

## 2020 State of SCAP



February 2020

The **Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP)** is Schenectady County's designated Community Action Agency (CAA). Incorporated in 1965, with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status granted in 1966, SCAP was established to provide services and operate programs that address the causes and effects of poverty. SCAP's **mission** is: ***In partnership with the community, SCAP develops and implements lasting solutions for people of all ages to move out of poverty.***

SCAP's **vision** for the agency's work in Schenectady County is a community without poverty where health, safety and wellness is a priority and everyone:

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

Agency-wide, SCAP assisted **7,511 individuals** in **3,766 households** during the 12-month period ending September 30, 2019. All households served were low-income. **596** of these households were homeless, with **500** additional households identified as residing in "other" living situations, i.e. institutional, jail/prison, moving between family members and friends. Only **5.8%** of families were homeowners. **22.5%** of households were headed by single female parents. Nearly half (**46%**) of households served had no source of income. Examples of program activities and outcomes achieved include:

### Housing and Community Services

- **1,331** families obtained and maintained housing through provision of counseling, eviction prevention, subsidies, and other therapeutic supports.
- **264** families improved nutrition by obtaining Food Stamps and other food supports.
- **197** homes improved habitability and safety through utility assistance, including advocacy.
- **63** families who were homeless received transitional housing and support services improving safety, family stability, and improved nutrition. **84%** of these families increased their income.
- **51** homeless individuals obtained mental health and recovery services within three months of working with SCAP, reducing or eliminating emergency room visits.
- **235** households received free tax preparation receiving over \$370,000 in refunds.

### Employment Services

- **488** employees @ five Employers utilized Employer Resource Network services with a **97%** job retention rate (up 2% over prior year).
- **288** individuals obtained employment following training, case management and/or therapeutic support services.
- Of **82** individuals enrolled in re-entry programming; 33 obtained employment and 29 enrolled in training. Recidivism rate was **6%** compared to a goal of 20% at the 18-month mark.

## Early Learning

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Cumulative enrollment for SCAP's early learning programs was **501** children. 83 children had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and received early intervention services. Developmental data for enrolled children shows the percent of children who **met or exceeded** widely held expectations (research-based predictors of school success) for developmental milestones.

### Infants & Toddlers:

- Social/emotional development: 83%
- Language: 81%
- Literacy: 95%

### Pre-K:

- Social/emotional development: 91% of 3 year olds and 72% of 4 year olds
- Language: 91% of 3 year olds and 71% of 4 year olds
- Literacy: 81% of 3 year olds and 76% of 4 year olds

## 2020 Highlights

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### Program Growth

In 2019, SCAP continued to experience growth. With the addition of Project LAUNCH, an annualized increase of 9% over the 2019 projected budget was realized. Overall revenue earned increased by 5%.

### Community Engagement

SCAP continues to develop and share expertise through participation in community initiatives fostering best practices, identifying growth opportunities, expanding relationships and improving services.

- **Homeless Services Planning Board (HSPB)** – SCAP continues to lead the HSPB, which is responsible for assessing need, monitoring effectiveness and ensuring compliance with funding requirements for Schenectady County's homeless system.
- **Healthy Schenectady Coalition** – Over 40 local agencies are engaged in this coalition. SCAP continues to be active in the trauma informed care work group and continues to provide services onsite at Ellis Medicine.
- **Project LAUNCH** – SCAP's new Project LAUNCH addresses gaps in community mental health services for families with children up to age 8 and supports Ellis Medicine's Healthy Steps Program.
- **Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships** – SCAP leads a coalition of five organizations working to align practices and improve services for infants and toddlers. SCAP passes on over \$800,000 to partner organizations annually.



In 2019, SCAP relaunched the Community Crisis Network (CCN) as the **Community Resource Network (CRN)**. The CCN was formed in 1998 in response to concerns by area congregations of an increase in people seeking assistance, and a desire to improve assessment and response. Over the past 20 years, the Network has emerged as a best practice model for people to receive the support they need in times of crisis. The CRN provides services to assist approximately 2,000 local residents annually meet basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, utilities, medical care, employment supports, and transportation.