

FORT GEORGE COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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

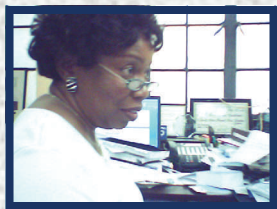


Photo by Emily Rodriguez, age 4,
STEM/Photography Project.

*"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."*

- Earnest Hemingway

Greetings Colleagues, Family and Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am pleased to present the annual report for Fort George Community Services for the year 2022. This year has been one of resilience, growth, and unwavering commitment to our mission of providing high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive support services to children and families in our community.

In 2022, we served children and their families, providing them with essential educational resources and support. Our dedicated staff implemented innovative strategies to enhance our curriculum, focusing on social-emotional learning and individualized instruction. We are proud to report that our children demonstrated significant growth in their literacy skills by the end of the program year.

We also prioritized family engagement, hosting workshops and events that empowered parents and caregivers to actively participate in their children's education. Our partnerships with local organizations allowed us to provide additional resources, including health screenings and nutrition education, ensuring that our families have access to the support they need.

Like many organizations, we faced challenges due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, our team adapted quickly, implementing health and safety protocols to ensure that our children continued to receive quality education. We are grateful for the resilience of our families and staff during these unprecedented times.

As we move into 2023, we remain committed to our mission and are excited about the initiatives planned for the upcoming year. We aim to expand our services, enhance our professional development programs for staff, and strengthen our community partnerships to better serve our families.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and community partners. Your commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in our success, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Fort George Community Services. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

Warm regards,

Carolyn L. 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 2022, 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 2022

Our Partners

**NewYork-
Presbyterian**
Performer Providing System

**NewYork-
Presbyterian**
CHALK

**Columbia
University**
Irving
Medical Center



Our Accomplishments



- We continued our partnership with New York Presbyterian Hospital: Center for Community Navigation.
- New York Presbyterian Ambulatory Care Network partnership provides the opportunity for first year medical residents in the program to participant in our Early Literacy Program by reading to our students: *Reach Out and Read*

Accomplishments ...

- Partnership with South Bronx Rising.
- 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.
- Member of the New York State Head Start Association (CEO is the President).



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.



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

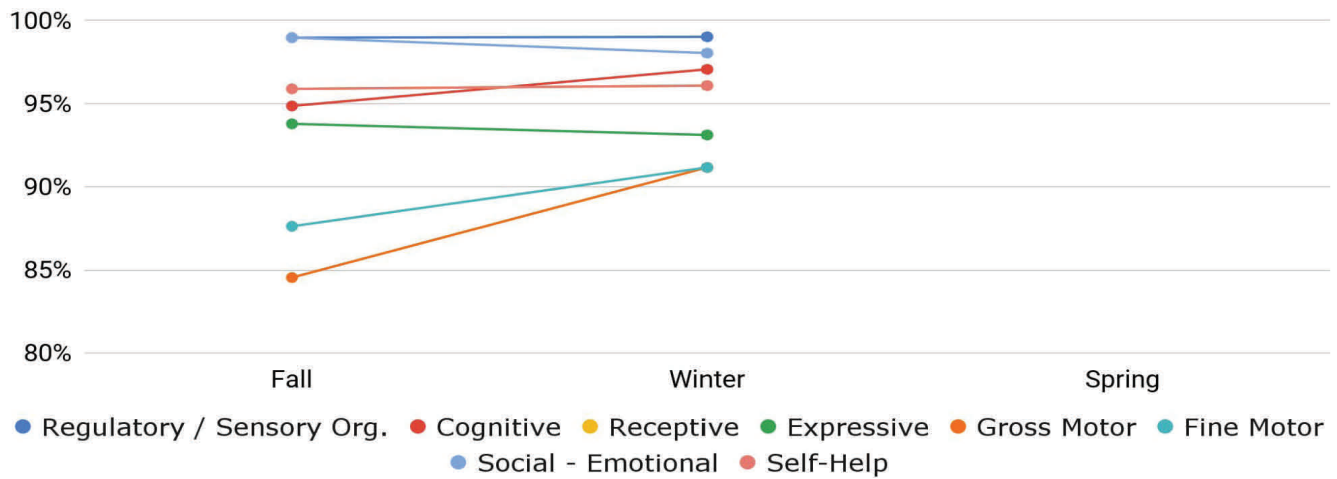
13. Children will maintain *physical health* and develop *healthy habits* related to eating and personal care.
14. Children will demonstrate age-appropriate *gross motor* skills and progress in their ability to *control their bodies* for movement /rhythm, navigation and balance.
15. Children will demonstrate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





MBO SNAPSHOT

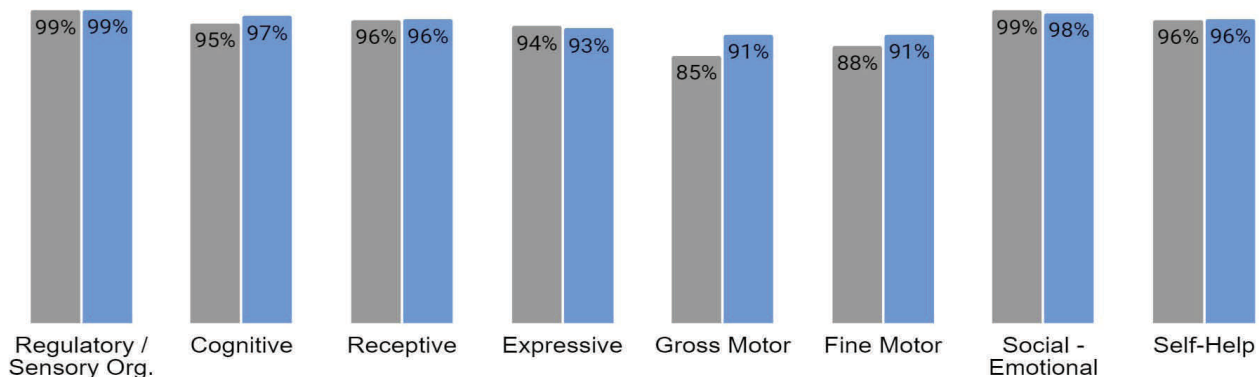
% of Children In Age Expected Range by Domain | ALL EHS



HELP Strands Progress

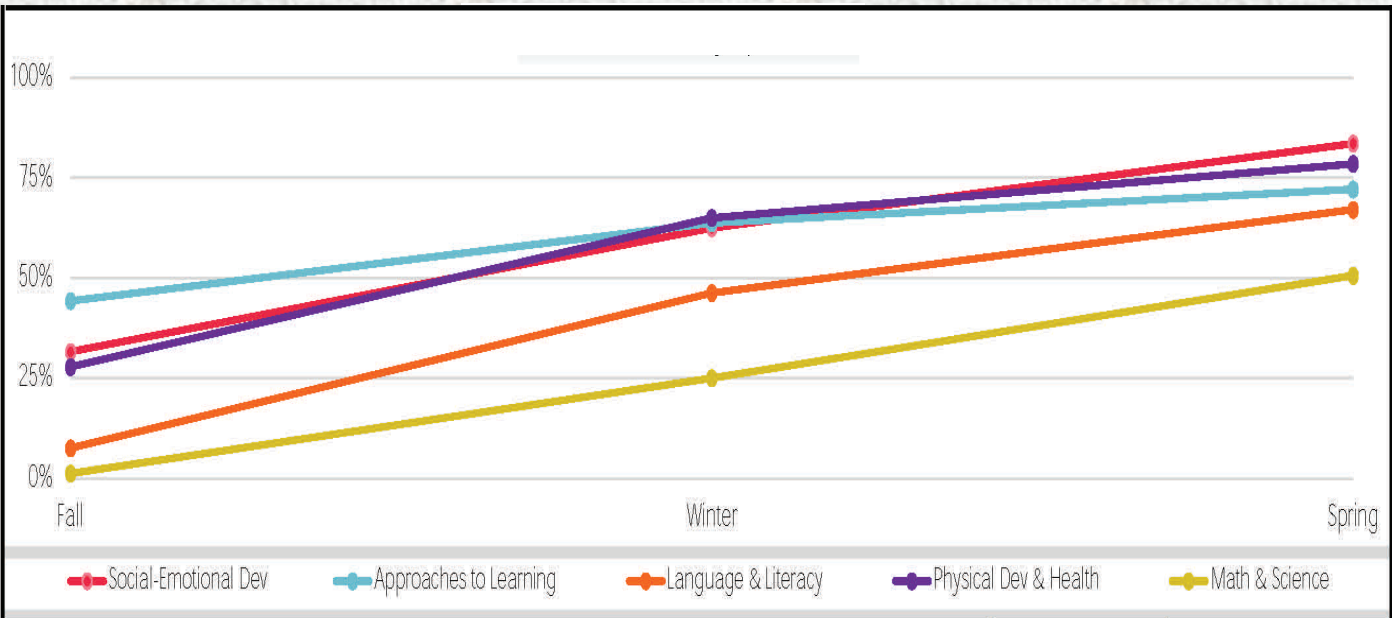
Strengths		HELP Strand	Fall	Winter	Change
		Bilateral and midline skills	74.24%	94.81%	20.57%
		Grammar & sentence structure	80.25%	94.19%	13.94%
		Oral-motor development	87.10%	98.41%	11.31%
		Communicating through rhythm	84.27%	94.74%	10.47%
		Discrim/Classification	86.75%	95.51%	8.76%
Growth Areas					
		Attachment/separation/autonomy	97.85%	97.75%	-0.10%
		Toileting	90.28%	89.89%	-0.39%
		Learning Rules and Expectations	95.74%	95.10%	-0.64%
		Understands meaning of words	91.09%	89.22%	-1.87%
		Mobility & transitional movements	40.74%	36.99%	-3.75%

% of Children In Age Expected Range by Domain | ALL EHS

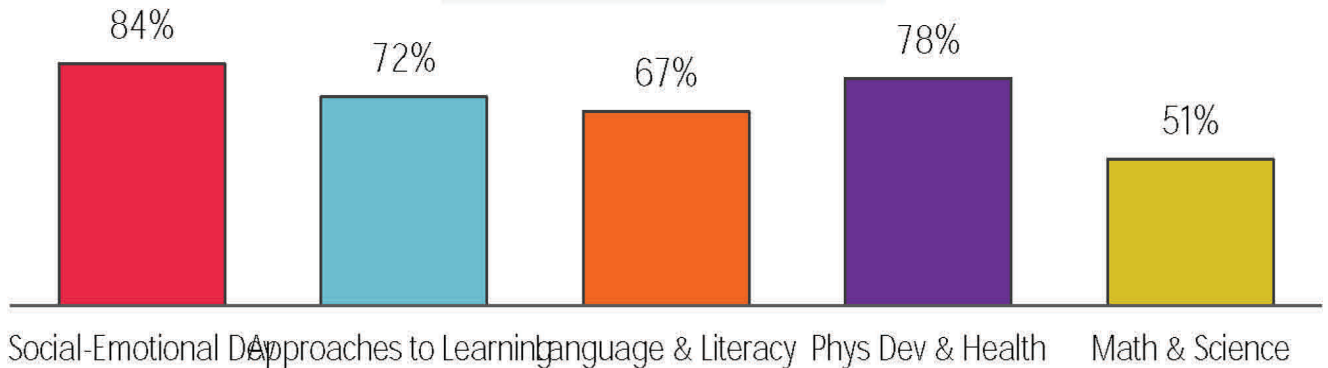


MBO SNAPSHOT

% of Children On-Target | Head Start



% of Children On-Target | Spring



Strengths		Objectives		Growth Areas	
Fine motor: Uses writing & drawing tools	7b	99%	Spatial relationships: Shapes	21b	57%
Relationships: Interacts peers	2c	99%	Number concepts: Counts	20a	63%
Participates in group: Needs of self-others	3a	99%	Compares/measures: Measures objects	22.	66%
Writing: Name	19a	98%	Number concepts: Numerals-quantities	20c	70%
Alphabet: Identifies	16a	97%	Conversational skills: Engages in conv.	10a	78%
Print: Uses books	17a	96%	Listens & understands: Comprehends	8a	80%
Relationships: Friends	2d	95%	Patterns	23.	80%
Comprehends: Retelling	18c	94%	Gross-motor manipulative	6.	81%
Print: Print concepts	17b	93%	Uses spoken language: Speaks clearly	9b	81%
Writing: for meaning	19b	93%	Approaches to learning: Persists	11b	81%

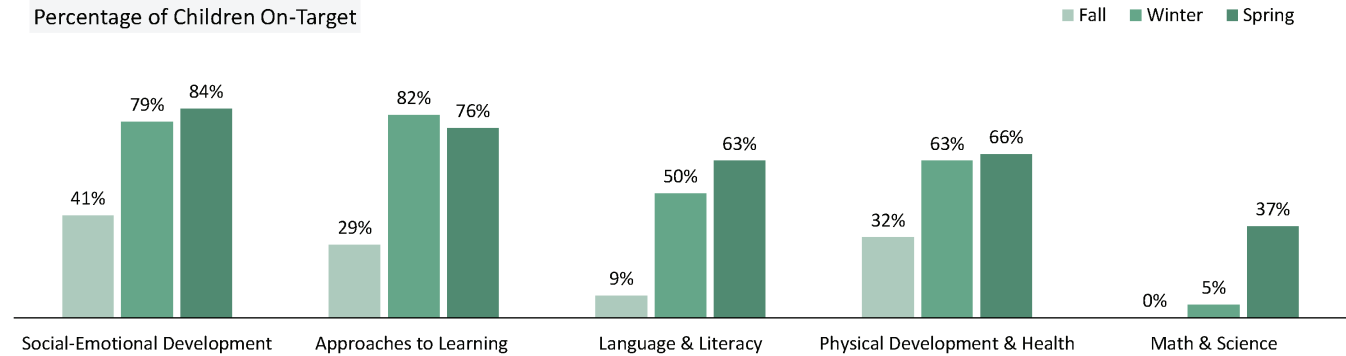
CHILD OUTCOMES

Three Year Old Children

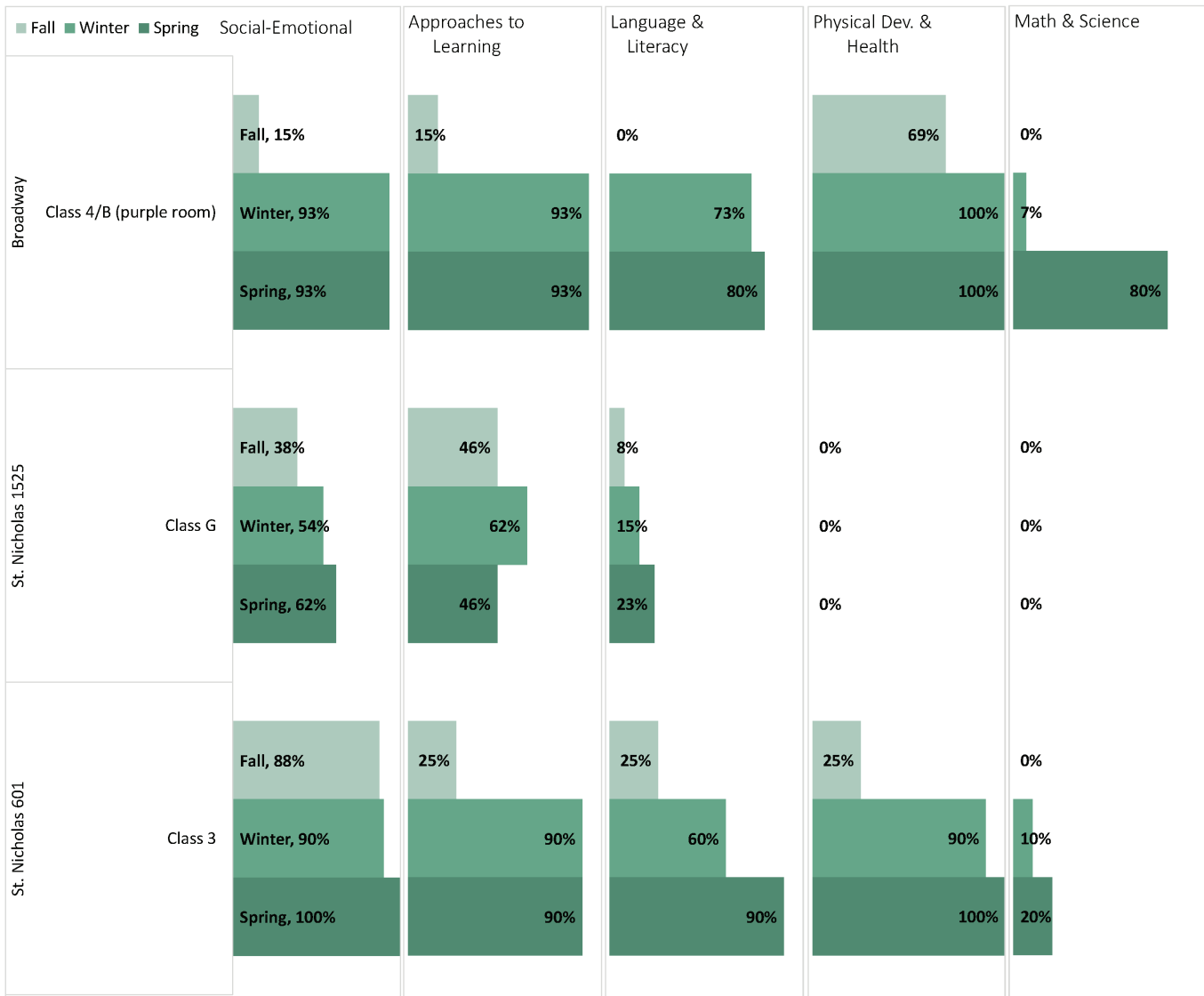
Child Outcomes:

The percentage of children who scored on-target for every objective within a domain based on TSG expectations.

Percentage of Children On-Target



Percent of Children On-Target by Center



CHILD OUTCOMES

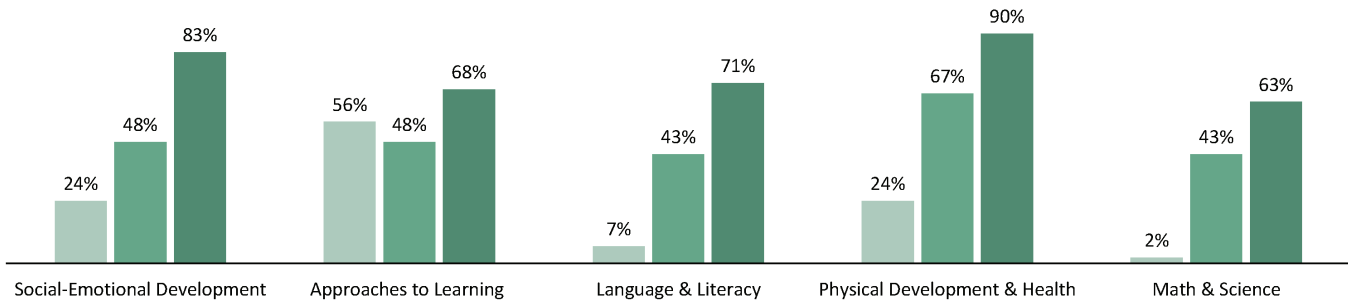
Transitioning Children

Child Outcomes:

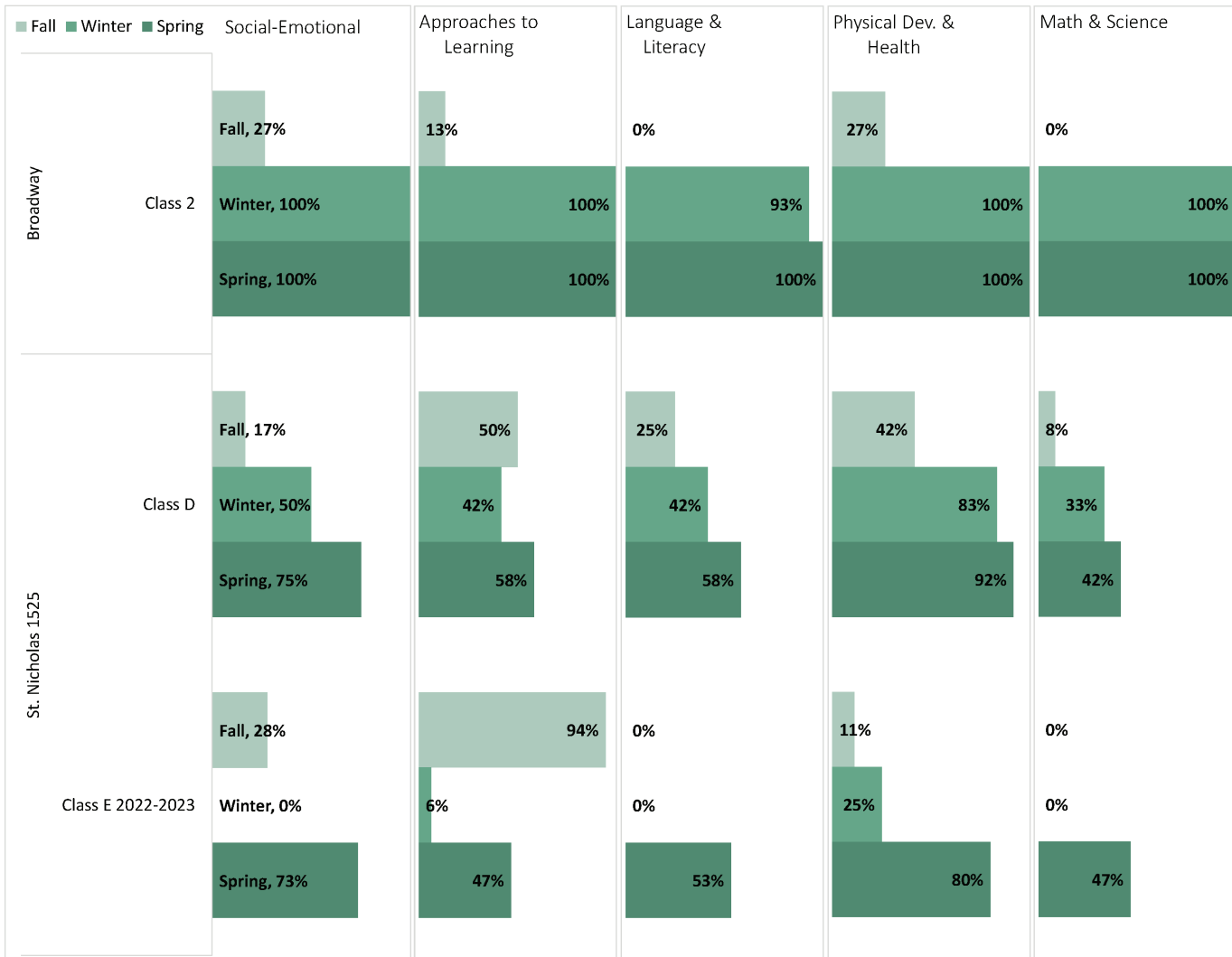
The percentage of children who scored on-target for every objective within a domain based on TSG expectations.

Percentage of Children On-Target

■ Fall ■ Winter ■ Spring



Percent of Children On-Target by Center



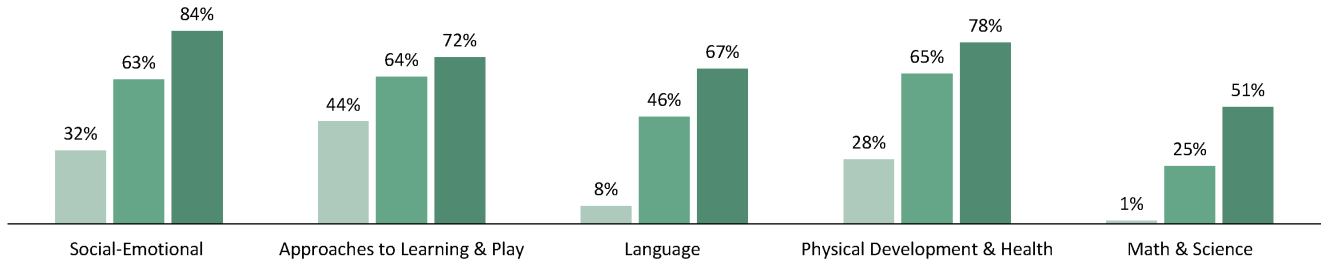
CHILD OUTCOMES

All Head Start Children

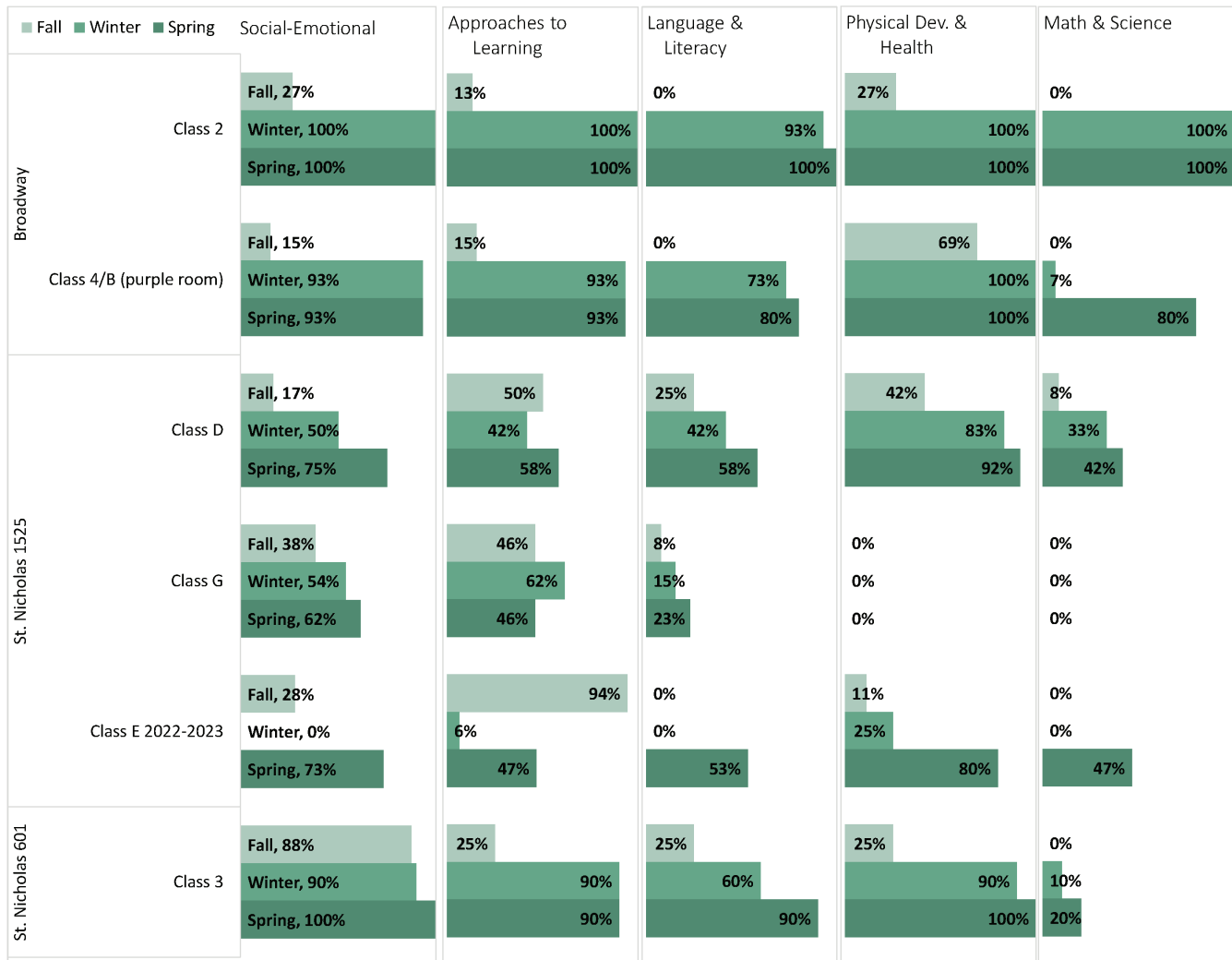
The percentage of children who scored on-target for every objective within a domain based on TSG expectations.

Percentage of Children On-Target

Fall Winter Spring



Percent of Children On-Target by Center



Family Services

	The number of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:				
Types of Family Services	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.	0	0	3	0	1
Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	2	0	0	0	1
Mental health services	0	6	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	1	0	0	0	1
Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	1	40	2	0	4
Research-based parenting curriculum	4	4	0	0	1
Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	8	34	1	25	15
Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	1	24	0	0	0
Education on preventive medical and oral health	0	57	1	0	2
Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	0	0	0	0	0
Education on nutrition	3	31	0	0	1
Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	1	0	0	0	0
Education on relationship/marriage	1	0	0	0	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	11	64	6	26	21

2022 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, Inc. (FGCS)

Financial Statements / Fiscal Year 2022

Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Fund Balance

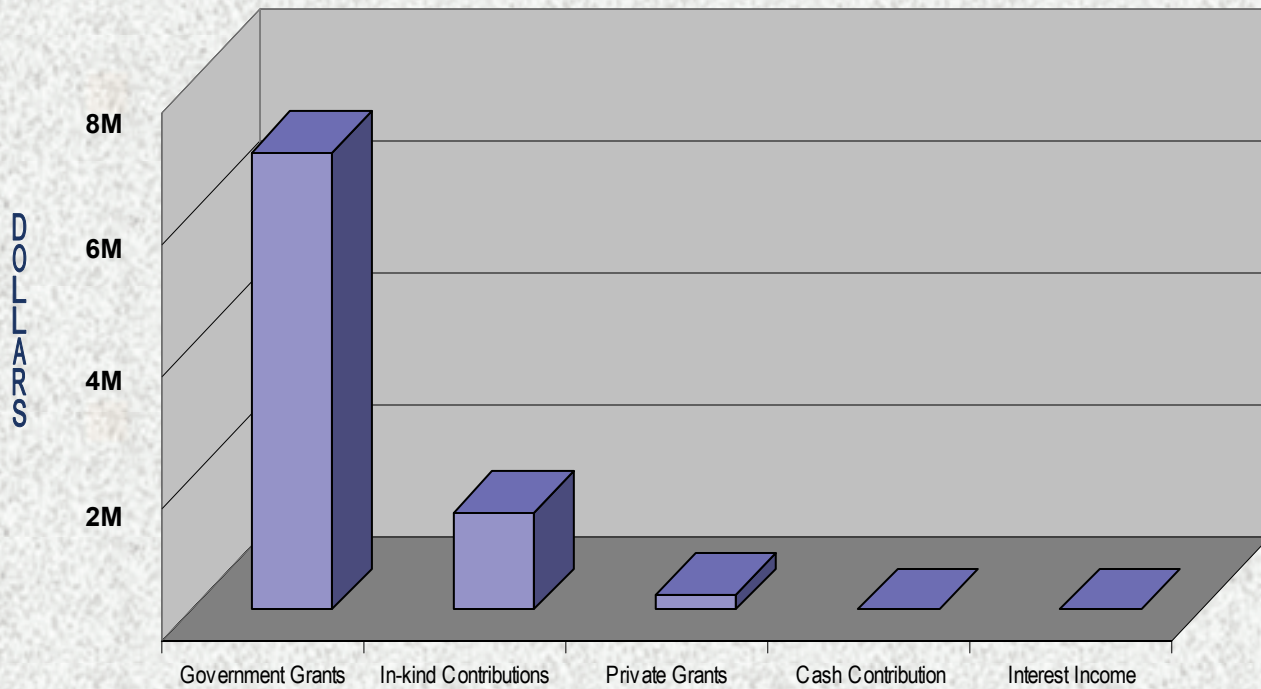
Fiscal Year 2022

Support and Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Government grants	6,916,331		6,916,331
Private grants	-	232,721	232,721
Cash contribution	23		23
In-kind contributions	1,466,617		1,466,617
Interest income	4		4
Other income	10,744		10,744
Net assets released from restrictions	206,068	(206,068)	-
Total Support Revenue	8,599,787	26,653	8,626,440

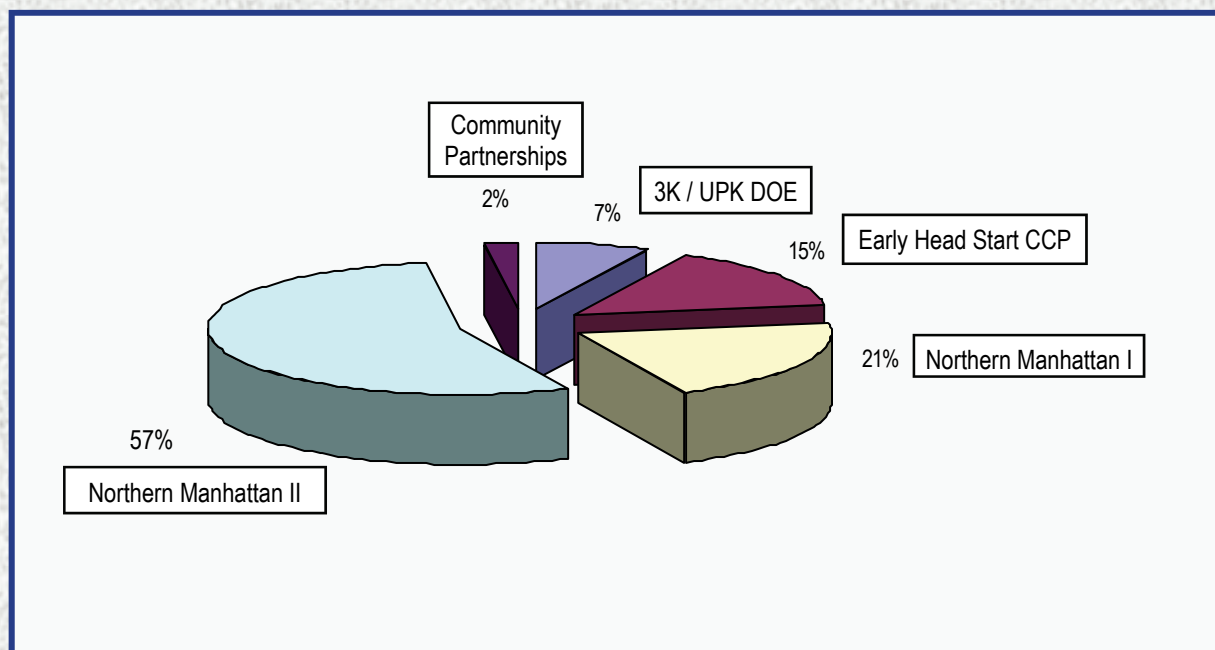
Expenses			
3K / UPK Department of Education	623,346	-	623,346
Early Head Start CCP	1,340,988	-	1,340,988
Northern Manhattan I	1,815,345	-	1,815,345
Northern Manhattan II	4,790,966	-	4,790,966
Community Partnership	206,068		206,068
Total Expenses	8,776,713	-	8,776,713
Changes in Net Assets	(176,926)	26,653	(150,273)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	10,360	335,022	345,382
Net Assets (Deficit), End of Year	(166,566)	361,675	195,109

Note: The Financial Statement presented for the Fiscal Year 2022 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 Hildalgo

Nafisatu Tanko

Salimata Konate

Stephanie Martinez