

# FORT GEORGE COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

## The Fort George Mission

To provide a quality comprehensive, family focused child development program to eligible children and their families. To empower families to build a better future for their children in Washington Heights, Hamilton Heights, West Harlem and Morrisania section of the Bronx.



Photo taken by Nicole, Class E, age 5,  
STEM / Photography project.

## Message from the Executive Director/ CEO



Photo by Emily Rodriguez, age 4,  
STEM/Photography Project.

*“Today is only one day  
in all the days that  
will ever be. But what will  
happen in all the other  
days that ever come can  
depend on what  
you do today.”*

- Ernest Hemingway

Greetings Colleagues, Family and Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Policy Council and Staff of Fort George Community Services, we are excited as we look to the future and close out 2021.

As we begin to navigate the challenging times of the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic, enrollment, workforce shortage all created a high level of stress for all community stakeholders.

Fort George continued to provide comprehensive Head Start/Early Head Start and support services including 3k/UPK and Community Navigation Program with New York Presbyterian Hospital to all families in Washington Heights, Hamilton Heights, West Harlem and the South Bronx.

In our last annual report we stated that our service area expanded to more diverse communities. We continue to commit our organization to look at ourselves as we move to fully accept diversity, eliminate bias and foster cultural awareness as we work within our mosaic service areas.

Through it all we continue to provide excellent services to our children and families.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Wiggins, Ed.M.  
CEO

## Historical Statement from the Board of Directors

The Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. was founded and incorporated in 1981 for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and operating programs in education, employment, training, economic development, housing, health and social welfare. These programs were designed to strengthen the growth and development of individuals and families in the Washington Heights Area.

The organization was formed by community residents who were concerned with the provision of comprehensive services to lower-income families with preschool children and following them through the early years of elementary school.

The ethnic make-up of the Agency's population consists of Hispanic, Black, Asian and Caucasian families. The composition of the Board of Directors reflects this multicultural community.

The 2018 school year brought about changes to the Agency. For the past 36 years the Agency was known as Fort George Community Enrichment Center, Inc. After strategic planning the Agency decided that an organizational name change was needed to reflect the Agency's true mission. In December 2018 our name change was officially granted by the Secretary of New York State. We are now officially Fort George Community Services, Inc. This change reflects our mission to provide comprehensive services in Early Education, Community Health Education and Closing the Achievement Gap.

In line with this, we have expanded our service area to include Washington Heights, West Harlem and Hamilton Heights in Manhattan and Morrisania in the Bronx which are evolving communities of growth. The areas are transitional in the sense that there is a relatively high in-and-out migration. Many young families in need of various types of social and health services comprise these neighborhoods.

Initially, the agency started the operation of our Head Start program with 94 children in Washington Heights, as a Head Start Delegate of New York City in 1981. In 1997 we received our first UPK direct contract from the New York City Department of Education. In 2014 the Agency opened its first UPK site in the Bronx. In 2015 the Agency was one of sixteen programs in the State of New York awarded the first Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant from the Office of Head Start under President Barack Obama's administration. In 2018 we received our second Head Start/Early Head Start award as a Grantee from the Office of Head Start.

As of this year 2021, the program has three sites in Washington Heights with additional nine family day care homes serving Washington Heights, West Harlem and Hamilton Heights. One center base site serves EHS, UPK, Three-K, and fourteen family day care homes in the Bronx. Fort George Community Services, Inc. provides quality comprehensive early childhood services to approximately 450 children, ages 0-5, and their families.



The first site is located at 1525 St. Nicholas Avenue, and has a licensed capacity for 125 children. This site houses the Administration offices of the agency. The second site is located at 601 West 186th Street and has a licensed capacity of 51 children. Our third site in the Bronx at 489 St. Paul's Place zip code 10456 serves 8 toddlers in a center base classroom and 64 infants and toddlers in 15 family providers' homes. The site also serves 33 children through a DOE contract for 3K and UPK.

The fourth site located at 4467 Broadway has a licensed capacity of 96 children, and nine family daycare homes located in zip codes 10027, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10040 with capacity to serve 50 children.

Funding for all Early Head Start and Head Start is currently provided by the Administration for Children and Families/ Health & Human Services Office of Head Start (ACF/HHS/ OHS) as a Head Start, Early Head Start and an Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grantee.



We continue to support the values that we established for ourselves over 40 years ago as they have clearly contributed to our ongoing success. We thank the staff and the parents for making this a great school year.

Sincerely,

### **The Officers**

Ruth Rudder, Chair  
Winifred Richman, Treasurer  
John Phelan Esq., Secretary

### **The Members**

Diana Douglas, MS.ed  
Gary King, MS.ed  
Megan Silander, Ph.d  
Kira Mineroff, Esq. , Pro Bono  
Walter Frye, MBA, CPA,  
Fiscal Consultant



# General Highlights 2021

## Our Partners



## Our Accomplishments

- We continued our partnership with New York Presbyterian Hospital: Center for Community Navigation.
- An Early Childhood pilot program in collaboration with New York Presbyterian's Choosing Healthy & Active Lifestyles for Kids™ (CHALK).



- In partnership with State Senator Robert Jackson and the West Side Market Campaign against Hunger we provided a bi weekly food pantry serving over 1,700 families.

## Accomplishments ...



- New York Presbyterian Ambulatory Care Network partnership provides the opportunity for first year medical residents in the program to participate in our Early Literacy Program by reading to our students: *Reach Out and Read*

- Partnership with South Bronx Rising.

- Collaboration with the New York City Children's Cabinet.
- Received Holiday gifts: Office of Government and Community Affairs, Columbia University.
- Received holiday gifts for our Head Start/Early Head Start children from the office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat



- Member of the National Head Start Association.
- National Head Start Association—State Leadership Team.



Community meeting with Congressman Espaillat, Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer and State Senator Robert Jackson and Carolyn Wiggins CEO of Fort George Community Services

## The Fort George Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start Childcare partnerships, 3-K, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program Provide:

### **Education**

- Emergent literacy, numeracy, and language skills
- Positive attitudes toward learning
- Developmentally appropriate educational environments
- Link families to educational agencies to obtain needed services

### **Health & Nutrition**

- Assures that our children receive needed medical, dental and mental health services
- Meals and snacks to our children that meets their daily nutritional needs
- Link families to health care services to obtain needed services

### **Parent Engagement**

- Provides parents the opportunity to improve their parenting skills
- Parents are involved actively in the decision about program operations

### **Disabilities/Mental Health**

- Provide individualized services for children with disabilities
- Strengthen children's social behavior and emotional well-being and self concept

### **Human Resources**

- Employ qualified staff
- Provide staff development and training
- Comply with Head Start regulations.

### **Total number of Children and Families Served - Average Monthly Enrollment**

Site	Funded	Average Enrollment
Northern Manhattan I HS	50	90%
Northern Manhattan I EHS	50	96%
Northern Manhattan II HS	170	84%
Northern Manhattan II EHS	80	77%
St. Paul's EHSCCP	64	98%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>422</b>	(Above percentages reflect average daily attendance for funded enrollment)

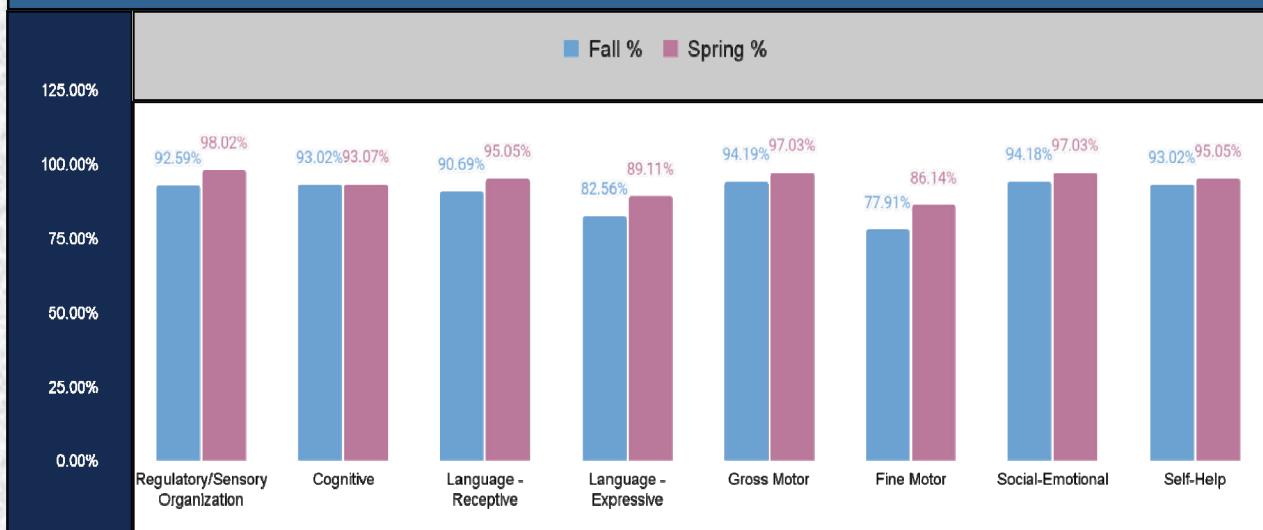
### **2021 Children Diagnosed with a Disability and Receiving Services**

Location	Individual Education Plan (IEP)	Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)
Head Start	12	—
Early Head Start	—	3

# Fort George Community Services Early Head Start Manage By Outcomes Report Fall & Spring 2021-2022

## Mastery by Quarter

This chart displays the percentage of children who are meeting / exceeding targets for their current ages.

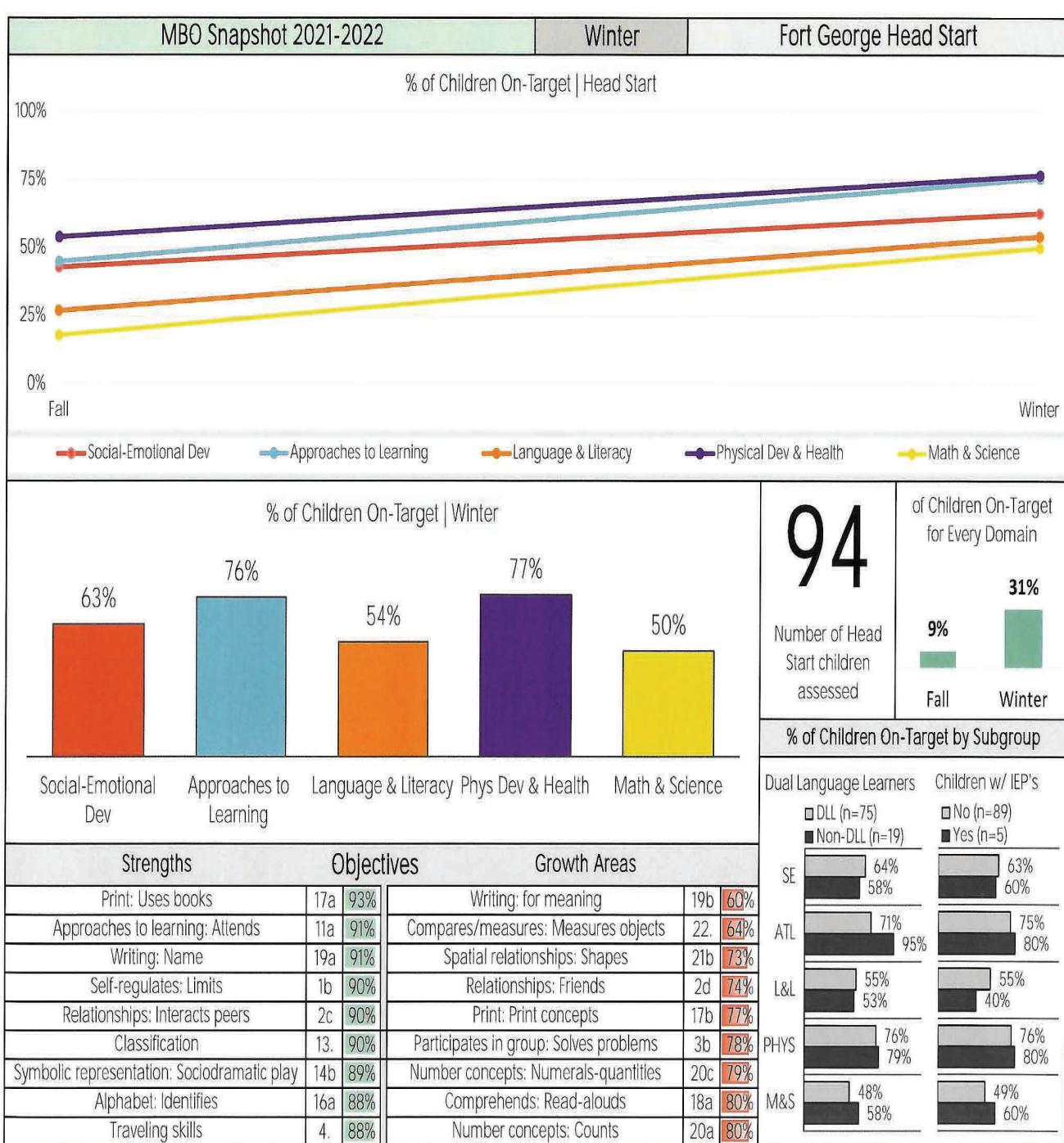


## Mastery by Quarter

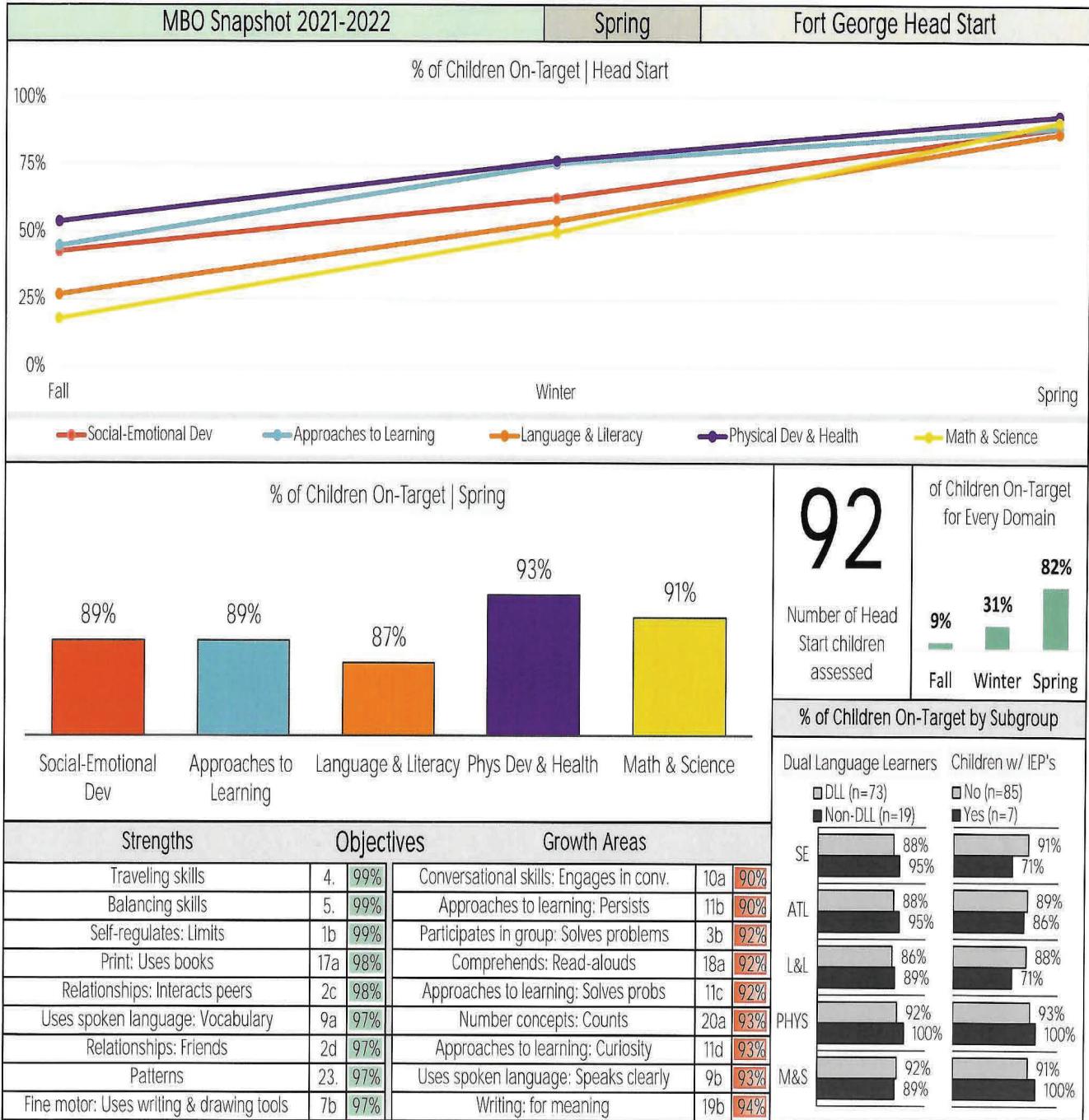
*This chart displays the number of children who are meeting/ exceeding targets for their current ages by location.*

	Broadway EHS FCC	Bronx EHS FCC	St. Nicholas EHS Home based
Regulatory/Sensory Org.			
FALL	23	46	6
SPRING	26	64	9

# MBO SNAPSHOT WINTER 2020-2021



# MBO SNAPSHOT SPRING 2020-2021



# Family Services

Types of Family Services	The number of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:				
	NMI Early Head Start	NMI Head Start	NMII Early Head Start	NMII Head Start	Bronx Early Head Start CCP
Emergency crisis intervention such as meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter	0	0	0	0	0
Housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.	3	0	0	1	0
Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	0	0	2	0	1
Mental health services	0	1	0	1	0
Substance misuse prevention	0	0	0	0	0
Substance misuse treatment	0	0	0	0	0
English as a Second Language (ESL) training	0	0	1	0	0
Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	2	0	1	9	11
Research-based parenting curriculum	0	0	4	0	0
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	1	25	8	10	0
Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	0	0	1	5	0
Education on preventive medical and oral health	1	0	0	32	0
Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	0	0	0	1	0
Education on nutrition	0	0	3	23	0
Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	0	0	1	0	1
Education on relationship/marriage	0	0	1	5	0
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	0	0	0	0	0
Of these, the number of families who were counted in at least one of the services listed above	6	26	11	50	26

# Fort George Head Start School-Readiness Summary List

## HEAD START

### Social Emotional

1. Children will interact with peers, cooperating and solving social problems.
2. Children will develop self-regulation

### Approaches to Learning & Play

3. Children will engage in play and other activities with purpose, persistence, attention and curiosity.
4. Children will engage in sophisticated socio-dramatic play.

### Language & Literacy

5. Children will understand and respond to oral questions and directions.
6. Children will use strong and varied vocabulary and will participate in conversations.
7. Children who speak a home language other than English will progress in their ability to understand and use English.
8. Children will demonstrate interest in books, comprehension of texts and ability to retell favorite stories.
9. Children will hear and manipulate the sounds in oral language, noticing similarities and differences.
10. Children will know many letter names and sounds.
11. Children will understand the function of print and some print concepts, and will use early writing to communicate.
12. For Dual Language Learners, children will exhibit appropriate English skills necessary to understanding language and to use language effectively in various settings and for various purpose.

### Math & Science

13. Children will use counting and numerical representation in their activities, especially to solve problems.
14. Children will demonstrate knowledge of shapes and their properties.
15. Children will demonstrate understanding of patterns.
16. Children will classify, sort and compare objects based on different attributes.
17. Children will measure and compare objects based on length, weight, etc.
18. Children will engage in scientific inquiry.

### Social Studies

19. Children will demonstrate an understanding of one's relationship to the family and the community, roles in the family and community and will demonstrate respect for diversity.

### The Arts

20. Children will explore music, movement, dance, drama and the visual arts.

### Physical

21. Children will maintain physical health, age-appropriate physical development and fine/gross motor skills.

City-Wide learning Goals are Bolded

## EARLY HEAD START

### Social-Emotional Development & Approaches to learning

1. Children will develop and maintain positive relationships with peers and familiar adults
2. Children will demonstrate *self-regulation*, including an understanding of rules and independence in executing most daily classroom and self-care routines.
3. Children will demonstrate a positive *self concept* through identification with their family, culture, peers and familiar adults.
4. Children will initiate and engage in play, discovery and the arts with increasing *purpose, persistence attention and curiosity*.

### Cognitive & General Knowledge

5. Children will use all senses to investigate, problem solve, compare attributes and form individual understandings of the *natural and physical world*.
6. Children will demonstrate an increasing ability to connect new and known experiences and concepts.
7. Children will demonstrate an age-appropriate interest in *numbers and counting* during daily experiences and routines.

### Language & Literacy (in home language and English)

8. Children will *understand and respond* to simple oral questions and directions.
9. Children will *communicate* using expanding *language skills and vocabulary* to express their needs, ideas and desires and to participate in conversations.
10. Children will demonstrate *interest in books* and a general comprehension of text/illustrations.
11. Children will demonstrate interest in *early writing and reading*, including an age-appropriate understanding of the function of print and graphic/symbolic representations.
12. Children who speak a home language other than English will progress in their ability to *understand and use both languages*.

### Physical Development & Health

13. Children will maintain *physical health* and develop *healthy habits* related to eating and personal care.
14. Children will demonstrate age-appropriate *gross motor skills* and progress in their ability to *control their bodies* for movement /rhythm, navigation and balance.
15. Children will demonstrate age-appropriate *fine motor skills*.

# Fort George Community Services, Inc. (FGCS)

## Financial Statements / Fiscal Year 2021

### Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Fund Balance

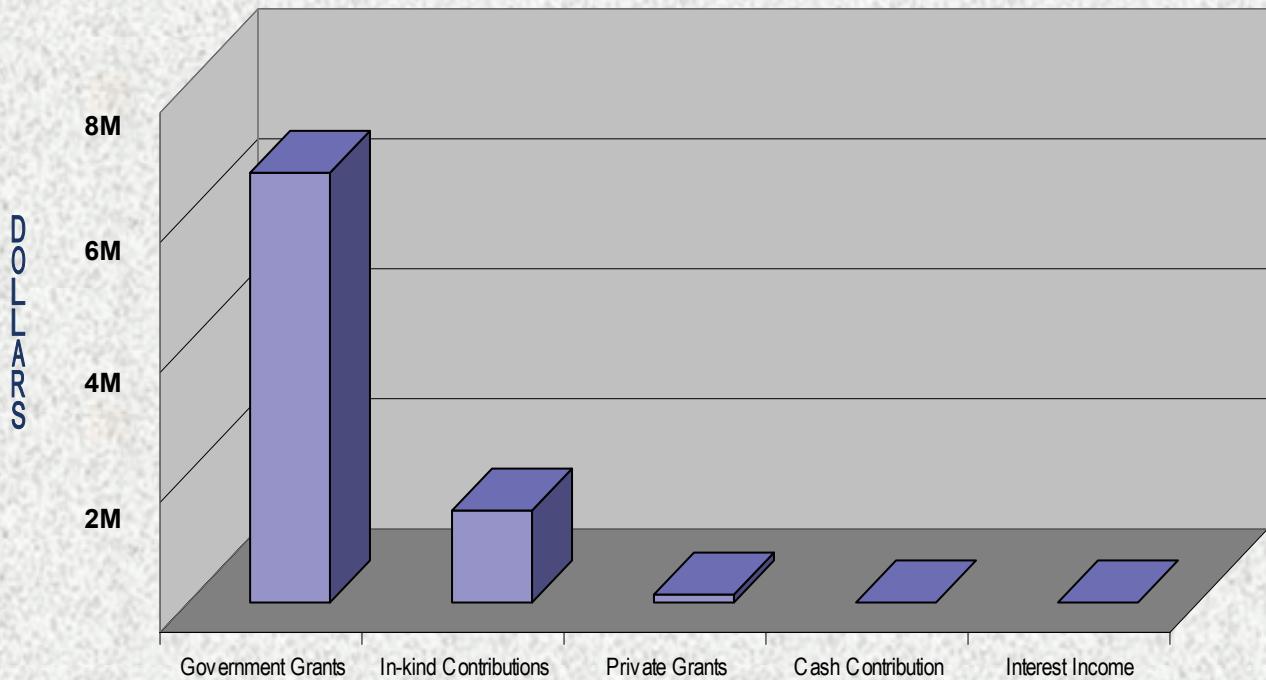
**Fiscal Year 2021**

Support and Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Government grants</b>	6,594,131		6,594,131
<b>Private grants</b>	-	126,386	126,386
<b>Cash contribution</b>	31		31
<b>In-kind contributions</b>	1,402,460		1,402,460
<b>Interest income</b>	4		4
<b>Net assets released from restrictions</b>	117,512	(117,512)	-
<b>Total Support Revenue</b>	8,116,540	8,874	8,125,414

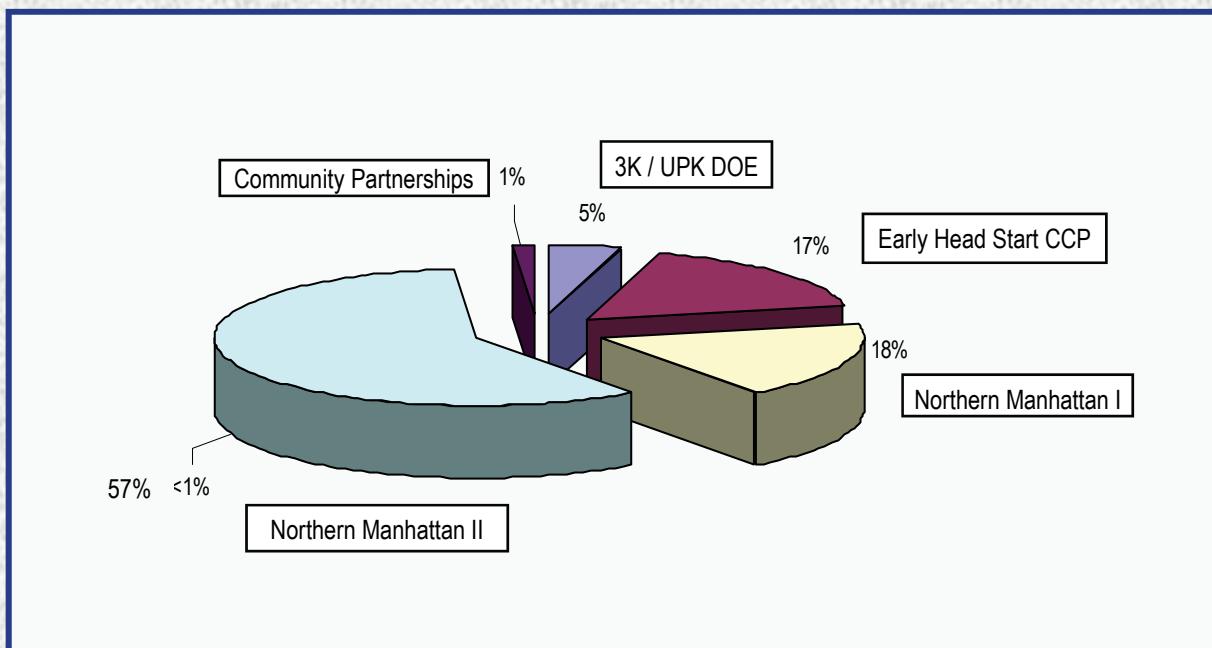
Expenses			
<b>Head Start - Early Learn</b>	149,458	-	149,458
<b>3K / UPK Department of Education</b>	359,670	-	359,670
<b>Early Head Start CCP</b>	1,370,120	-	1,370,120
<b>Northern Manhattan I</b>	1,464,023	-	1,464,023
<b>Northern Manhattan II</b>	4,665,755	-	4,665,755
<b>Community Partnership</b>	117,512		117,512
<b>Total Expenses</b>	8,126,538	-	8,126,538
<b>Changes in Net Assets</b>	(9,998)	8,874	(1,124)
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	20,358	326,148	346,506
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	10,360	335,022	345,382

Note: The Financial Statement presented for the Fiscal Year 2021 is unaudited. Final adjustments will be made during the course of the audit conducted by Watson Rice, LLP.

## Funding Sources for FGCS



## Functional Breakdown of FGCS Operations





## Executive Staff

**Carolyn L. Wiggins**

*CEO*

**Anita Grossbard**

*COO*

**Rose de la Cruz**

*CFO*

## Policy Council

### Officers

Mariama Barry: *President*

Aichata Sanagre: *Vice President*

Margarita Trujillo: *Secretary / Treasurer*

Kofee Dawson: *Community Representative*

### Members

Maria Hidalgo

Nafisatu Tanko

Salimata Konate

Stephanie Martinez