Community Foundation for South Central New York Needs Assessment Regional Summary

A report summarizing the primary needs and gaps in service in the CFSCNY service region including recommendations for funding priorities.

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October 29, 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Horn Research would like to express our deep gratitude to all of the individuals who took time to share their expertise and information with us. We also appreciate the opportunity to work with the Community Foundation for South Central New York and to assist in their important work providing funding for vital resources to the region.

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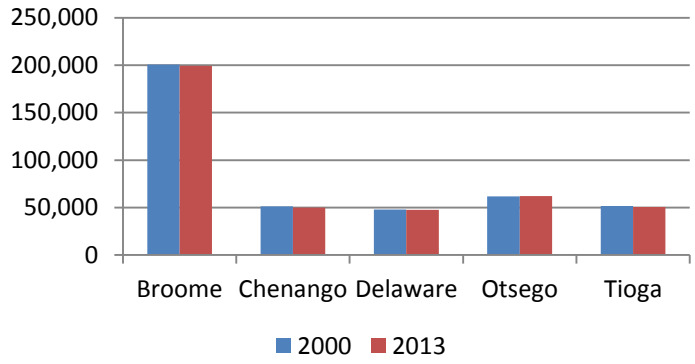
In April 2015, the Community Foundation for South Central New York contracted with Horn Research to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the five counties in its service region: Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga. The purpose of the needs assessment was to provide CFSCNY with information about the key needs and gaps in service and recommendations for prioritizing funding efforts. The results of the needs assessment process include detailed reports for each county and a regional summary.

Methodology

In order to accomplish the goals of the needs assessment project, Horn Research conducted an initial review of available reports and plans from county departments, non-profit service agencies, and planning organizations to identify relevant data points, community needs, and organizational priorities. The information from these reports was organized within eight categories: demographics, health, housing, child care/education, public safety, transportation, arts and recreation, and economic development. Secondary sources were identified to fill in gaps in information and to update old data. To ensure a broad understanding of the needs and priorities in each county, stakeholders in each topic area were identified and asked to complete a short qualitative survey to share what they considered the most current urgent needs and new and emerging needs in their area of expertise, the highest priority needs in their county and any relevant data sources that may support the process. The survey was conducted via email and telephone depending on the preference of the respondent.

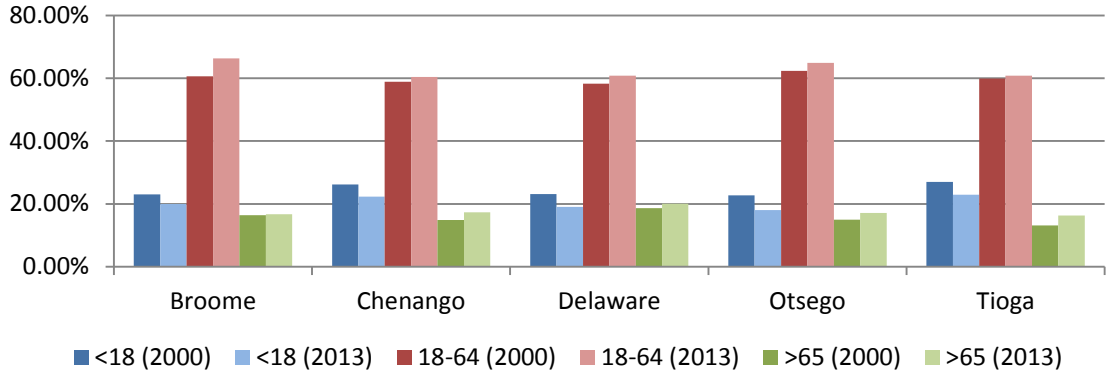
Demographically, the CFSCNY region has seen several significant changes since 2000. According to Census data[1], the region has had a small, but consistent decline in population between 2000 and 2013. The region saw a loss of 3,725 residents, 1% of the population, during the time frame (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Population Change 2000 to 2013



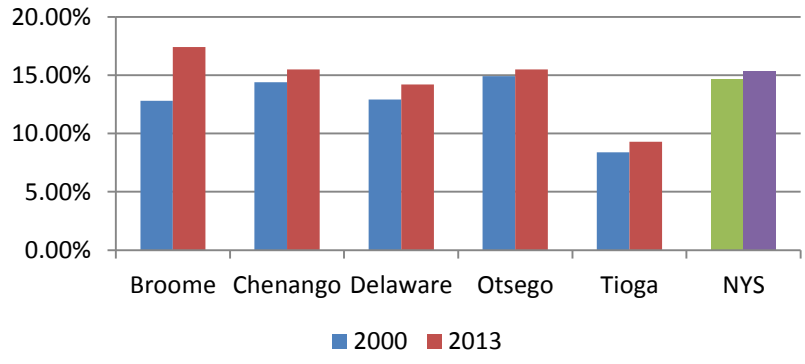
As with the rest of the country, the CFSCNY region has also had a shift in the age groups of the population with an increasing number of older people and a decreasing number of children. Otsego County has had the largest drop in the percent of children in the population from 22.7% to 18% and Tioga County has had the largest increase in seniors from 13.1% to 16.3% (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Percent of Population by Age Groups 2000 and 2013



The region has also had an increase in the number of individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level since 2000[2]. Broome County has the highest number of people in poverty and also experienced the greatest increase since 2000 with rates growing from 12.8% in 2000 to 17.4% in 2013. The percent of people in poverty in 2013 exceeded the NYS rate in Broome, Chenango, and Otsego (Figure 3).

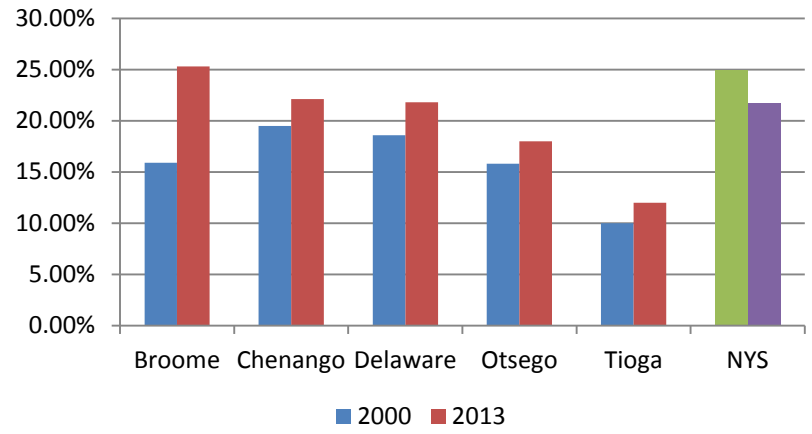
Figure 3 Percent of Population in Poverty



[1] Decennial Census 2000 (DP-1) & ACS 5-year estimates, 2013 (S0101)
[2] ACS 2013 5-year averages, Table DP03; CENSUS2000, Table QT-P34

Children in the region are the largest sub-population experiencing poverty with rates exceeding the overall poverty rate within each county and exceeding the NYS rate in Broome, Chenango, and Delaware (Figure 4). Childhood poverty rates in all counties in the region have increased since 2000 while the NYS rate has decreased. Broome County has the highest percent of children in poverty (25.3%) in the region and has also had the largest increase since 2000 (15.9%).

Figure 4 Percent of Children in Poverty



There are several pockets of very high childhood poverty throughout the region rivaling some of the highest poverty rates in the country (Figure 5). The City of Binghamton has the highest rate of childhood poverty at 47.3% followed closely by Richford in Tioga County at 46.1%. By comparison, Bronx County in New York City has a childhood poverty rate of 43.3%.

Figure 5 Areas of High Childhood Poverty

Broome:	*Chenango:*	*Delaware:*	*Otsego:*	*Tioga:*
•Binghamton: 47.3% •Conklin: 38.5%	•Norwich: 34.6% •Pharsalia: 39.3% •Pitcher: 37.9% •Smithville: 39.9%	•Davenport: 33.8% •Walton:35.1%	•Butternuts: 39.4% •Laurens: 41.8%	•Richford: 46.1%

Funding Recommendations

- Programming supporting the nutritional and health needs of children in poverty
- Funding for anti-poverty initiatives throughout the region

In the area of health, stakeholders and data suggest the following areas of need:

- Lack of mental health providers, especially for children/adolescents & Medicaid
- Lack of chemical dependency treatment & preventive services, especially children and adolescents and those needing medical detox
- Lack of community/home-based services for youth with emotional/behavioral health disabilities
- Need for more early identification of all types of health issues for children/youth
- Growing drug-culture/heroin epidemic
- Lack of youth development resources to prevent chemical dependency

Lack of Providers

All of the counties in the region have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for both low-income primary care and low-income dental care. In addition, all but Tioga County have been identified as HPSAs for mental health. The county mental health departments for Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Tioga have identified integrating primary and behavioral health services and improving service options and crisis support for co-occurring disorders such as mental health, developmental disabilities, and chemical dependencies as priorities. Stakeholders noted significant wait times for mental health treatment and concern over the lack of medical detox options and prescribers for both chemical dependency and mental health issues.

Table 1 Health Professional Shortage Areas by Type[3]

	Primary Care	Low-income Primary Care	Mental Health	Low-income Dental Care
Broome		■	■	■
Chenango		■	■	■
Delaware	■	■	■	■
Otsego	■	■	■	■
Tioga		■		■

Early Identification of Children's Health Issues

Information from stakeholders indicated concern that children's physical and mental health issues are not being identified early enough for successful intervention and treatment. Data from the NYS Department of Health[4] indicate that children in all age groups across the region are not receiving the recommended number of well visits. Of

Figure 6 Child Health Care Access Indicators

Kids aged 0-15 months with ↓ recommended # of well-visits than NYS Prevention Agenda Goal (Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Tioga)

Kids aged 3-6 years with ↓ recommended # of well-visits than NYS Prevention Agenda Goal (All counties)

Kids aged 12-21 years with ↓ recommended # of well-visits than NYS Prevention Agenda Goal (All counties)

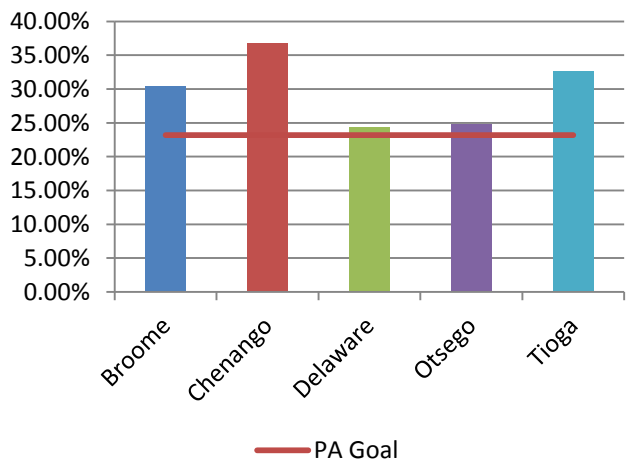
[3] US Dept. of HHS, HRSA Data Warehouse, http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/hpsafind.aspx
[4] NYS Dept. of Health, County Health Assessment Indicators, https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/index.htm#chai

particular concern is that the rate of well-visits dramatically decreases for children in middle school and high school.

Obesity

County health departments in Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Tioga have identified reducing obesity in children and adults as a priority in their most recent Community Health Assessments. The percentage of adult obesity in every county exceeds the NYS Prevention Agenda Goal (Figure 7). Chenango County has the highest rate of adult obesity at 36.8%. All counties except Otsego also exceed the Prevention Agenda Goal for child and adolescent obesity (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Chenango County also has the highest rate for childhood obesity at 20%[5].

Figure 7 Percent of Adults that are Obese



Chronic Disease

The County Health Departments in Broome, Chenango, Otsego and Tioga all identified increasing access to high quality chronic disease preventive care and management as a high priority. Data from NYS Department of Health[6] indicate that in several areas the region is falling behind Prevention Agenda goals including the hospitalization rate for heart attacks and short-term complications from diabetes as well as rates of colorectal screening (Figure 9).

Figure 8 Percent of Children and Adolescents who are Obese

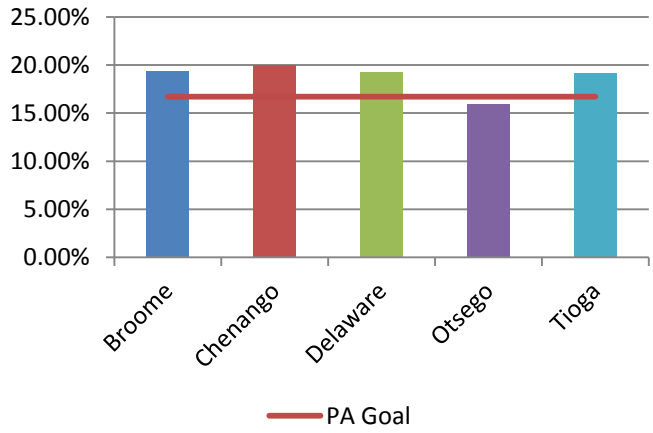


Figure 9 Chronic Disease Indicators

- Heart attack hospitalization ↑ than NYS Prevention Agenda Goal (Broome, Chenango, Delaware)
- Short-term complications from diabetes hospitalization ↑ than NYS Prevention Agenda Goal (Broome, Chenango, Otsego)
- Colorectal screening ↓ than NYS Prevention Agenda Goal (All counties)

[5] NYS Dept. of Health, County Health Assessment Indicators, https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/index.htm#chai
[6] NYS Dept. of Health, County Health Assessment Indicators, https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/index.htm#chai

Mental Health and Chemical Dependency

Health departments in Delaware, Otsego and Tioga have identified promoting mental health and preventing substance abuse as high priorities for their counties. Mental health departments in Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Otsego have all prioritized promoting recovery and improving prevention programs in their current local services plan. Indicators from the NYS Department of Health[7] indicate that counties in the region have higher suicide and self-injury rates as well as higher rates of self-reported poor mental health than the NYS Prevention Agenda Goals. Stakeholders across all topic areas commented on the growing drug problem in the region and concern about the "heroin epidemic." Data from NYS Department of Health show the region has higher rates of drug-related hospitalizations and newborn drug-related diagnoses than NYS. In addition, the region has seen a 226% increase in admissions for treatment of heroin addiction and a 31% increase in admissions for prescription opioid addiction since 2007.[8]

Figure 10 Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Indicators

Funding Recommendations

- Support prevention and treatment services for mental health and chemical dependency issues, particularly for youth and adolescents
- Day habilitation, community habilitation, and supported employment for adults with mental health & developmental disabilities
- Support for wrap-around and preventative services for families in midst of mental health and chemical dependency issues
- Support for programming that ensure early identification of youth/adolescents health issues including obesity, mental health, developmental disabilities, & chemical dependency
- Support for anti-obesity programming for both children and adults, especially for low-income individuals

[7] NYS Dept. of Health, County Health Assessment Indicators, https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/indicators/index.htm#chai

[8] NYS Open Data, Chemical Dependence Treatment Program Admissions Beginning 2007

In the area of housing, stakeholders and data suggest the following areas of need:

- Vacancy rates in Tioga County are very low and there is a need for more housing options across all markets
- Substandard, deteriorating housing across region
- Lack of supportive housing for people with mental health disabilities, developmental disabilities, and chemical dependency issues
- Seniors aging in place will require support for home maintenance, modifications and repairs
- Housing is high percentage of income and financial assistance for low-income households is needed

Availability & Affordability[9]

Overall, Census data suggests that housing is available for both renters and owners throughout the region with the exception of Tioga County. Tioga County has lower vacancy rates for both homeowners and renters than NYS as a whole and the lack of housing has been noted as an issue by the county's planning board.

Figure 11 Housing Availability & Affordability Indicators

Homeowner and rental vacancy rates ↑ than NYS (All counties except Tioga)

Percent of owners with housing costs > 30% of income ↑ than NYS (All counties)

Percent of renters with housing costs > 30% of income ↑ than NYS (Otsego)

A general rule of thumb for housing affordability is that housing costs should not exceed 30% of household income. Based on this rule, the percent of owners with unaffordable housing costs in all counties of the region is higher than the NYS rate. This suggests that despite low median home prices, other costs are decreasing the affordability of homeownership for a large proportion of households in the region. Otsego is the only county with a higher percentage of renters with unaffordable housing than NYS; however, the percent of renters with unaffordable housing exceeds 45% in all counties in the region.

Quality

Housing quality indicators are generally unavailable at the county level, but the county planning departments in Broome, Chenango, and Otsego have all identified housing quality as an issue. Stakeholders commented frequently on the increasing amount of substandard, deteriorating housing in the region. Stakeholders also noted challenges recruiting young professionals to the region due to a lack of affordable quality housing options.

Senior Housing

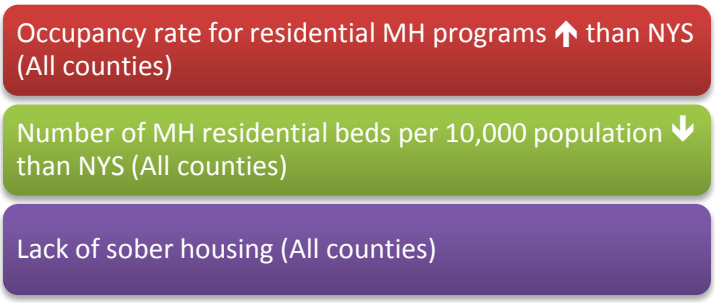
All counties in the region have identified a growing need for more senior housing options including more senior apartments, assisted living options and smaller homes. The NYS Department of Health has identified Delaware, Otsego and Tioga as counties with a current unmet need for nursing home beds. Stakeholders also suggested a need for more support for seniors to age in place including repair and maintenance support and home modification.

[9] ACS 5-year averages, 2013, Table DP04

Supportive Housing

Several stakeholders noted a lack of supportive housing for people with mental health disabilities, developmental disabilities, and chemical dependency issues. With the state's efforts to move individuals from residential facilities into the community, the lack of housing options is becoming an increasing issue. The NYS Department of Mental Health noted that both the occupancy rate for residential mental health programs and the availability of residential beds in all counties in the region is worse than NYS as a whole. Stakeholders also noted the lack of sober housing options for people in recovery from chemical dependency is reducing the effectiveness of addiction treatment.

Figure 12 Supportive Housing Indicators



Funding Recommendations

- Financial assistance for low-income families with housing needs (e.g. repair, moving costs)
- Financial assistance for seniors for weatherization, repairs and home modifications to age in place
- Supportive housing for the developmentally delayed population
- Supportive housing for people with mental health disabilities
- Sober housing for people recovering from chemical dependencies

Data and stakeholders suggest that in the area of child care and education the following areas of need and concern:

- Higher demand for care than providers
- Substantial numbers of children in informal, unregulated care
- High cost of care burdensome for families
- Tuition costs are insufficient to cover child care center costs
- Need for alternative education/drop-out prevention options for children with disabilities

Supply/Demand Challenges

Data from across the region shows a dramatic disparity between the supply of regulated care and the potential demand for child care (Figure 13). Some counties are meeting the need for care among 3 and 4 year olds through Early Head Start and Head Start as well as Universal Pre-K programs, but all counties still have need for regulated care for children under age 3 and school age children.

Figure 13 Percent of Demand Served by Regulated Care

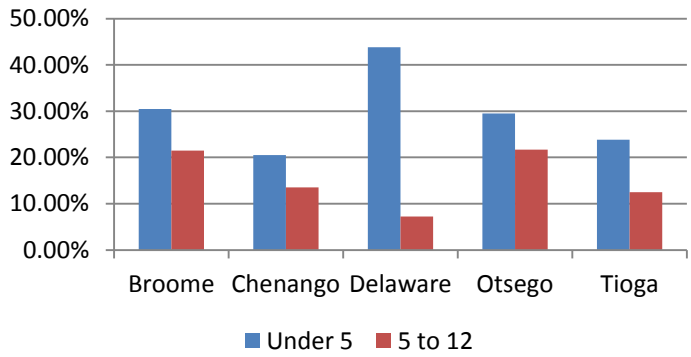


Figure 14 Child Care Indicators

- Percent of children < 5 in unregulated care ↑ than NYS (Chenango)
- Percent of children 5-12 in unregulated care ↑ than NYS (All counties)
- Need for more Head Start slots (Broome, Otsego, Tioga)
- Need for more UPK slots (All counties)

Cost of Care

The cost of child care is a substantial burden for families of all income ranges representing a high proportion of household income. Despite the high cost of care, the tuition income alone is insufficient to maintain child care centers and does not offer regulated family day care providers livable wage salaries for some age ranges.

For family with two children at median income

Child Care = **29-37%** of total income

Average income for Regulated Family Day Care Providers

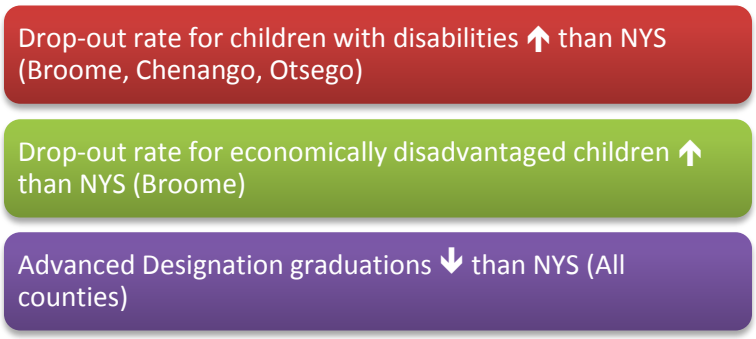
Infants = **$7.50/Hour** (2 kids < 2)

School Age = **$21/Hour** (6 kids >5)

K-12

Overall, K-12 education in the region is performing well in in students' ELA and math proficiency in comparison to state averages. In addition, professional performance review ratings of teachers across the region have been generally consistent with state ratings. Some counties have higher than average drop-out rates for children with disabilities and economically disadvantaged children suggesting a need for additional support and intervention. There also is some concern about the college readiness of graduates across the region with lower Advanced Designation graduation rates than NYS.

Figure 15 K-12 Indicators



Funding Recommendations

- Support for increasing child care/early education options, particularly for children under 3 and non-traditional hours
- Subsidies for child care for both parents and providers
- Support for programming which provides positive social development to fill the after-school gap
- Training support for child care providers to meet the social-emotional developmental needs of children
- Support for drop-out prevention/alternate education for children with disabilities and economically disadvantaged children

Stakeholders noted the following challenges related to transportation across the region:

- Limited public transportation options
- Public transportation options are underfunded/Medicaid shift made more difficult
- Vulnerable populations e.g. seniors, people with disabilities, low-income have difficulties reaching needed services
- Rural transportation particularly challenging

Access to Transportation

While the majority of households in the region have access to a vehicle, some counties (Broome, Delaware and Otsego) have higher rates of "no vehicle access" than the rest of NYS (excluding NYC)[10]. Census data relating income to vehicle access is unavailable at the county level, but information from stakeholders suggests that people with disabilities, seniors and low-income households are most likely to have difficulty with access to transportation.

Figure 16 Vehicle Access Indicators

Percent of workers age 16+ with no vehicle access ↑ than NYS excluding NYC (Broome, Delaware, Otsego)

Percent of households with no vehicle access ↑ than NYS excluding NYC (Broome, Delaware)

Public Transportation

Public transportation options are limited across the region and have decreased services in recent years. Reduced state and federal funding and a shift in Medicaid reimbursement has resulted in the elimination of the bus system in Tioga County and a reduction in routes and frequency in the remaining public transportation systems in Broome, Chenango and Otsego. Some community and county departments have transportation options for specific populations and needs such as volunteer programs to drive low-income residents to medical appointments. However, these programs are limited in nature, frequently do not coordinate with other organizations, and have a very high cost per ride average.

Funding Recommendations

- Support for transportation options serving vulnerable populations needing to reach services and appointments
- Subsidies for bus fares for those with low and fixed incomes
- Support for organizations developing consolidated transportation plans

[10] ACS 5- year average, 2013, Table B08201 & Table S0802

Data and information from stakeholders suggest the following concerns in the area of public safety:

- Increased crime due to an increase in heroin in the region
- Increased need for better training for police to respond to mental health and chemical dependency issues more effectively

Crime & Arrest Rates

Data from the NYS Department of Justice show that overall crime rates across the region have been essentially flat between 2007 and 2013. Crime rates in the region are lower than NYS with the exception of property crime rates in Broome and Delaware which exceed the NYS rate. Domestic violence crime rates have decreased in all counties except Delaware.

Adult arrests have also remained flat overall across the region with the exception of drug arrests. Adult arrests for drug crimes have more than doubled in all counties in the region (Table 2). Juvenile arrest rates have declined in all counties in the region.

Table 2 Percent Increase in Drug Arrests 2007 to 2014

	Felony	Misdemeanor
Broome	-38%	107%
Chenango	233%	377%
Delaware	126%	210%
Otsego	105%	132%
Tioga	208%	107%

Recidivism & Prevention

Stakeholders indicated that programming supporting families with incarcerated or newly released parents is vital to preventing recidivism. In particular, stakeholders suggested treatment and support for chemical dependency and anger management can help families and individuals stay out of the criminal justice system.

Funding Recommendations

- Funding for programs supporting families with incarcerated or newly released parent
- Anger management/domestic violence prevention classes for adults
- Support for chemical dependency programming
- Support for training for public safety officers on behavioral health issues e.g. mental health and chemical dependency

Data and information from stakeholders suggest the following areas of need related to arts and recreation in the region:

- Not all recreational activities are accessible due to transportation and cost issues
- Many arts organizations struggle financially due to diminishing funding from industry

Importance

Data and indicators for arts and recreation are generally unavailable at the county level. However, a study done for Chenango County as part of a larger national project indicates that the arts are an important economic driver in the region (Figure 17). Most of the counties in the region have included supporting and enhancing arts and recreational opportunities as part of their strategic economic plans. In addition, stakeholders note that arts and recreation opportunities are important for quality of life issues and keeping youth engaged in recreational activities is critical to maintain both their physical and emotional health. Despite the value placed on arts and recreation in county economic plans, stakeholders from arts organizations suggest that funding to support programs has diminished.

Figure 17 Economic Impact of the Arts in Chenango County, 2010

Americans for the Arts – Economic Prosperity in Chenango County, 2010

- Direct expenditures = $1,830,375
- FTE = 41
- Local government revenue = $117,000
- State government revenue = $59,000

Availability

Each county in the region has several arts and recreational opportunities for residents, but stakeholders agreed that access to activities is constrained by transportation issues and cost for low-income households.

	Museums	Galleries	Performing arts venues	Parks (state, regional)	Municipal recreation facilities
Broome	11	28	9	11	39
Chenango	8	5	11	4 (extensive state lands)	21
Delaware	4	3	6	2 (extensive state lands)	-
Otsego	12	3	4	31	-
Tioga	7	2	3	2	12

Funding Recommendations

- Increased capacity funding for programming staff, marketing, and general operating support
- Recreational equipment and funding for repair and renovation for recreational spaces
- Support for low-income children to participate in recreational activities
- Support for free/low-cost programming
- Support for increased arts education programming

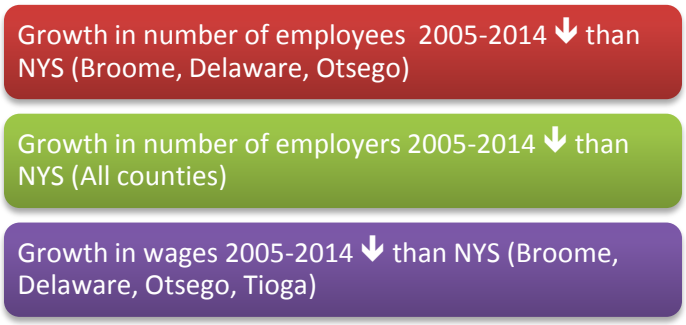
Stakeholders and data suggest the following needs and concerns in the area of economic development:

- Need for skilled manufacturing in some counties
- Need for personal care aides/CNAs and CDL drivers in all counties
- Transportation impacts training and employment options
- Affordable child care is a challenge for employees
- Lack of internet/broadband access is a challenge for small business development
- Watershed rules require costly infrastructure to comply
- Need for associates degree/certificate programs
- Lack of municipal equity to finance ideas
- Lack of financial support for individuals seeking non-college educational options e.g. certificates/skills training

Slow Economic Growth

Overall, the region has seen slower economic growth than the rest of the state[11]. The number of employees grew more slowly than NYS in Broome, Delaware and Otsego counties while the number of employers grew more slowly in the whole region. Wages also lagged behind the state in Broome, Delaware, Otsego and Tioga counties.

Figure 18 Economic Growth Indicators



Job Trends

Stakeholders and data show that the jobs that are currently and projected to be in demand are lower paying, but require specific skills and certifications. Stakeholders noted that individuals seeking training for these types of jobs generally are not eligible for financial assistance, but do not have sufficient resources to pay for the training. In addition, the wages offered after training are low and will not offset the initial cost outlay.

Figure 19 In Demand Jobs Overall Region

[11] US Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages, http://data.bls.gov/

Other Barriers

Several stakeholders noted the lack of internet and broadband service throughout the region as a challenge for small business development. Large portions of Delaware, Chenango, and Otsego counties do not have access to broadband service which reduces options for businesses in those areas.

Child care costs and transportation costs were also noted as significant challenges for the region and limit options for employment and training.

In Delaware County, stakeholders said costly infrastructure is required for businesses to comply with the watershed rules and inhibits business development and expansion in the county.

Stakeholders also said that small municipalities throughout the region are constrained by a lack of municipal equity which limits their ability to finance development ideas.

Funding Recommendations

- Support for training programs, especially online options e.g. how to run small business, skills acquisition
- Support access and development of comprehensive internet infrastructure
- Invest in municipal oriented needs e.g. ambulance services in towns, walking trails
- Provide direct funding to small businesses to help with start-up or expansion e.g. low-cost loans/grants
- Funding to support needs assessments/ engineers for larger grant proposal development
- Financial support for individuals seeking non-college skills/certificates