

Department Name	Department for Children, Youth and Families
Account(s)	2960, 4046, 4059, 6071, 6110, 6119, 6120, 6129, 7310

Department Function

DCYF is unique within New York State, in that services for children from other County departments, such as Health, Mental Health and Social Services, are consolidated into an independent agency that focuses on integrated services, and strengthening and supporting families. The following Divisions comprise DCYF: Children Services (Child Welfare), Children's Mental Health Clinic and Case Management, Division of Special Needs, Youth Bureau, Administrative Services and Staff Development.

Current Year Highlights

- Filling vacancies continues to be a priority for the Department, in 2023 we successfully hired a Director of Children's Services, hired 4 Senior Case Supervisor B's, which were created in our 2024 budget, and hired 22 new caseworkers, going from 28 vacancies to 8 caseworker vacancies.
- FAR, Family Assessment Response, was instituted on June 24, 2024 at DCYF as another option to respond to reports made to the Statewide Central Register. Currently 4 CPS units have been identified as FAR teams and 4 CPS units are investigative teams with the plan to add an additional FAR and investigation team in the near future. DCYF estimates that approximately 50-60% of all CPS reports will be tracked as FAR.
- DCYF continues to make targeted efforts to reduce the number of children in foster care. In 2024, our foster care population was reduced from 175 children in foster care to 164 children in foster care.
- DCYF recently partnered with Bright Path Strategies to engage in a 15-month project to cultivate community partnerships within zip code 12206. SPEAR (Shifting Power for Equity & Results) blends leadership science and change management principles to engage the community to work toward a desired future where there are inequitable outcomes.
- DCYF focused on the use of technology and has provided all field worker with cell phones and laptops. Conference room technology has also been updated.
- Single Point of Entry (SPOE) served 1,224 women and infants in 2023.
- In 2023, EI received 659 referrals, the Evaluation team conducted 206 evaluations.
- 399 Families (1025 children) were served through the Adopt-A-Family holiday program this year.
- Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) was added to the continuum of services that can be accessed via a SPOA referral. Over the past year we have hit full census and are utilizing all of our allot slots for Youth ACT.

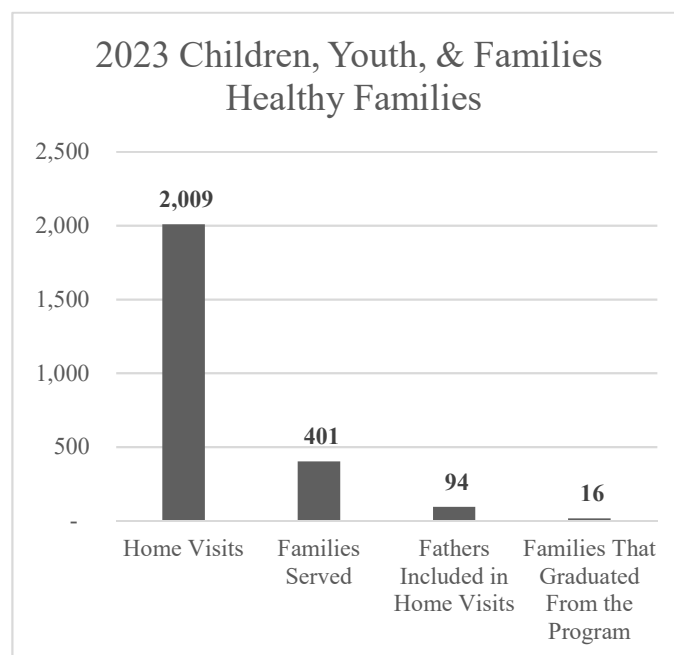
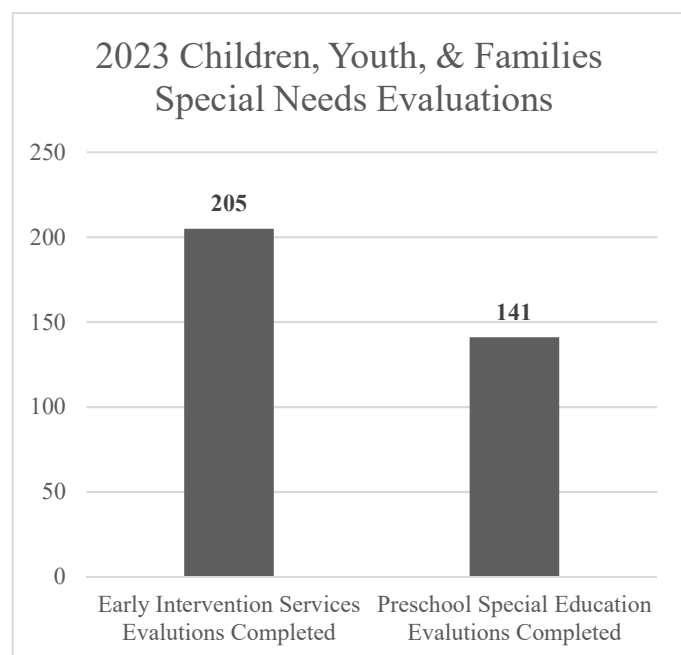
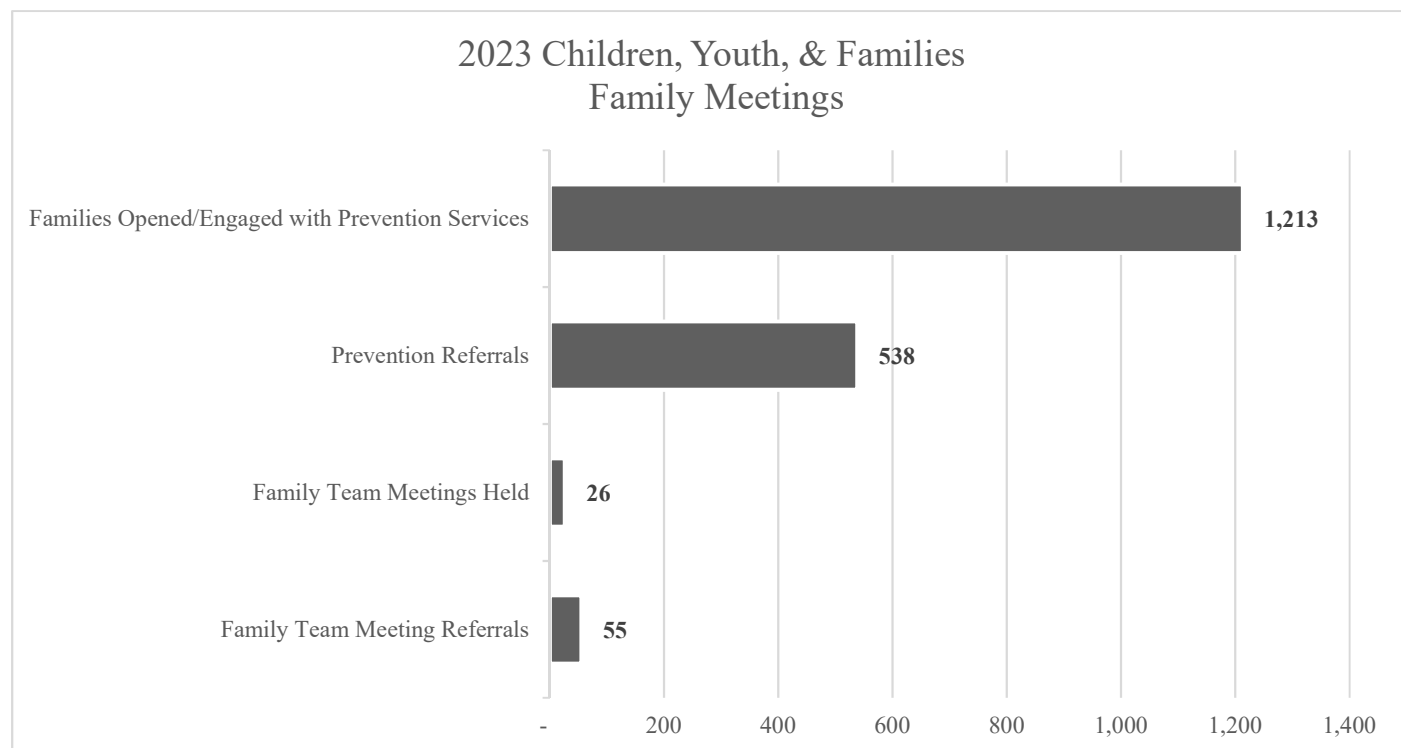
Next Year Projects

- Issues prevention services RFP, Family First initiative and exploring title IV E reimbursement.
- Increase foster home capacity, Albany County currently has 31 certified foster homes. DCYF would like to increase the capacity to approximately 90 certified foster homes. Increasing capacity allows for more intentional matching between the foster parent.
- The Launch of EI-Hub is projected for 10/15/24. We will work to prepare for this major change.
- Continued implementation of Family Assessment Response (FAR) in child welfare cases from the State Central Registry.
- Continuation of the SPEAR initiative conducting a needs assessment in the 12206-zip code in the City of Albany.
- Participate in tabling events to educate the community on programs and services available through the Department for residents of Albany County.
- Continued recruitment and retention of staff via our staff development and divisional directors.

Link to Website	www.albanyKids.com
-----------------	--

Department Name	Department for Children, Youth, and Families
Account(s)	2960, 4046, 4059, 6071, 6110, 6119, 6120, 6129 7310

Programmatic Highlight



The Family First Prevention Services Act took effect on 10/1/2021. The goal of this legislation is to reduce the number of children in congregate care and to increase the number of kinship and foster care homes. The charts above depict the Department's efforts to successfully meet with families and assist them in various capacities.

Link to Website	www.albanyKids.com
-----------------	--