention needs. Northern Rivers consistently reports a substantial waitlist for their center-based program.

The convergence of formal data showing severe infant care shortages, program enrollment reflecting high-need populations, and operational challenges in family child care partnerships supports the need for expanded center-based infant-toddler care capacity in Schenectady County. Center-based programs offer several advantages, including consistent availability that is not dependent on individual providers' circumstances, the ability to serve families with complex needs requiring wraparound services, the ability to accommodate extended hours for working families, and integrated support services for children with developmental delays or disabilities.

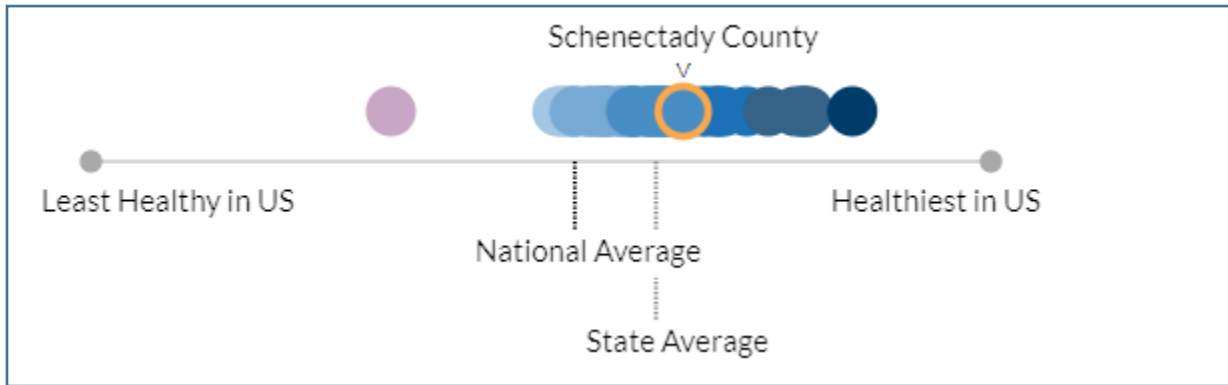
During the 2024-2025 program year, SCAP completed a Change of Scope, reducing funded enrollment from 94 to 72 EHS-CCP slots to better align program operations, staffing, and community needs. This adjustment reflects ongoing challenges in family childcare partnership recruitment and retention, as well as fluctuating enrollment in partner settings. These factors continue to impact the program's ability to consistently meet its funded enrollment.

XIII. Health & Nutrition/Food Insecurity

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s 2024 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program, Schenectady County ranks 43rd out of New York State’s 62 counties for Overall Health Outcomes, which considers length and quality of life.



The county is ranked 25th for Health Factors, which include health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. These rankings place Schenectady County in the lower-middle range for health outcomes and the higher-middle range for health factors compared to other counties in New York.



The leading causes of death in Schenectady County, as reported by the New York State Department of Health (2012–2022), remain heart disease and cancer. According to the most recent 2022 data, of the 1,708 total deaths in Schenectady County, heart disease (410 deaths) and malignant neoplasms/cancer (298 deaths) continue as the leading causes. Chronic lower respiratory diseases (CLRD) (69 deaths) and cerebrovascular disease (57 deaths) follow as the third and fourth leading causes. The fifth leading cause in 2022 was diabetes mellitus (52 deaths). COVID-19, which emerged as a significant cause of death during the pandemic, ranking third in 2020 and fifth in 2021, accounted for 92 deaths in 2022.

In SCAP’s most recent agency-wide reporting year, 165 of 5,252 customers (3.14%) lacked health insurance. County-wide, 4.1% of residents under age 65 were uninsured as of 2023 (Small Area Health Insurance Estimates). Approximately 13.35% of SCAP customers reported one or more disabilities. For

the 2024-2025 program year, 83% of children ages zero to five enrolled in SCAP’s Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) programs were up-to-date on a schedule of preventive and primary health care, while 99% had an ongoing source of continuous accessible health care.

Health Insurance

Area	Population Under Age 65	Insured	Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Schenectady County	127,022	121,847	5,175	4.1%

Source: 2023 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

Health Workforce and Access in Schenectady County:

Schenectady County faces ongoing challenges in healthcare workforce availability and access to services. As of 2022, the county had a primary care physician-to-population ratio of 1,255:1 (126 physicians), a mental health provider-to-population ratio of 351:1 (455 providers), and a dentist-to-population ratio of 1,251:1 (128 dentists).

While specific historical comparison data for Schenectady County from earlier years show the county previously had 3.58 physicians, physician assistants, or specialist assistants per 1,000 persons (2021 data from the US Census Bureau American Community Survey & NYS Education Department), broader regional and statewide trends provide additional context.

Related Regional Healthcare Workforce Trends:

According to the Center for Health Workforce Studies’ 2023 Report, healthcare employment in Upstate New York has faced significant challenges:

- Healthcare jobs in Upstate New York regions have declined over the past five years, while jobs in Long Island and New York City have increased.
- Registered nurses (RNs) are among the most difficult positions to recruit and retain across all healthcare settings in New York State.
- Home health and personal care aides are among the fastest-growing health occupations in New York State, with over 90,000 projected average annual openings.
- Social worker graduations have increased substantially over the past five years, while RN graduations have also risen.

These trends highlight a growing demand for healthcare workers in Schenectady County and surrounding areas, particularly in nursing and home health roles.

Primary Care Access:

The city of Schenectady has been designated a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for primary care, mental health, and dental services for Medicaid-eligible populations. This designation underscores significant access issues for underserved groups within the county. According to federal guidelines, HPSA designations are based on population-to-provider ratios and other indicators of unmet need.

Implications for Schenectady County:

The combination of workforce shortages and HPSA designations highlights critical barriers to healthcare access in Schenectady County. Recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals remain pressing

concerns, particularly for primary care providers, mental health specialists, and dental care professionals. While progress is being made at the state level to address these challenges, Schenectady County continues to face significant disparities in healthcare access compared to other parts of New York State.

Summary of Health Needs for Schenectady County:

The 2025 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), coordinated by the Healthy Capital District Initiative (HCDI), provides a comprehensive analysis of health needs in Schenectady County and the broader Capital Region. Schenectady County faces various health and nutrition challenges, including chronic diseases, food insecurity, and disparities in health outcomes across different populations and neighborhoods. Below are key findings specific to Schenectady County.

Significant Health Needs Identified:

1. Cardiovascular Disease:

- Heart disease hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 68.1 per 10,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022), with Schenectady County recording the highest heart attack hospitalization rate in the Capital Region in 2022.
- Stroke hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 25.9 per 10,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022), with Schenectady County having the highest stroke hospitalization rate in the Capital Region in 2022.
- Heart disease mortality was 184.5 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
- Coronary heart disease hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 20.7 per 10,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).

2. Diabetes

- Diabetes mortality was 31.2 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
- Diabetes (primary diagnosis) hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 15.0 per 10,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
- The potentially preventable diabetes short-term complications hospitalization rate was 6.5 per 10,000 population aged 18 years or older (2020-2022).
- Schenectady County was in the bottom half of NYS counties for their rate of potentially preventable diabetes short-term complications hospitalizations among adults 18+ in 2022.

3. Obesity

- In the Capital Region, adult obesity rates were highest in Schenectady County in 2021.
- Schenectady County had the highest percentage in the region of adults who ate less than one fruit and one vegetable daily in 2021.
- Schenectady County had the second-highest rates in the region for daily sugary beverage consumption in 2021.
- Schenectady County had the lowest rates of physical activity in the Capital Region in 2021, both for all adults and for adults aged 65 years and older.

4. Asthma

- Asthma hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 4.6 per 10,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
- Among children aged 0-17 years, asthma hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 8.1 per 10,000 population (2020-2022).

- Asthma hospitalization rates (2020-2022) were significantly higher among Black non-Hispanic residents (8.7 per 10,000) and Hispanic residents (6.7 per 10,000) compared to White non-Hispanic residents (2.7 per 10,000).
 - Asthma emergency department visit rates among children aged 0-17 years were highest in Schenectady County in the Capital Region in 2022.
5. Smoking and Lung Disease
- Chronic lower respiratory disease mortality was 33.8 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
 - Chronic lower respiratory disease hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 10.2 per 10,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
 - Lung cancer incidence was 67.1 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted, 2019-2021).
6. Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders
- Schenectady County had the highest percentage in the Capital Region in 2021 of adult residents who reported ever being diagnosed by a provider with a depressive disorder.
 - Schenectady County had the highest rate of mental health emergency department visits in the Capital Region in 2023, where a mental health condition was the primary diagnosis.
 - The suicide mortality rate was 10.4 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
 - Overdose deaths involving opioids and non-fatal opioid-related hospital events occurred at a rate of 274.7 per 100,000 population (2020-2022).
 - Schenectady County had the third-highest opioid overdose mortality rate in the Capital Region in 2022.
7. Healthy and Safe Environment:
- The incidence rate of elevated blood lead levels among children under 6 years requires updated verification from the 2025 CHNA.
 - Schenectady County had the highest percentage in the region of school drinking water outlets that exceeded the state's lead action limit in 2020. It was the only county in the region with a higher rate than NYS, excluding NYC.
 - Unintentional injury hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 67.8 per 10,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
 - Motor vehicle-related mortality was 7.0 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted, 2020-2022).
 - Schenectady County had the highest motor vehicle injury emergency department visit rate in the Capital Region in 2023.
 - Fall hospitalizations among adults aged 65 years or older occurred at a rate of 220.2 per 10,000 population (2020-2022).
 - Schenectady County had the highest percentage in the Capital Region in 2021 of adults who had reported having experienced at least two adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
 - Schenectady County had the second-highest rate in the Capital Region of reports indicating child abuse or maltreatment in 2022.
 - Schenectady County had the highest rate of chronic absenteeism in the Capital Region among students in first to eighth grade in 2024.
 - More than two in five economically disadvantaged students in grades one through eight in Schenectady County were chronically absent in 2024; Schenectady had the highest rate in the Capital Region and the sixth highest rate in New York State.
8. Healthy Women, Infants, and Children:

- The percentage of births with early (1st trimester) prenatal care was 74.9% (2020-2022).
- Schenectady County had the highest percentage in the region for births with late or no prenatal care in 2022.
- The percentage of premature births (< 37 weeks gestation) was 10.7% (2020-2022).
- The percentage of low birthweight births (< 2.5 kg) was 9.1% (2020-2022).
- Schenectady County had the highest rate in the Capital Region of low birthweight among Asian or Pacific Islander residents in 2020-2022.
- The infant mortality rate was 6.2 per 1,000 live births (2020-2022).
- Schenectady County had the highest rate of infant mortality in the Capital Region in 2020-2022, among counties with reportable data.

9. Infectious Disease:

- Schenectady County was the only Capital Region county with a lower rate than NYS, excluding NYC, for the percentage of children aged 24-35 months who are up to date with the seven-vaccine series of immunizations.
- Schenectady County had the second highest newly diagnosed HIV case rate in the Capital Region in 2022.
- Schenectady County had the highest rate in the region, and fifth highest rate in the state, for gonorrhea diagnoses in 2022.
- Schenectady County had the highest rate in the region for chlamydia diagnoses in 2022.

Key Health Indicators:

- Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL): Schenectady County has a higher YPLL rate than many other counties in the region, indicating premature mortality is a significant issue.
- Area Deprivation Index (ADI): Certain neighborhoods show high levels of socioeconomic deprivation, which correlates with poorer health outcomes.
- Access to Care: The city of Schenectady has been designated a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for primary care, mental health, and dental care for Medicaid-eligible populations.

Community Priorities Aligned with NYS Prevention Agenda: According to the 2025 CHNA, the Schenectady Prevention Agenda Prioritization Work Group identified the following priority areas for the community's Prevention Agenda:

1. PRIORITY AREA: Prevent Communicable Diseases
 - Focus Area: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
 - Focus Area: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
2. PRIORITY AREA: Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders
 - Focus Area: Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevention

Implications for Schenectady County: These statistics highlight areas where Schenectady County faces significant health challenges. The findings highlight persistent health disparities that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations in specific neighborhoods. Collaborative efforts among public health agencies, hospitals, community organizations, and other stakeholders are critical to effectively addressing these challenges. Addressing these needs requires targeted interventions that focus on prevention, access to care, and the reduction of health disparities across all populations. For more detailed data or specific strategies outlined in the CHNA, the full report, available via HCDI or local public health departments, is recommended.

In alignment with the findings of the 2025 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), the Schenectady Prevention Agenda Prioritization Work Group has identified the following priority areas for the community's Prevention Agenda:

1. PRIORITY AREA: Prevent Communicable Diseases
 - a. Focus Area: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
 - b. Focus Area: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): Due to significantly elevated diagnosis rates for gonorrhea, chlamydia, and early syphilis, continued efforts to educate the public, expand access to testing and treatment, and reduce transmission rates.
2. PRIORITY AREA: Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders
 - a. Focus Area: Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevention: Given the high rates of ED visits and hospitalizations, as well as high disparities amongst vulnerable populations, the working group has determined this Prevention Agenda priority requires targeted interventions to improve mental health services, reduce substance abuse, and address social determinants of health that contribute to these issues.

Nutrition/Food Insecurity:

According to the most recent data from the Kids' Well-Being Indicators Clearinghouse, in 2022, 7,326 children aged 18 or younger (22.1%) received SNAP benefits in Schenectady County. This exceeded the statewide rate of 20.4%. SCAP assisted 223 individuals in accessing SNAP benefits during the most recent agency-wide reporting year.

From Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap study:

"Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods."

According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap 2025 (reflecting 2023 data), 12.6% of Schenectady County residents—approximately 20,120 people—lack reliable access to affordable and nutritious food. This represents an increase from the 2022 food insecurity rate of 10.3%. Among children in the county, the food insecurity rate is significantly higher at 17.3%, affecting approximately 5,970 children. The average cost per meal in Schenectady County is \$3.77, with an annual food budget shortfall of \$14,361,000. Among food-insecure individuals, 41% have incomes above the SNAP threshold, while among food-insecure children, 36% are likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs due to incomes above 185% of poverty.

Additional insight regarding food security can be garnered from the 2025 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment. Food insecurity continues to affect vulnerable populations in areas like Hamilton Hill and Mont Pleasant, where access to affordable, healthy food is limited.

The *Greater Capital Region Food System Assessment*, published by Capital Roots in February 2021 (their most recent assessment), examined four food-related sectors: consumption, distribution, processing, and production. The top recommendations resulting from the research conducted were:

- **Equity**: Build community food security by ensuring healthy food access at retail outlets for all residents.
- **Economic Resilience**: Grow the local food economy by building capacity in wholesale market channels in the region to purchase more local food.

XIV. COVID-19

Long-Term Impacts and Recovery Efforts in Schenectady County of COVID-19: While the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic has passed, Schenectady County continues to address its long-term impacts on community health, economic stability, and social well-being. Below is a summary of the most recent data and ongoing recovery efforts (as of December 31, 2023):

- Total Confirmed Cases: 50,297
- Total Confirmed Deaths: 347
- Total Patients Admitted to a County Hospital: 3,882
- Total Vaccinations Completed (First Dose): 145,721
- Total Vaccinations Completed (Series Completion): 125,355

(Note: Comprehensive 2024 year-end COVID-19 data is not yet available. Data reporting has become significantly more challenging since the end of the public health emergency, as the growing prevalence of at-home testing, the potential for individuals to contract the virus multiple times, and the end of mandated data reporting have made it difficult to present a complete picture of COVID-19 cases and deaths. The 2023 data provides the most recent reliable snapshot.)

Ongoing Public Health Measures: As of 2024-2025, Schenectady County continues to provide COVID-19 vaccinations at multiple sites. The county hosts community vaccination clinics in partnership with Walgreens and maintains services at Sycamore Collaborative (formerly Schenectady Community Ministries/SiCM), 837 Albany Street, Schenectady 12307, and at Schenectady County Public Health Services (107 Nott Terrace, Suite 100, Schenectady, NY 12308). Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines remain available for residents aged 5 and older, with clinics offered on a first-come, first-served basis. The local hospitals in Schenectady County, Ellis Hospital and St. Peter's Hospital, also continue to provide vaccination services.

Long-Term Impacts and Response Strategies:

1. Economic Recovery and Workforce Support:
 - The unemployment rate in Schenectady County initially surged during the pandemic but has since stabilized. However, sectors such as hospitality and healthcare continue to face workforce shortages.
 - SCAP's employment services continue to provide support for individuals navigating the unemployment process and accessing career readiness resources.
 - SCAP's distance learning platform, developed to deliver online career readiness instruction, remains operational, providing flexible learning opportunities for residents.
2. Small Business Support:
 - The City of Schenectady's Small Business Assistance Program, funded by Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds under the CARES Act, provided \$300,000 in grants to 42 local businesses between October 2020 and the program's conclusion.
3. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

- Schenectady received \$52.9 million in ARPA funding for recovery initiatives focused on housing stabilization, workforce development, and public infrastructure improvements.
 - The city successfully met the December 31, 2024 deadline to obligate all ARPA funds. Major allocations included \$10 million for the Central Park pool complex, funding for community organizations, and various infrastructure projects. Recipients must expend their allocated funds by December 31, 2026.
 - Schenectady County also received \$30.12 million in ARPA funds, with an additional \$67.71 million distributed to municipalities within the county.
4. Community Resilience Initiatives:
- Evolving from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Coalition, "One Schenectady" continues to address long-term recovery needs. This includes food security programs, housing assistance through the Rebuilding Families Fund, and coordinated support for underserved populations.
 - Food insecurity remains a concern in neighborhoods like Hamilton Hill and Mont Pleasant. Collaborative efforts with organizations such as Capital Roots and the Regional Food Bank aim to improve access to nutritious food.
 - Housing Stability: ARPA funds are being used to rehabilitate affordable housing units and stabilize neighborhoods impacted by economic disruptions during the pandemic.
 - The County Department of Social Services assists with shelter, Medicaid issues, and Temporary Assistance Programs.
 - The YMCA, located in Schenectady, has created specific initiatives and projects to assist seniors and other members within the community.
5. SCAP's Adaptations and Service Delivery
- SCAP adapted its operations during the pandemic, implementing remote work arrangements and creating an integrated online registration system to ensure 24/7 access to services. While SCAP has transitioned back to a full onsite presence, virtual service delivery options remain available for customers.
6. Mental Health and Social Well-being
- The 2022 Capital Region Community Health Needs Assessment continues to highlight elevated rates of mental health-related emergency department visits, underscoring an ongoing need for expanded mental health support services.
7. Key Support and Emergency Services
- The Schenectady County COVID-19 Emergency Response Coalition coordinated efforts between county government services and community stakeholders.
 - Representatives from the County Department of Social Services assisted with shelter, temporary assistance programs, and Medicaid issues.
 - Key Members: 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, Sycamore Collaborative (formerly Schenectady Community Ministries), Schenectady Foundation, Scotia Relief,

Union College, YMCA, YWCA, and Animal Protective Foundation.

8. The Schenectady Foundation

- Launched a Rebuilding Families Fund that provided financial resources to help keep people safely in their homes while getting them the food and supplies they needed.

9. Public Service and Awareness

- The city of Schenectady established coordination with Sycamore Collaborative (formerly Schenectady Community Ministries) to help maintain services for everyone.

Lessons Learned and Future Preparedness

The pandemic underscored the importance of:

- Strengthening public health infrastructure.
- Expanding access to mental health services.
- Supporting small businesses and vulnerable populations.
- Enhancing emergency preparedness for future crises.

Schenectady County continues to build a more resilient and equitable community by leveraging federal funding and community partnerships to address the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with ongoing monitoring and collaborative initiatives guiding the way.

XV. Other Community/Social Service Need Indicators

Schenectady County's social service landscape is shaped by several key demographic and institutional factors that impact service delivery and community needs. These indicators - including language barriers, grandparent caregivers, and involvement with the criminal justice system - help identify vulnerable populations and inform strategies for more effective service provision across the county.

Ability to Speak English:

A significant number of residents in Schenectady County speak a language other than English. Of the 13,448 residents who speak a language other than English at home, 4,617 (34.3%) speak English less than "very well". The majority of residents who speak English less than "very well" (59.8%) 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	150,350	64,649
Speak a language other than English	13,488 / 8.9%	7,551 / 11.7%
Speak English less than "very well"	4,617 / 3.1%	2,762 / 4.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1601

Comparing this data to the 2018-2022 data from the previous CNA, we can observe several changes:

- The percentage of people who speak a language other than English has increased slightly in both the county (from 8.7% to 8.9%) and city (from 11.6% to 11.7%)
- The percentage of people who speak English less than "very well" has increased in both the county (from 2.8% to 3.1%) and city (from 4.2% to 4.3%)

Additional context from the new data shows that among non-English speakers:

- Spanish speakers comprise the largest group (5,653 people/3.8% of the county population)
- Followed by other Indo-European languages (4,277 people/2.8%)
- Asian and Pacific Islander languages (2,526 people/1.7%)
- Other languages (992 people/0.7%)

The City of Schenectady continues to have a higher percentage of non-English speakers and those with limited English proficiency than the county as a whole, underscoring the continued importance of language access in service delivery within the city.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:

There are 2,070 grandparents in Schenectady County who are living with their own grandchildren under 18 years old. Of these, approximately 855 (41.3%) are responsible for their grandchildren's care. This represents a notable decrease from the previous year's count of 2,616 grandparents living with grandchildren, of whom 1,019 were primary caregivers.

Grandparents as Caregivers

	Schenectady County	City of Schenectady	Duanesburg	Glenville	Niskayuna	Rotterdam	Princetown
# grandparents living w/own grandchildren < 18	2,070	864	83	217	422	449	35
Responsible for grandchildren	855	476	79	73	53	169	5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1002

Key Demographic Characteristics of Grandparent Caregivers:

- Economic Status
 - 32.6% of responsible grandparents live below the poverty level
 - This rate is significantly higher in the City of Schenectady, where 55.7% of responsible grandparents live in poverty
 - The poverty rate is particularly high among younger grandparent caregivers (aged 30-59), reaching 50.8%
- Family Structure and Support
 - 38.8% of responsible grandparents are raising grandchildren with no parent present in the household
 - This rate is higher in the City of Schenectady (50.6%) and Rotterdam (37.3%)
 - 51.5% of responsible grandparents are married, while 48.5% are unmarried (never married, widowed, or divorced)
- Employment and Disability
 - 46.5% of responsible grandparents participate in the labor force
 - 22.9% have a disability
 - The disability rate is higher among older grandparent caregivers (aged 60 and over)
- Gender and Age Distribution
 - 79.1% of responsible grandparents are female
 - The gender disparity is even more pronounced among older caregivers, where 91.9% are female
 - Responsibility is split between younger (53.9% aged 30-59) and older (46.1% aged 60 and over) grandparents
- Racial and Ethnic Composition
 - 68% of responsible grandparents are White
 - 18.6% are Black or African American
 - 3.6% are American Indian and Alaska Native
 - 9.8% identify as two or more races
 - 3.5% are of Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)

These demographics highlight several challenges facing grandparent caregivers in Schenectady County:

1. The high poverty rate, particularly in the City of Schenectady, suggests a need for economic support services
2. The significant percentage of grandparents raising grandchildren without parent involvement indicates a need for additional family support services
3. The high proportion of female caregivers, many of whom are unmarried, suggests a need for targeted support for single grandmother-headed households
4. The presence of disabilities among nearly a quarter of caregivers indicates a need for accessible services and support
5. The racial and ethnic diversity of grandparent caregivers highlights the importance of culturally competent services and outreach

Crime:

According to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the 2022 Overall Crime Rate per 100,000 for Schenectady County was 2,500.0. This represented an increase from the 2021 rate of 2,294.9. More recent county-level data shows a declining trend, with crime in Schenectady County dropping 26% overall from 2010 to 2024, including a 28% decrease in property crime and a 14% decline in violent crime. (Note: Comprehensive county-level crime rate data for 2023 and 2024 were not yet available from DCJS at the time of this assessment.)

The Schenectady County Jail housed an average daily population that has shown significant variation in recent years. Schenectady County has implemented initiatives to increase support for community programs.

Jail Population in Schenectady County										
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
322	329	338	292	275	228	139	154	165	189	239

Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

The jail population data shows several notable trends:

- A significant decrease occurred between 2019 (228) and 2020 (139), likely influenced by COVID-19 policies and criminal justice reforms
- Since 2020, there has been a steady annual increase in the jail population
- The 2024 population (239) represents a 72% increase from the 2020 low of 139 but remains significantly lower than pre-2020 levels
- The current jail population is about 29% lower than the peak of 338 inmates in 2016

Sentences: Adults in Schenectady County - Felony and Misdemeanor Categories

	2021		2022		2023	
	Felony	Misdemeanor	Felony	Misdemeanor	Felony	Misdemeanor
Prison	125	0	138	1	152	0
Jail	53	38	61	45	72	52

Time Served	130	229	142	251	156	273
Jail & Probation	13	1	15	2	18	3
Probation	79	17	85	22	93	28
Fine	76	296	82	318	89	341
Conditional Discharge	46	73	51	81	57	89

Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

According to the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), the most recent data available for individuals from Schenectady County released from prison for the first time is from 2023. In 2023, 178 individuals were released. The average age of offenders released was 39.

Many of those released from incarceration face challenges reintegrating into society, including potential homelessness. The county has implemented several programs to address these issues:

- Reentry Support Services: Providing assistance with housing, employment, and mental health services.
- Community Supervision Partnerships: Collaborating with local organizations to ensure a smoother transition for released individuals.
- Job Training Programs: Offering skill development opportunities to increase employability.

It's important to note that while there has been a slight increase in some categories of sentences, the county continues to focus on alternative sentencing and rehabilitation programs to reduce recidivism rates.

Community Resource Network

Schenectady County's Community Resource Network (CRN) operates as a coordinated system to provide crisis intervention and resource navigation, maximizing service delivery efficiency while avoiding duplication of efforts. As the lead agency for the CRN, SCAP works collaboratively with multiple community partners to ensure comprehensive support for county residents in need.

SCAP deploys Community Resource Navigators who provide:

- Comprehensive needs assessments
- Crisis prevention and intervention support
- Resource coordination and referrals
- Both virtual and in-person assistance at SCAP and partner locations

The CRN Emergency Fund serves as a vital safety net, providing flexible financial assistance when other resources are exhausted. This fund addresses critical needs, including:

- Rental assistance and security deposits
- Utility assistance and emergency fuel
- Prescription co-payments
- Work-related expenses
- Transportation assistance
- Other essential needs

Through this emergency support, the CRN is crucial in preventing homelessness and stabilizing vulnerable households throughout Schenectady County.

SCAP's integrated service model recognizes that each household faces unique challenges requiring individualized solutions. This approach provides seamless access to a full spectrum of supports, from immediate crisis intervention to long-term stability planning. Service duration is flexible, accommodating both:

- Short-term interventions for immediate needs
- Extended case management for complex situations requiring ongoing support

For households requiring longer-term assistance, SCAP's case management services focus on:

- Collaborative goal-setting
- Development of practical life skills
- Creation of household management strategies
- Building pathways to greater self-sufficiency
- Establishing sustainable stability

Conclusion: These indicators collectively depict a community with diverse and evolving needs. The significant number of residents with limited English proficiency, particularly concentrated in the City of Schenectady, highlights the importance of accessible, culturally competent services. The substantial population of grandparent caregivers, many facing economic hardship and limited support systems, demonstrates the need for targeted family services. Meanwhile, trends in the criminal justice system, including increasing jail populations and various sentencing patterns, underscore the importance of rehabilitation and reentry support. The Community Resource Network continues to adapt to these changing needs, providing crucial support through its integrated service model and emergency assistance programs. Understanding and responding to these interconnected challenges remains essential for effective community support and service delivery in Schenectady County.

XVI. Community Engagement

Community Needs Assessment Focus Groups:

Focus groups were conducted in late 2024 across multiple SCAP programs and locations to gather direct feedback from community members. A total of 33 individuals participated across the following groups:

Early Learning Program (17 participants)

- Bigelow (11 participants across two sessions)
- Bellevue (3 participants)
- NS (3 participants)

Housing Programs (16 participants)

- Hillside Crossing ESSHI (10 participants)
- Hillside Crossing General (6 participants)
- Sojourn House (4 participants)

Each focus group discussed community needs, potential solutions, existing resources, and barriers to accessing services. The following themes emerged consistently across multiple groups:

Major Needs (those with * were also identified in previous assessments):

- SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING*
- TRANSPORTATION*
- CHILD CARE (particularly non-traditional hours)*
- MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES*
- YOUTH PROGRAMMING*
- Food Security/Access to Grocery Stores
- Community Safety
- Employment Opportunities with Living Wages
- More Accessible Mental Health Services
- Support for Parents/Families

Barriers to Accessing Services:

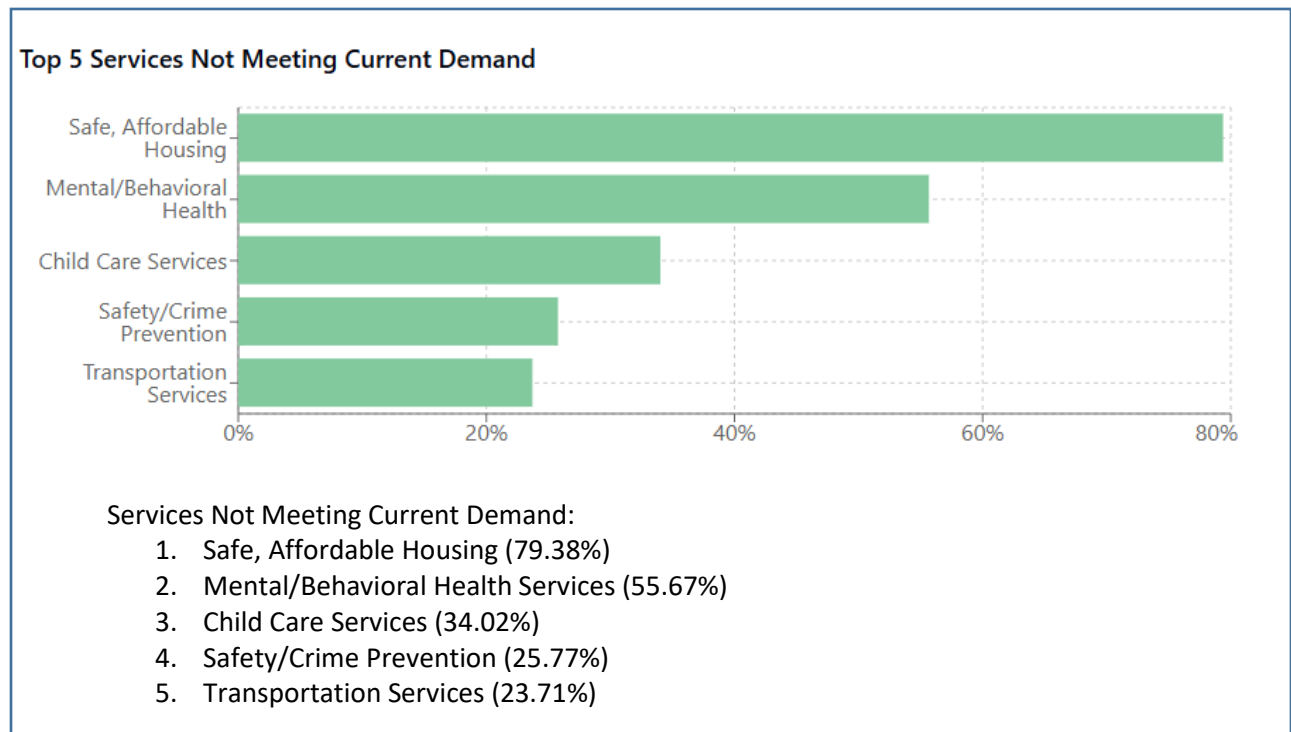
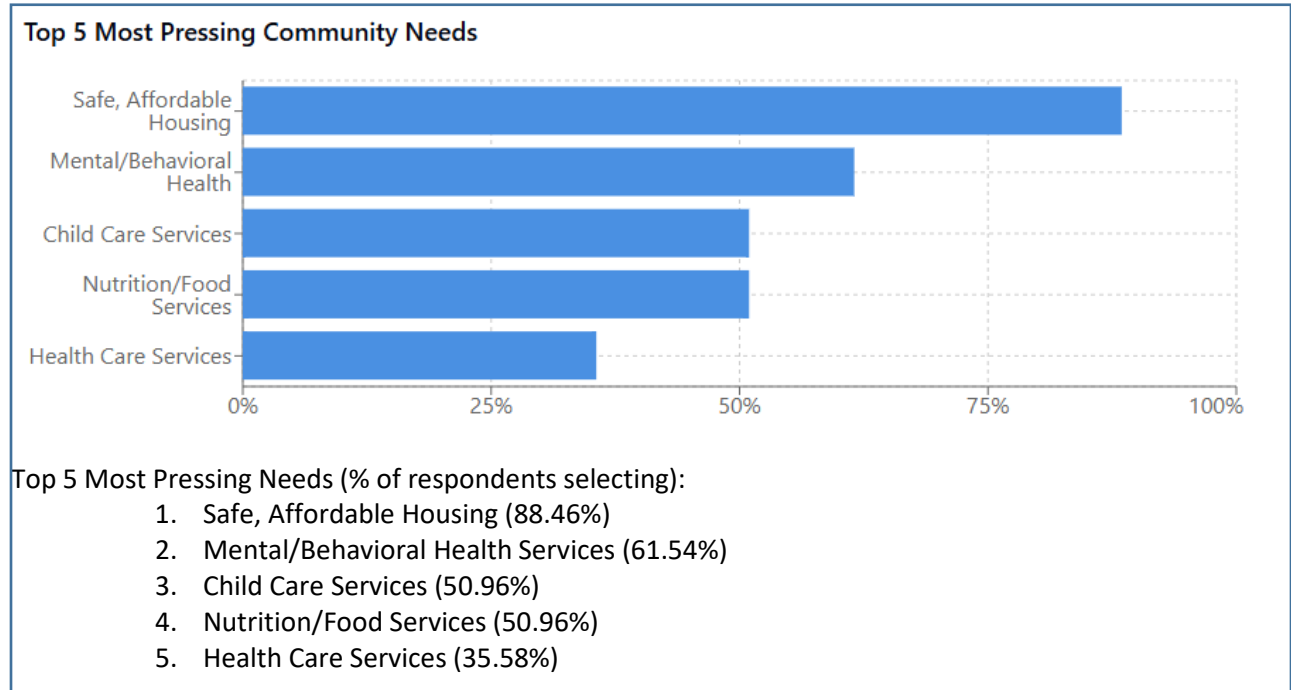
- Limited service hours that don't accommodate working families
- Long waitlists for mental health services
- Transportation challenges
- Income guidelines that exclude families just above thresholds
- Communication gaps between service providers
- Safety concerns in certain neighborhoods
- Lack of provider diversity and cultural competency

Community Needs Assessment Surveys:

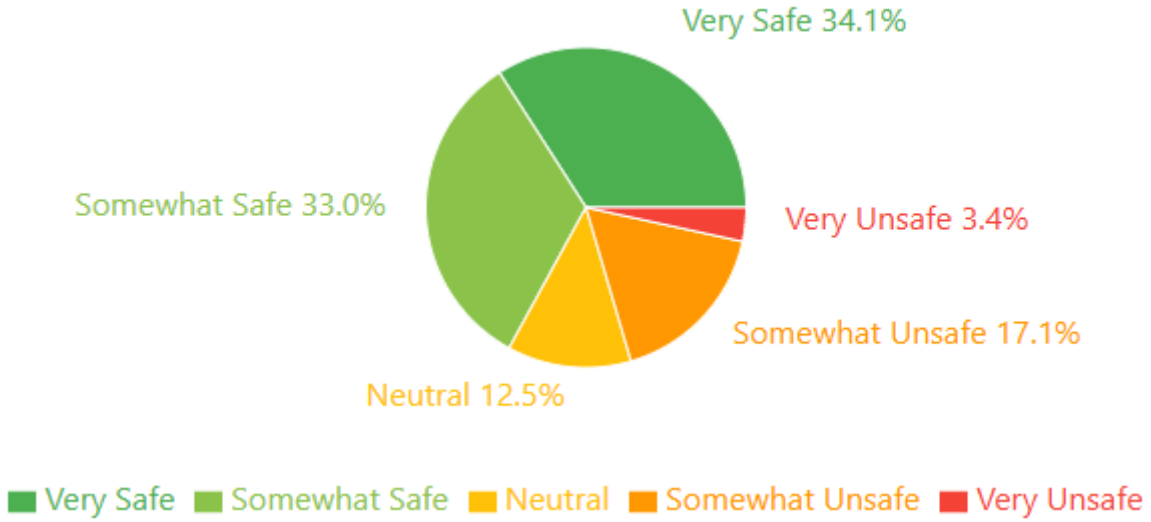
A comprehensive community survey was conducted with 150 respondents representing a broad cross-section of Schenectady County:

- 87.36% Residents of Schenectady County
- 34.48% Service providers
- 4.60% Business owners
- 2.30% Elected officials/government employees

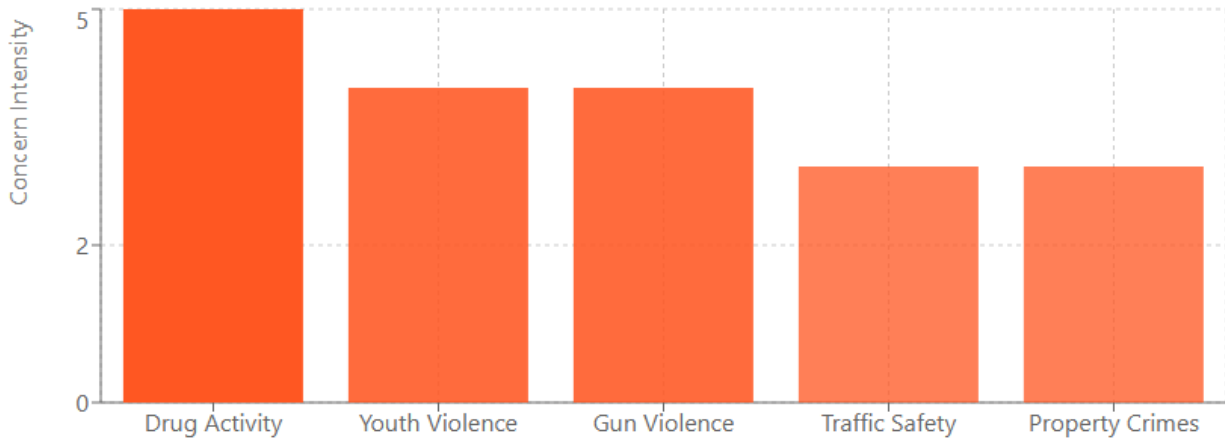
Survey respondents were asked to identify the most pressing needs of low-income individuals and families and the areas in which current services don't meet demand. Key findings include:



Community Safety Perceptions:



Primary Safety Concerns:



Emerging Community Needs:

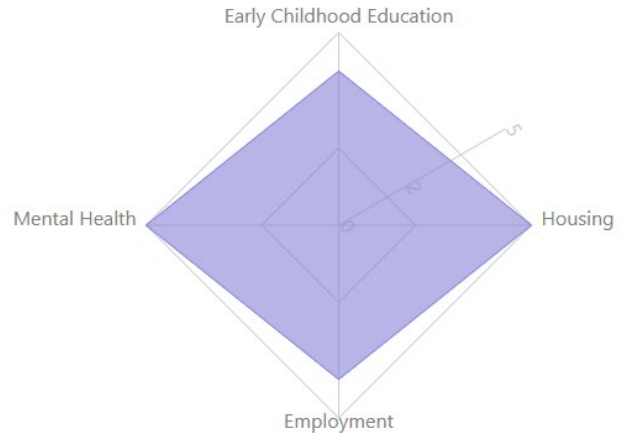
1. Early Childhood Education/Child Care:
 - Need for extended hours beyond traditional 9-5
 - Affordability challenges for working families
 - Staff recruitment and retention
 - Special education services and support

2. Housing:
 - Rising rental costs outpacing income
 - Need for better property maintenance
 - Long waitlists for housing assistance
 - Lack of safe, affordable options for families

3. Employment:
 - Need for living wage opportunities
 - Transportation barriers to employment
 - Flexible scheduling to accommodate child care
 - Job training and skill development

4. Mental/Behavioral Health:
 - Extended wait times for services (4-6 months)
 - Need for more providers accepting Medicaid
 - Crisis intervention services
 - Youth mental health support

Emerging Community Needs Complexity



Recommended Solutions from Community Input:

1. Housing:
 - Increased code enforcement
 - Rent stabilization measures
 - Support for first-time homebuyers
 - Rehabilitation of abandoned properties

2. Child Care:
 - Extended service hours
 - Employer-supported child care
 - Increased subsidies
 - Staff development and retention initiatives

3. Mental Health:
 - Expansion of crisis services
 - Integration with primary care
 - More bilingual providers
 - School-based mental health services

4. Transportation:

- Extended bus service hours
- Monthly pass programs
- Medical transportation coordination
- Support for work transportation

This assessment reflects increased community engagement from 2023, with broader participation across stakeholder groups. While many core needs remain consistent with those of previous years, new challenges have emerged, particularly regarding mental health access, extended service hours, and community safety. The data suggests a need for coordinated, systemic approaches to address these interconnected challenges.

Additional Community Input:

Multiple existing customer and community engagement activities have also informed this assessment process:

▪ **Early Learning Program Parent/Guardian Satisfaction Survey:**

SCAP's Early Learning Programs conducts annual satisfaction surveys to measure program effectiveness and parent engagement. In the 2024-2025 academic year, 45 parents and guardians shared their experiences through this evaluation process. The results demonstrate consistently high levels of satisfaction across multiple dimensions.

Parent feedback revealed nearly universal satisfaction (98%) in three critical areas:

- Communication with teaching staff
- Overall program quality and service delivery
- Enhanced appreciation for parental involvement in educational development

Additionally, the survey revealed strong positive outcomes in personal impact areas:

- 86% of respondents reported meaningful life improvements attributed to program participation
- 86% indicated their Family Service Worker successfully supported them in achieving their established goals

These results reflect SCAP's commitment to fostering strong partnerships between educators and families while delivering high-quality early learning services that create lasting positive change for participating families.

▪ **Customer Portal Usage Data:**

SCAP Community Services monitors activity around portal requests before entries go live. Based on this monitoring, at least 35% of portal requests occur outside regular business hours. Additional observations include:

- Customers can access SCAP services remotely through the portal 24/7, with applications submitted as late as 11:40pm
- The portal provides a feedback system for customers to report if service hours don't work for scheduling follow-up appointments
- Working customers can start services remotely (e.g., during lunch breaks) and later visit just to complete paperwork
- This increased flexibility has significantly improved service accessibility

- **City of Schenectady 2020 – 2024 Consolidated 5-Year Strategic Plan:**

The City of Schenectady’s 2020 – 2024 Consolidated 5-Year Strategic Plan incorporates public and service-provider input, which was instrumental in developing the plan’s goals and objectives and in identifying 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.

Note: The 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan period concluded in 2024. The City continues to operate under annual Action Plans while developing its next five-year consolidated plan. Current priorities remain focused on affordable housing, economic development, and neighborhood strengthening.

- **Schenectady City School District "Schenectady 2030" Strategic Plan:**

In October 2024, the Schenectady City School District adopted the "Schenectady 2030" Strategic Plan, providing valuable insights into educational priorities that align with our Community Needs Assessment goals. Key Strategic Priorities:

- Emphasize student and graduate success through alumni role models
 - Incorporate student voice via the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council
 - Strengthen family and community partnerships
 - Develop holistic, collaborative educational experiences
 - Create programs connecting education to real-world career opportunities
 - Ensure long-term financial stability and equitable resource allocation

These priorities directly support our existing goals in youth engagement, workforce development, and neighborhood strengthening, offering a contemporary perspective on community educational needs.

XVII. Community Resources

SCAP's Resource Navigation component serves as a central hub for comprehensive resource information for Schenectady County, ensuring that staff across all departments maintain access to current information on available services and supports. Through SCAP's leadership, the Schenectady Community Resource Network (CRN) provides vital assistance to thousands of local residents annually, helping them access essential services including food, housing, utility assistance, medical care, employment support, and transportation. This coordinated approach optimizes resource utilization, minimizes service duplication, and streamlines the often overwhelming process of seeking assistance during crises. The network maintains an Emergency Fund to support individuals and families facing urgent needs when other community resources have been exhausted.

Resource guides available to the community include:

- The INFO-OP Community Resource Directory (updated 2021): A comprehensive guide featuring 72 organizations providing human services in Schenectady County. For each agency, the directory provides detailed contact information, including address, telephone, fax, email, website, service descriptions, and, where available, areas served.
- SUNY Schenectady Community Resource Guide (Spring 2023)
- Schenectady County Basic Needs Resources guide (January 2024)
- Schenectady Resource Flyer (February 2025)

Schenectady County is an active participant in the United Way of the Greater Capital Region's 2-1-1 initiative. This service provides free online assistance and confidential telephone referrals, connecting residents with resources for food, shelter, rent assistance, clothing, childcare, and other community assistance. Multilingual referral specialists are available to assist individuals in navigating available resources. The 2-1-1 service covers the broader Capital Region, including Schenectady, Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington counties.

Further strengthening these resources, Schenectady County's 2025 Operating Budget supports several key initiatives:

- Schenectady County Cares: A one-stop childcare resource center providing childcare subsidies and information for potential providers
- Department of Social Services programming addressing community needs, with particular focus on affordable housing challenges
- Workforce development initiatives connecting both adults and youth with opportunities
- Collaborative efforts with healthcare providers, law enforcement, first responders, and community partners to address substance use challenges through various support programs

This comprehensive network of resources and services, supported by regularly updated guides and ongoing county investments, demonstrates a strong commitment to providing accessible, coordinated support to Schenectady County residents.

XVIII. Fulton and Montgomery Counties

Since 1978, SCAP has maintained a strong presence in Fulton and Montgomery counties through its employment services and support programs. These services operate in complementary partnership with the Fulmont Community Action Agency, enhancing the overall support network for residents in these counties. While SCAP focuses on specialized employment programming, Fulmont Community Action Agency provides a broad spectrum of services to 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 to provide 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 pantry, clothing, baked goods, and information and referrals to Fulmont programs – WIC, Early Childhood Services (Head Start, UPK), HEAP application assistance (Montgomery County only), Emergency Food and Shelter, Family Development, Weatherization, Employment Support, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) – as well as referrals to other programs within the community.
Energy Services
Energy Services, including Weatherization and EmPower New York for HEAP eligible households in both Fulton and Montgomery counties. These services are open to both homeowners and renters.
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
Supplemental food program for pregnant, breastfeeding, 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: fulmont.org/departments

Fulmont Community Action's comprehensive Community Needs Assessment provides valuable insights into the current landscape of issues, opportunities, and challenges facing Fulton and Montgomery counties. This assessment serves as a crucial resource in guiding SCAP's employment-focused initiatives in these regions. The mission of Fulmont Community Action remains "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." Detailed information about Fulmont Community Action's programs and their complete needs assessment can be accessed through their website at www.fulmont.org

Appendix A

New York State Community Action Association Poverty Reports 2025



Schenectady Community
Action Program

Creating Opportunity in Partnership



Schenectady County

Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.

913 Albany Street
 Schenectady, NY 12307
 518-374-9181 | www.scapny.org



12.5%
 Schenectady
 County
 Poverty Rate

County Population:
159,603

*Population for whom
 poverty status is
 determined:*

Overall
155,459

Population Under 18
34,105

Population 25 & Over
108,605

Population 65 & Over
26,972

Living In Poverty

Individuals
12.5% (19,384)

Children (Under 18)
16.8% (5,713)

Adults 25 & Over
10.0% (10,872)

Adults 65 & Over
8.8% (2,365)

Education & Poverty

Education Attainment for Adults 25+ (108,605)



Total Population

No Degree	8.0%
High School	26.1%
Associate	30.7%
Bachelors +	35.2%

Living in Poverty

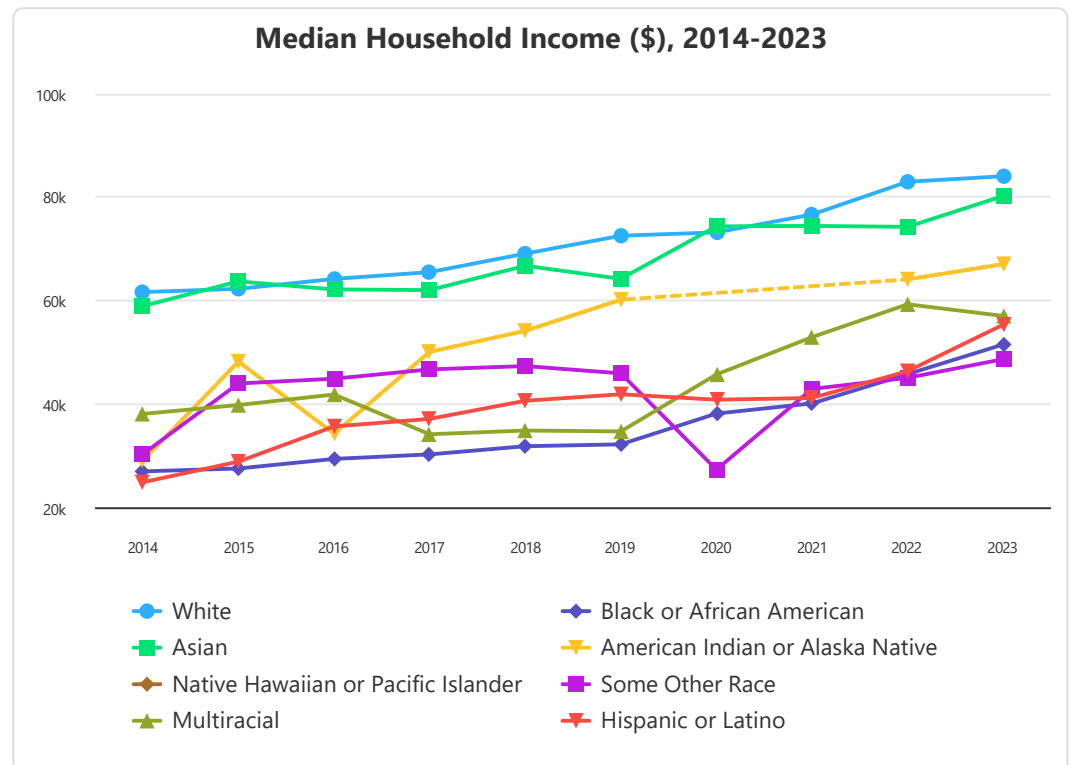
No Degree	32.3%
High School	13.6%
Associate	9.2%
Bachelors +	3.1%

Employment & Poverty

Living Wage for 1 Adult, 1 Child	\$42.77
Hourly Wage for FMR, 2BR Apt	\$26.42
Median Income	\$55,074
Median Income w/ HS Diploma	\$38,975
Male Median Earnings	\$47,903
Female Median Earnings	\$30,281



Median Household Income by Race & Ethnicity



ALICE: households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

28.1%
Households Live Below ALICE Threshold

Total Households:
65,758

ALICE Households by Race & Ethnicity

White
14,347

Black or African American
3,012

Asian
821

American Indian or Alaska Native
No data

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
No data

Some Other Race
697

Multiracial
1,333

Hispanic or Latino
1,334

Health Insurance & Poverty



No Health Insurance

Employed	3.7%
Unemployed	18.5%

Gender & Poverty

Male	11.0% (8,405)
Female	13.9% (10,979)

Of those families with Female Heads of Household and Children Present
32.2%
Live in Poverty

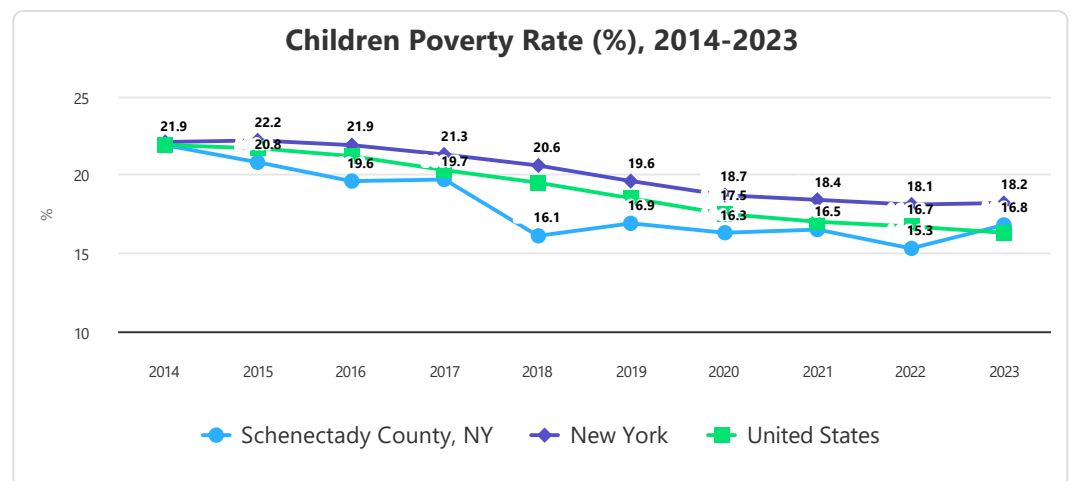
Race, Ethnicity & Poverty

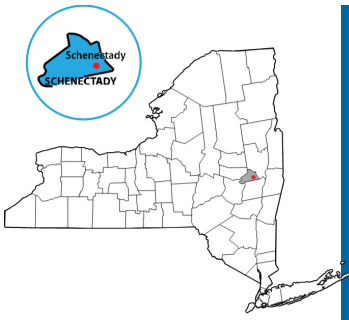
White	8.2% (8,880)
Black or African American	27.6% (4,631)
Asian	11.0% (837)
American Indian or Alaska Native	24.6% (147)
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	53.7% (29)
Some Other Race	29.4% (1,966)
Multiracial	19.5% (2,894)
Hispanic or Latino	26.7% (3,353)

ALICE Household Monthly Survival Budget

1 Adult	\$2,860	1 Adult and 1 School-age	\$4,264
1 Senior Adult	\$3,169	2 Adults	\$4,011
1 Adult and 1 Pre-K	\$5,046	2 Adults and 2 School-age	\$6,495

Children in Poverty





City of Schenectady

Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.



913 Albany Street
 Schenectady, NY 12307
 518-374-9181 | www.scapny.org

23.1%
 City of Schenectady Poverty Rate

City Population:
68,521

Population for whom poverty status is determined:

Overall
65,240

Population Under 18
13,845

Population 25 & Over
44,892

Population 65 & Over
9,998

Living In Poverty

Individuals
23.1% (15,103)

Children (Under 18)
34.2% (4,664)

Adults 25 & Over
18.5% (8,304)

Adults 65 & Over
16.7% (1,593)

Education & Poverty

Education Attainment for Adults 25+ (44,892)



Total Population

No Degree	14.4%
High School	30.3%
Associate	31.6%
Bachelors +	23.7%

Living in Poverty

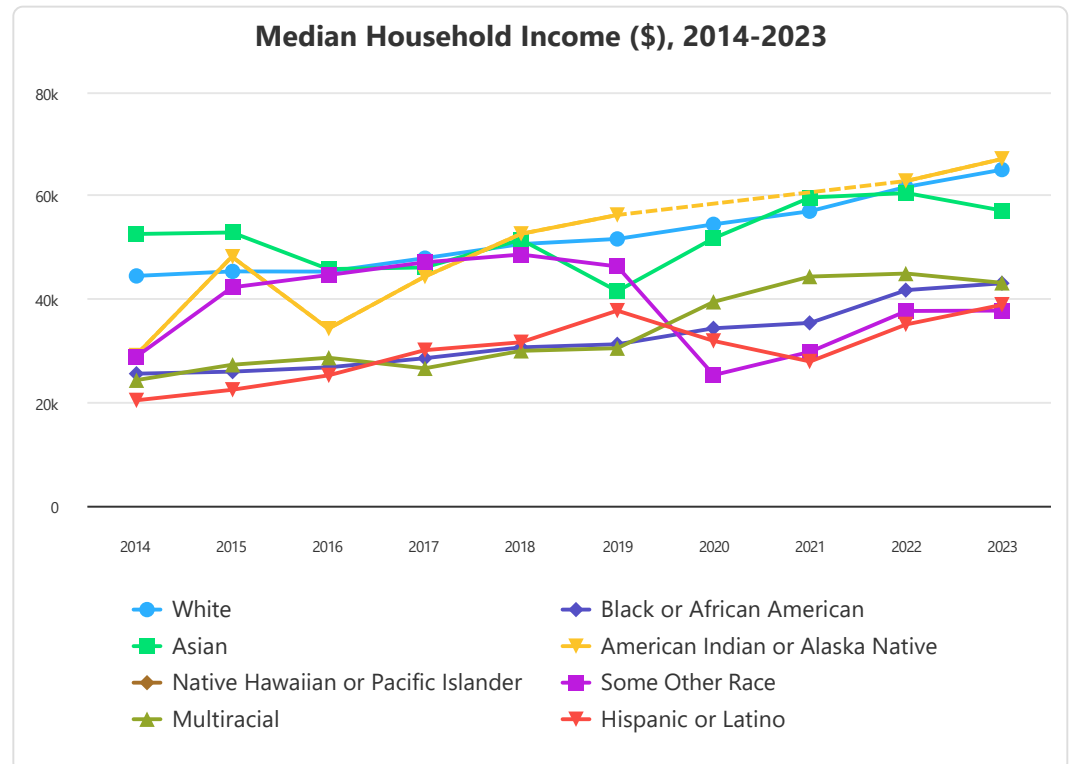
No Degree	39.4%
High School	33.4%
Associate	28.5%
Bachelors +	7.5%

Employment & Poverty

Median Income **\$41,827**
 Median Income w/ HS Diploma **\$31,642**



Median Household Income by Race & Ethnicity



20.5%
Households
Live in Poverty

Total Households:
28,769

Households
by Race & Ethnicity

White
58.6% (16,848)

Black or African
American
18.6% (5,359)

Asian
5.3% (1,518)

American Indian or
Alaska Native
0.5% (145)

Native Hawaiian or
Pacific Islander
0.1% (28)

Some Other Race
7.0% (2,016)

Multiracial
9.9% (2,855)

Hispanic or Latino
10.8% (3,119)

Health Insurance & Poverty



No Health Insurance

Employed **6.2%**
Unemployed **20.7%**

Gender & Poverty

Male **21.0% (6,687)**
Female **25.3% (8,416)**

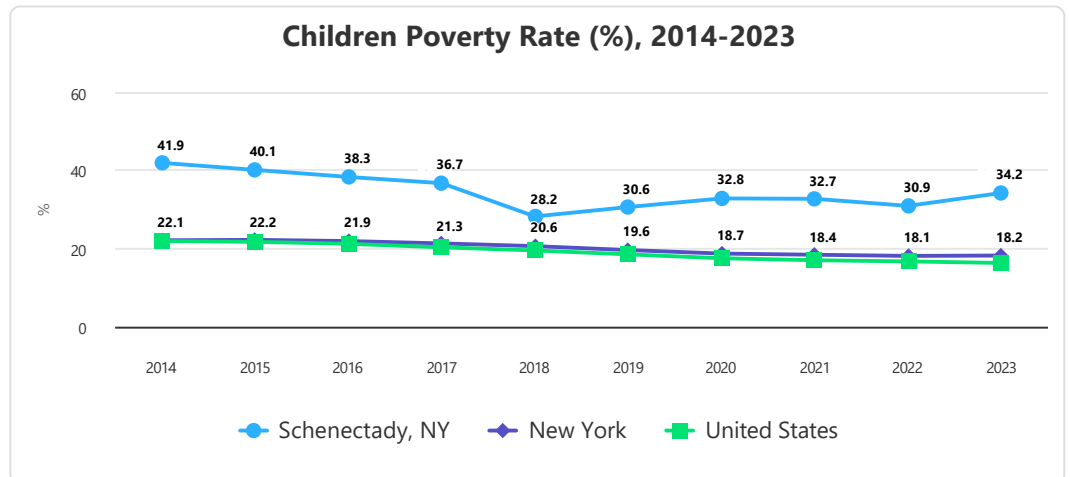
Of those families with
Female Heads of Household
and Children Present

43.3%
Live in Poverty

Race, Ethnicity & Poverty

White **17.1% (5,411)**
Black or African American **31.0% (4,307)**
Asian **16.3% (623)**
American Indian or Alaska Native **34.4% (147)**
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander **53.7% (29)**
Some Other Race **34.3% (1,925)**
Multiracial **27.2% (2,661)**
Hispanic or Latino **36.5% (3,230)**

Children in Poverty



New York State Community Action Association - www.nyscommunityaction.org



Montgomery County

Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc.

20 Park St. P.O. Box 835
 Fonda, NY 12068
 518-853-3011 | www.fulmont.org



14.7%
 Montgomery
 County
 Poverty Rate

County Population:
49,461

*Population for whom
 poverty status is
 determined:*

Overall
48,700

Population Under 18
11,315

Population 25 & Over
33,606

Population 65 & Over
8,852

Living In Poverty

Individuals
14.7% (7,163)

Children (Under 18)
19.9% (2,257)

Adults 25 & Over
13.3% (4,474)

Adults 65 & Over
13.2% (1,167)

Education & Poverty

Education Attainment for Adults 25+ (33,606)



Total Population

No Degree	11.3%
High School	35.0%
Associate	33.1%
Bachelors +	20.7%

Living in Poverty

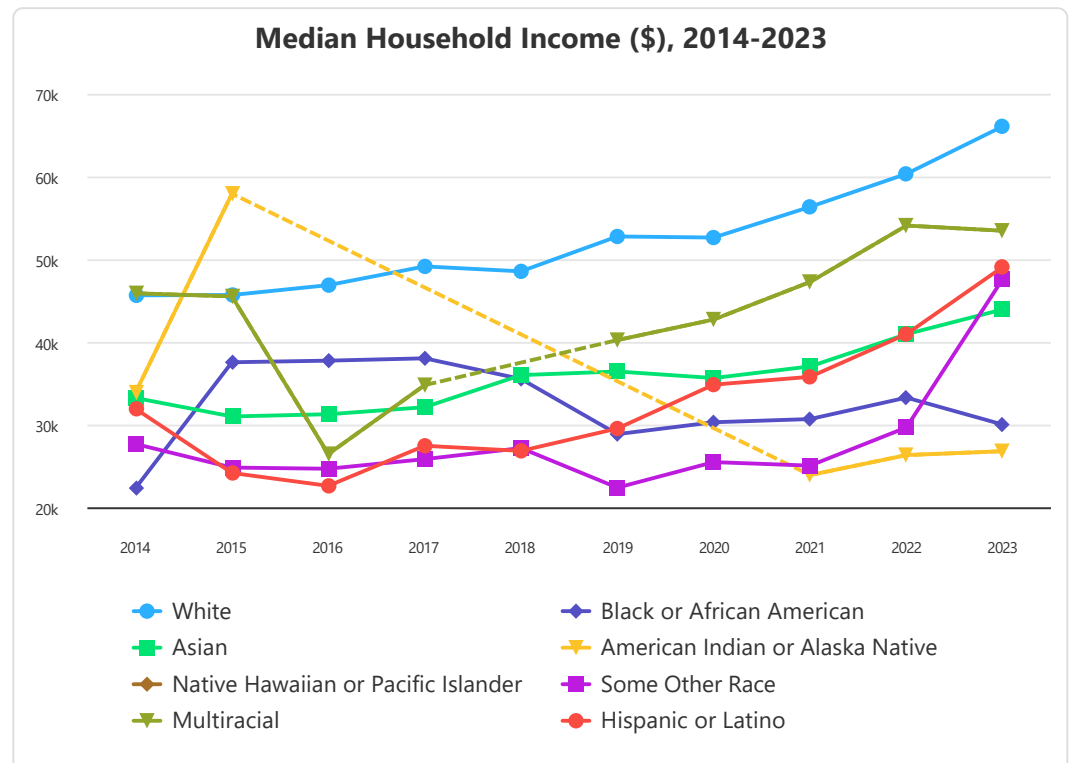
No Degree	25.3%
High School	16.5%
Associate	10.3%
Bachelors +	6.3%

Employment & Poverty

Living Wage for 1 Adult, 1 Child	\$38.11
Hourly Wage for FMR, 2BR Apt	\$17.58
Median Income	\$45,127
Median Income w/ HS Diploma	\$39,314
Male Median Earnings	\$46,365
Female Median Earnings	\$32,367



Median Household Income by Race & Ethnicity



ALICE: households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

34.1%
Households Live Below ALICE Threshold

Total Households:
18,918

ALICE Households by Race & Ethnicity

White
5,973

Black or African American
252

Asian
70

American Indian or Alaska Native
No data

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
No data

Some Other Race
502

Multiracial
146

Hispanic or Latino
892

Health Insurance & Poverty



No Health Insurance

Employed **6.3%**
Unemployed **13.7%**

Gender & Poverty

Male **13.8% (3,346)**
Female **15.6% (3,817)**

Of those families with Female Heads of Household and Children Present
32.6%
Live in Poverty

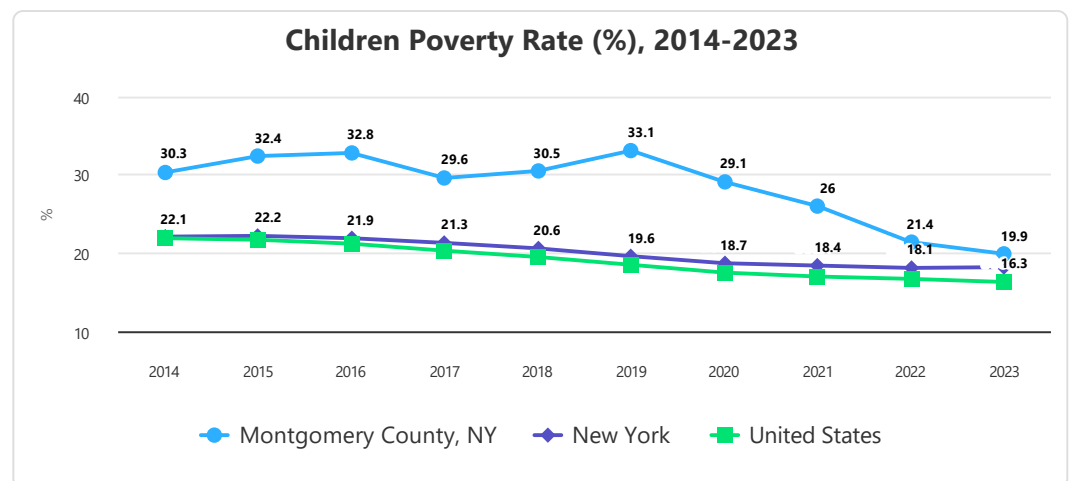
Race, Ethnicity & Poverty

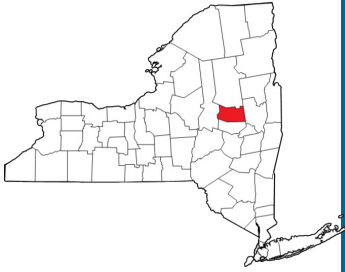
White **12.2% (4,936)**
Black or African American **36.1% (540)**
Asian **32.9% (119)**
American Indian or Alaska Native **37.9% (55)**
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander **0.0% (0)**
Some Other Race **24.4% (709)**
Multiracial **23.6% (804)**
Hispanic or Latino **18.3% (1,361)**

ALICE Household Monthly Survival Budget

1 Adult	\$2,383	1 Adult and 1 School-age	\$3,555
1 Senior Adult	\$2,754	2 Adults	\$3,368
1 Adult and 1 Pre-K	\$4,253	2 Adults and 2 School-age	\$5,515

Children in Poverty





Fulton County

Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc.

20 Park St. P.O. Box 835
 Fonda, NY 12068
 518-853-3011 | www.fulmont.org



14.5%
Fulton County
Poverty Rate

County Population:
52,787

Population for whom poverty status is determined:

Overall
51,814

Population Under 18
10,404

Population 25 & Over
37,563

Population 65 & Over
10,486

Living In Poverty

Individuals
14.5% (7,532)

Children (Under 18)
19.2% (1,999)

Adults 25 & Over
12.5% (4,692)

Adults 65 & Over
9.2% (962)

Education & Poverty

Education Attainment for Adults 25+ (37,563)



Total Population

No Degree	11.2%
High School	35.5%
Associate	31.9%
Bachelors +	21.4%

Living in Poverty

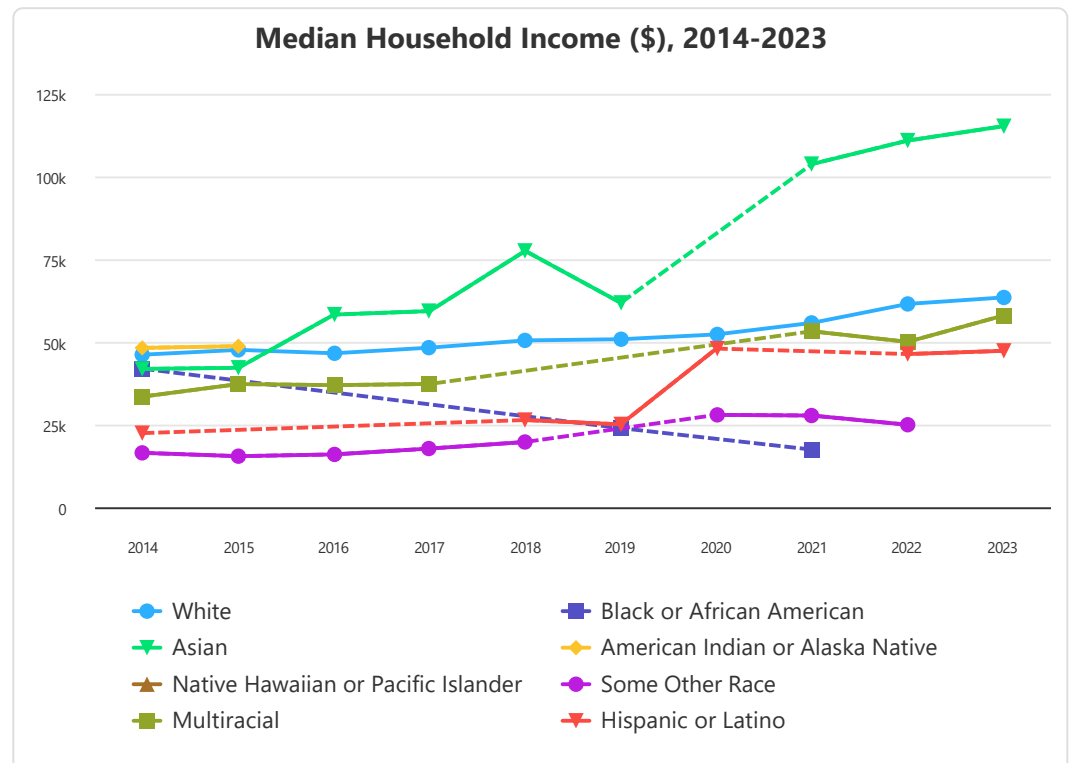
No Degree	28.8%
High School	14.3%
Associate	10.7%
Bachelors +	3.5%

Employment & Poverty

Living Wage for 1 Adult, 1 Child	\$38.31
Hourly Wage for FMR, 2BR Apt	\$18.54
Median Income	\$45,999
Median Income w/ HS Diploma	\$40,503
Male Median Earnings	\$46,779
Female Median Earnings	\$31,913



Median Household Income by Race & Ethnicity



ALICE: households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

29.5%
Households Live Below ALICE Threshold

Total Households:
22,103

ALICE Households by Race & Ethnicity

White
6,964

Black or African American
89

Asian
15

American Indian or Alaska Native
No data

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
No data

Some Other Race
126

Multiracial
261

Hispanic or Latino
274

Health Insurance & Poverty



No Health Insurance

Employed **5.4%**
Unemployed **13.6%**

Gender & Poverty

Male **14.6% (3,768)**
Female **14.5% (3,764)**

Of those families with Female Heads of Household and Children Present
29.9%
Live in Poverty

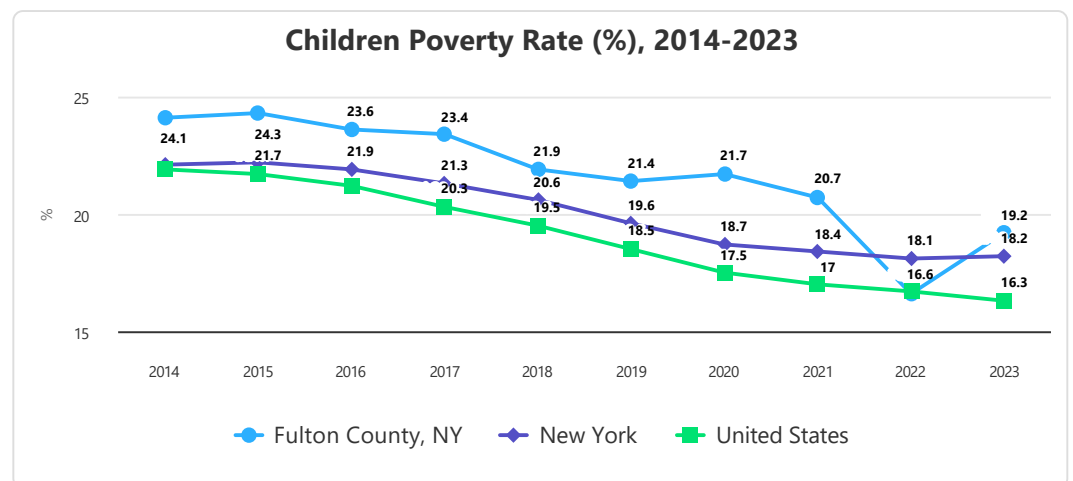
Race, Ethnicity & Poverty

White **14.2% (6,640)**
Black or African American **46.2% (238)**
Asian **3.6% (16)**
American Indian or Alaska Native **0% (0)**
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander **0.0% (0)**
Some Other Race **30.8% (213)**
Multiracial **13.3% (425)**
Hispanic or Latino **22.5% (463)**

ALICE Household Monthly Survival Budget

1 Adult	\$2,317	1 Adult and 1 School-age	\$3,529
1 Senior Adult	\$2,622	2 Adults	\$3,342
1 Adult and 1 Pre-K	\$4,229	2 Adults and 2 School-age	\$5,538

Children in Poverty



Maps:

On each county profile page, the map of NYS is included, with the county highlighted in red. On city profile pages, the map of NYS is again included, with the county highlighted in grey and the cities noted in red. Inset map is the county, with cities noted.

Population Data:

The population is the official count of people from the US Census Bureau's (USCB) BO1003 report.

The Population for Whom Status is Determined reflects the size of census samples and is provided in USCB report S1701.

Poverty Data:

The poverty rate includes all individuals living in poverty. The numbers are then broken down in three other categories: children under 18, adults age 25 and older and adults age 65 and older.

The percentage of each group living in poverty is followed by the number of individuals that percentage represents.

ALICE Data:

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) represents the households earning above the poverty level but still struggling to make ends meet. Data from the [United for ALICE](#) partnership, data year 2024.

ALL Census Reports cited are from the American Communities Survey FIVE year estimates (2019 - 2023).

Access these reports at:
data.census.gov

Data Key

Please see data.census.gov for more specific definitions for any of the data sourced from USCB reports.



Education & Poverty Data

The first group of numbers reports the percentage of the entire population in each education category. The second group shows the percentage of all people in each education category living in poverty. This data is from USCB Report S1701.

Employment & Poverty Data



Median Income - Total income is the sum of the amounts reported for wage/salary income, self employment income, interest, dividends, rental income, royalty income, income from estates or trusts, Social Security or Railroad Retirement income, Supplementary Social Security, public assistance or welfare payments, retirement/survivor/disability pensions and all other income. The data is from USCB Report S1501.

Living Wage - The wage listed is the wage an individual would need to earn as the sole provider for a household consisting of themselves and one child based on the typical expenses in that county or city. This wage is a minimum estimate of the cost of living for a low wage family. Data from Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator (livingwage.mit.edu), and represents 2025 data downloaded March, 2025.

Hourly Wage - The hourly rate listed is that which one person would need to earn working year round, 40 hours per week in order to afford a two bedroom apartment at the fair market rate (FMR) for that county, assuming 30% of income is spent on housing. Data is provided by the National Low Income Housing Coalition's report: Out of Reach 2022 (www.nlihc.org).

Health & Poverty Insurance



Based on self reporting this includes people who do not have: insurance from a current/former employer, insurance purchased directly from an insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid, Medical Assistance, any government assistance plan for people with low income or disability, TRICARE or military health care, VA, Indian Health Service or any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan. Data from USCB Report S2701.

Gender & Poverty

Female Head of Household Of all households with a female head of household and children under 18, this is the percentage living in poverty. Data from USCB Report S1702.

Race, Ethnicity & Poverty

Data on race is based on self-identification. There are a minimum of five categories from which to select, including White and Black/African American. People are able to self-identify as more than one race. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino or Spanish may be of any race. The data is from USCB Report S1701.

Appendix B

Compliance



Schenectady Community
Action Program

Creating Opportunity in Partnership

Appendix B

Compliance

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Organizational Standards

The CSBG Organizational Standards are a comprehensive set of standards developed with input from the entire CSBG Network through a three year-multi phase process. The Organizational Standards were announced in January 2015 with the release of Information Memorandum (IM) 138, State Establishment of Organizational Standards for CSBG Eligible Entities, directing states to establish organizational standards by fiscal year 2016. The Organizational Standards are organized into three thematic groups comprising nine categories and 58 standards for private, nonprofit entities. The purpose of the organizational standards is to ensure that all agencies have appropriate organizational capacity, in both critical financial and administrative areas, as well as areas of unique importance to the mission of the Community Action network. Standards related to the required **community assessment** process include:

Category 3: Community Assessment

- Standard 3.1: The organization conducted a community assessment and issues a report within the past 3 years.
- Standard 3.2: As part of the community assessment, the organization collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s).
- Standard 3.3: The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.
- Standard 3.4: The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.
- Standard 3.5: The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment.

Head Start Performance Standards

§1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs, and resources.

(a) Service area. A program must propose a service area in the grant application and define the area by county or sub-county area, such as a municipality, town or census tract or jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian reservation.

(b) Community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment (community assessment).

(1) A program must conduct a comprehensive community assessment at least once over the five-year grant period and annually review and update if any significant changes are needed as described in paragraph (b)(5) of this section to:

- (i)** Identify populations most in need of services including prevalent social or economic factors, challenges, and barriers experienced by families and children;
- (ii)** Inform the program's design and to ensure equitable, inclusive, and accessible service delivery that reflect needs and diversity of the community;
- (iii)** Inform the enrollment, recruitment, and selection process to prioritize the enrollment of those populations with relevant circumstances identified under paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section;
- (iv)** Identify strengths and resources in the community that can be leveraged for service delivery, coordination, and partnership efforts for education, health, nutrition, and referrals to social services to eligible children and families; and,



(v) Identify the most effective communication methods to use with prospective and enrolled families, including families who would face language barriers, if the program does not communicate in the languages they speak.

(2) To conduct a comprehensive community assessment, programs must collect data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:

(i) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:

(A) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432(6)(A));

(B) Children in foster care; and

(C) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;

(ii) The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;

(iii) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;

(iv) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;

(v) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families;

(vi) Strengths of the community; and,

(vii) Transportation options and barriers in the community.

(3) Programs should use the community assessment to determine what data is needed and thoughtfully plan for:

(i) To determine what data to acquire to reach goals in paragraph (b)(1) of this section prior to conducting the community assessment; and

(ii) For how to use the data acquired to reach goals in paragraph (b)(1) of this section after conducting the community assessment.

(4) When determining what data to acquire under paragraph (b)(2) of this section programs should consider what information is most relevant to inform services for families most in need. Data gathering should be informed by the program's understanding of the community and be intentionally designed to help the program identify community strengths, needs and resources, and plan the program accordingly. Programs are not required to collect all information themselves; rather programs should utilize community partners and utilize existing available data sources relevant to the local community.

(5) A program must annually review and, where needed, update the community assessment to identify any significant shifts in community demographics, needs, and resources that may impact program design and service delivery. As described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, programs should consider results from their self-assessment as required in subpart J of this part (§§ 1302.101 through 1302.103) and their annual funding application to inform this process. The annual update review must consider at a minimum: changes related to children and families experiencing homelessness; how the program addresses equity, accessibility, and inclusiveness in its provision of services; and changes to the availability of publicly funded pre-kindergarten and whether it meets needs of families. Programs must

consider how the annual review and update can inform and support management approaches for continuous quality improvement, program goals, and ongoing oversight.

(6) A program must consider whether the characteristics of the community allow it to include children from diverse economic backgrounds that would be supported by other funding sources, including private pay, in addition to the program's eligible funded enrollment. A program must not enroll children from diverse economic backgrounds if it would result in a program serving less than its eligible funded enrollment.

(c) Understanding the availability of other early childhood programs. As part of the community assessment, a program must collect information about other federally funded or state-funded center-based and family child care programs that serve children in the area.

(d) Understanding barriers to enrollment. A program is required to use data from the community assessment to identify the population of eligible children and families and potential barriers to enrollment and attendance, including using data to understand access to transportation for the highest need families. A program must use this data to inform ongoing program improvement efforts as described in § 1302.102(c) to promote enrolling the children most in need of program services.

[81 FR 61412, Sept. 6, 2016, as amended at 89 FR 67806, Aug. 21, 2024]

Appendix C

Community Resources



Schenectady Community
Action Program

Creating Opportunity in Partnership



Community Resource Directory

Opening Doors to Opportunity

See full Directory for more comprehensive listing

Addiction

- Belvedere Addictions Center - (518) 694-9400
info@belvedereservices.com
- Conifer Park - 1-800-989-6446 S: (518) 372-7031
conifersm@libertymgt.com
- New Choices Recovery Center - (518) 346-4436
info@newchoicesrecovery.org
- Project Safe Point - (518) 449-3581 ext. 130 info@ccaidsalbany.org
- SPARC - (518) 375-2909 communications@oasas.ny.gov
- St. Mary's Healthcare - (518) 842-9111

Baby Supplies

- Alpha Pregnancy Center - (518) 688-2677
info@alpha-pregnancycenter.org
- Birthright of Schenectady - (518) 370-1532
- First United Methodist - (518) 374-4403
fumcschenectady@yahoo.com
- Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) - (518) 346-4445 info@sicm.us
- Things of My Very Own, Inc. - (518) 630-5143 info@tomvo.org

Crisis Intervention Services

- Bethesda House of Schenectady, Inc. - (518) 374-7873
adminasst@bethesdahouseschenectady.org
- Schenectady Community Action Program - (518) 374-9181
SCAPgen@scapny.org
- The Living Room - Ellis Crisis Diversion - (518) 462-1094
- Ellis Medicine - (518) 243.3300

Child Care

- Brightside Up - (518) 426-7181 info@brightsideup.org
- Northern Rivers - (518) 346-5366
communications@northernrivers.org
- SCAP Early Learning Centers - (518) 377-8539
preschoolservices@scapny.org
- Schenectady Cty. Office of Children & Family Services
(518) 388-4736 info@ocfs.ny.gov
- YWCA Northeastern NY - (518) 374-3394 info@ywca-neny.org

Children (birth-12 yrs.)

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady - (518) 374-4714
tczachor@bgcschenectady.com

- Child Guidance Center (Northeast Parent & Child Society) -
(518) 381-8911 info@cgcinc.org
- Girls Inc. - (518) 374-9800 communications@girlsinc.org
- Ellis Child & Adolescent Treatment - (518) 382-2290
- Healthy Schenectady Families/Home Visiting Program -
(518) 386-2824 jpt82@cornell.edu
- Schenectady Cty. Office of Children & Family Services -
(518) 388-4736

Clothing

- Bethesda House of Schenectady, Inc. - (518) 374-7873
adminasst@bethesdahouseschenectady.org
- Schenectady Community Action Program - (518) 374-9181
SCAPgen@scapny.org
- Things of My Very Own, Inc. - (518) 630-6137 info@tomvo.org

Dental Health

- Aspen Dental - (518) 356-3300 or (518) 356-3300
- Hometown Health Centers - (518) 370-1441

Disability

- Capital District Center for Independence - (518) 459-6422
info@cdciweb.com
- Concepts of Independent, Inc. - (845) 241-5222 info@coiny.org
- GuildCare Adult Day Health Care - (518) 396-3626
gcalbany@lighthouseguild.org
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY - (518) 462-6765
- Northeastern Association of the Blind - (518) 463-1211
contact@naba-vision.org
- Schenectady ARC - (518) 372-1160 info@arcschenectady.org

Domestic Violence

- Community Fathers, Inc. - (518) 346-7546
communityfathersinc@gmail.com
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY - (518) 462-6765
- Patty's Place - (518) 723-0232 emcgee@ywca-neny.org
- YWCA Northeastern NY - (518) 374-3394 info@ywca-neny.org

Energy Assistance

- National Grid Consumer Advocate - (518) 433-3592
- Schenectady Community Action Program - (518) 374-9181
SCAPgen@scapny.org
- Schenectady Cty. Dept. of Social Services - (518) 388-4470

Family Planning (birth control/contraception)

- Hometown Health Centers - (518) 370-1441
- Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson - (518) 374-5353

Food Resources

- WIC Clinic - (518) 346-8818
- Food Pantries**
- Bethesda House of Schenectady - (518) 374-7873
adminasst@bethesdahouseschenectady.org

- The Bridge Christian Church - (518) 864-5849
bridgechurchcampus@gmail.com
- Harmony Food Pantry - (518) 280-5028
HarmonyfellowshipNY@gmail.com
- Scotia-Glenville Pantry - (518) 423-4132 or (518)588-8214
- Salvation Army - (518) 346-0222
- Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) - (518) 346-4445
info@sicm.us
- State Street Food Pantry - (518) 709-9268 statestpres@gmail.com
- St. Lukes Food Pantry - (518) 347-1385 slrcc7@gmail.com

Free Community Meals

- Bethesda House of Schenectady - (518) 374-7873
adminasst@bethesdahouseschenectady.org
- City Mission of Schenectady - (518) 346-2275 ext. 0
writeus@citymission.com
- First United Methodist Church - (518) 374-4403
fumcschenectady@yahoo.com
- Salvation Army - (518) 346-0222

SNAP Application Assistance

- Catholic Charities - (518) 372-5667 Catholic.Charities@ccrcda.org
- Schenectady Community Action Program - (518) 374-9181
SCAPgen@scapny.org
- Schenectady Cty. Dept. of Social Services - (518) 388-4470

Health Insurance Enrollment

- Bethesda House of Schenectady, Inc. - (518) 374-7873
adminasst@bethesdahouseschenectady.org
- Healthy Capital District Initiative - (518) 462-7040
hcdi@hcdiny.org
- Hometown Health Centers - (518) 370-1441
- The Pride Center of the Capital Region - (518) 462-6138
info@capitalpridecenter.org
- Schenectady Community Action Program - (518) 374-9181
SCAPgen@scapny.org
- Schenectady Cty. Dept. of Social Services - (518) 388-4470

Health

- Samuel S. Stratton Department of VA Affairs Medical Center -
(518) 626-5000
- Belvedere Health Services - (518) 694-9400
info@belvedereservices.com
- Ellis Medicine - (518) 243-4000
- Hometown Health Centers - (518) 370-1441
- Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson - (518) 374-5353
- Ridge Health Medical Services Inc. - (518) 372-8178
- Whitney Young - (518) 465-4771 info@wmyhealth.org



HIV/AIDS

Alliance for Positive Health - (518) 434-4686 info@alliancefph.org
Damien Center (SICM) - (518) 449-7119
perryj@albanydamiencenter.org
Project Safe Point - (518) 449-3581 ext. 130
info@ccaidsalbany.org

Homelessness

Bethesda House of Schenectady, Inc. - (518) 374-7873
adminasst@bethesdahouseschenectady.org
Schenectady Community Action Program - (518) 374-9181
SCAPgen@scapny.org
Soldier On (Veterans) - (866) 406-8449 info@wesoldieron.org
Schenectady Cty. Dept. of Social Services - (518) 388-4470

Walk-in Shelters / Shelter Referral Agencies

City Mission of Schenectady (men only) - (518) 346-2275 ext. 0
Schenectady Cty. Dept. of Social Services - (518) 388-4470
After-hours hotline - 382-0383

Immigrants/Refugees

Catholic Charities - (518) 453-6650 Catholic.Charities@ccrda.org
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY - (518) 462-6765

Incarceration/Re-entry

Altamont Program - (518) 377-2448
The Center for Community Justice - (518) 346-1281
Community Fathers Inc. - (518) 346-7546
communityfathersinc@gmail.com
Solider On - (866) 406-8449 info@wesoldieron.org
Trinity Alliance - (518) 449-5155

Legal Assistance

Bethesda House of Schenectady, Inc. - (518) 374-7873
adminasst@bethesdahouseschenectady.org
Community Fathers Inc. - (518) 346-7546
communityfathersinc@gmail.com
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY - (518) 462-6765
Schenectady County Public Defender - (518) 386-2266
webinquiry@schenectadycounty.com

LGBTQ

Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson - (518) 374-5353
The Pride Center of the Capital Region - (518) 462-6138
info@capitalpridecenter.org

Mental Health/Counseling

Ellis Child & Adolescent Treatment - (518) 382-2290
Ellis Medicine - (518) 243-4000
Mohawk Opportunities - (518) 374 - 8424
The Pride Center of the Capital Region - (518) 462-6138
info@capitalpridecenter.org

Personal Hygiene

First United Methodist - (518) 374-4403
fumcschenectady@yahoo.com
Things of My Very Own, Inc. - (518) 630 -6137 info@tomvo.org

Pregnancy

Alpha Pregnancy Center - (518) 688-2677
info@alpha-pregnancycenter.org
Birthright of Schenectady - (518) 370-1532
Ellis Medicine - (518) 243-4000
Healthy Schenectady Families/Home Visiting Program - (518) 386-2824
Hometown Health Centers - (518) 370-1441
Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson - (518) 374-5353

Rape/Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault Support Services of Planned Parenthood - (518) 346-2266

Seniors

Catholic Charities - (518) 372-5667 Catholic.Charities@ccrda.org
Schenectady Cty Senior and Long Term Care Services - (518) 382-8481

TASC (previously GED)/ESL

Capital Region BOCES - (518) 862-4707 maria.huntington@neric.org
Washington Irving - (518) 370-8220

Workforce Development

ACCES VR - (518) 473-8097
Northeast Parent & Child Society - (518) 346-1284
SCCC Office of Workforce Development - (518) 595-1101 ext. 3
schelljp@sunysccc.edu
Schenectady Community Action Program - (518)374-9181
SCAPgen@scapny.org
Schenectady County Job Training Agency - (518) 344-2737
Schenectady Works - (518) 346-2275 ext 402
Soldier On - (866) 406-8449 info@wesoldieron.org
SUNY College and Career Counseling Center at SCCC - (518) 631-2257 sunycccc@sunysccc.edu

Veteran/Military

Albany Stratton VA Medical Center - (518) 626-5000
SCCC Office of Workforce Development - (518) 595-1101 ext. 3
Sch'dy County Veterans Service Agency - (518) 377-2423
Soldier On - (866) 406-8449 info@wesoldieron.org

Youth (13-18 yrs.)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady - (518) 374-4714
tczachor@bgcschenectady.com
Ellis Child & Adolescent Treatment - (518) 382-2290
Girls Inc. - (518) 374-9800 communications@girlsinc.org

Northeast Parent & Child Society - (518) 346-1284
The Pride Center of the Capital Region - (518) 462-6138
info@capitalpridecenter.org
Safe Inc. of Schenectady - (518) 374-0166
info@safeincfcschenectady.org
Schenectady Cty. Office of Children & Family Services - (518) 388-4736

Other

Animal Protective Foundation - (518) 374-3944 ext. 101
Schenectady County Public Library Main Branch - (518) 388-4500 scp-ref@mvls.info
United Way 2-1-1 - Dial 2-1-1 some@unitedwaygcr.org

Emergency Hotlines

Emergency Police, Ambulance, Fire - 911
Alcohol and Substance Abuse - 1-866-829-0564
Child Abuse and Maltreatment - 1-800-342-3720
Crime Victims Assistance - (518)346-2266
Domestic Violence (NYS) - 1-800-942-6906 (English)
1-800-942-6908 (Spanish)
Domestic Violence (YWCA of Schenectady) - (518) 374-3394
Rape Crisis/Sexual Assault - (518) 346-2266
Schenectady Cty. Dept. of Social Services
After-hours - (518) 382-0383
Suicide Crisis Hotline - 1-800-273-8255
Sexual Assault hotline - 1-800-656-4673