



Career & Family Services

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

We support individuals and families in attaining self-sufficiency by providing services, sharing resources, and through community collaboration.

APRIL/MAY 2023

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CAREER & FAMILY SERVICES

LEAP is an acronym representing the areas we operate in: Learning, Employment, Assistance, and Partnership. The Career & Family services division of LEAP is represented by the “E” and “A” in LEAP with a lot of “P” partnership mixed in. The **Employment & Training program** [Washington County Career Center] can make your career goals a possibility. “A” is for Assistance. We are here to help you get the assistance and answers you need in the areas of emergency assistance, transportation, and hunger solutions.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit us online at www.leapservices.org and follow us on your favorite social media platform.
Call us at 518-746-2391

What does it mean?

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN.

So what does LEAP mean?

LEAP, formerly known as the **Washington County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.** was founded in 1966 as part of the war on poverty. In 2018 the agency underwent a rebranding and update in structure to better support the families we serve. Each letter of the name represents one of the four corners of our foundation.



Head Start & Early Head Start
Employment [Washington County Career Center]
Community Action, Emergency & Community Services
Partnership is so important to the
work we do that it is in our name.



As the designated Community Action Agency for Washington county for 58 years, LEAP has been providing services and programs by leveraging and sharing resources through community collaboration. Our primary funding is through state and federal grants. The Career & Family Services Center is home to the Washington County Career Center, the Emergency Food Pantry, Senior Transportation & Services, and Emergency Services. As part of the federal Head Start / Early Head Start Program, LEAP operates 5 Head Start Centers and home-based programming throughout Washington County, provides services to eligible children and their families, beginning during pregnancy, to promote social-emotional growth, physical and mental wellbeing, and kindergarten readiness through comprehensive and wraparound services.

BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE PERSON AT A TIME

CAREER & FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM BREAKDOWN TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Youth GED | This allows qualifying youth between the ages of 16 & 24 who did not earn their high school diploma to sit in classroom settings to prepare to take GED test.

Summer Youth Employment Program [SYEP] | This program allows youth between the ages of 14 & 20, who are eligible to gain experience, work for \$15/hr, up to 30 hours a week, with partner employers across Washington County, NY.

Employment Workshops: Free workshops for all job-seekers 18 years-and-older. Workshops are held monthly and available via Zoom or in-person. Topics include: Goal setting, Resume Development, Job Interview Tips, Elevator Pitch, Job Fair Success, Job Zone, and more. The schedule for these can be found on our events page.

SSI/SSDI Applications in partnerships with the Washington County Department of Social Services: This program assists clients with applying for SSI/SSDI and who are referred to the agency through the DSS Employment Department.

WIOA Adult / WIOA Dislocated Worker: A federally funded program to assist in learning new job skills or training for a new career. Washington County residents must qualify for training.

Trade Act: A federally funded training program to help workers who have lost their jobs as a result of foreign trade. Must be qualified as Trade Act Eligible. Some of the benefits include: job training, income support, job search, and relocation allowances.

Adult GED Classes: This training, through BOCES, assists adults in completing and receiving their high school equivalency degree. Call 518-746-3560 to reserve a seat for screening. Students may bring proof of enrollment to our LEAP CFS office and we will pay the \$65 fee.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Registration for Washington County residents that work out of state: If you live in Washington County but work out of state, you will be required by the state you work in to register in our Washington County Career Center, located at 383 Broadway, Suite B003A, Fort Edward, NY 12828.



CAREER & FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM BREAKDOWN COMMUNITY & EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

Open by appointment only, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30-3:30.

The emergency food pantry is available to income-eligible Washington County residents who are experiencing difficulty securing food for themselves or their families. We provide 3 days worth of food [3 meals/day] to feed each individual in the house. The pantry can be used once every 30 days.

The Emergency Food Pantry is operated with the support of volunteers, Market 32, and the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

We have 12 FREE garden plots at our Community Garden in Hudson Falls, NY! We even provide all seed, tools, soil, etc. so that all you have to do is show up and enjoy time in the garden. Access the application online or at the Career & Family Services suite in Fort Edward. The garden is made possible with the help of generous community friends, like Ideal Dairy and Bentley Seed Co.! If you'd like to sponsor the garden, a bed, donate, or volunteer, let us know!

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING

Transportation for senior citizens to medical appointments and food shopping is available through LEAP. Anyone over the age of 60 and able to independently get in and out of vehicle can benefit from this program. You must also be a Washington county resident, and will need to complete an intake and policy form. Priority is given to medical appointments.

Medicaid Transportation is available to Washington County residents.

Residents must call Medicaid at 855-360-3544 and request to be transported by Washington County EOC, dba LEAP.

CSBG Transportation assists income-eligible individuals to needed medical appointments, pharmaceutical, and grocery needs. Must complete eligibility paperwork.

Medical appointments are given first priority.

EMERGENCIES & REFERRALS

LEAP provides vital services and referrals to all eligible Washington County residents. If we cannot meet your need, we'll help find someone who can. LEAP assists with: avoiding utility shut off and eviction, first month's rent, a coat drive during the cold-weather months, referrals, and more!



METRIX LEARNING

Healthcare | Nursing Courses |
Exploring Virtual Collaboration
| Effective Team Building |
Administration | Microsoft
Office & More

Metrix Learning is a FREE program that individuals can utilize in their own time and at their own pace. It is designed to supplement traditional methods of learning and provide greater opportunity for skill development.

Our goal is to support professional growth through innovative programming that can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With Metrix Learning, one can access over 5,000 free courses to meet their training needs, as well as courses in the development of “soft skills” such as time management and customer service.
www.metrixlearning.com

THIS & THAT



In February 2023, we hosted a Community Job Fair at First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls! More than a dozen employers and service providers were on site, and Salem CSD seniors stopped by to learn about the area job market and resume critique with Asst. Director, Roberta Davis. To join us at future events like this, please email zac.lapoint@leapservices.org!

Late in 2022, the all volunteer Policy Council of LEAP Head Start / Early Head Start, in partnership with neighbors and supporters throughout the county, launched the Community Giving Box project. These boxes, located at Head Start Centers in Hudson Falls, Whitehall, and Cambridge, allow community members to take what personal care items they need and leave what they don't. To help support this effort, email zac.lapoint@leapservices.org!



FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

Greater Capital Region Career Centers

Virtual Workshops | See the Event Calendar at www.leapservices.org for details and times!

These virtual workshops are **open to all!**

Some of the topics include:

- Resume Development
- Transferable Skills
- Goal Setting
- Interview Preparation
- Completing Job Applications
- Social Media
- Overcoming Barriers



LEARNING • EMPLOYMENT • ASSISTANCE • PARTNERSHIP •



Follow LEAP on your favorite social media platform!