



COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING COUNCIL  
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, INC.



## HEAD START PROGRAM COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2015

Approved by Policy Council on January 12, 2016  
Approved by the CAPC Board on February 11, 2016



## Table of Contents

	Page
<b>I. General Area Description- Demographics</b>	
A. Geography	5
B. Population Trends	6
C. Industry and Commerce	7
D. Climate	8
E. History of Jefferson County	9
F. Head Start Locations	10
G. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Culture and Languages	11
H. Economic Activity and Poverty	12
<b>II. Strengths and Needs of Head Start Eligible children and Families and Resources to Meet Them</b>	
A. Employment	14
B. Child Care / Preschool	15
C. Early Childhood Resources	16
D. Transportation	17
E. Housing	17
F. Health	18
G. Dental	20
H. Nutrition	21
I. Maternal Health	22
J. Mental Health	23
K. Adult Education	24
L. Domestic Violence	24
M. Child Abuse	25
N. Recreation	25
O. Substance Abuse	26
P. Literacy	26
Q. Parenting Education	26
R. Community Resources	28
<b>III. Services for Children with Disabilities</b>	29
<b>IV. Trends in Head Start</b>	
A. Family Composition	33
B. Classrooms	33
C. Recruitment	33

<b>V. Unmet Needs for Head Start</b>	
A. Head Start Eligible Children	35
B. Needs Related to Option and Location	36
C. Future Options for Head Start	36
D. Surveys	39
<b>VI. Summary of Findings</b>	
A. Community Strengths	42
B. Community Needs and Concerns	42
C. Head Start Strengths	42
D. Head Start Needs and Concerns	43
E. Future goals and Strategies	43
<b>VII. The Community Assessment Process</b>	44
<b>VIII. Sources</b>	44

## I. General Area Description- Demographics

### A. Geography

Jefferson County is located in the northern tier of New York State at the juncture of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The County borders Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River on the west and north, respectively. To the northeast is St. Lawrence County; to the east is Lewis County and to the south is Oswego County. Jefferson County is also located directly south of the Province of Ontario, Canada. The largest nearby U.S. population center is Syracuse, 70 miles to the south. Jefferson County spans an area of roughly 1293 square miles making it the 9<sup>th</sup> largest county in the state. The county is located directly south of the Province of Ontario, Canada. Therefore it is situated along the international border with Canada and facilitates traffic between the two nations across the St. Lawrence River via the Thousand Islands Bridge. Jefferson County's physical geography carves the County into 5 natural regions, each with its own unique character and offerings.

**Indian Lakes Region:** a series of small narrow lakes oriented with the St. Lawrence River Valley blanket the northeastern portion of the county.

**Black River Valley:** cutting east to west through the county, the Black River Valley divides Jefferson County in half. The Black River guided early settlement in the region and flows through the County's most populated areas today.

**Tug Hill Plateau:** Rising out of the valley is the Tug Hill Plateau, which is a large physiographic region that crosses sections of Lewis, Oneida and Oswego Counties.

**Lake Ontario Lowlands:** down off the Tug Hill along the western border of the County is the Lake Ontario Lowlands Region. This region is comprised of large sand dunes, expansive backwater areas and many bays along the lakeshore with gently rolling fields inland.

**Thousand Islands Region:** the northern border of the County is part of the Thousands Islands Region and St. Lawrence Seaway. This section along the St. Lawrence River is dotted with islands and serves as the gateway from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean for water-going vessels.

There are fifteen state parks in Jefferson County, many which offer scenic views of Lake Ontario or the Thousand Islands. In fact, two are only accessible by boat.

There are nine state forests in Jefferson County comprising of 15,988 acres and seventeen County forest parcels totaling 5,490 acres. The County also contains ten wildlife management areas that provide an additional 17,530 acres of open land for outdoor recreation.

**Fort Drum** is located nine miles east of Watertown, home to more than 31,000 soldiers, family members and civilian employees of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and its supporting tenants. Fort Drum is the largest Army installation in the Northeast.

Fort Drum occupies 107,265 acres in Jefferson County and stretches across the Towns of LeRay, Philadelphia, Antwerp, and Wilna.

According to the 2014 Fort Drum Impact Statement, there were a total of 21,068 military (17,269) and civilian (3,799) personnel on Fort Drum. This number is lower than the year prior due to the loss of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team in August 2014. Fort Drum is the largest single-site employer in Jefferson County and in Upstate New York. During fiscal year 2014, the Fort Drum military and civilian (including tenants and contractors) payroll was \$1.3 billion, which was slightly lower than the year prior.

Fort Drum is a major training center for reserve component forces, and units of the New York Army National Guard rank among the post's most frequent customers. These units regularly come to Fort Drum for weekend inactive duty training and annual training during the year. Fort Drum's ranges, training areas and facilities are essential to the New York Army National Guard to meet readiness objectives and federal training requirements. In total, the base sees almost 80,000 troops for training annually.

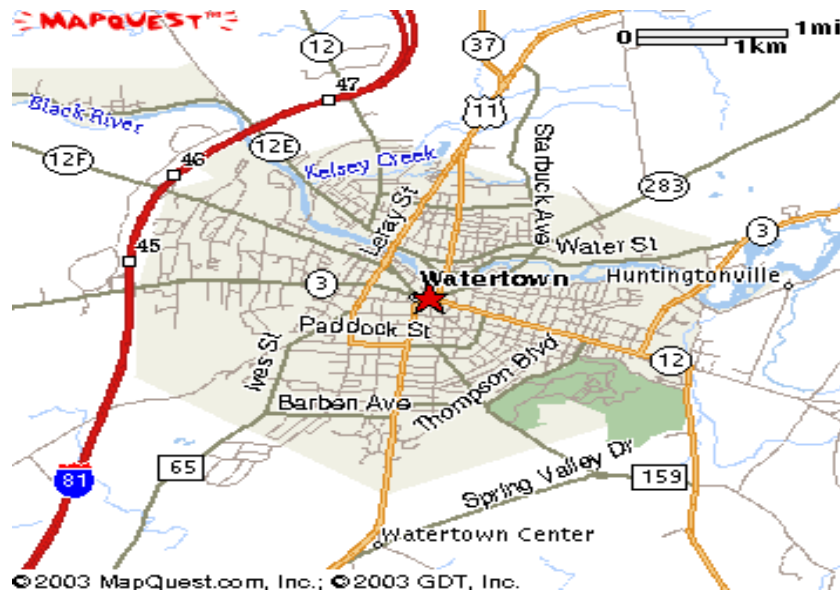
## **B. Population Trends**

The estimated total population for the County, according to the 2014 American Community Survey 5 year estimate, is 119,103 people. The City of Watertown has a population of 27,023. The largest town is the Town of LeRay with a population of 21,782 people. The relatively large population of LeRay is attributed to the military presence of Fort Drum. By comparison, the town with the smallest population is the Town of Worth, with a total of 231 residents.

There was an estimated county population increase from 111,738 in 2000 to 116,229 (+4%) in 2010.

Between 2000 and 2010, the Town of Theresa had the greatest population increase, with a 20.3% increase while the Town of Cape Vincent had the greatest population decrease, with a 17% drop in total population.

The population of the county is distributed among 22 towns, 20 incorporated villages, and one city. The City of Watertown is centrally located within the county, with no part over 28 miles away. Watertown is the major population, commercial, and industrial center of the county. Its population has risen from 26,705 in 2000 to 27,023 (+1.2%) in 2010. Carthage is the only other village in the county with a dense population of 3747 in 2010. All other villages are fairly small with fewer people per square mile. Major U.S. and Canadian cities, such as Buffalo, Albany, Scranton, Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa are located within a 250-mile radius of Watertown.



### C. Industry and Commerce

Jefferson County is the home to the Watertown International Airport, which is located in the Town of Hounsfield and currently offers two round trips daily (except on Sunday) to Philadelphia, PA.

The largest industry in Jefferson County is government, employing almost 40% of the workforce. That is largely due to the presence of Fort Drum and the two state prisons in the County.

Fort Drum's positive direct economic impact on its surrounding community exceeded \$1.4 billion for Fiscal Year 2012.

According to the 2007 USDA Agriculture Census, Jefferson County had 230 dairy farms.

The average dairy farm in Jefferson County consists of approximately 350 acres, but that amount is trending upward in the primary dairy belt of the County, the Towns of Ellisburg, Adams, Henderson, Rodman, Hounsfield, Rutland, and Champion.

Our dairy farms range in size from 10 to 2,000 animals. The average number of cows on a dairy farm is 115.

In 2008, Jefferson County's dairy farms produced 75,375,000 gallons of milk. A gallon of milk weighs approximately eight pounds, so that means Jefferson County produced 603,000,000 pounds of milk. Jefferson County ranks 4th in New York State in milk production.

While 16 % of all employment in Jefferson County is related to retail trade, 11 % of employment in New York State is in retail trade occupations.

Major transportation throughout the County is North-South via Interstate Route 81 and U.S. Highway 11. Route 81 is the major north-south highway of Central New York and ends at the Thousand Islands International Bridge in Jefferson County. Route 11 parallels Interstate 81 North to Watertown, and then branches in a northeasterly direction towards St. Lawrence County. State highways and secondary roads compose the rest of the transportation network that interconnects the populated areas of the county. The Watertown International Airport serves small private and commercial aircraft. Passenger transportation by bus is available, but there is no access to rail passenger transportation. Jefferson County is primarily a rural area with most of its land devoted to agricultural use. The impact of the rural nature of the county on transportation and service access; physician recruitment and provider distribution; and, service coordination and quality cannot be overstated. The terrain and severe winter conditions that lasts four to five months per year further exacerbate transportation and service access challenges. Therefore, this is a key consideration when planning and developing agency programs to build on strengths of the community and to meet the needs where gaps exist.

The military expansion brings much diversity and better education to the area along with an increase in the retail, service, and hospitality sectors of employment.

#### **D. Climate**

Jefferson County's climate is characterized as humid-continental. Winters are long and relatively cold; spring is cool and short; summers are warm and moderate, autumn is also warm, but usually short. The climate is influenced by the proximity of Lake Ontario, particularly during winter. The relatively warm lake water provides moisture to air masses moving across from the west, which often results in "lake effect" snowfalls primarily in the southern half of the county. Average annual snowfall is 93 inches in Watertown, but



approaches 200 inches in the snow-belt areas in the southern section of the County. The average total annual precipitation is 38 inches. Lake Ontario has a moderating effect on near shore temperatures, reducing the extremes of cold in winter and heat in summer. On average, there are 161 sunny days per year in Jefferson County. The July high is around 80 degrees. The January low is typically around 10 degrees. The County's comfort index, which is based on humidity during the hot months, is a 58 out of 100, where higher is more comfortable. The US average on the comfort index is 44.

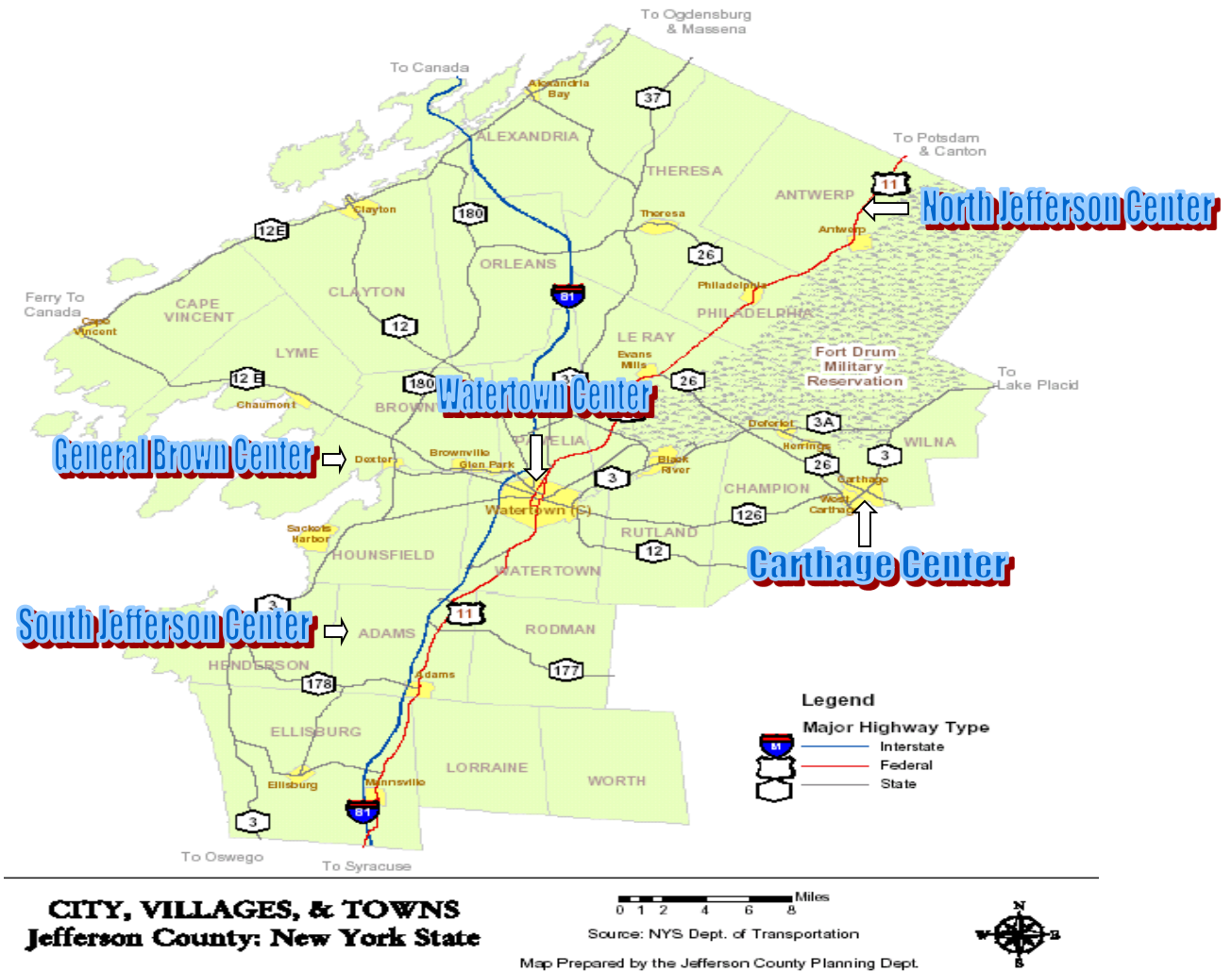
## **E. History of Jefferson County**

The vast wilderness of Jefferson County was originally inhabited by the Oneida Indian Nation which thrived on the abundant natural resources. Though French colonial influences are evident, settlement and development in the County did not occur until after the American Revolution, when Alexander Macomb acquired title to this region from the Oneidas. "Macomb's Purchase" was soon subdivided into large tracts and other holdings which stimulated the settlement of the region.

Jefferson County, created in 1805 from Oneida County, was named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson. Settlement started as early as 1794. The economy has always been heavily supported by agriculture—particularly dairy farming—and by some of the oldest paper mills in the state.

Attracted by the abundant waterpower afforded by the Black River, industrially minded pioneers from New England settled in the center of the County and established a manufacturing and trading center. During its early history, Jefferson County was world famous for its manufacturing tradition: cotton and woolen yarns, carriages, sewing machines, water pumps, oil lamps, portable steam engines, railroad brakes, plows, emery grinders, paper machinery, cylinder printing presses, high pressure hydraulic pumps, and turbine starting systems. The City of Watertown was established as the County seat. Today, the County features numerous historic and tourist attractions, including the Thousand Islands Region and Sackets Harbor, site of two battles during the War of 1812. Fort Drum has been used as a military training site since 1908 when it was referred to as Pine Camp; the Army's presence in the North Country may be traced back to the early 1800's. On Feb. 13, 1985, the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) was officially reactivated at Fort Drum, and has been one of the most deployed units in the U.S. Army. The 10th was the first division of any kind formed by the Army since 1975 and the first based in the Northeast since World War II. The 10th Mountain Division (LI) was designed to meet a wide range of worldwide infantry-intensive contingency missions. Equipment design was oriented toward reduced size and weight for reasons of both strategic and tactical mobility.

## F. Head Start Locations



The Home-Based Option serves all children living outside the designated busing areas in the county, with the exception of the Belleville –Henderson and Alexandria School District.

## G. Racial and Ethnic Composition, Culture and Languages

### Ethnicity/Language of Jefferson County Head Start Children, 1999 - 2015:

Source: Head Start PIR 1999-2015 and US Census Bureau Quick Facts 2014

Head Start Children Ethnicity %	1999	2002	2006	2009	2011	2012	2015	Jeff.Co.2014 Population Ethnicity %
Hispanic or Latino Origin				9.8	5	7	12.3	7.3
Non-Hispanic /Non-Latino				90.2	95	93	87.7	92.7
American Indian/Alaskan Native	< 1	.5	0	1	<1	0	<1	<1
Asian/Pacific	1	0	0	1	2	<1	<1	1.7
Black	13	5	4.6	7.1	9	9	6	6.6
White	82	88	79	74.8	67	72	69.5	87.9
Bi or Multi-Racial			7	11.7	17	17	22.8	2.8
Other/ Unspecified			1.2		4	<1	<1	<1
Primary Language %	1999	2002	2006	2009	2011	2012	2015	Jeff.Co.2014 Population Ethnicity %
English	99	98	99	98.7	97	98	97.5	92.9
Spanish	1%	2	1	1	1	<1	2	3.3
Other					2	<1	<1	3.8

- The increase in our Spanish and Asian population, due to the military and business expansion, has presented some language barriers for the non-English speaking families within school and the community. We are finding that most families have a bi-lingual parent. During times of deployment this can result in the non-English speaking parent being left at home to communicate with school and the community. We serve approximately 25-30 military families per year.
- The percentage of Hispanic children in our program has increased by 57% since 2012. A larger percentage of African American and Hispanic children are located in the city of Watertown, the village of Carthage and in the southern portion of the Indian River School District. These are the areas most populated by military families.

## H. Economic Activity and Poverty

### Unemployment Rate

Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics

#### Jefferson County

Rate:	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Jan 2014	Jan 2015
Unemployment Rate %	8.1	7.1	6.8	7.5	10.2	10.9	11.6	11.9	11.5	9.7	8.7

#### New York State

Rate:	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Jan 2014	Jan 2015
Unemployment Rate %	5.7	5.1	5	5.5	7.8	9.6	9	9.2	9.1	7.4	6.5

- The economy in Jefferson County is rebounding following the economic downturn of 2009 and the unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in 6 years.

### Jefferson County Poverty Profile

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013 Data Release, Dec. 2014.

	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Population	114,264	117,711	117,944	120,262	118,073
# of individuals in poverty	18,203	17,216	16,837	17,650	17,772
% of individuals in poverty	16.6	15.2	14.7	15.8	15.7
# of children in poverty	5,878	5,955	6,366	6,743	6,593
% of children in poverty	21.6	21.3	22.6	23.1	22.6
% senior citizens in poverty	9.2	11.1	9.9	8	7.09

	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013
New York State Poverty Rate %	14.2	13.8	13.9	16	16
US Poverty Rate %	13.3	13.2	13.6	16	15.8
Jefferson County Poverty %	16.6	15.2	14.7	15.8	15.7

The rate of poverty is slightly above the NYS and the nation's average. The general rate of children in poverty for Jefferson County has been between 21-23% between 2008 and 2013. In relation to other areas of the state, Jefferson County has a high number of children considered to be in poverty. This may result from the lack of industry and other higher paying jobs in the area. Many industries have closed or downsized within the past 15 years, making it very difficult for families to seek middle-class employment without a higher education.

- Areas of higher poverty are located in the city of Watertown, village of Carthage, and the southern (Mannsville and Lorraine) and northern ends of the county (Antwerp, Theresa, Philadelphia).
- Jefferson County's employment base is primarily made up of local, county, and state government, health, education, and service industry jobs.

The development of Welfare Reform several years ago has resulted in decreased numbers of families receiving TANF cash services. 2.8% of the families in Jefferson County receive TANF/SSI Cash Assistance. However we find that the parents have to work one or two part-time jobs in order to make ends meet. Families do receive some benefits including: food stamps, HEAP, insurance, and childcare subsidy. Parents in our program are largely considered to be "under-employed" or the "working poor".

## **II. Strengths and Needs of Head Start Eligible Children and Families and Resources to Meet Them**

### **A. Employment**

#### **Head Start Parents Employment, 2002 – 2015.**

Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, 2002-2015

<b>Employment Status of Head of Household:</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Employed Full Time/ Part Time/Seasonally	72%	77%	78%	80.1%	78.4%	70%	68%	62%	66%
Unemployed	28%	23%	22%	19.9%	21.6%	30%	32%	38%	34%

- The rate of employed parents has drastically decreased from 2008. Many parents are supported by other sources of income to include; partners, child support, parents, etc. They find it difficult to work part-time jobs and find part-time childcare, especially during non-traditional hours.
- Jefferson County's major employers include the government, hospitals, schools and the service industry. In addition, "Convergys", a call center and "Car Freshener" offer regular and stable employment opportunities to parents without a higher education.
- Technical training and continuing college education are available for adults in many different areas. There are few opportunities for adults to enhance their education and obtain a higher paying job unless they work and attend college at the same time.

## B. Child Care /Preschool

### Utilization Rate of Day Care Centers in Jefferson County, 2004 - 2015

Source: JLCP Child Care Community Needs Assessment, 2015

<b>Licensed Centers:9 (incl. 2 Head Start classrooms -34 children)</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2015</b>
Infant Slots	90%	95%	87% (59)	95.1% 82 slots	79% 62 slots
Toddler Slots	90%	94%	95% (108)	104.8% 124 slots	116.7% 102 slots
Preschool Slots	98%	91%	92% (371)	88.5% 417 slots	96.9% 384 slots
School Age Slots	85%	100%	56%	83.3% 56 slots	23.8% 42 slots
Total Slots	94%	93%	87%	88.2% 679 slots	93.2% 590 slots

- There are 89 less day care center slots (-8.55%) available than in 2012 and the overall utilization rate has increased by 5%. There are 20 less infant, 22 toddler, 33 preschool, and 14 school age slots available compared to 2012.

### Utilization Rate of Family Child Care Facilities in Jefferson County, 2004 - 2015

Source: JLCP Child Care Community Needs Assessment 2015

<b>Registered Homes: 63</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2015</b>
Infant Slots	83%	79%	94% (162)	65.2% 152 slots	53.2% 126 slots
Preschool Slots	62%	79%	90%		
School Age Slots	60%	79%	96%		
Ages 2-12				85.5% 447 slots	72.2 % 378 slots
Total Slots	67%	79%	92%	79.2% 599 slots	67.5% 504 slots

- There are 95 less Family Day Care slots (-15.9%) available than in 2012 and the overall utilization rate has decreased as well by 11.7%. There are 26 less slots for infants and 69 less slots available for ages 2-12. This may be a result of having 13 less FDC's than in 2012.

## Utilization Rate of Group Family Child Care Facilities in Jefferson County, 2004 - 2015

Source: JLCP Child Care Community Needs Assessment, 2015

<b>Registered Homes: 26</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2015</b>
Infant Slots	79%	74%	97% (58)	59.8% 124 slots	42.3% 104 slots
Preschool Slots	72%	74%	98%		
School Age Slots	71%	74%	100%		
Ages 2-12				77% 362 slots	69.2% 312 slots
Total Slots	73%	74%	98%	72.6% 486 slots	62.3% 416 slots

- There are 70 less slots (-14.4%) available in GFDC than in 2012 and the utilization rate has decreased as well by 10%. There are 5 less GFDC's than in 2012.
- There are a total of 9 licensed Day Care Centers, 63 registered Family Day Care Centers, 26 licensed Group Family Day Care Centers, and 18 registered School Aged Child Care sites in the county, not including the 5 licensed Head Start sites.
- Many children are cared for in legally exempt childcare settings. There are 39 legally exempt providers registered in Jefferson County.
- There has been a significant decrease in the number of providers within the past 3 years.
- There are 6 other private preschools in Jefferson County that serve children not included in Head Start, UPK, or Day Care
- There are 379 children (6 weeks-13 years) receiving subsidized child care within the county. Subsidy is only paid to Registered, Licensed, and Enrolled Legally-Exempt providers. Parents employing underground or informal providers cannot access subsidies.
- According to Jefferson-Lewis Childcare Project's Child Care Needs Assessment 2015, there is a lack of regulated high-quality care for non-traditional hours (outside the hours of 6am-6 pm)

### C. Early Childhood Resources

- 9 Licensed Day Care Centers
- 5 Licensed Head Start Centers
- 63 Family Day Care Homes throughout the county
- 26 Group Family Day Care Homes throughout the county



- 9 Districts providing Universal Pre-K
- 18 School Age Programs (throughout the county)
- 6 Private Preschools
- Jefferson Rehabilitation Center
- Benchmark Family Services

Universal Pre-kindergarten - There are 13 school districts located in Jefferson County. Two districts that cross county lines are primarily a part of St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties. Nine of the remaining eleven districts operate Universal Pre-K Programs. All programs are at capacity with slight to moderate waiting lists. The county has 568 UPK slots available to 4 year olds throughout the county. Community Action contracts and operates the Indian River and part of the Watertown Pre-K programs which includes 209 children. We also collaborate with the WCSD to operate a HS/UPK classroom for 18 children at the Watertown Head Start site.

#### D. Transportation

- There is limited public transportation in Jefferson County. Public buses are available in the city of Watertown with limited stops and hours of operation. Parents who work during non-traditional hours rely on others or the expense of a cab to travel to and from work. Many rural families own or have access to a car as there is no other means of traveling to work, physician, grocery, etc. According to the parent survey, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a vehicle with the price of insurance, fuel and upkeep.
- Taxi service is available in the city of Watertown, the village of Carthage and on Fort Drum.
- There is a free volunteer transportation service operated by the “Volunteer Center” for families who are Medicaid-eligible or have a disabled dependent, and need a ride to medical appointments.
- A recent **Community Action Customer Survey 2015** revealed the following percentage of responses:

<p>36% have no access to a vehicle compared to 29% in 2011.          23% unable to afford fuel for a vehicle compared to 29% in 2011.          26% Unable to afford car repairs compared to 35% in 2011.          16 % had no license compared to 25% in 2011.</p>
--

#### E. Housing

Affordable housing has become a major problem for low-income families in our area, especially in the past 10 years. During the past two Fort Drum expansions, the rental

costs increased drastically, creating a shortage of housing for our Head Start families, as they were unable to afford the higher rents. Families were displaced to areas outside the city, substandard housing, or were forced to live with other friends or family members. This problem has improved significantly in the past 5 years as many houses and housing complexes have been built in and around Fort Drum.

- A recent agency survey revealed that 13% of the customers had difficulty finding affordable housing to rent compared to 21 % in 2011.
- There are many subsidized housing units in the county and there is much less of a waiting period now. These developments are found in Watertown, Carthage, Clayton, Dexter, and Philadelphia.
- The truly” homeless families” are unable to qualify for subsidy due to their history of eviction, poor credit, criminal background, references, etc., and are unable to afford an alternative rental apartment. The county supports the costs of a motel room until such time as an affordable apartment is available. The HEARTH (Help End All Roads to Homelessness) Program began as a result of ARRA funding in the County which reduced the amount of homelessness drastically. This funding continues to be available through the Watertown Urban Mission, and supports deposits, securities, and subsidies for families to be able to secure an apartment. Since this program came into existence, our numbers of homeless individuals have stabilized.
- Head Start has a few families that are considered “homeless” but commonly we see our families doubling with another family or living with immediate family members for cost-saving purposes.

## F. Health

### Head Start Children’s Health, 2000 – 2015.

Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, 2000-2015

Category:	2000	2004	2006	2008	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number Received/Receiving Treatment for the Following Conditions:									
Diabetes	1%	N/A	N/A	1	0	0	1	0	0
Seizure	5%	N/A	N/A						
Asthma	13%	6%	8%	18	24	20	21	11	13
Low Birth Weight	3%	N/A	N/A						
Vision		5%	3%	39	37	29	65	25	28
Hearing		2%	2.6%	22	22	14	25	13	9
Anemia				9	3	6	17	6	3
High Lead levels				5	1	2	3	1	1
Obese - >95 <sup>th</sup> %ile				24	28	60	49	46	57

### Head Start Children with Health Insurance, 2000 – 2015.

Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, 2000-2015

Category:	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2011	2012	2013	2015
Enrollment				345	340	334	320	328	325
Total Number of Children with Health Insurance:	314	297	308	341	337	332	319	327	323
Medicaid/EPSDT	56%	64%	84%	70.4%	68.2%	62%	80.6%	71.3%	83%
CHIP	12%	6%	4%	4%	7%	7%	Incl. above	Incl. above	Inc. above
Private Health Insurance/Military	32%	31%	11%	24%					
Private Health insurance					6.5%	7%	3.4%	4%	1.9%
Tri-Care Insurance					17.6%	23%	15.6%	24.4%	15.2%
Total Number of Children without Health Insurance:			1%	1.2%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1

### Head Start Children Who Have Completed Medical Screening, 2002 – 2015.

Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, 2002-2015

Category:	2002	2004	2006	2008	2011	2014	2015
Number of Children Who Have Completed Medical Screening:	301	310	345	338	321	286	312
Percentage				98.5		96.9	98.5
Diagnosed as needing treatment				122	84	94	71
Percentage	23%	23%	24%	35.6%	26%	32.9%	22.8%
Received or receiving treatment				122	84	86	70
Percentage	98%	100%	96%	100%	100%	91.5%	98.6%

### Head Start Children Vaccination Coverage, 2002 – 2015.

Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, 2002-2015

Characteristic	2002	2004	2006	2008	2009	2011	2014	2015
Percent Immunized	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99.1%

- Our rate of current immunizations is always above state and national averages. Most children see a pediatrician and so their immunizations are current.

### Summary

- We have 3 hospitals in the area including: Samaritan Medical Center, Watertown; Carthage Area Hospital, Carthage; and River Hospital, Alexandria Bay.
- We have a good base of quality pediatricians and urgent care centers.

- There is a lack of dental providers who will provide anesthesia to children needing extensive repair. The nearest service is approximately 150 miles from Watertown.
- ❖ According to the consumer survey at CAPC, 45% of the adult respondents indicated that a member of their household needed but did not receive medical, dental, or mental health care or prescription medications due to cost and lack of insurance. This percentage is down by 16% compared to 2011. According to the 2014 Health Compass, 11% of adults were uninsured, compared to the Census data in 2010, where 17 % of the adults in Jefferson County were uninsured.
- ❖ In 2015- <1% of Head Start children were uninsured and this was because the parents chose not to apply for Medicaid or Child Health Plus.
- ❖ In 2015, 17.5 % of the Head Start children were overweight according to their measured BMI. We have seen a drastic increase in obesity using the calculated BMI's
- ❖ In 2015, 8.6% of the Head Start children were referred for vision follow-up. This number has been higher since we purchased the digital screening machine, as we can detect problems much earlier.
- ❖ In 2015, 99.1% of the Head Start children were up to date with immunizations.

## G. Dental

### Dental Health, 2000 – 2015

Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, 2000-2015

Characteristic:	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2011	2013	2014	2015
Completed dental examination	96%	97%	98%	95.6%	96.5%	92%	95%	91.5%	88.3%
Diagnosed as needing treatment.	32%	33%	25%	23.3%	24.5%	24%	20.4%	28.1%	29.6%
Received dental treatment	66%	67%	52%	80.5%	59.3%	80%	86.6%	84.2%	75.3%
Received preventive care.	69%	51%	52%	46.7%	37.8%	46%	69.5%	63.7%	65.2%

- We work closely with the North Country Family Health Center to provide dental care and a dental home to many of our Head Start children. They work primarily to serve the underserved population. We also have another provider-McCue Dental in the area that has engaged with our families and has also attended our family events to educate parents on the importance of good dental hygiene.
- Our dental exam and follow-up percentages have declined in the past 2 years.
- There is a lack of providers who will provide extensive follow-up care with anesthesia. We do have a provider that offers care and sedation but the waiting list is long. Other providers are located in Utica or Rochester. There is a

provider in the Watertown area that provides extensive follow-up but Medicaid does not pay for sedation.

- We have implemented the Cavity Free Kids Curriculum this year with children and families. This should help in getting children and families more invested in the dental health process.

## **H. Nutrition**

### **Percentage of Jefferson County Head Start Children with Nutritional Problems, 2000 – 2015**

Source: Head Start PIR, 2000-2015.

<b>Characteristic:</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Obesity	11%	12%	10%	7.8%	7%	18%	15.6%	17.5%
Underweight	5%	0%	N/A	N/A		<1%	<1%	1.5%
Anemia	4%	5%	5%	1.4%	2.6%	1.8%	2%	<1%

- Many of our Head Start children and families use the WIC Program and currently 136 children are receiving the benefits of the program.
- Our families also have access to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Education Program. One of the nutrition aides attends a socialization group occasionally in Watertown to work with the children and parents.
- Our agency offers the NOEP Program, which is a nutrition outreach program for families to apply for food stamps. They also promote the Free and Reduced Meal Program in schools and the Summer Food Service Program during the summer months for the children.
- The agency has implemented a Summer Youth component to the Summer Feeding Program here and integrates physical activity, education, and nutrition for the young children.
- Parents are continuing to purchase prepared and processed foods for their families, which is more expensive and contains much more fat, salt and preservatives. Parents appear not to have basic cooking skills. Our agency does invite Extension in monthly to provide tasting experiences and recipes to anyone visiting the building. The customers also leave with the ingredients to try the recipe at home.
- We have noted an increase in the number of children in the obesity range since we started using the BMI for classification 3 years ago.

- We are always attempting to increase the activity level of our children and staff within the classroom setting.
- There are 17 food pantries throughout the county that offer food resources to families in need. These pantries have seen a drastic increase in the number of families requesting supplemental food during the past 5 years.
- We are working with families during HV's to decrease screen time, increase activity, and eat healthy snacks.

## **I. Maternal Health**

- There were 2066 estimated live births in 2014 in Jefferson County according to the NYS Vital Statistics provisional data. There were 2206 live births in 2013 according to the NYS Vital Statistics.
- 50 % of those births are declared as military related using Military Tri-Care insurance.
- 47.1/1000 (4.7%) of the live births in Jefferson County in 2013 were of women 15-19 years of age. This number again indicates a high rate of military related pregnancies.
- The 2014 provisional rate for pre-term births (Less than 37 weeks) was 10.2%, which has remained fairly stable since 2010.
- 7% of the babies between were estimated to be born with low birthweight (<2500gm) in 2014 according to the NY Vital Statistics provisional data. 6.2 % were born with LBW in 2013.
- Infant mortality rates for Jefferson County were 7.7deaths /1000 live births in 2013 according to the NYSDOH vital Statistics, which is higher than the NYS average of 5/1000.
- The rate of early prenatal care in Jefferson County is 74.8% according to the 2011-2013 NYS Vital Statistics. The 2014 provisional statistics shows an increase to 76.5%.
- The rate of women smoking during pregnancy in Jefferson County was 21.6% in 2014 according to SPDS data, which is higher than NYS at 17%.
- The rate of women reported to have attended their post-partum appointment is 59.1%.

**Maternal Health Summary** – We have a high adolescent pregnancy rate due to the military installation on Fort Drum. 42.1 % of the live births are from women ages 15-19. 50% of our total births are from women related to the military population. There were 2066 live births in Jefferson County in 2014, and the poverty rate for children in our county is 22.2%. It is estimated that 22.2% (458) of these live births would be eligible for an Early Head Start Program between 0-1 years of age. Birth – 2 years would be estimated to be 3 times that value equaling 1374 children eligible for the Early Head Start Program in Jefferson County. There are also issues in the county regarding early entry to prenatal care, high rate of adolescent pregnancy (ages 17-19), higher rate of infant mortality, and low rate of postpartum care.

## **J. Mental Health**

- We still lack mental health providers that serve preschool children with severe behaviors or a psycho-social diagnosis.
- We lack providers who will accept Medicaid insurance and who will see preschool children for specific behaviors and diagnosis. Some providers that are currently available to Medicaid eligible children are the North Country Family Health Center, where you must be a patient for Primary Care; SMC behavioral Health, and Carthage Behavioral Health. There is also a new clinic at BOCES that may be able to provide services for our children in the future.
- There is not an in-patient facility for children in the area. Children must travel 70 miles to the closest facility in Ogdensburg.
- The Mental Health Association provides services for children whose parent has a mental illness called “the Agape Program” They also have a respite care and vocational program there. North Country Transitional Living Services has a residential facility for adults who have a mental illness.
- Army Behavioral Health on Fort Drum is available for military members and their dependents.
- Parents are resistant to counseling and many do not follow through with referrals and appointments.
- Case Management services for adults with mental illness is very minimal in our county, especially for parents with young children.
- We are seeing much more challenging behavior than before in our classrooms.

Category:	Head Start								Jefferson	NYS
Education of parent(s):	2002	2006	2008	2009	2011	2013	2014	2015	2013	2013
Less than High School	16%	14.7%	9.6%	12.6%	14%	17.6%	12.5%	13.7%	11.9%	14.8%
High School Graduate /GED	51%	48%	46.3%	48.3%	39%	35.8%	41.4%	41.6%	34.9%	27.2%
Some College/Vocational School	29%	34%	37.6%	35.5%	41%	42.4%	41.4%	41.1%	33.2%	24.8%
Bachelor's or Advanced Degree	4%	2.7%	6.5%	3.5%	5%	4.3%	4.8%	3.6%	20.0%	33.2%

## K. Adult Education

**Table 1.D.7. Head Start Parents Education, 2002 - 2015.**

Source: Head Start Program Information Report, 2002-2015; US Census Data 2010

- The drop-out rate for local high schools has remained stable but there is a trend of younger drop-out students enrolling in a GED Program following their one-year wait from dropping out of school.
- The Head Start parent “less than HS diploma” rate continues to be high at 14.8%.
- BOCES offers a GED program for adults on-site and on-line.
- Fort Drum offers ESL classes on base for non-English speaking military parents.
- Parents have access to the following colleges to advance their education: Jefferson Community College, Empire State College, SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Oswego approx. 60 miles away JCC also has 4 year opportunities available offering a BS degree in Early Childhood Education from SUNY Cobleskill, BS in Social Work from Keuka College, an MSW Program from Nazareth College, and a BSN in Nursing from SUNY Plattsburg. Many parents are enrolled in JCC, which is a 2-year college.
- Many Head Start parents listed the schools in the North Country to be a strength in our community.
- According to the Jefferson County Survey of the Community, the majority of the residents surveyed stated that they feel the schools are staying the same and only 21% felt they were getting better.



## **L. Domestic Violence**

In 2015, the Victims Assistance Center reported that they provided services to 2099 people. 26% of those individuals were male and 74% female. Out of the 2099 people, 1064 were domestic violence cases, 158 cases were sexual assault.

In 2014, there were 389 domestic violence cases reported in our county by the local police departments. It is apparent that many cases go unreported for reasons of personal safety.

Domestic violence and sexual assault continues to be an increasing problem in our county according to the Victim's Assistance Center of Jefferson County but resources in the county work collaboratively to provide the best services possible to victims.

The VAC has the "Child Advocacy Center" where they can take child victims of sexual abuse and receive all their services in one location versus hospital, police station, and domestic violence agency. We have a victim's assistance shelter for victims and their children.

## **M. Child Abuse**

According to KWIC Statistics 2014

### **Indicated Cases**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>NYS Rate</b>
<b># Children in Indicated Cases</b>	804	973	1008	917	
<b>Rate/1000</b>	28	31.7	31.5	29.5	16.5

- There is a decrease in the number of indicated cases since 2010. Fewer soldiers are deployed now and the military is trying to offer the young men and women services to help with PTS following their return home.
- We served 4 foster children in the Head Start Program in 2014, which is the norm each year for our program. There were 98 children in foster care in Jefferson County in 2013 which was a decrease from 106 the year prior.

## **N. Recreation**

- There is limited free and/or cheap recreation in Jefferson County.
- There are many walking trails available for families.
- There are many after school activities for school-age children in the area of sports.

- There are programs available through the local YMCA on a scholarship for low-income families who apply for assistance.

## **O. Substance Abuse**

- There are two agencies that provide services to residents in Jefferson County. The Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council (PIVOT) provides preventive services and education. Credo provides alcohol and substance abuse treatment. Jefferson County does not have a detoxification facility and the nearest services are approx. 70-90 miles away. According to PIVOT, Heroin and the rising number of meth labs still remain the big issues in our community. Samaritan Medical Center also offers services for alcohol dependency. A recent survey of the community demonstrates the concern with the rising drug use and the adverse impact such as increased use of weapons and crime. We have lost many people in our community in the last year as a result of heroin overdose. The use of Narcan is being introduced more now so that the effect can be counteracted before it becomes fatal. Credo is in the process of pursuing the start-up of a detox center but it will be in the distant future.

## **P. Literacy**

- According to Literacy of Northern New York, 12 % of adults in Jefferson County read at a level one, meaning they have a difficult time using literacy for daily tasks, such as reading and understanding the newspaper or filling out a job application.
- LNY provides individual tutoring services in basic reading and math.
- Individual tutoring in ESOL.
- Provide a computer lab ( ATTAIN Lab)
- BOCES offers a GED program
- The Workplace offers services for job readiness such as resume prep, training tuition, job search info., etc.

## **Q. Parenting Education**

- Family Workers report that many families lack parenting skills but are hesitant to attend classes. Many children are “plugged in” to the TV, computer, or video game as a form of entertainment and recreation. Parents engage as well in this practice therefore preventing communication within the family.

- There are parenting education classes held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension. In most cases the parents who are mandated by the court system to attend these classes.
- We do not have parenting classes on-site but do refer to classes within the community.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension and Fort Drum Parent to Parent staff do attend Parent Committees on a regular basis to present information on parenting.

### **Head Start Families - Services Received 2003-2014**

**Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, 2003-2014**

<b>Category:</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Families needing services During the operating period:	340	312	332	249	206	210	177	261
Parenting education	28%	74%	34%	53.4%	74.3%	68%	39.3%	83.1%
Health education	26%	95%	39%	59%	68.9%	65%	35.4%	78.2%
Housing assistance	13%	7%	8%	17.4%	21.8%	4%	4.9%	0%
Mental health assistance	7%	9%	7%	6.8%	7.8%	4%	2.2%	0%
Child support assistance	8%	1%	2.4%	7.8%	1.5%	2%	<1%	0%
Emergency/crisis intervention (food/clothing/shelter)	7%	10%	5%	18.6%	11.2%	9%	2.9%	<1%
Adult education	5%	4%	4.5%	9%	9.2%	6%	2.6%	5.7%
Child abuse and neglect services	3%	4%	1.2%	6.2%	2.9%	1%	1.6%	0%
Job training	2%	3%	5.4%	10.9%	7.3%	2%	2.3%	<1%
Transportation assistance	1%	4%	1%	3.1%				
Domestic violence services	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%	<1%	0%
English as a second language	0%	.3%	2.4%	2.8%		0	<1%	0%
Substance abuse prevention/ Treatment	1%	1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0	0%
Marriage Education Services				3.4%	1.9%	1%	<1%	0%
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals				<1%	2%	2%	<1%	0%

**R. Community Resources****Area**

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council	Drug Education
American Red Cross	Health and Safety
Assoc. of the Blind and Visually Impaired	Disabilities
Community Action Planning Council	Food Security, Emergency Services, Weatherization, Housing Repair, Early Childhood Education, Child Care Referral and Training/TA
Carthage Hospital	Hospital care, Health Care
Catholic Charities	Case Management, Parenting Education
Consumer Credit Counseling	Financial
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Parent Education, Early Childhood Literacy, Nutrition, Financial Literacy
Credo Community Services	Drug Dependency
Family Counseling Service of NNY	Counseling and Mental Health
Fort Drum Army community Services	Military Needs
Freeman Bus Corporation	Transportation
Jefferson Co. Community Services	Early Intervention
Jefferson Co. DSS	Child Protective Services, Child Support, TANF, Emergency Services, HEAP
Jefferson Co. Public Health	Health and Nutrition
Jefferson Co. Youth Bureau	Recreation
Jefferson Community College	Adult education
Jeff-Lewis BOCES	Education
Literacy of NNY	Education
Mental Health Association	Mental Health
Mental Health Association of NNY	Mental Health
NCPPC	Prenatal Health
North Country Family Health Center	Health Care, Dental, Nutrition, Mental Health
PPNNY	Health
Resolution Center	Conflict Resolution
Samaritan Medical Center	Hospital care, Health care, Mental Health
The Workplace	Employment
Victim's Assistance Center	Domestic Violence
Watertown Housing Authority	Housing
Watertown Urban Mission	Critical Needs

### III. Services for Children with Disabilities

#### Head Start Children Diagnosed With Special Needs, 2000 - 2015

Source: Head Start PIR, 2000-2015

Category:	2000	2004	2006	2008	2009	2011	2013	2014	2015
Number of Children enrolled with disabilities	65	58	56	67	72	85	58	62	58
% of total enrollment with disabilities	20%	18.6%	16.2%	19.5%	22.2%	25.4%	17.7%	21%	17.8%
%Diagnosed prior to enrollment	65%	47%	78.6%	59.7%	51.4%	65%	47%	75.8%	55.2%
%Diagnosed during program year	35%	53%	21.4%	40.3%	48.6%	35%	53%	24.2%	44.8%
Number of Children with IEP or IFSP	65	58	56	67	72	85	58	62	58
Eligible for special education services	64	58	56	67	72	85	58	62	58

#### 0-5 Disabilities Services in Jefferson County

Agency	Preschool	Early Intervention	Preschool Related Services
JRC	X	X	X
Benchmark Family Services	X		X
Milestones/Little Lukes		X	X
Building Blocks		X	X
Rowland Center		X	

#### Jefferson County Early Intervention Services

Source: Jefferson County Community Services Annual Report, 2005-2011

Early Intervention 0-2 Population Jefferson County	2005	2009	2010	2011	
Total referrals	210	304	317	366	
Children evaluated	172	233	235	265	
Children eligible for services	79	143	119	149	

Transitioned to CPSE	33	35	52	56	
Delay resolved- child discharged	22	33	38	28	

No new reliable data available from Jefferson County Community Services since 2011.

Anecdotal notes from interview with the Jefferson County Early Intervention Director states that there were 330 referrals in 2014 with 144 evaluations completed and approximately 95 were deemed eligible for services. As of December 2015, there were 150 children ages birth through 2 years of age receiving EI services in Jefferson County. Many parents do not follow through with the evaluation process once the referral has been made. There is one Toddler intervention group currently at JRC that serves a capacity of 12 toddlers.

Trends noted in EI by the coordinators and service providers are as follows:

More children are being identified with more than 1 area of delay.

More children with social-emotional needs.

Rise in domestic violence situations in the home.

Suspicion of a rise in substance abuse throughout the county, especially around young pregnant and new mothers.

High rate of poverty within the county.

Family structure becoming more unstable.

Many young mothers on Fort Drum with limited support, resources, and transportation.

Several non-English speaking children and parents, especially on Fort Drum.

## 0-2 Early Intervention Services

	<b>Toddler Group</b>	<b>Special Instruction</b>	<b>Speech</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>PT</b>
<b>JRC</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Benchmark</b>	Not providing EI services currently				
<b>Milestones</b>		X	X	X	X
<b>Rowland Center</b>		X	X	X	X
<b>Building Blocks</b>		X	X	X	X

## Preschool Special Education Services – Jefferson County

Source: Jefferson County Community Services Annual Report, 2008-2010

<b>3-5 Preschool Population</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Referrals</b>			
Children referred	270	364	460
Children eligible for services	194	256	328

Related or SEIT services	136	203	259
Special ed. Preschool	58	53	69
<b>Total Service Provision</b>			
Children served	<b>353</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>514</b>
½ day Benchmark Family Services	42	42	56
All-day Benchmark	11	11	8
1/2 day JRC	24	22	27
All-day JRC	29	38	46
Related or SEIT	247	293	377

No new data available from Jefferson County Community Services since 2010.

### Special Education Preschool Agencies and Services

	Special Ed. Preschool	SEIT	Speech	OT	PT	Other
<b>JRC</b>	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Benchmark</b>	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Milestone</b>		X	X	X	X	
<b>Rowland Center</b>			X	X	X	
<b>Building Blocks</b>			X	X	X	

We have 2 preschool CPSE evaluators in the county...Benchmark Family Services and Jefferson Rehabilitation Center. Both agencies are located in Watertown. All preschool special education classroom services are located in Watertown. Children travel up to 30 miles to special education preschool each day. Related service providers travel throughout the county to provide services in the homes or in the child's home or alternate care setting including: Head Start, preschool, day care, family day care provider, etc.

There were an estimate 2212 live births in Jefferson County in 2013. There were 9964 children in Jefferson County between the ages of 0-4 years in 2013. 40 % of those children would be 3 and 4 years old equaling to 3986. Our poverty rate for children 0-4 years of age is 22.6%%, which would indicate that at least 901 children at 100% poverty would be eligible for the Head Start program. We served 295 children in 2013 to include 58 children with disabilities.

The state average for preschool children with disabilities is approximately 8%; therefore it would indicate that 72 of those children would be diagnosed with a disability. Head Start served 58 children in 2013, which was 19.7 % of our enrollment.

It is the opinion of the CPSE chairpersons and the Local municipality that the county has a good Child Find system and that we are serving the majority of children who need

services. Head Start consistently serves 17-25 % of our enrolled children as children with a disability.

In New York State disabilities for preschool children are not classified or categorized. Our program serves children with various disabilities. At present the majority of the children in our program have speech and language needs; however, we have seen a rise in services for children with severe cognitive and speech delays.

### **Unmet Needs**

- 3-5 year old children travel a long distance for Preschool Special Education services.
- There is a lack of available day care services for 0-2 year olds in certain parts of the county due to the lack of infant care and Early Head Start
- Many 0-2 year olds are at risk but do not qualify for services due to classification criteria. These children do not receive the stimulation or early education necessary to prevent them from a developmental delay.
- The number of children with severe cognitive and speech delays, along with challenging behaviors is on the rise and services are not always available to meet their needs in our settings.



## **IV. Trends in Head Start**

### **A. Family Composition**

- The number of single-parent households continues to rise. The rate has nearly doubled in 12 years.
- There is an increase in the number of children in kinship and foster care.

### **B. Classrooms**

- We are serving an equal number of 3 and 4 yr. olds year olds in the centers where we have mixed ages.
- Families want longer days for the part-day classrooms and transportation for the classrooms that do not offer it. .
- We are continuing to see more children with severe challenging behaviors in the classrooms
- We continue to enroll almost 20-25% of the children with a diagnosed disability.
- We are seeing less parent involvement in the classroom due to working parents but we are seeing good involvement in other family events.
- We are promoting and enhancing literacy opportunities in the classroom and in the community.
- There continues to be a high turnover rate of Head Start children each year due to housing and employment issues, especially in the city of Watertown.

### **C. Recruitment**

- We continue to recruit in the same areas throughout the county each year, as it appears that they are the locations of greatest need.
- Parents assist the staff in hanging posters throughout the community. Our families are our best recruiters.
- We distribute packets to many community partners and to all the CPSE chairpersons in the county.
- We post our preschool opportunities on the Community Action website, in newsletters, on Newzjunky, in the newspaper, school newsletters, town news, etc.
- Our staff members are able to travel to the homes of our families to complete the initial application for the program if needed.

- The Family Service Specialist offers presentations to our Community Partners in the spring of each year.
- The Director appears on the Channel 7 news at noon show in April each year.
- We send home a flyer with every child in grades K-2 in the county.
- We do not presently recruit from the Belleville-Henderson School District as they have historically enrolled all 3 and 4 year old eligible children in their Pre-K Program. We receive very few inquiries regarding services in that small school district. They are however able to self-transport their children to the HS site in South Jefferson.
- We provide Home-Based services only to the Thousand Islands and Sackets Harbor School Districts. These districts do not have a Pre-school or UPK services.
- There may be a need for center-based programming in the Evans Mills-Calcium/Fort Drum areas due to the high percentage of military families in the district. UPK Programs located at both sites currently serve approx. 90 children.

Based on census information from 2014, there should be approximately 4982 children in the county that are 3 and 4 years of age. The number of potentially eligible children was estimated based on calculations using 2014 public school free lunch data based on 130% poverty guidelines. According to these calculations, there are an estimated **1037** Head Start eligible children in Jefferson County. We are currently providing services to **275** children. This leaves 762 children who will not receive Head Start services.




The UPK Program has stabilized in the past 3 years and has approximately 550 available slots for four year olds. It is estimated that approximately **200** children who would be considered low-income/Head Start eligible that are being served by the UPK programs.

The special education and private preschools serve approximately 300 children in the county of which **100** are estimated to be Head Start eligible. Assuming that the UPK Programs remain stable that would leave approximately 462 eligible children in the county not currently being served by a preschool program. Many children however are enrolled in local day care centers and homes due to their parents work schedules. 177 children were receiving OCFS subsidized day care in April 2011. We had a waiting list of 184 at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

## **V. Unmet Needs for Head Start**

### **A. Head Start Eligible Children**

#### **Estimated number of Head Start eligible children**

	Center—based areas
	Home-based areas
	High census areas

Unmet need is determined by taking the number of children enrolled in the primary schools and dividing it by the number of grade levels in the school. We multiply that number by the percentage of free lunch in the school. We then multiply that number by 2 as there are 2 age groups (3's and 4's) that are eligible for Head Start.

## B. Needs Related to Option and Location

- According to the parent survey results, many parents would like a longer day for their children or more days per week for the three-year-old option program.
- The rising cost of transportation is resulting in our need to examine alternatives. Our expenses for this purpose may be needed for programming in the future.
- Parent survey results indicate that the majority of parents surveyed are interested in

District	Elementary School	Ave. Enroll .per Primary Grade	% Eligible for Free Lunch	Est. # Children Eligible (X2 for 3's and 4's)	# Eligible Children per School District	District UPK Enrollment 2013-2014	Head Start Population Entering Kindergarten
A Bay	A. Bay	42	35 %	29	29	33	0
B-H	B-H	36	28 %	20	20	35	0
Carthage	Carthage	93	40 %	74	189	78	15
	West Carthage	105	21 %	44			2
	Black River	91	39 %	71			6
General Brown	Dexter	44	35 %	31	67	36	7
	Brownville	74	24 %	36		36	5
Indian River	Antwerp	60	21 %	25	218		6
	Theresa	59	21%	25		36	2
	Philadelphia	38	21 %	16			2
	Evans Mills	123	40 %	98		36	1
	Calcium	141	19 %	54		58	7
LaFargeville	LaFargeville	43	33 %	28	28	34	0
Lyme	Lyme	25	34 %	17	17	18	0
Sackets Harbor	Sackets Harbor	36	22 %	16	16	0	4
South Jefferson	Mannsville	58	43 %	50	110	39	3
	Wilson Bldg	84	36%	60		40	7
Thousand Islands	Guardino	57	20 %	23	31	0	2
	Cape Vincent	17	23 %	8			0
Watertown	North Elem.	100	50 %	100	312		32
	Ohio Elem.	69	58 %	80		33	23
	Sherman Elem.	70	33 %	46		33	13
	Knickerbocker	70	36%	50			10
	Starbuck Elem.	28	64%	36	1037 children eligible using the free lunch calculation equation at 130% poverty	18  545 UPK slots available in Jefferson County	155 children to enter kindergarten

having an Early Head Start Program. If EHS was offered in the future, 50% of the

parents would prefer a home-based option and 50% would prefer a center-based option.

### C. Future Options for Head Start

- Children in the South Jefferson Center have a lengthy bus ride; therefore we may want to consider the possibilities of a full school-day program for that center if any quality improvement opportunities become available.
- Consider the possibility of extending some class days to 6 hours where space is available and funding becomes available.
- Consider the possibility of reducing enrollment numbers in the Watertown Center and increasing classrooms to 6 hours.
- Consider the possibility of increasing the number of days for the three-year-old combination classes in the Watertown Center if additional funding becomes available.
- We should apply for Early Head Start funding if the opportunity becomes available.

### Family Composition and Goal Setting for Head Start Families 2004-2015 Head Start PIR 2004-2015

Category:	2004	2006	2008	2011	2014	2015
<b>Total Number of Head Start Families</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>304</b>
Two-parent families	60%	63%	174 54%	182 57%	134 51%	145 48%
Single-parent families	40%	37%	148 46%	139 43%	139 49%	159 52%
Families participating in the family goal setting process	258	321	300			279
Families in Which the Head of Household is in Training or School	36	19	33	16	22	22

### Enrollment

Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, 2002- 2015

<b>Category:</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Total Number of Centers Operated</b>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<b>Total Funded Enrollment</b>	275	275	275	275	275	275	257	275
Full Day Enrollment	34	30	30	34	34	34	34	34
Part Day Enrollment	136	144	144	148	160	160	142	160
Home Based Options	60	50	50	42	30	30	30	30
Combination Option	45	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<b>Enrollment:</b>								
Actual Enrollment by Age:	306	312	345	343	334	328	295	325
< 3 years old as of Dec 1				2		0		
3 years old as of Dec. 1st	35%	39%	41%	146		112	112	110
4 years old as of Dec. 1st	65%	61%	59%	195	219	216	183	215
<b>Child Turnover:</b>		69		116	69	70	59	52
Children who dropped out and did not re-enroll		22%		34%	20%	21%	20.0%	16%
Children above who were replaced during the program year		86%		103 (89%)	69		52	45
Number of children who were in class less than 45 days		12%	4.6%	22 (19%)	25	19	12	10
Number projected to enter Kindergarten in the following year	160	168	149	192 (56%)	163	181	169	186
Children Enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start for the Second Year	89	63	77	74	74	85	85	91

- We experience a high turnover rate due to the transient population from Fort Drum along with the families who cannot find safe and affordable housing.

### **Jefferson County Head Start Capacity/Percent of Need Met**

Source: 2004 – 2015 Head Start PIR

<b>Characteristic:</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Children below Poverty Guidelines	267	258	217	206	213	216	192	221
Income 100-130% poverty line				49	38	41	23	28
Children enrolled as a foster child		4	13	9	7	6	5	4
Children enrolled with TANF benefits		54	45	50	54	55	70	66
Children enrolled over-income		27	13	19	8	8	5	5
Children receiving Head Start	312	343	325	337	320	328	295	325
<b>Capacity:</b>								
CAPC Five Centers Capacity	225	233	245	245	245	245	227	245
Home Based Visitors Centers Capacity	50	42	30	30	30	30	30	30
<b>Total Head Start Capacity</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>275</b>
Children on the Head Start Wait List -3 Year Olds	28	48	159	187	141	176	188	126
Children on the Head Start Waiting List- 4 Year Olds	20	16	26	48	89	82	113	58
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>184</b>

### Unmet Need

- The Thousand Island School District area does not have a Head Start or UPK center in their area. They do however have a private preschool located within the elementary school. We do provide Home-based services in the Clayton and Cape Vincent areas.
- The Sackets Harbor School District does not have a UPK, preschool, or Head Start center in their area. We do however offer Home-based services there along with a self-transport option to the Dexter Center.
- Several schools in the community are providing UPK services along with transportation. We manage the IRCS and part of Watertown UPK's for those districts

in 6 different locations and they do not provide transportation for those children. This presents a barrier for services for some families in need.

- A new Federal Full-day Pre-K Program was funded in the Watertown City School District for children under the 200% poverty guideline. This increase of 90 children had a major impact on our 4 year old population in the Watertown Head Start Program.
- Overall, the waiting list numbers decreased drastically last year from 301 in June 2014 to 184 in June 2015.

## **D. Head Start Survey Results**

### **Head Start Parent Survey**

85 Head Start parents were surveyed and the results are prioritized as follows:

#### **Strengths of Our Community**

1. Safe area
2. Community Resources
3. Quality Education
4. Fort Drum

#### **Community Needs**

1. Lack of higher paying jobs with benefits
2. Better transportation options
3. Cheaper energy
4. Dentists that provide extensive care

#### **Resources you find most helpful**

1. WIC
2. DSS
3. NCFHC
4. HEAP

#### **Trends in the Community**

1. Increased drug use and abuse
2. Crime
3. Multi-family living
4. Economy worsening

#### **Strengths of the Head Start Program**

1. Staff



2. Teachers
3. Quality early childhood education
4. Good meals

**How can Head Start serve you better?**

1. More classroom hours/days per week
2. Increase transportation
3. Serve younger children
4. Nothing

**Early Head Start**

Majority would like EHS

50 % would like it in the home

50 % would like Center-Based

**Head Start BOD-PC Survey**

15 members were surveyed and the results are prioritized as follows:

**Strengths of Our Community**

1. Safe community
2. Medical Resources
3. Diversity
4. People working together to better the community

**Community Needs**

1. Higher paying jobs with benefits
2. Transportation in rural areas
3. Mental Health services for Medicaid recipients
4. Affordable housing

**Resources you think are most helpful to our families**

1. Food pantries
2. Helping organizations
3. Cornell Cooperative Extension
4. HEAP

**Trends in the Community**

1. Drug use and dealing
2. Multiple family living
3. More single parents with children
4. Economy worsening

**Strengths of the Head Start Program**

1. Parent Involvement

2. Quality staff
3. Quality early education
4. Meals

**How can Head Start serve the children and families better?**

1. Increase hrs./days
2. Increase transportation
3. Increase enrollment
4. Increased pediatric behavioral resources

**Early Head Start**

Majority would like to see Early Head Start  
Few do not feel a need for EHS

**Community Action Customer Survey 2015**

**Common Housing Problems**

1. Unable to make needed repairs to home
2. Unable to find affordable housing to rent
3. Bad Credit makes it hard to find a place to rent
4. Unable to find affordable housing to buy

**Food Security**

1. Gone hungry due to lack of food
2. Skipped meal or cut portion due to lack of money
3. Used food assistance service

**Top skills customers are interested in improving**

1. Financial/Budgeting
2. Health/Nutrition
3. Computer Skills
4. Job Search Skills

**Community Partners Survey April 2015**

**Key Challenges:**

1. Health Theme: mental health, general health, lack of providers, access, cost
2. Transportation
3. Employment / low pay
4. Substance abuse

**VI. Head Start Community Needs Assessment Summary**

## **A. Community Strengths**

- Jefferson County is generally a safe place to live.
- We have good schools and quality education from Pre-kindergarten to college.
- The expansion of Fort Drum adds diversity to the community.
- The Fort Drum population adds to the economy by increasing employment in the construction and retail/ service areas.
- This is a small-scale community.
- There are numerous community resources and quality collaborations between agencies.
- Diverse population.
- The people of this area show a commitment to helping others.
- The area offers a variety of stores and restaurants.
- Our climate offers the opportunity to experience all four seasons.
- The geography of the region provides for many recreational opportunities such as walking, skiing, ATV trails, camping, water sports, hiking, etc.

## **B. Community Needs and Concerns**

- Lack of sufficient and adequate public transportation, especially in rural areas.
- Lack of affordable quality housing for families not eligible for public housing.
- Lack of employment opportunities that pay a sustainable wage and benefits.
- Lack of hourly non-traditional regulated child care.
- Need for health insurance with more benefits – high deductible plans are very costly for families with little benefit.
- Free or inexpensive recreational activities, especially for youth; to include inside recreation areas during winter months.
- Lack of mental health services for preschool children with extreme challenging behaviors or specific diagnosis who receive Medicaid.
- High energy costs
- The high rate of drug abuse and drug dealing in the community which creates a major health and safety issue.
- Lack of dental providers who offer extensive dental treatment- long waiting lists.
- Lack of Pre-K services in the Thousand Island and Sackets Harbor School districts.

## **C. Head Start Strengths**

- Provides transportation to children in part-day programs.
- Provides programming 5 days/week.
- Offers quality early childhood education and comprehensive services.
- Staff members have good relationships with families.
- Provide quality meals to the children.
- Staff members are supportive of families' needs.

- Good communication with parents.
- Includes parents in all aspects of the program.
- Parents want what is best for their children.
- Parents trust the staff of the Head Start Program.
- Nearly all children are covered under Medicaid or health insurance.
- Family workers empower parents through education, advocacy and engagement.

#### **D. Head Start Needs and Concerns**

- Current part-day program does not meet the needs of some working parents
- Lack of dental follow-up and parental follow through
- Increase days for Combination Option classroom-m possibly combine 3's and 4's.
- Significant number of single-parent families-lack of support.
- Decreasing parent involvement in the classroom.
- Increasing costs of transportation. Need to identify more cost-effective options for children.
- Need for more effective parenting and support for kinship care.
- Deployment of soldiers adds major stress to military families.
- Parents concern with increased use of drugs in the community, especially heroin and methamphetamines to include increase in mobile meth labs.
- Concerns regarding the lack of Watertown Center Waiting List due to the increase in numbers of Full-Day Pre-K

#### **E. Future Goals and Strategies**

- Apply for Early Head Start funding if available
- Explore the possibility of increasing class hours in the 4-year-old classrooms that have 1 session daily.
- Advocate within the community for increased mental health services for our children and families.
- Continue to educate and support families in the areas of financial and family stressors such as budgeting, managing a family and employment, energy conservation, etc.
- Continue to increase parent engagement in new and creative ways.
- Look for possibilities of providing preschool services to children in the Sackets Harbor and Thousand Islands School Districts.
- Look at the possibility of increasing the number of classroom days for the Combination Option Classrooms.
- Look at the possibility of combining 3 and 4 year olds in the Watertown Center.
- Explore ways of working with a Substance Abuse Prevention agency to research educational opportunities for our children and families.

### **VI. The Community Assessment Process**

The Community Assessment Process occurred from April through November 2015 with the assistance of the Head Start Administrative Staff, Community Partners, Community Resource Reps, Head Start parents, Policy Council and the agency Board members. Information was gathered in the following manner:

- Community Partners Breakfast and Survey
- Community Partner Interview by Head Start Administrative Staff
- Staff Interview to include agency staff
- Policy Council Survey
- Board Survey
- Parent Survey
- Statistical Information

## **VII. Sources**

- US Census Bureau, Jefferson County Fact Finder 2014
- Head Start PIR 2014,2015
- Kids Count Data 2014
- Child Care Community Needs Assessment 2015
- NYSCAA Poverty Report 2015
- Jefferson County Early Intervention Annual Report 2010
- Jefferson County Preschool Special Education Annual Report 2010
- NYS School Profile Free and Reduced Lunch Report 2014-2015
- Jefferson County Survey of the Community June 2014
- North Country Compass
- Board Surveys
- Policy Council Surveys
- Parent Surveys
- Staff Survey
- Community Partners Survey
- Community Provider Interview
- Community Action Customer Survey
- American Fact Finder - US Census Bureau
- New York Labor Statistics
- Head Start Handbook