



**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

Summer Youth Employment Program

Preface

New York State's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) was established to provide youth with an introduction to the workforce and help them acquire skills that can improve future career outcomes as well as improve school performance. The Office of Temporary Assistance (OTDA) has administered the State's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funded SYEP program since 2005 by making grants to local social service districts (districts) to provide for the operation of the program.

The New York State Legislature requires the OTDA to produce a Report describing the effectiveness and outcomes of the SYEP as outlined in bill A00973/S01300.

This Report to the Legislature covers the 2016-2021 program period.

Introduction

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides youth from low-income households with employment opportunities during the summer months, and traditionally serves youth ranging in age from 14 to 20. The SYEP is an important platform to introduce youth into the workforce and help them acquire skills that can be used to improve school performance and become responsible adults. Since many low-income youth face the prospect of a challenging transition to work or college, constructive workforce experiences can provide great benefits. In addition to the income the SYEP provides, experience in the workforce and interaction with working adults can help youth recognize the importance of educational achievement and expand their education and career goals.

Paid employment is an integral component of the SYEP program. To augment the work component of the SYEP, providers may include limited educational and/or career exploration activities, which will better prepare youth as they continue their education and transition to the world of work. Allowable activities and services for the SYEP include: work subsidies for youth (payment to employer or third party); education and training; and supportive services such as transportation, case management, and incentive payments.

The OTDA provides TANF allocations to each district throughout the State to operate a SYEP. The program normally runs from the beginning of May to the end of September each year. Districts are notified of their allocations typically in the spring/early summer of each year. Allocations are announced to districts via a Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM). At the request of districts, funds not used for costs of the summer youth program may be transferred to the credit of the district's allocation of the Flexible Fund for Family Services up to percentage specified by OTDA. Districts may opt to retain their allocation and use district mechanisms (i.e., direct administration, district contracts, transfer of funds between district agencies) to operate the program, or they may assign funds to their Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) to operate the SYEP.

A. Number of Jobs Available and the Nature of the Jobs

The number of job placements available through the SYEP each year is determined by many factors including the amount of funding allocated for that year, available work sites, and number of eligible youth applications received. Please see the chart below for total number of available placements statewide as reported by districts, and Appendix A for the number of job placements available by district.

Year	Total Number of Jobs Available Statewide
2016	18,488
2017	19,250
2018	18,511
2019	17,741
*2020	6,395
2021	18,552

*The number of applications received for 2020 was significantly reduced from prior year programs due to the effects of COVID-19, including but not limited to the fact that, New York City was not able to participate in the 2020 State TANF funded SYEP.

All participants receive at least the New York State’s minimum wage for the district in which they are working. SYEP participants are typically placed in entry level positions in a variety of job settings at public organizations, non-profit agencies and for-profit businesses. Youth work at parks, schools, summer camps, childcare facilities, community and recreation centers, hospitals, restaurants and retail businesses. The agencies operating the SYEP in each district develop their worksites annually and assign youth based on criteria such as individual interests, availability and transportation needs.

Please see the table below for a breakdown of statewide worksites by sector for 2016-2021.

Year	Non-Profit Worksites	Public Worksites	For Profit Worksites
2016	4,597	2,914	3,318
2017	4,692	2,872	4,139
2018	6,239	2,128	6,017
2019	2,512	1,162	1,707
*2020	497	448	308
2021	2,092	983	1,550

* The number of worksites for 2020 was significantly reduced from prior year programs due to the effects of COVID-19, including but not limited to the fact that, New York City was unable to participate in the 2020 State TANF funded SYEP.

The pie chart below shows the worksites by sector for the entire review period of 2016-2021.

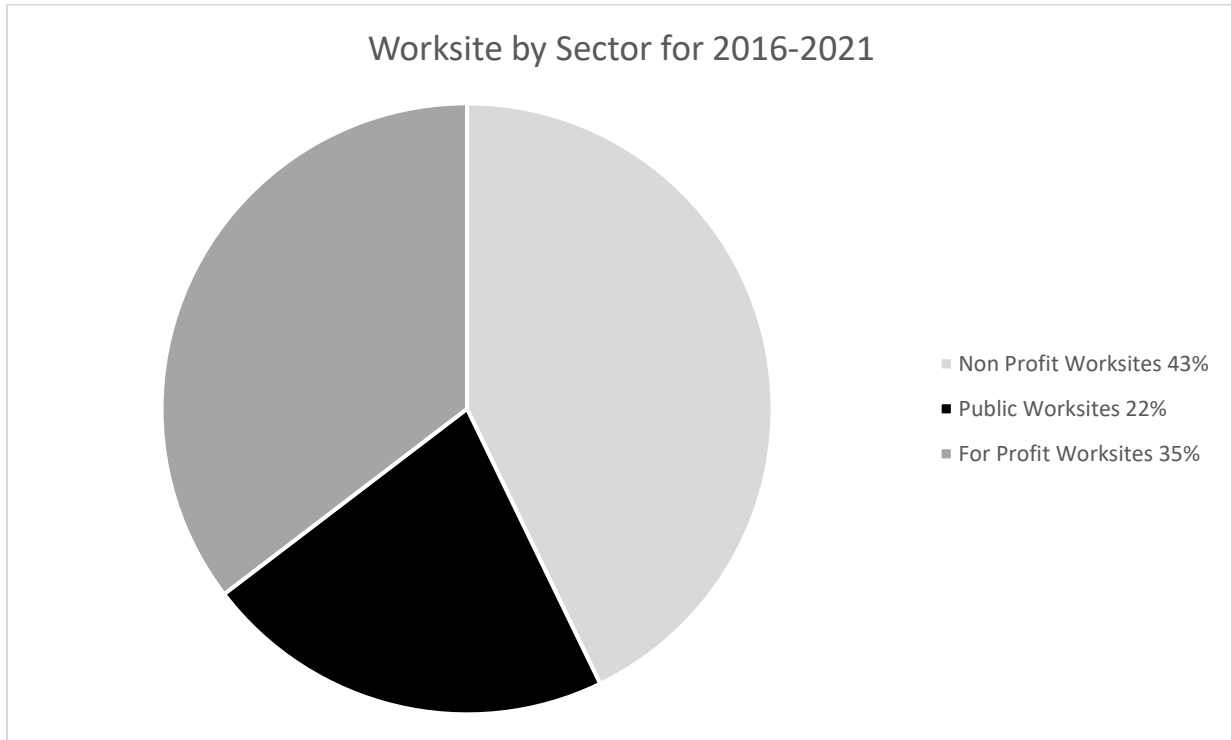


Figure 1: Pie Chart Showing Worksites by Sector for 2016-2021

As noted above, providers may include limited educational and/or career exploration activities, which will better prepare youth as they continue their education and transition to the world of work. In accordance with Chapter 421 of the Laws of 2014, providers are required to include a financial literacy education program for teenagers and young adults as part of the SYEP. To comply with this statutory requirement, a financial literacy component must be in place for all SYEP participants.

Providers electing to offer education and/or career exploration components must limit these non-employment activities to no more than 20% of each provider's total enrollments. In addition, these placements should be reserved for younger youth (e.g., 14 and 15-year-olds) or those who would otherwise be more difficult to place in traditional employment opportunities. The remaining program participants, at least 80%, must be engaged in traditional paid employment activities with no more than 30% of hourly participation for these SYEP participants in non-employment activities such as career exploration, mentoring outside the workplace, financial literacy, or education. Paid employment may include remote work so long as the position is consistent with work the employer would typically engage in but is being conducted remotely due to COVID-19 business requirements or precautions.

B. Number of Applications and Any Survey Results of Demand

The total number of applications for the SYEP program statewide is shown in the table below, and the total number of applications by district is shown in Appendix B.

Year	Total Number of Applications Statewide
2016	103,889
2017	102,896
2018	102,335
2019	98,817
*2020	4,500
2021	97,396

* The number of applications received for 2020 was significantly reduced from prior year programs due to the effects of COVID-19 and New York City was unable to participate in the 2020 State TANF funded SYEP due to the effects of COVID-19.

Districts self-report the number of youth who apply for the SYEP but are unserved. The total number of youth unserved statewide is shown in the chart below, and the number of youth unserved by district is shown in Appendix C. There are various reasons why an individual may not have been served including: lack of funding; the applicant was deemed ineligible for the program; the required paperwork was not completed; lack of interest/follow through by the applicant, pandemic-related issues, and worksite capacity limitations.

Year	Unserved Youth Statewide	Unserved Youth in NYC	Unserved Youth in Remainder of State
2016	85,143	79,803	5,340
2017	83,525	77,849	5,676
2018	83,426	77,849	5,577
2019	80,931	77,144	3,787
2020	0	NA*	0
2021	80,674	78,937	1,737

*NYC was unable to participate in OTDA’s 2020 SYEP due to the effects of COVID-19.

C. Admission Standards and Income and Geographic Restrictions

Eligible participants include youth ages 14 to 20 who are:

- Family Assistance (FA) recipients.
- Former FA recipients who have reached their 60-month limit on TANF and have transitioned to Safety Net Assistance (SNA); or
- Members of a household (individual or family) with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level but not in receipt of FA or SNA. Annual poverty standards are updated each

year. As an example, the chart below identifies the poverty level guidelines for 6/1/21-5/31/22.

200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines Chart TANF Program Year June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022				
Family Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Bi-Weekly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$25,760	\$2,146	\$990	\$495
2	\$34,840	\$2,903	\$1,340	\$669
3	\$43,920	\$3,660	\$1,689	\$844
4	\$53,000	\$4,416	\$2,038	\$1,019
5	\$62,080	\$5,173	\$2,388	\$1,193
6	\$71,160	\$5,930	\$2,737	\$1,368
7	\$80,240	\$6,686	\$3,086	\$1,542
8	\$89,320	\$7,443	\$3,436	\$1,717
	For family units with more than eight members, add			
	\$9,080	\$756	\$349	\$174

Districts are asked to make special efforts to ensure participation of at-risk and vulnerable youth including, but not limited to youth in foster care, homeless and runaway youth, and youth with a disability.

D. Funding Streams and the Number of Slots Funded

OTDA's SYEP is funded by TANF funds. Total program funding for the State for the years 2016-2021 is shown in the chart below.

Year	Total TANF Funding Amounts Statewide	Total Funding for NYC	Total Funding for Downstate Districts (Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk)	Total Funding for Remainder of State
2016	\$31,000,000	\$16,005,796	\$2,826,672	\$12,167,532
2017	\$36,000,000	\$19,696,480	\$3,150,188	\$13,153,332
2018	\$40,000,000	\$20,780,987	\$3,857,630	\$15,361,383
2019	\$44,000,000	\$22,863,417	\$4,313,869	\$16,822,714
2020	\$45,000,000	\$23,383,474	\$4,430,484	\$17,186,042
2021	\$45,000,000	\$23,364,642	\$4,595,373	\$17,039,985

Each district in New York State receives an annual allocation to administer the SYEP. Please see the charts below for total number of participants served statewide as reported by the districts.

Year	Total Number of Participants Served Statewide
2016	18,746
2017	19,371
2018	18,909
2019	17,886
2020	4,500
2021	16,722

Year	Total Number of Participants Funded Statewide	Total Participants Funded in NYC	Total Participants Funded in Downstate Districts (Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk)	Total Participants Funded in Remainder of State
2016	18,746	10,777	1,498	6,471
2017	19,371	10,787	1,594	6,990
2018	18,909	10,179	1,645	7,085
2019	17,886	8,892	1,694	7,300
2020	4,500	*N/A	1,048	3,452
2021	16,722	9868	1,410	5,444

*New York City was unable to participate in the 2020 State TANF funded SYEP.

E. The Effect of Minimum Wage Rates on Placement Opportunities

All SYEP participants are paid at least minimum wage for the district in which they are employed. The charts below show changes in minimum wage by area of the State for the years 2016-2021. In 2016 the statewide minimum wage was \$9 per hour. In 2017, various areas of the state began to pay different wages as indicated below with NYC paying higher wages than the other areas of the state.

While the overall funding for the TANF funded SYEP has increased over the last several years to address the minimum wage increases, in some instances, the number of participants served has also declined in those same years. In addition to the COVID-19 related challenges in 2020 and 2021, other factors including but not limited to, lack of youth enrollment (some older youth may find employment on their own prior to the program start), lack of available worksites, and some districts offering older youth pay above the minimum wage requirement may affect the overall statewide enrollment numbers.

Year	NYC	Downstate Districts (Nassau, Suffolk & Westchester)	Remainder of State
2016	\$9 per hour	\$9 per hour	\$9 per hour
2017	\$11 per hour	\$10 per hour	\$9.70 per hour
2018	\$13 per hour	\$11 per hour	\$10.40 per hour
2019	\$15 per hour	\$12 per hour	\$11.10 per hour
2020	\$15 per hour	\$13 per hour	\$11.80 per hour
2021	\$15 per hour	\$14 per hour	\$12.50 per hour

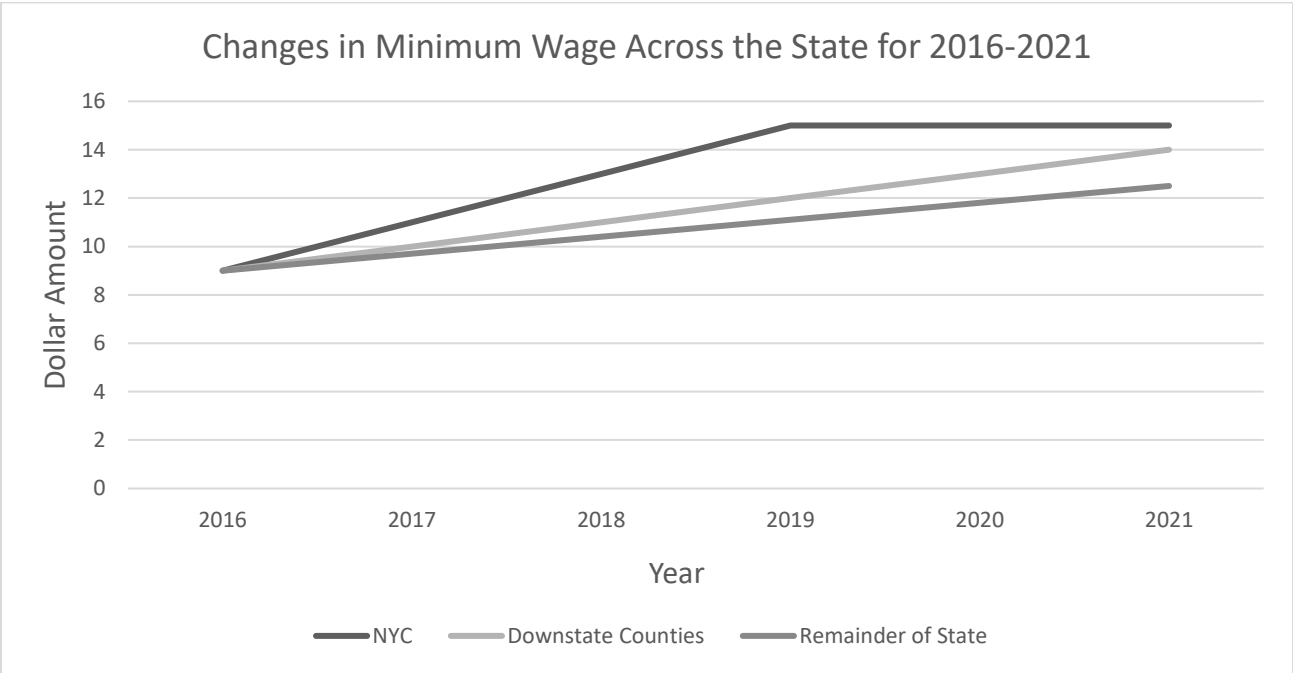


Figure 2: Chart Showing Changes in Minimum Wage Changes Across the State for 2016-2021

F. Summary

In the past six years New York State’s SYEP program has served approximately 100,000 youth. The program provided jobs and training to individuals living under 200% of the poverty level who otherwise might not have been able to find such placements. Available jobs were in the public, for profit and non-profit sectors and all jobs paid at least minimum wage.

There is a growing body of research that examines the numerous and wide-ranging benefits of SYEP programs. The SYEP is an important platform to introduce youth into the workforce and help them acquire skills that can be used to improve school performance and become responsible adults. Since many low-income youth face the prospect of a challenging transition to work or college, constructive workforce experiences can provide great benefits to these individuals. In addition to the income it provides, experience in the workforce and interaction with working adults can help youth recognize the importance of educational achievement and expand their education and career goals.

In response to the rising gun violence rates statewide, New York State declared a Gun Violence Emergency in July 2021, allocating \$139 million toward gun violence reduction efforts. A total of \$10 million was provided to OTDA through the Department of Labor's (DOL) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding and was subsequently allocated by OTDA to 18 social services districts to provide additional employment opportunities for youth residing within areas experiencing high rates of gun violence.

Eligible participants for this targeted anti-violence WIOA-funded SYEP initiative included individuals who are between 14 and 24 years old and who reside in households with income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The initiative will operate through June 30, 2022. As of April 2022, approximately 2,000 enrollments had been reported statewide. An additional \$250,000 in WIOA funds were provided to OTDA by DOL. These funds were used to create the "Career Jumpstart" pilot program, which provided paid workforce readiness training to 128 at-risk youth in New York City. OTDA contracted with five providers to offer services in six NYC locations to support this initiative.

The SYEP provides meaningful employment opportunities for lower-income youth. The 2022 SYEP is supported by \$46.1 million. OTDA is thankful for the ongoing support of the program.

Appendix A: Total Number of Jobs Available Statewide by District

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Albany	413	725	685	635	469	246
Allegany	50	60	57	57	60	62
Broome	228	207	218	240	258	182
Cattaraugus	150	178	212	168	168	100
Cayuga	60	60	60	60	35	50
Chautauqua	126	150	142	142	139	113
Chemung	105	112	100	110	91	106
Chenango	55	54	60	88	35	60
Clinton	90	94	84	83	48	66
Columbia	48	56	54	59	49	34
Cortland	62	70	70	70	45	54
Delaware	62	67	67	69	38	41
Dutchess	127	136	150	150	185	170
Erie	650	700	700	700	200	750
Essex	21	16	11	14	8	15
Franklin	57	52	55	53	40	50
Fulton	41	43	40	41	13	23
Genesee	40	41	40	45	45	42
Greene	45	52	55	51	36	51
Hamilton	5	5	5	5	1	3
Herkimer	60	90	100	100	72	120
Jefferson	95	100	115	148	96	80
Lewis	20	22	28	32	15	25
Livingston	51	72	74	69	47	45
Madison	85	95	95	105	30	60
Monroe	450	473	485	526	350	536
Montgomery	37	41	39	40	14	23
Nassau	281	306	303	364	184	259
Niagara	150	150	150	155	120	84
NYC	10,776	10,722	9,839	8,767	*N/A	10,908
Oneida	450	450	450	450	325	400
Onondaga	323	373	448	528	540	556
Ontario	75	75	80	70	35	60
Orange	215	223	241	250	150	250
Orleans	34	35	35	37	33	35
Oswego	140	160	160	160	120	140
Otsego	92	95	95	95	75	75
Putnam	21	22	22	26	20	20

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Rensselaer	160	165	170	170	165	165
Rockland	119	124	135	120	200	200
St. Lawrence	120	142	160	170	75	103
Saratoga	75	72	74	75	19	50
Schenectady	150	167	183	195	95	180
Schoharie	35	33	29	30	4	20
Schuyler	19	19	20	19	9	20
Seneca	50	50	50	50	27	32
Steuben	100	95	95	110	90	90
Suffolk	680	711	772	797	500	734
Sullivan	55	65	66	70	35	50
Tioga	50	50	52	60	38	41
Tompkins	198	192	165	159	136	102
Ulster	140	143	147	148	130	130
Warren	42	72	48	48	25	35
Washington	34	35	42	45	55	33
Wayne	60	70	70	75	50	65
Westchester	538	581	538	570	487	549
Wyoming	38	37	36	33	36	29
Yates	35	45	35	35	30	30
Totals	18,488	19,250	18,511	17,741	6,395	18,552

*New York City was unable to participate in the 2020 State TANF funded SYEP.

Note: The number of jobs available is the number of jobs identified as available for SYEP each June by each local district.

Appendix B: Total Number of Applications Statewide by District

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Albany	386	725	687	611	272	214
Allegany	172	152	179	95	35	81
Broome	315	338	376	597	146	348
Cattaraugus	144	163	179	168	76	73
Cayuga	60	59	61	71	29	49
Chautauqua	127	203	127	133	84	132
Chemung	244	316	171	198	61	87
Chenango	48	50	76	54	17	28
Clinton	98	96	87	80	38	55
Columbia	75	99	85	81	38	45
Cortland	56	73	76	77	35	49
Delaware	80	80	86	62	25	43
Dutchess	145	160	175	182	150	161
Erie	678	1,326	1,159	1,450	257	743
Essex	35	42	25	25	2	5
Franklin	58	50	53	58	36	36
Fulton	43	43	33	26	3	14
Genesee	65	33	89	43	37	34
Greene	69	81	81	63	36	37
Hamilton	5	5	4	2	1	3
Herkimer	121	115	83	76	53	76
Jefferson	332	300	284	132	48	107
Lewis	21	35	74	73	19	31
Livingston	41	56	52	53	43	46
Madison	96	102	94	92	37	43
Monroe	2,768	2,876	2,554	805	174	364
Montgomery	36	40	35	37	9	24
Nassau	270	302	322	339	183	232
Niagara	149	152	152	148	105	96
NYC	90,580	88,636	88,028	86,036	*N/A	88,805
Oneida	505	466	411	421	194	328
Onondaga	1,190	651	1,169	1,325	122	1,846
Ontario	88	85	71	97	30	52
Orange	322	273	365	295	70	234
Orleans	26	31	40	77	21	37
Oswego	139	147	150	157	103	120
Otsego	93	87	90	85	50	52

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Putnam	15	20	18	25	11	15
Rensselaer	210	179	188	173	116	167
Rockland	193	217	258	236	217	250
St. Lawrence	110	281	330	252	52	82
Saratoga	84	71	97	89	17	56
Schenectady	201	321	187	349	71	177
Schoharie	34	25	29	26	1	10
Schuyler	46	31	29	12	9	8
Seneca	56	63	57	57	24	36
Steuben	204	209	198	98	61	81
Suffolk	1,001	1,011	1,058	996	478	709
Sullivan	98	90	94	89	35	34
Tioga	42	43	72	64	37	38
Tompkins	227	206	194	195	91	173
Ulster	250	236	220	231	116	162
Warren	39	45	52	40	18	21
Washington	46	48	40	45	19	47
Wayne	62	61	75	92	54	75
Westchester	1,188	1,200	1,256	1,322	387	469
Wyoming	66	56	63	65	27	30
Yates	37	35	37	37	20	26
Totals	103,889	102,896	102,335	98,817	4,500	97,396

*New York City was unable to participate in the 2020 State TANF funded SYEP.

Appendix C: Total Number of Individuals Unserved Statewide by District

Unserved (youth who applied but ultimately were not served) as self-reported by districts. Various factors could include lack of funding; the applicant was deemed ineligible for the program; the required paperwork was not completed; lack of interest/follow through by the applicant, pandemic-related issues, and work site capacity limitations

Statewide by District

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Albany	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allegany	120	95	113	28	0	23
Broome	103	125	153	326	0	178
Cattaraugus	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cayuga	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chautauqua	0	90	0	0	0	0
Chemung	134	209	70	88	0	0
Chenango	0	0	15	0	0	0
Clinton	5	4	0	0	0	0
Columbia	27	43	31	25	0	0
Cortland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delaware	14	15	18	0	0	0
Dutchess	0	14	19	0	0	0
Erie	0	602	419	747	0	0
Essex	13	23	13	13	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fulton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Genesee	25	0	42	0	0	0
Greene	24	29	26	14	0	0
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herkimer	42	25	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	240	201	187	0	0	0
Lewis	0	6	44	41	0	0
Livingston	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monroe	2,365	2,399	2,109	317	0	117
Montgomery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nassau	10	0	0	0	0	0
Niagara	0	0	0	0	0	0
NYC	79,803	77,849	77,849	77,144	*NA	78,937
Oneida	0	25	25	0	0	0

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Onondaga	705	131	641	740	0	1,346
Ontario	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orange	123	63	138	30	0	0
Orleans	0	0	0	30	0	0
Oswego	0	0	0	0	0	0
Otsego	0	0	0	0	0	0
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rensselaer	50	18	15	0	0	0
Rockland	0	30	30	8	0	0
St. Lawrence	0	150	176	102	0	0
Saratoga	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schenectady	43	168	21	152	0	0
Schoharie	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schuyler	27	12	10	0	0	0
Seneca	3	7	2	0	0	0
Steuben	106	114	98	0	0	0
Suffolk	300	300	300	200	0	0
Sullivan	38	22	22	17	0	0
Tioga	0	0	20	9	0	0
Tompkins	20	15	27	24	0	30
Ulster	109	91	72	83	0	31
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	11	10	0	0	0	12
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westchester - Yonkers	500	485	550	525	0	0
Westchester - Balance	150	134	141	238	0	0
Wyoming	30	20	30	30	0	0
Yates	3	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	85,143	83,525	83,426	80,931	0	80,674

*New York City was unable to participate in the 2020 State TANF funded SYEP.

Appendix D: Total Number of Individuals Funded Statewide by District

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Albany	386	725	687	611	272	214
Allegany	52	57	66	67	35	58
Broome	212	213	223	271	146	170
Cattaraugus	144	163	179	168	76	73
Cayuga	60	59	61	71	29	49
Chautauqua	127	113	127	133	84	132
Chemung	110	107	101	110	61	87
Chenango	48	50	61	54	17	28
Clinton	93	92	87	80	38	55
Columbia	48	56	54	56	38	45
Cortland	56	73	76	77	35	49
Delaware	66	65	68	62	25	43
Dutchess	145	146	156	182	150	161
Erie	678	724	740	703	257	743
Essex	22	19	12	12	2	5
Franklin	58	50	53	58	36	36
Fulton	43	43	33	26	3	14
Genesee	40	33	47	43	37	34
Greene	45	52	55	49	36	37
Hamilton	5	5	4	2	1	3
Herkimer	79	90	83	76	53	76
Jefferson	92	99	97	132	48	107
Lewis	21	29	30	32	19	31
Livingston	41	56	52	53	43	46
Madison	96	102	94	92	37	43
Monroe	403	477	445	488	174	247
Montgomery	36	40	35	37	9	24
Nassau	260	302	322	339	183	232
Niagara	149	152	152	148	105	96
NYC	10,777	10,787	10,179	8,892	*N/A	9,868
Oneida	505	441	386	421	194	328
Onondaga	485	520	528	585	122	500
Ontario	88	85	71	97	30	52
Orange	199	210	227	265	70	234
Orleans	26	31	40	47	21	37
Oswego	139	147	150	157	103	120
Otsego	93	87	90	85	50	52

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Putnam	15	20	18	25	11	15
Rensselaer	160	161	173	173	116	167
Rockland	193	187	228	228	217	250
St. Lawrence	110	131	154	150	52	82
Saratoga	84	71	97	89	17	56
Schenectady	158	153	166	197	71	177
Schoharie	34	25	29	26	1	10
Schuyler	19	19	19	12	9	8
Seneca	53	56	55	57	24	36
Steuben	98	95	100	98	61	81
Suffolk	701	711	758	796	478	709
Sullivan	60	68	72	72	35	34
Tioga	42	43	52	55	37	38
Tompkins	207	191	167	171	91	143
Ulster	141	145	148	148	116	131
Warren	39	45	52	40	18	21
Washington	35	38	40	45	19	35
Wayne	62	61	75	92	54	75
Westchester	537	581	565	559	387	469
Wyoming	36	36	33	35	27	30
Yates	34	34	37	37	20	26
Totals	18,746	19,371	18,909	17,886	4,500	16,722

*New York City was unable to participate in the 2020 State TANF funded SYEP.