

# FORT GEORGE COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## **Greetings Colleagues, Family and Friends,**

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, I am excited to share the annual report for Fort George Community Services. This year has been a testament to our resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive support services to the children and families we serve.

In 2023, we proudly served children and their families, fostering an environment that promotes learning, growth, and well-being. Our dedicated staff implemented innovative educational strategies that focused on holistic development, including social-emotional learning, early literacy, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activities. We are thrilled to report that our children demonstrated readiness for kindergarten by the end of 2023 program year.

This year, we also expanded our family engagement initiatives, hosting workshops and events designed to empower parents and caregivers. Topics included child development, nutrition, mental health, and effective parenting strategies, ensuring that families have the resources they need to support their children's growth.

While we celebrated many successes, we also encountered challenges, particularly in addressing the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our team worked diligently to adapt our services, ensuring that health and safety protocols remained a priority while providing learning. The resilience and dedication of our families and staff have been truly inspiring, and we are grateful for their continued support.

As we look forward to 2024, we are excited about the initiatives planned for the upcoming year. Our goals include further enhancing our curriculum to incorporate more culturally responsive teaching practices, expanding our mental health resources for children and families, and strengthening our partnerships with local organizations to provide additional support services.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated Board of Directors' and Policy Council, staff, supportive families, and community partners. Your collaboration and commitment have been vital to 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 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 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 2023, 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, 3-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 3-K 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

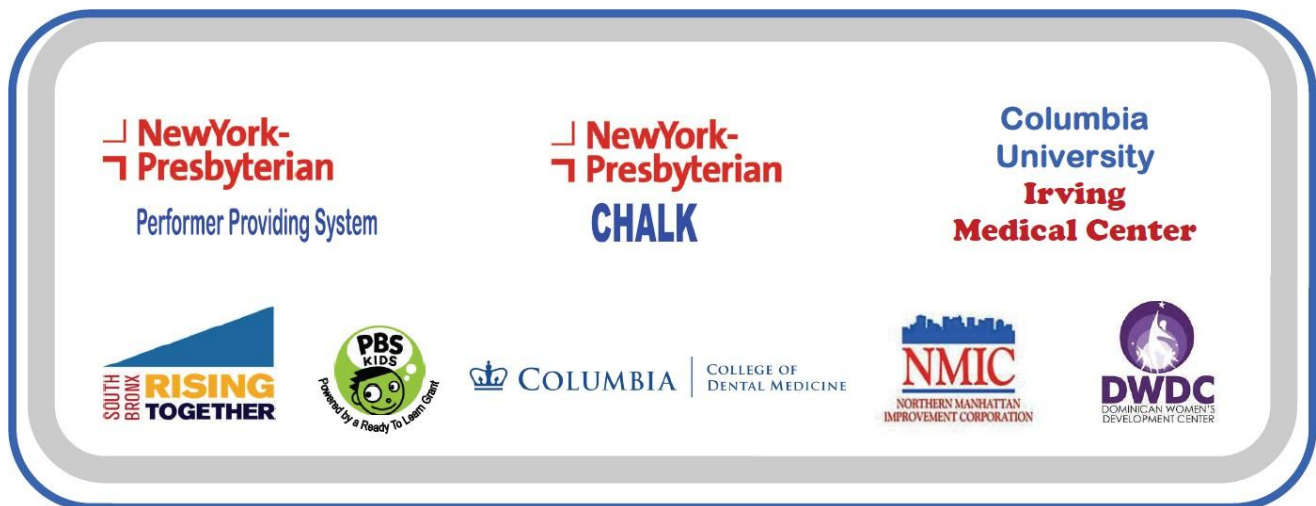
#### **The Members**

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 2023

## Our Partners

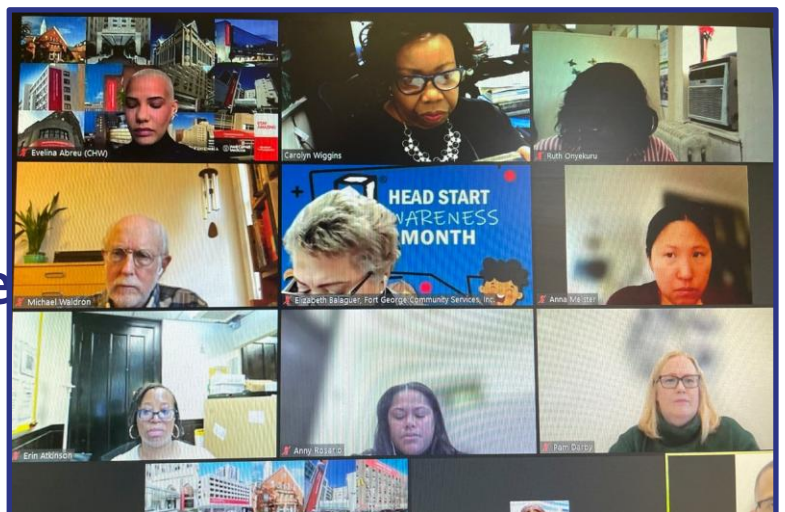


## Accomplishments

Completed the Office of Head Start FA 2 Federal Review June 13-17, 2022.  
Received no Non Compliance or Deficiencies !



## Health Services Advisory Committee







**Broadway**



**Sequence for Kids**



**St. Paul's**





## St. Nicholas



## Home Base



## Family Day Care



## Parent Engagement



## 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

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	72	98%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>(Above percentages reflect average daily attendance for funded enrollment)</b>

## 2023 Children Diagnosed with a Disability and Receiving Services

Location	Individual Education Plan (IEP)		Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)	
Head Start	2023	11	2023	1
Early Head Start	2023	10	2023	1



# 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.

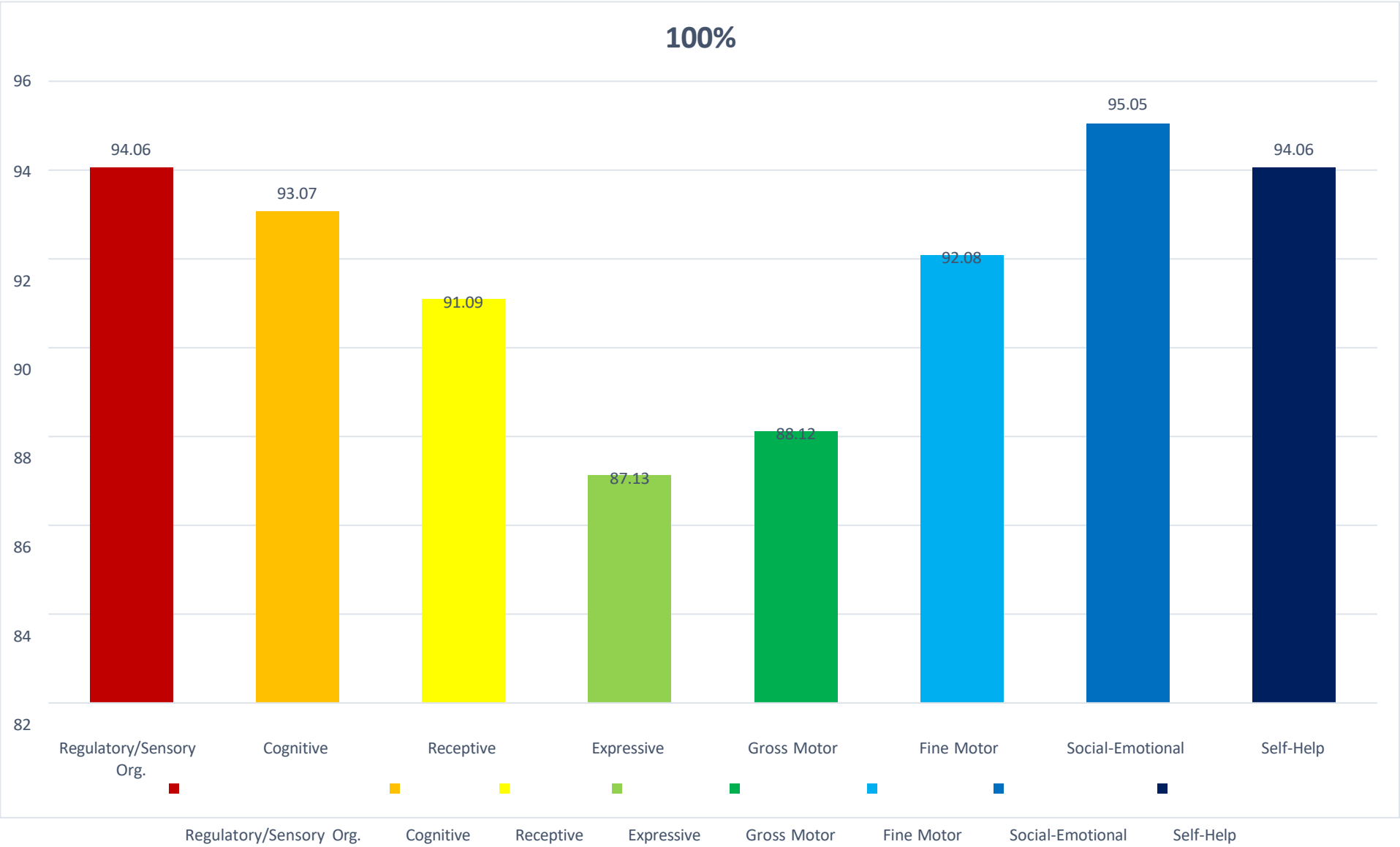
### Language & Literacy (in home language and English)

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

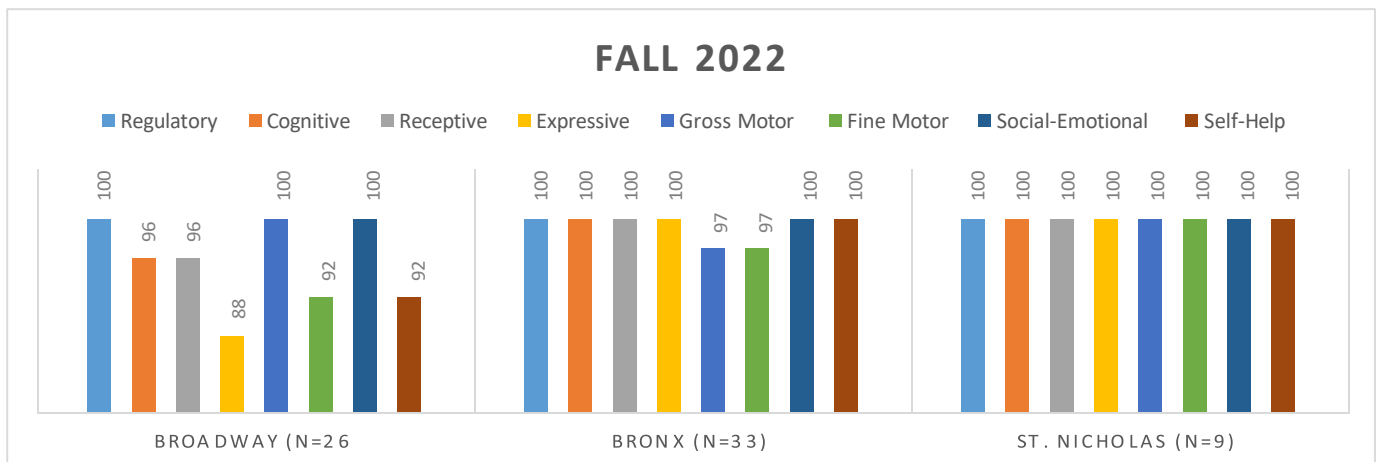
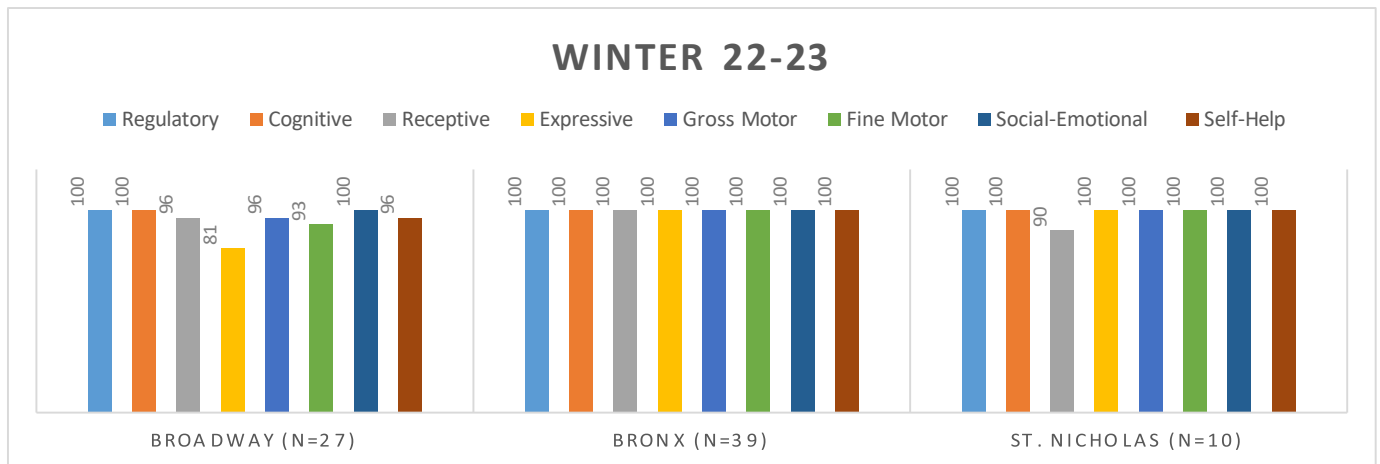
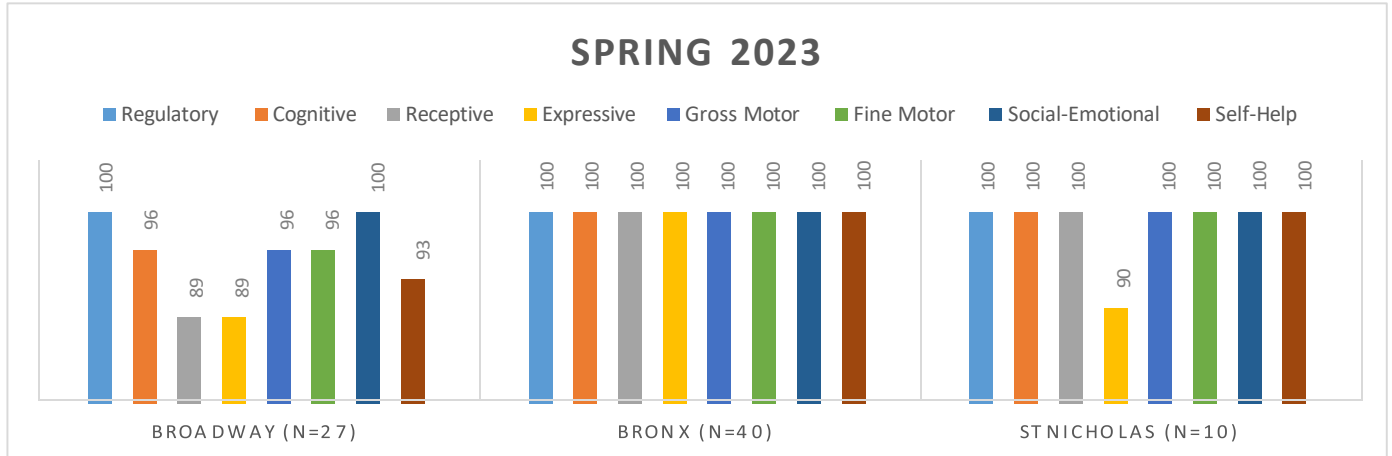
13. Children will maintain *physical health* and develop *healthy habits* related to eating and personal care.
14. Children will demonstrate age-appropriate *gross motor* skills and progress in their ability *to control their bodies* for movement /rhythm, navigation and balance.
15. Children will demonstrate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

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





**Domain Mastery by Quarter:** These charts displays the percentage of children who are meeting/exceeding targets for their current ages. Children are considered to be meeting/exceeding in each domain if they are meeting/exceeding the age-based targets for every strand within that domain.



## Bronx - EHS CCP 2023

Skip Navigation



**Office of Head Start/** Head Start Enterprise System

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In order to modify the report, return to the report summary page and  
click on 'Mark this report as incomplete'.*

### Family services

#### #of families

C.44 The number of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:

a. Emergency/crisis intervention (e.g., meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	0
b. Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs)	0
c. Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	0
d. Mental health services	0
e. Substance misuse prevention	0
f. Substance misuse treatment	0
g. English as a Second Language (ESL) training	1
h. Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	2
i. Research-based parenting curriculum	0
j. Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	9
k. Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	0
l. Education on preventive medical and oral health	0
m. Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	0
n. Education on nutrition	0
o. Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	0
p. Education on relationship/marriage	0
q. Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	0

C.45 Of these, the number of families who were counted in at least one of the services listed above 12

For assistance, please contact the HSES Help Desk at [help@hsesinfo.org](mailto:help@hsesinfo.org) or call 1-866-771-4737 (toll-free) or 1-571-429-4858 (local), Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. EST  
(Not available on weekends or federal holidays)





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## Family services

## #of families

C.44 the number of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:

a. Emergency/crisis intervention (e.g., meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	0
b. Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs)	0
c. Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	0
d. Mental health services	0
e. Substance misuse prevention	0
f. Substance misuse treatment	0
g. English as a Second Language (ESL) training	0
h. Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	2
i. Research-based parenting curriculum	5
j. Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	2
k. Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	2
l. Education on preventive medical and oral health	1
m. Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	0
n. Education on nutrition	1
o. Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	0
p. Education on relationship/marriage	0
q. Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	0

C.45 Of these, the number of families who were counted in at least one of the services listed *above* 5

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### Family services

#### #of families

C.44 the number of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:

a. Emergency/crisis intervention (e.g., meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	0
b. Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs)	0
c. Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	0
d. Mental health services	0
e. Substance misuse prevention	0
f. Substance misuse treatment	0
g. English as a Second Language (ESL) training	0
h. Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	0
i. Research-based parenting curriculum	0
j. Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	0
k. Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	2
l. Education on preventive medical and oral health	0
m. Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	0
n. Education on nutrition	0
o. Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	0
p. Education on relationship/marriage	0
q. Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	0

C.45 Of these, the number of families who were counted in at least one of the services listed *above* 2



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### Family services

### #of families

C.44 the number of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:

a. Emergency/crisis intervention (e.g., meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	0
b. Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs)	1
c. Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	1
d. Mental health services	1
e. Substance misuse prevention	0
f. Substance misuse treatment	0
g. English as a Second Language (ESL) training	0
h. Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	2
i. Research-based parenting curriculum	6
j. Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	7
k. Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	2
l. Education on preventive medical and oral health	1
m. Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	0
n. Education on nutrition	0
o. Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	0
p. Education on relationship/marriage	0
q. Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	0

C.45 Of these, the number of families who were counted in at least one of the services listed above 11



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## Family services

## #of families

C.44 the number of families that received the following program service to promote family outcomes:

a. Emergency/crisis intervention (e.g., meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)	0
b. Housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs)	1
c. Asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)	1
d. Mental health services	1
e. Substance misuse prevention	0
f. Substance misuse treatment	0
g. English as a Second Language (ESL) training	0
h. Assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program	31
i. Research-based parenting curriculum	28
j. Involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress	37
k. Supporting transitions between programs (i.e., EHS to HS, HS to kindergarten)	2
l. Education on preventive medical and oral health	1
m. Education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use	0
n. Education on nutrition	0
o. Education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)	0
p. Education on relationship/marriage	0
q. Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	0

C.45 Of these, the number of families who were counted in at least one of the services listed above 38

**FORT GEORGE COMMUNITY SERVICES,  
INC. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**Without Donor  
Restrictions**

**With Donor**

	<b><u>Without Donor Restrictions</u></b>	<b><u>With Donor Restrictions</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Support and Revenue</b>			
Government grants	\$ 7,920,639	\$ -	\$ 7,920,639
Private grants	-	233,785	233,785
Cash contribution	25	-	25
In-kind contributions	1,398,734	-	1,398,734
Interest income	4	-	4
Other income	925	-	925
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>222,893</u>	<u>(222,893)</u>	-
Total Support and Revenue	<u>9,543,220</u>	<u>10,892</u>	<u>9,554,112</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
3K/UPK Department of Education	602,429	-	602,429
Early Head Start CCP	1,725,162	-	1,725,162
Northern Manhattan I	2,045,526	-	2,045,526
Northern Manhattan II	5,018,668	-	5,018,668
Community Partnership	<u>222,893</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>222,893</u>
Total Expenses	<u>9,614,678</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,614,678</u>
Changes in Net Assets	<u>(71,458)</u>	<u>10,892</u>	<u>(60,566)</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>32,130</u>	<u>361,675</u>	<u>393,805</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ (39,328)</u>	<u>\$ 372,567</u>	<u>\$ 333,239</u>

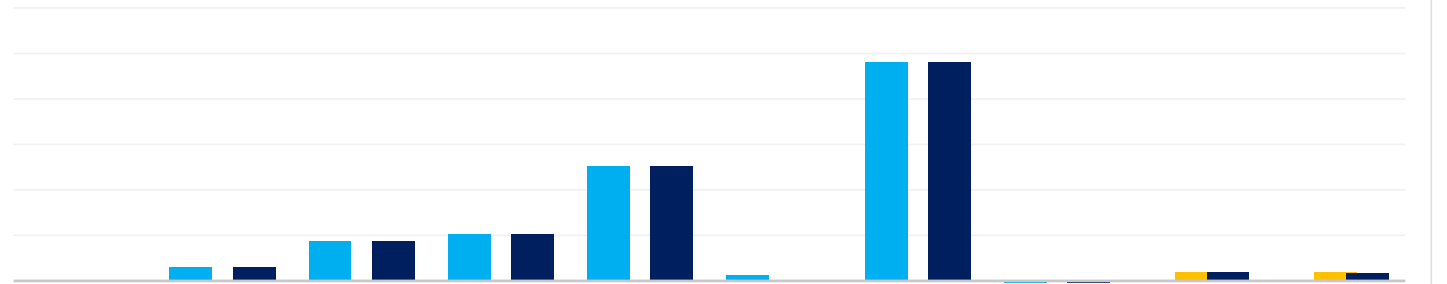
**Note: The Financial Statement presented for the Fiscal Year 2023 is unaudited. Final adjustments will be made during the course of the audit conducted by Watson Rice, LLP.**



Fort George Community Services, Inc.  
Statement of Activities  
Year Ended June 30, 2023



	Support and Revenue	Government grants (Note 8)	Private grants	Cash contribution	In-Kind Contributions	Interest income	Other income	Net assets released from restrictions	Total Support and Revenue	
■ Without Donor Restrictions		\$7,920,639	0	25	1,398,734	4	925	222,893	9,543,220	
■ With Donor Restrictions		0	233,785	0	0	0	0	(222,893)	10,892	
■ Total		\$7,920,639	233,785	25	1,398,734	4	925	0	9,554,112	



	Expenses	3K/UPK Department of Education	Early Head Start CCP	Northern Manhattan I	Northern Manhattan II	Community Partnership	Total Expenses	Changes in Net Assets	Net Assets, End of the Year	Net Assets, End of the Year
■ Without Donor Restrictions		602,429	1,725,162	2,045,526	5,018,668	222,893	9,614,648	(71,458)	0	(\$39,328)
■ With Donor Restrictions		0	0	0	0	0	0	10,892	361,675	\$372,567
■ Total		602,429	1,725,162	2,045,526	5,018,668	22,893	9,614,678	(60,566)	393,805	\$333,239

# Fort George Recruitment Efforts



**Head Start  
Early HS  
Home Base  
FDC**



## **Executive Staff**

Carolyn Wiggins, CEO

Anita Grossbard, COO

Rose de la Cruz, CFO

## **Policy Council**

### **Officers**

Stephanie Rodriguez, President

Diana Velez, Vice President

## **Community Representatives**

Heather Chazulle

Germania Reyes