

Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

Community
Compassion
Perseverance
Resilience



2020-2021 Annual Report

Our Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission Statement

Through partnerships with families and community agencies, Family Enrichment Network provides supportive services and programs for the optimal development of children, adults and families.

Vision Statement

The vision of Family Enrichment Network is that all children, adults and families in our service area have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

Value Statements

We value:

- Empowerment of parents to more effectively meet the needs of their children and responsibilities to the community.
- All children, adults and families regardless of race, religion, sex, age, ethnic origin, or disability.
 - Efficient use of resources.
 - Avoidance of duplication of services.
- Staff contribution to the success of our organization.
- Stakeholder and community partnerships.



A message from our Board Chair

I am very proud to have served another year as Board Chair of Family Enrichment Network. A tremendous thank you to our employees, volunteers, Board of Directors and our community partners for your dedication to our mission especially during this unprecedented challenging year.

We will continue to provide superior supportive services and programs for the growth of children, adults and their families in our communities.

Jackie Watson

Board Chair

A message from our Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that we present this 2020-2021 Annual Report. It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. And what a year it was. We would be remiss not to mention that the past few months have been very challenging for staff, parents and children alike. The year 2020 started with COVID-19 and is still ongoing. It does appear we are near the end, and are returning to the new normal.

We know there will be many challenges ahead but through it all the communities we serve have been very helpful and supportive of our efforts. We have remained open as much as we could by following CDC guidance. We continued to provide as many of the very valuable services we were able, including providing as much child care as possible, so that people could return to work. We started the year ready to move forward and despite the pandemic together we rose to the challenge, committed to our mission and our community. We continue to make improvements to our primary site at 24 Cherry Street in Johnson City, and our sites at Fayette in Binghamton, and in Norwich. We opened our first homeless housing project in March 2021, to serve 19 families experiencing homelessness. Whatever the summer and fall holds for us, we will do our best to continue to serve the community.

We hope that the information in this report will be informative and enlightening. Our Agency's accomplishments continue to amaze me and we celebrate our diversity, but there is more to do. There never seems to be an end. Our Agency continues to grow but the core of what we do will not change: we will continue to offer a diverse array of services to children and families to help improve their lives. We will look to continue expanding services to meet the needs of our community. We could not have done all that we have done without lots of support. I would like to thank the Board, Staff and the entire Community for their dedication and hard work for our Agency and the families we support.

Darrell Newrinen
Executive Director

Our Board Members

**JACKIE WATSON, BOARD CHAIR
BRIAN TETA, VICE CHAIR
WIL MIDYETTE, TREASURER
FRED MEAGHER, SECRETARY
JESSICA AURELLIO
CARRIE BATES
MELISSA LANTZ
CHRIS LEE
DENISE LEE
ANDREA MASTRONARDI
ELIZABETH MYERS
CHRIS RHODE
PAMELA SWARTS**

Our Policy Council

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-
TAKICIA MITCHELL- POLICY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
CARRIE BATES- POLICY COUNCIL VICE CHAIRPERSON
DENISE LEE- POLICY COUNCIL TREASURER
VACANT- RECORDING SECRETARY
KERRY O'BRIEN- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**PARENT MEMBERS-
TERRI AL-SHIMARY
BRITTANY BARNETT
SHANTEL BESS
CHENOA CHALKER
KAREN COREAS
DIANA FRANCO
SONYA HERTER
ERIKA HINCKLEY
KARINA LIBERATI
CASSANDRA MARTIN
CORINA MCCALL
KHEA MC.MULLINS
BARBARA PAUGH
JOHN ROBINSON
MOLLY SKINNER
COREY SKINNER
TARA TEDESCO
KENYETTA TORRANCE
MEG WARD
ROZLYN WARTHEN
COMMUNITY MEMBERS-
CHARLI MCLEAN
CHRIS LEE**

Our Senior Staff

DARRELL R. NEWVINE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOSEPH BENNETT, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

NORA BUSH, FISCAL DIRECTOR

MARY DIFULVIO, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

DEB FAULKS, FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTOR

RACHEL FAULKS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**KATE E. GRIPPEN, HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START
DIRECTOR**

**TAMARA IVAN, SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
DIRECTOR**

**CHASTITY MCEWEN, HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES
DIRECTOR**

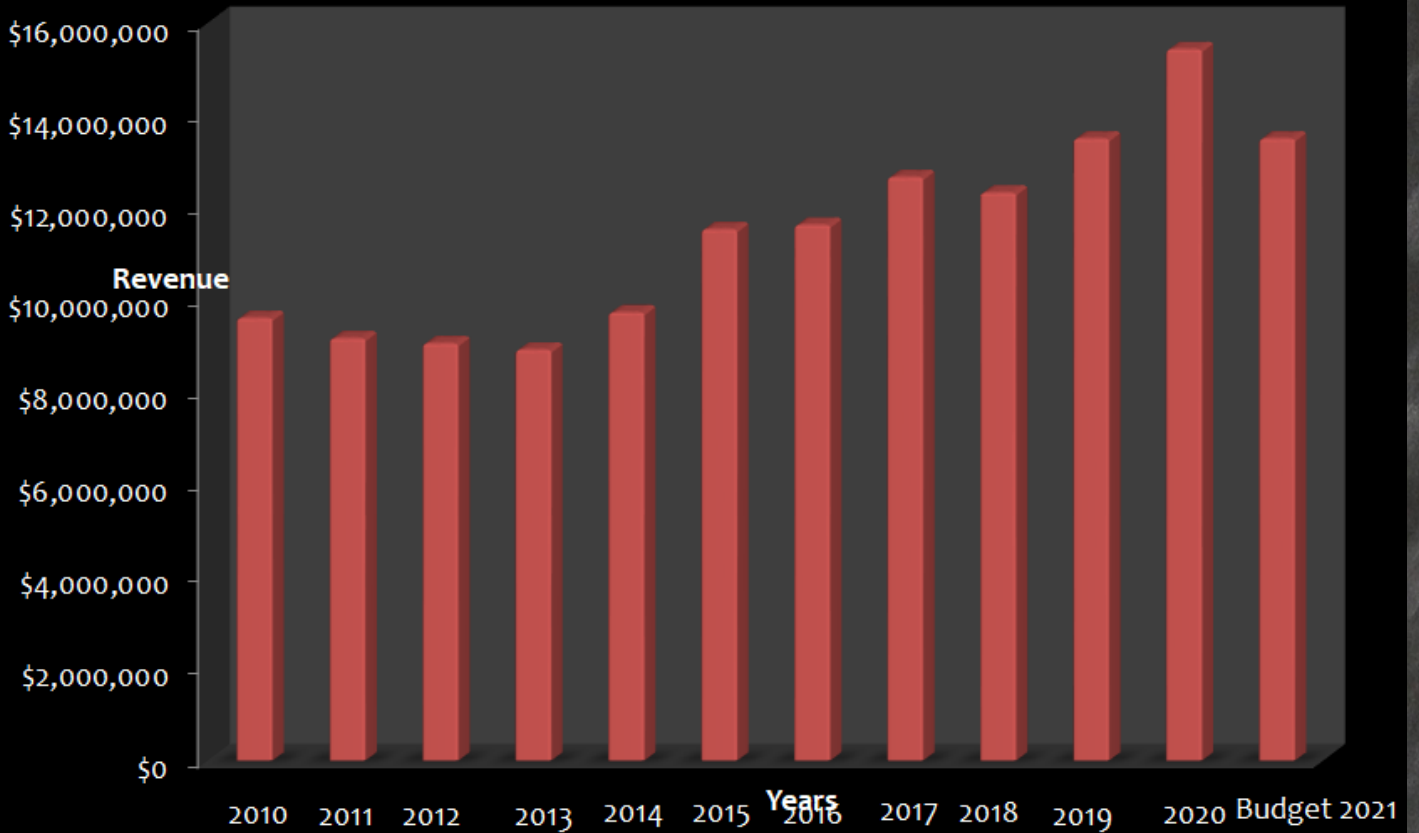
**KATHERINE MCKEEVER, CHENANGO SPECIAL
EDUCATION SERVICES SITE DIRECTOR**

**JENNIFER PERNEY, CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL
DIRECTOR**

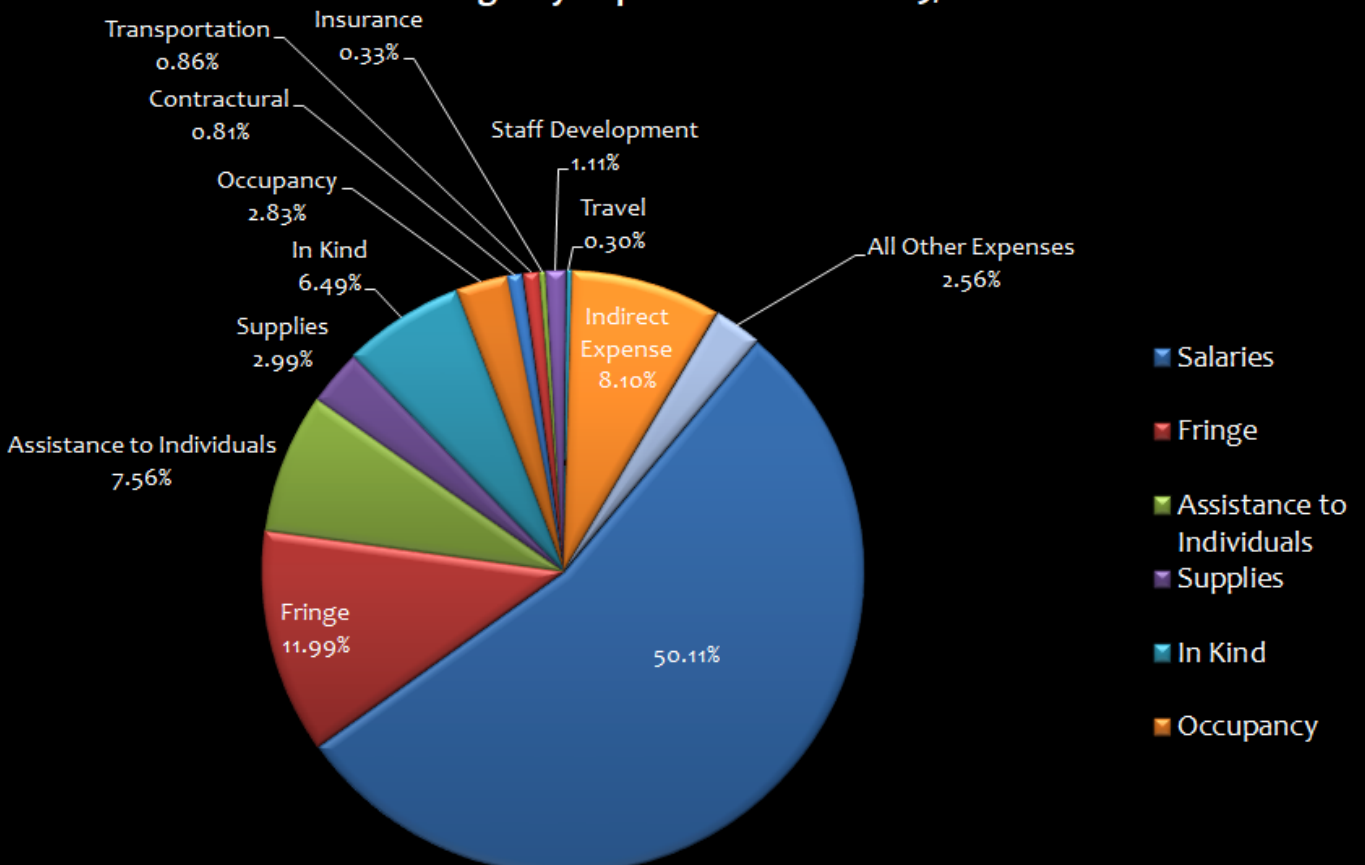
APRIL RAMSAY, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Financial Overview

Revenue History 2010-2021

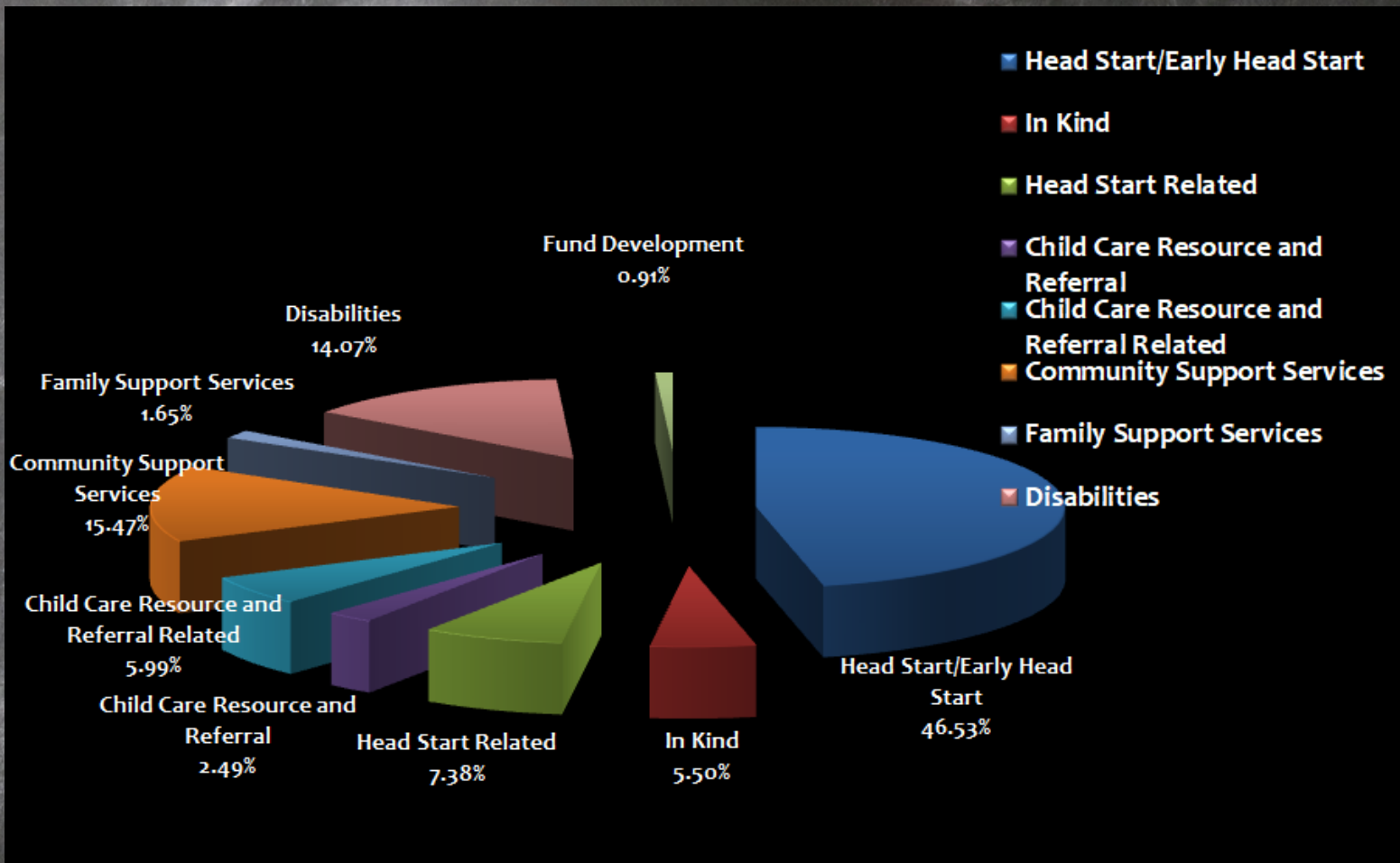


Agency Expense Breakout-2019/2020



Agency Composite

2019-2020



Child Care Resource & Referral

CCR&R recruits, trains, and supports registered/licensed and legally exempt child care providers with all aspects of starting and maintaining a small business.

Legally Exempt Services

Our Legally Exempt Specialists enroll providers into the child care subsidy programs and conduct inspections to increase compliance in health and safety standards.

Referral Services

Our Referral Specialist can explore child care options with parents and provide referrals for programs and providers in our database. CCR&R identifies unmet needs in child care, and works to find meaningful child care solutions. Services are available to all parents, community businesses, and locally-based employees of corporations who offer enhanced child care services as an employee benefit. All services are provided FREE of charge and are available in Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties.

Infant/Toddler Technical Assistance

The Infant/Toddler Technical Assistance Center assists in promoting quality infant/toddler care in New York State. An Infant/Toddler Specialist trains child care professionals, parents, and regional CCR&R staff in infant/toddler best practices, and provides professional development opportunities for infant/toddler caregivers. An Infant/Toddler Mental Health Specialist supports infant and toddler social-emotional development by supporting the caregivers. This service is available free of charge to Broome, Chenango and Tioga County child care providers, parents and community agencies.

Professional Development

Professional Development/Training program for child care providers consists of Saturday Seminars; evening workshops; on-site workshops for centers; after school programs and family child care providers; CPR/First Aid certification; Health & Safety training; CDA credential trainings; and virtual training. All trainings and workshops assist providers in meeting NYS OCFS training requirements. Providers may choose to access EIP funds for training. A training calendar is provided to the community of child care providers in Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. Health & Safety Training offers a workshop facilitated by our certified trainers for individuals in the process of becoming licensed or registered child care providers.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a reimbursement program through The New York State Department of Health, which is geared toward child care providers. Child care providers may be reimbursed by NYS for serving nutritious meals and snacks to the children in their care.



Family Support Services

Courthouse Children's Center

The Courthouse Children's Center (CCC) is a free drop-in child care center at the Broome County Family Courthouse. The Center takes children 6 weeks to 12 years of age and is a safe, fun, nurturing place for children to play while their caregiver is taking care of Family or Drug Court business. The CCC staff are early childhood education trained.

Kinship Care Program

The Kinship Care Program helps adults who are raising someone else's child/ren. Services include: help applying for cash assistance, custody advocacy, support groups, free counseling, & community referrals. The program offers full services in Broome County and Tioga County.

Nutrition Outreach & Education Program

NOEP offers free and confidential services to families that have trouble putting enough food on the table. The NOEP Coordinator helps people with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application process and advocates for them as they apply for SNAP.

Walk With Me

This program provides re-entry support for those recently released from the Broome County Jail. The program provides immediate crisis stabilization and offers peer mentoring, support groups, employment guidance and help meeting the basic essentials.



Head Start

Head Start

(Broome County) provides comprehensive early childhood and family development services to ensure school readiness for three and four year old children and families living in Binghamton, Johnson City and the Susquehanna Valley School District children. The Full Day Center Based option provides children with a six hour program, five days a week from September-June; scheduled home visits, and opportunities for parents to volunteer in the program. The Traditional Center Based Option consists of four 3 1/2 hour days per week, Transportation is available and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

Head Start

(Tioga County) provides 3 and 4 year old children with comprehensive child development and family development services to ensure school readiness. Programs are offered at three centers in Tioga County, and include Owego, Newark Valley, and Waverly locations. Programs are 1/2 day center based and full day. Transportation and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

UPK Program

Funded by Binghamton City School District and Johnson City School district to offer 103 Binghamton three and four year old children and 67 Johnson City four year old children with Universal Pre Kindergarten programming in partnership with Head Start a full day programming. This program is offered Monday-Fridays in concert with the districts' calendar.

Summer Meal Program

This program offers nutritious meals to children up to age 18 in the surrounding community. This program runs through the summer months from June to August. We offer breakfast from 8:00-8:30 AM and lunch from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM.



Early Head Start

Early Head Start

(Broome County) Early Head Start offers a center based, full day early childhood program for families with children six weeks to three years of age. Services include programming in health, nutrition, early education, special services, family and community partnership. Transportation (as needed), and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply. The Early Head Start program operates year round at three locations in Binghamton and Johnson City, and serves families who live in Binghamton, Johnson City, and the Susquehanna Valley School District.

Early Head Start

(Tioga County) provides infants, toddlers, and their families with programming that enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development to ensure school readiness. FEN's full-day center-based program operates year round at the Owego location. Services include programming in health, nutrition, early education, special services, family and community partnership. Transportation (as needed) and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

Early Head Start Prenatal Program

The purpose of the Early Head Start Prenatal Program is to provide women and their families programming that enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development to ensure school readiness. The program assists pregnant women with access to comprehensive prenatal and post-partum care. The Socialization Specialist will help guide mothers through their pregnancy and prepare them for a successful, healthy birth of their infant. This process will include home visits which will:

- Provide information regarding fetal development, nutrition, labor, delivery, and breastfeeding.
- Ensure a smooth transition for babies by expanding parent support systems to include family, friends, and other community resources.



Housing & Community Services

Low-Income Housing

Family Enrichment Network owns three properties in Johnson City. Two properties are located on Roberts St. and a third property on St. Charles St. These properties offer low income housing and accept SECTION 8 vouchers.

Housing Connections

This newly constructed 19 unit permanent supportive housing unit provides safe quality housing with wrap-around supports for persons experiencing homelessness. This program is funded by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and New York State Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative.

Caring Homes Program

This program works to prevent homelessness through support and financial assistance for homeless families and those at risk of becoming homeless. Eligible client families may receive one time financial assistance for things such as security deposits, rent arrears and/or utility shut off notices. Clients work with our Housing Case Manager to create a plan for housing stability.

Community Habilitation

Community Habilitation is a waiver program funded by Medicaid and is available to children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The goal of Community Habilitation is to provide community integration and independent living skills. An individual in the program may receive anywhere from 4 to 30+ hours a week of the service - depending on their needs. Community habilitation is based on person centered planning, meaning that the individual decides what goals are important to work on and how the goals will be met.

Pre-Vocational Services

Pre-Vocational Services is a waiver program funded by Medicaid and is available to adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The individual works with a job specialist who assists them in implementing their individualized goals pertaining to community employment. The service setting takes places at various voluntary work opportunities within the community. The goal of this service is for the individual to gain employment skills that will assist them in obtaining paid community employment.



Special Education Services

Special Education Integrated Classrooms

SES Integrated Classrooms are available for preschoolers with identified disabilities at FEN's Cherry Street and Fayette Street location and at Binghamton's Horace Mann Elementary school. The Chenango County site has integrated classrooms that provide services at our Norwich site. These programs offer a quality early educational experience coupled with individualized instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy as identified by each child's individual educational plan.

Related Services

Related services includes speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are provided to identified children at all Family Enrichment Network sites, daycare settings, and at times, the home.

Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) services

SEIT services are offered to identified children who require the services of a special education teacher in their home, daycare setting, or FEN classroom. These services are currently available in Broome and Chenango Counties.

Evaluation Services

Psychological, Educational, Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy evaluations are provided by a multidisciplinary team to preschoolers at risk of developmental delays and are provided at the Johnson City and Norwich sites.

Therapy Services

If your child is eligible under New York State guidelines, he/she may receive speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and special education services. Eligibility is determined by the CPSE meeting at your child's school district, based on evaluation information.



285

CHILD CARE REFERRALS PROVIDED FOR PARENTS THROUGHOUT BROOME, CHENANGO AND TIOGA COUNTIES

2,638

CHILD CARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND 172 ONSITE VISITS. AN INCREASE WAS SEEN DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

793

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM WITH FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS. 79 PROVIDERS IN THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

270

CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH HEAD START IN BROOME COUNTY

51

CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH HEAD START IN TIOGA COUNTY

112

**96 INFANTS/TODDLERS/AND
12 PREGNANT WOMEN SERVED
THROUGH EARLY HEAD START IN
BROOME COUNTY**

29

**INFANTS AND TODDLERS
SERVED THROUGH EARLY HEAD
START IN TIOGA COUNTY**

203

**CHILDREN SERVED AT THE
COURTHOUSE CHILDREN'S
CENTER, 146 FAMILIES
SERVED AND 35 FAMILIES
USED THE CENTER FOR THE
FIRST TIME**

84

**PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN
SERVED THROUGH
INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL
PROGRAMMING; 27 IN
BROOME COUNTY, 6 UPK
AND 21 SERVED IN
CHENANGO COUNTY**

781

**EVALUATION SERVICES
PROVIDED; 598 IN BROOME
COUNTY AND 183 IN
CHENANGO COUNTY**

295

HOUSEHOLDS WERE
SCREENED FOR SNAP
BENEFITS AND 241
HOUSEHOLDS WERE
APPROVED FOR SNAP
BENEFITS

11

YOUTH SERVED THROUGH
THE SUMMER EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM

186

KINSHIP CHILDREN SAFELY
MAINTAINED IN THE
KINSHIP HOME, 81 KINSHIP
CAREGIVERS RECEIVED
CASE MANAGEMENT, 109
FAMILIES RECEIVED
ASSISTANCE WITH THE
NONPARENT CAREGIVER
GRANT

62

RE-ENTRY ASSESSMENTS
WERE COMPLETED AND
55 PARTICIPANTS WERE
ASSISTED THROUGH
RE-ENTRY SERVICES

50

RE-ENTRY INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED ONE-ON-ONE
ADVOCACY AND PEER
MENTORING, 30 INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED HOUSING
ASSISTANCE

2020-2021 at a glance

87

HOUSEHOLDS WERE ASSISTED WITH HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES. 34 RECEIVED RENT OR BACK RENT ASSISTANCE. 53 INDIVIDUALS WERE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19

49

PARTICIPANTS SERVED THROUGH OPWDD WAIVER SERVICES. 32 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED COMMUNITY HABILITATION AND 17 RECEIVED PRE-VOCATIONAL SERVICES

220

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

50

PART TIME EMPLOYEES

18

UNITS RENTED TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

3

LOW-INCCOME HOMES ARE FULLY RENTED.

Success Stories- CCR&R

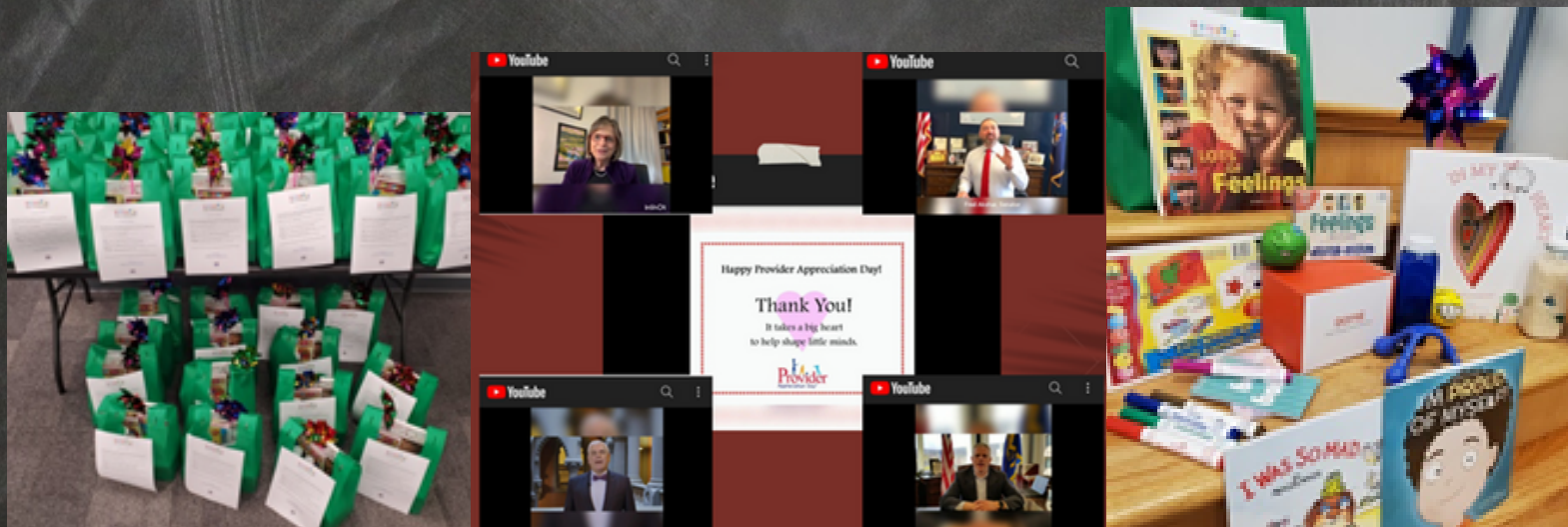
-CCR&R received a note from a family child care provider after delivering more supplies to programs, “I just wanted to send out a huge thank you! You guys have been amazing since the beginning of this daycare journey of mine! Thanks so much for the supplies this morning, you have no idea how much that really helps!”

-Through the pandemic, CCR&R staff have conducted community outreach and participated in community partner conference calls. Through this participation, the CCR&R was awarded funding from the Chenango United Way to assist child care providers with social emotional health in their programs. Funding was available to create “Calming centers” in child care programs – to create a safe space where children can go to practice calming skills. Supplies such as books, calming bottles, white noise machine, and calming toys were provided to child care programs. The child care programs who received the supplies were grateful to be able to create a calming space for children during the pandemic.

-The CCR&R Trainer was able to hold a virtual one-on-one training with a provider who needed the training for a licensing violation and Corrective Action Plan. The provider was so grateful we were able to help her in this way during the pandemic. The provider stated, “I appreciate all of the guidance that I have received from you.”

-A child care center was in need of CPR/First Aid training for their staff. The CCR&R trainer was able to send the approved training curriculum for the staff to study on their own and then go onsite to the program to conduct the skills observation in a one-on-one, socially distanced way to help the center meet this regulation requirement for staff. The center director was extremely grateful and complimented the trainer on the ease of the training for her staff.

-CCR&R created a “Thank you” video for National Provider Appreciation Day. With messages from state and local leaders, the child care community was publicly recognized as part of the essential workforce.



Success Stories- Family Support Services

Courthouse Children's Center

In February, two children and their guardian came to the center. It was not the guardian's first time leaving children in the center but it was the children's first time. At first, they were scared and did not want to leave their guardian's side. But once they saw all the toys, they were more than happy to stay. One of the center rules is that we need to pick up our toys before we move on to new ones so that everyone stays safe since the center is small. One of the children was unhappy about being asked to pick up the LEGOS before she played with the dollhouse so the assistant teacher turned cleaning up into a little game to make it more fun for the child. The child was caught up in the game and wanted to continue picking up and started to clean up her brother's toys even though he was still playing with them. Once he saw how fun it was, he joined in and started to clean up with his sister! When their guardian arrived back, and saw the children cleaning up, she was so surprised and told the staff that the children never help clean up at home.

Kinship

The Kinship Advocate (KA) worked with a kinship aunt who was informed by DSS that her Non Parent Caregiver (NPC) grant would be stopping because her nephew's name was not on his birth certificate. The child is 5 years old and the mother never added his name to the birth certificate. As no paternity had been established, his father had no legal right to add the child's name. The kinship aunt tried to get the birth mother to fill out the form to add the child's name but the mom would not follow through. The mother lives in a different state, making it even more difficult for the kinship aunt to connect with her. The KA called Vital Statistics to explain the case and as the aunt has sole custody, she was able to add the child's name to the birth certificate. She just needed to fill out the name change paperwork and submit her custody paperwork to the Vital Statistics office. The KA also spoke with the local department of social services to confirm that the kinship aunt was completing the necessary steps and the NPC case remained open.

The Kinship Counselor reported that in June 2020 there were two significant traumatic events with kinship children. One was seriously bullied on the iPad she used for remote schoolwork and was so distraught that she felt hopeless and wondered if she really wanted to keep living. Another child found out that her mom had relapsed after spending a year in rehab and six months clean. This was after the girl and her mom had re-established their relationship and the girl was finally beginning to trust her mom again. The girl was devastated. The kinship counselor worked with these children and their caregivers and the children have been stabilized.

The Kinship Counselor continues to reach out to families during the COVID-19 stay-at-home quarantine. Most children, as well as the counselor, are getting more comfortable with the Zoom format. Two families have not participated, by choice.; children are too young or have special needs that do not lend themselves to a successful Zoom experience. These children are doing well, the caregivers have stated. One positive has been that caregivers have been more willing to be involved in the actual session activities. Typically, many have wanted counseling for the kids, but not to be involved as they prefer to take that hour as a "break."

Success Stories- Family Support Services

NOEP

The NOEP Coordinator (NC) received a call from a teen who was very frustrated trying to apply for SNAP benefits online. The applicant was 9 months pregnant and was referred to the NC by a local agency. She stated that she had tried to apply on-line three times. The NC called the SNAP supervisor to check if an application has been submitted. The SNAP supervisor said that an application had come in but it was completely blank. The NC contacted the teen let her know then completed a new application over the phone with the teen. The NC gave the young woman a list of needed documents for her application, scheduled her SNAP phone interview and a time to meet to get the signatures on the application, then submitted the completed pack to DSS the same day! The NC was notified that the teen was approved and her case was opened for expedited SNAP (getting SNAP within 5 days). This was very helpful for the teen as two days after getting approved she had her baby!

During the pandemic the NC also collaborated with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. For a number of months they were delivering 600 emergency food boxes, twice a month to the Endwell United Methodist Church. The boxes were sorted to pantries throughout all of Broome County. The NC dropped off 600 flyers to be put in the boxes to inform families in Broome County that NOEP was still up and running during the pandemic and available to help with the SNAP prescreen and application process.

Walk With Me

Ms. H. came to us after being discharged from the Broome County jail. She said she sought services from another agency and was denied and needed help from Walk with Me. When she called Walk With Me she was homeless and living in a hotel. In her own words she stated that "WWM helped me find stable housing after coming home from jail. They gave me personal care items, bus passes, a cell phone and helped me to get to and from all my appointments. They helped me with counseling/advocacy and helped me navigate different systems so that I could get back on my feet. Incarceration takes so much from you that when you get out and want to do better, it's difficult. I am so grateful for all the assistance this program has given me and don't know where I would be if it wasn't for the help they gave me!"

Brian P. was in crisis; homeless, no food, and only the clothes on his back when the Walk With Me (WWM) specialist enrolled him in the program. WWM helped him obtain emergency shelter and SNAP through DSS. The program also provided him with transportation, a bus pass, emergency food boxes, clothing and laundry tokens. The WWM specialists assisted Brian in finding an apartment and provided household goods and furniture for the apartment. Brian went from hopeless to hopeful and in a new and safe environment. Without the assistance of the WWM program it is likely that he would have continued to be homeless, without the supportive services he needed.



Success Stories-Head Start & Early Head Start

Broome EHS

A two-and-a-half-year-old girl joined our class at the beginning of the year. She and her family are English Language Learners (ELL). When it came time for Parent Teacher Conferences the teacher wanted to be sure the information was being shared accurately to the family about the child's progress. After reaching out, the center director helped the teachers by finding someone within the agency who spoke the family's language. The assistance received from the acting translator made it possible for the family to understand the teacher's information in their language. The translator was able to inform the teachers that the child enjoys school and loves almost every part of the day, except for rest time. From their conversation, the teachers were also able to understand the child's likes, dislikes and why she cries some days. We were grateful for translator because we have a better understanding of this child and what changes need to be made in order for her to continue improving her skills.

We were able to reach some of our families with personal needs for the child's learning experience. We had one parent ask for more color recognition practice for their two and a half yearold son. We were able to send him a color matching activity home that related to our author study Jan Brett based on the story *The Mitten*. After receiving the activity Mom was able to send us a picture of her son doing the activity. This child is now able to identify red and we are working to send more color recognition activities home each month.

Broome Head Start

All the children in the classroom are reminding their classmates to keep their mask on and up over their noses. One 4-year-old boy always reminds his friends if they are too close to him during play experiences in and out of the classroom, including the gym. He always says, "you need to move over you are in my stretched-out arm space." He reminds his friends that "we need to stay apart to stay safe, but we are still friends." He is very aware of his surroundings and remembers the safety rules we have out in to place in the classroom due to COVID-19.

One of our virtual families is an English Language Learning (ELL) family. At the beginning of the year, we would call, and it would be difficult for us to fully understand each other. We then switched to emails but found that the communication was brief each week. The father said that he was trying to work with him on his school readiness. He shared with us that he liked all the activity packets that we would drop off for his child to work on since his child did not seem to care much for the virtual aspect of the virtual learning. Since receiving the Microsoft Surface Tablet we set up a Zoom video call with him where we were able to see and talk to not only the father and son, but all the siblings as well. This was nice because one of the siblings had been in our classroom in a previous year. It was also much easier to understand each other. We used flashcards to check on where he was at with colors, numbers, shapes, and letters to gain documentation for our Teaching Strategy checkpoints as well as Binghamton assessments. At the end of the call the father asked if we could do this every week to work with the child. He said that he paid more attention to us than when he tries to work with him and feels that this is a good thing. Thanks to technology we will be able to work with this virtual family and try to help keep the child on track for when he is able to join in person.

Success Stories-Head Start & Early Head Start

Tioga EHS

The Family Advocate is working with a family whose child is having a difficult time at home and in program with behaviors. His grandmother reached out to the Advocate for some guidance and resources on how to help. The Advocate has recently completed the Positive Solutions for Families parenting series and found an activity that would be beneficial to the family as well as the teachers in this child's classroom. The Advocate shared the activity and resources with grandma by sending the information home through the classroom. Then the Advocate followed up with a phone call to grandma to explain what she had sent home. Grandma was looking forward to trying a new approach with her grandson. The Advocate and grandmother continue to work together along with the Teachers and the Developmental Specialist to find new ways to help her grandson.

A child was in need of evaluations due to academic delays and challenging behavior. The school district had a very difficult time connecting with the guardian to complete signed consents. Although the guardian stressed to the Family Advocate that she was desperate for evaluations, she was not communicating successfully with her district. The Family Advocate assisted the guardian in completing the necessary paperwork. Consents were properly completed and the district expressed gratitude for the partnership with FEN.

Tioga Head Start

In December, the Newark Valley Parent Engagement Activity was a "Spectacular Holiday Event." With the COVID-19 restrictions our event was held outside on our playground. Family members wore masks and were distanced from each other as they watched the lighting of our Christmas tree and listen to their children sing Christmas carols. The children handed them gifts that they had made. All the parents took pictures and posted on our Facebook page about what a wonderful time they had. The children were overly excited to see their families at our site. Despite many obstacles a family faced in securing services for their child due to the pandemic, a concerted effort by the teacher and Developmental Specialist resulted in the child being approved for multiple therapies by her school district's CPSE. The Developmental Specialist oversaw efforts to obtain needed consents and paperwork for the school district while the teacher helped the family complete evaluations with the Racker Center via Zoom.

Summer Food Services Program

The Summer Food Services Program was held as a grab and go model for the 2020 program year. Children were able to come to the Cherry Street building and receive a breakfast in the morning and lunch in the afternoon, and take it with them to support them in receiving healthy meals. Over the course of the summer, more than 1200 child meals were served to children in our Grab and Go program. Over the course of the summer, more than 1200 child meals were served to children in our Grab and Go program.



Success Stories-Housing & Community Services

ESG

In October 2020, a single mother and her 5 children (ranging in ages from 5-15) were faced with a major bed bug issue in their apartment, resulting in her having to dispose of and replace several beds, bedding, furniture and other belongings. She was receiving DSS assistance with part of her rent, but due to her limited income, she was unable to pay her portion. Once she received a late rent notice from her landlord, she reached out to 2-1-1 for financial assistance. The Caring Homes Program was able to provide the financial support necessary to help cover the rent arrears for her apartment. Through case management with the Caring Homes housing case manager, she has stayed the course and has remained current on her rent.

Housing Connections

Housing Connections staff has worked closely with tenants to make sure they are receiving the assistance benefits they are eligible for. One tenant was finding it difficult to have enough in his budget for food. During the first few weeks he lived at Housing Connections, he was left waiting for checks to be mailed to him and relied heavily on food pantries and donations. The Life Skills Instructor and Case Manager referred him to the NOEP Coordinator, who made a site visit with the client and established a SNAP case in his name and he started receiving his SNAP benefits very quickly.

A tenant at Housing Connections with young children was looking for safe, nearby activities to do together as a family. Housing Connections support staff reached out to VINES (a local organization committed to sustainable food systems), which oversees two nearby community gardens. After explaining about Housing Connections, VINES agreed to donate three garden plots at the Northside/Salvation Army Community Garden to tenants and their families. The Case Manager and Life Skills Instructor introduced the tenant to the garden coordinator and she and her children have already started planting and growing their own vegetables.

Community Habilitation

Like most people during the COVID-19 lockdown, the clients we serve through OPWDD (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities) were equally affected. The restrictions that were in place left Robert with less opportunities for physical activity. Once restriction were loosened Robert was offered an opportunity to go to the YMCA in Johnson City, Monday through Friday, every day at 7:00 am. Robert is not a morning person. During COVID, he would go to bed at 3:00am and sleep until noon. If Robert acted on the opportunity this would mean that he would have to go to bed earlier and set an alarm for 5:00am so that he was up and ready to go. Robert was up for the challenge and has been successful in getting up each and every morning to meet his community habilitation provider to go to the gym. He used the treadmill and recumbent bike regularly and has begun to see a change in his weight and he is making better food choices.



Success Stories-Special Education Services

Horace Mann

This story includes all of the children. I hear words of encouragement and praise coming from one child to another on a daily basis. They support each other, if someone is having a difficult time with something, before Miss Chris or I can help, there typically is at least one other child helping the child in need, sometimes to the point that we need to remind them to social distance. For example, when Natalia was first learning to ride a trike, I heard Major say to her "You can do it." then "You're doing great." On Zayianna's first day of school, when she was a little nervous about an activity Ava looked her in the eye and said "Don't worry Miss Sarah is a little crazy but it's ok."

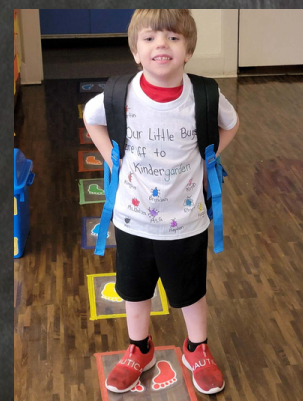
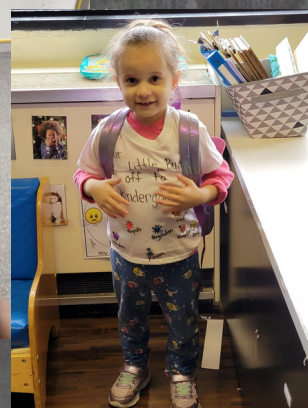
-Serenity came to school writing her name but not recognizing the letters of her name. Serenity now identifies all the letters in both cases, and makes letter sound matches. Her phonological awareness is amazing, as she has mastered most of the skills. Serenity counted to 14 in November and now counts to 100.

Classroom B39

Jaxon (AM). When he first joined the classroom he was nonverbal and a safety concern. He would self harm. Now, he actively talks. He uses a variety of words and signs. He strings words together in short sentences. He no longer self harms. He usually actively participates in activities too.

-Rizwan began the year with very little language. He did not yet respond to his name, make eye contact, attend to circle, or acknowledge the other children or adults around him. Rizwan has made excellent progress in his social emotional skills this year. Rizwan is responding to his name, and able to follow a one step directive. Rizwan is able to follow classroom routine and joins and participates in all small and large group activities. He greets adults by name and is able to identify and point out all of his peers. Rizwan has been an amazing success story this year!

-Martin has been with us for only a few short months. He had never been in a school setting. Martin has never been anywhere except under the care of his mother and father. Martin would transition into the classroom very upset when he began with us. He would scream and cry and try to escape the classroom. Martin is now transitioning to school as happy as can be, saying good bye to his mom and greeting us with a smile. He has joined right into our classroom routine and is attending both small and large group activities.



Program Development

Program Development consists of research, partnerships, and development of new programs to address identified gaps in services in our service area. Programs are developed based on identified community needs and are in line with Family Enrichment Network's mission and vision to help children, families, and adults have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

Grant Research and Writing consists of research to identify a variety of funding sources available to enhance and sustain, to the extent possible, existing projects and fund new programs that have been created through the program development process. Grants are also submitted to support identified agency needs. Once funding sources are identified, proposals are written to secure funding. Currently, Family Enrichment Network receives funding from local, state, and national foundations and government agencies.

Resource Development

Family Enrichment Network has implemented a Resource Development and Sustainability Plan to ensure the agency has sufficient program and non-program revenue to meet agency needs. All of the components of this plan collectively allow for progressive resource development. The plan identifies a number of diverse fund development activities including: grant writing, fundraising, direct mail, and fee for service activities.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

- Helen Keller

Annual Special Events



In 2020, 349 children and 124 families were adopted because of the generous support of local individuals and businesses looking to help out. Before we knew it, the Agency was filled with clothing, toys, food and necessities ready to be delivered to our families by our hard working staff.

We are gearing up for this year's program and always welcome new businesses and individuals to join us in this rewarding effort.



In 2020, Bates Troy cleaned 1,387 donated coats which represents a \$19,750 value (retail). In addition the Knights of Columbus Council 206 donated 96 brand new coats. All of the coats were given out to community families in need. We are very grateful to have such a generous and supportive community.

We look forward to another successful event this fall!

Our Sites

**24 Cherry Street
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**Carlisle (BHA)
150 Moeller Street
Binghamton (607) 238-7119**

**Chenango County Offices
21 South Broad Street
Norwich (607) 373-3555**

**Children's Courthouse Center
44 Hawley Street
Binghamton (607) 240-5818**

**Fayette Street
29 Fayette Street Binghamton (607) 723-8313**

**Horace Mann School
30 College Street
Binghamton (607) 762-6026**

**Saratoga (BHA)
35 Felters Road, Bldg. 16
Binghamton (607) 237-0676**

**Woodrow Wilson School
287 Prospect Street
Binghamton (607) 797-2110**

**Tioga County
1277 Taylor Road
Owego (607) 687-6721**

**Waverly
12 Cooper Street
Waverly (607) 565-7149**

**Newark Valley
117 Whig Street
Newark Valley (607) 354-3102**

**29 Virgil Street
Binghamton (607) 723-8313**

**11 Roberts Street
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**51 Roberts Street
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**11 Crocker Ave
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**241 St. Charles Street
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**



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