



Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

4-H Youth Programs | Family & Community Development | Agriculture & Horticulture
Environment & Energy | Nutrition, Health, Safety & Financial Education

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The past year was one of internal transformation, reinvigorating relationships, deepening understanding of operations and programs, and strengthening our engagement with one another and our mission, vision, and values as an organization. Through leadership from Meg Cole during this 2023 transitional year, we are more resilient and energized to serve out that mission; to put knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping families and our community thrive in our rapidly changing world.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we extend a sincere "Thank You" to Meg who helped us forge a path forward, and to all who extended their trust in the work we have done and continue to do. Because of your support, 2023 was a truly successful year.

We are proud to present the 2023 Year End Report demonstrating some of the highlights of our programs across all our Issue areas. In these pages, you will see highlights of how we exemplified our commitment to our mission through innovative farming practice research, parenting support that strengthens family foundations, many programs sponsoring youth development, and continued growth with our Regional Clean Energy Hub and Green Workforce preparation, just to name a few! I am grateful for the opportunity to continue the momentum and care that was set forth as I begin my service in 2024.

As we look forward to 2024, as an organization we will seek to further enrich the relationships of community partners, collaborating to extend the reach and scope of our services. As we strive to become better recognized as the premier resource for knowledge, education, and supportive research, we will also seek ways to reach community residents who are underserved or under-resourced. As I look forward to 2024, I know the momentum is strong, and I am dedicated to the people of this agency and the residents of Tompkins County.

Cynthia Cave-Gaetani
Executive Director

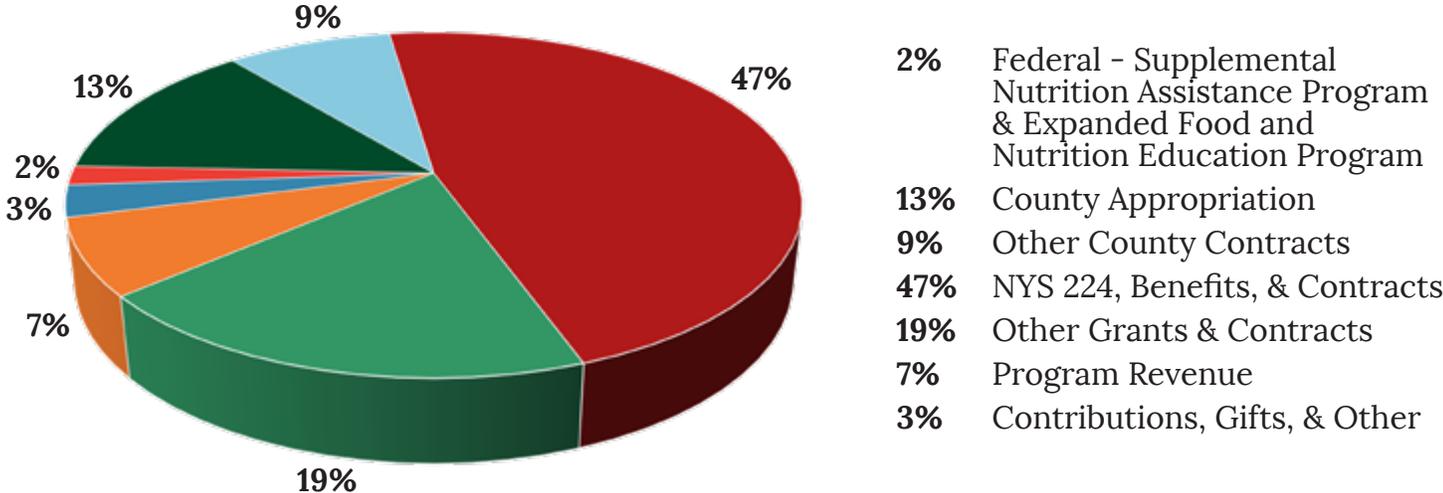
Cover: 4-H Rabbit Hopping at the annual Youth Fair; SNAP-Ed staff preparing a recipe demonstration; a native ladybug donated by the Lost Ladybug Project and released at our Permaculture Park Garden Party in September; the Energy Warriors green workforce development class learns about environmental issues.

2023 Finance Overview

Financial Support & Funding Sources

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Tompkins County leverages local tax dollars to benefit the county's economic well-being and to invest in the quality of life of its residents. For 2023, CCE Tompkins County received direct support from sources such as grants and contracts, Cornell University, Federal resources, fees, as well as both cash and in-kind donations which include volunteer time. Calculations are based on end of year financial statements and are stated in percentages for clarity.

2023 Revenue: \$7,495,270



Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. It is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The association is part of the national Cooperative Extension System, an educational partnership between County, State, and Federal governments. As New York's land grant university, Cornell administers the system in this state. Each Cornell Cooperative Extension association is an independent employer, governed by an elected Board of Directors with general oversight from Cornell University. All associations work to meet the needs of the counties in which they are located, as well as state and national goals.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Our Mission: We put knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping families and our community thrive in our rapidly changing world.

Our Vision: Individuals, families, and communities thrive, live well, and reach their potential in Tompkins County.

4-H Programs *Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders*

4-H Youth Development programs enable kids to grow, learn, develop confidence, and expand their understanding of the world. Over the course of their lives, 4-H youth use what they learn in our programs to build community and advocate for themselves, each other, and for a better world.

This is accomplished through the work of **four unique areas within 4-H Youth Programs: 4-H Clubs, Primitive Pursuits, Rural Youth Services, and Urban Outreach.**



4-H Clubs provided 111 local youth with connections, learning, and fun through skills and knowledge areas like botany, animal science, public speaking, computers, culinary arts, community engagement, and leadership skills. If there is an interest, 4-H almost always provides a program.

In Cloverbuds, for example, children ages 5-8 explore various interests and projects as they start on their 4-H journey. Over multiple years, they continue to make discoveries and benefit from support and direction from peers and volunteers. Later on as teens, they'll learn from guest speakers and take on in-depth learning opportunities.

Participation in 4-H Clubs continues to increase!

Primitive Pursuits summer day camp and school year programs provide youth ages 3-16 with connections to the natural world — exploring, learning, and immersing themselves in nature with their peers.

Camps for ages 3-8 focus on exploring through games, fire-building, and other skills. Camps for ages 8-16 specialize in wildcrafting, river exploration, archery, and more. A Mentor-in-Training program for ages 13-15 provides job skill development and prepares youth to assist instructors with activities/games.

During the school year, Primitive Pursuits provided after-school programs for students in three elementary schools, Saturday teen programs, school break days/camps, and a once a week homeschool program.

Primitive Pursuits served almost 600 youth in 2023, providing over \$11,000 in scholarship funds and over \$3,700 of free programming through Reparation Fee Waivers.

The Ithaca Forest Preschool continued to provide imaginative nature experiences and a sense of wonder for ages 3-5 during the school year — a total of 540 hours of immersive nature connections.

Rural Youth Services (RYS) offers free after school, school break and summer programs to youth across Tompkins County.

In 2023, RYS reached 562 youth, providing programs totaling over 3,500 hours throughout the year. RYS Youth Employment Programs helped 32 teens find summer jobs, and over 100 youth attended Enfield and Groton summer camps. The OURS and YOURS program continued providing youth opportunities in collaboration with student mentors from Cornell.

RYS highlights included youth in Danby writing and performing their own play, students in Lansing forming a fossil hunting group, Newfield youth taking hikes around the region, members in Enfield giving a presentation to the Town Board, Dryden's week-long camping trip to the Adirondacks, and Joint Youth Commission bird-watching with a Cornell Lab of Ornithology curriculum.

Urban Outreach returned after a hiatus, providing after school and break programs to youth at Belle Sherman Elementary. Our new Urban Outreach Program Lead Taylor started at the end of the year and has been growing the program in unique and creative ways. Look for more news in the coming months!

“My daughter has had a fabulous time. I love how she always has something more to share days later; another song, a story, or a silly anecdote. Thank you for nurturing her childhood.”
- 4-H Parent



4-H Youth Fair

The annual 4-H Youth Fair offers a chance for the public to learn about the accomplishments of 4-H youth. Participation in the fair remains high, and the skills on display were remarkable.

In 2023, 30 youth exhibited 122 stationary exhibits (61 of these selected for showing at the NY State Fair), 16 youth served in leadership positions, and 41 participated in animal evaluations.

A group of five traveled to the NY State Fair with volunteers and staff to lead three hands-on activities for almost 150 fairgoers each! Three of Tompkins 4-H's exhibits earned purple Rosettes, the highest honor at this level. Eleven youth participated in knowledge contests, and 17 participated in animal shows. Two youth also worked with NY State Fair Evaluators, learning about the evaluation process, helping place ribbons, and gaining leadership skills.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT >>

Families & Community Together

Through **Tompkins Families!, Family Resource Connection Tompkins**, and related programs, Family & Community Development (F&CD) staff give local parents and caregivers practical knowledge to help them communicate, deal with conflict, and support each other. Virtual and in-person classes and events reach a wide variety of families, and we offer most of these for free with support from the County Department of Social Services and the NY Office of Children & Family Services.

Our Parenting workshops — **P.S. It Works!, Parenting Styles, Parenting a Second Time Around, and Thriving with Your Spirited Child** — have a particular purpose, and all teach skills in understanding children, how to help children learn and thrive, effective communication, and personal stress management. Last year, 107 adults participated, benefiting nearly 200 children.

Parents Apart® workshops focus on how children may respond to their parents' divorce and/or separation, and what parents can do to help them adjust. In 2023, 78 people participated, impacting 130+ youth.



F&CD, Horticulture, & Nutrition at Better Together for Mental Health.

Alongside of year-round workshops, staff held seasonal events and programs including a monthly Youth Game Club; family activities exploring topics such as geology, math, baking, and camping; and cooking classes based around Tompkins County. Nearly 500 local youth and adults joined us for these special programs in 2023.

In May, we joined the **Better Together for Mental Health** event in Stewart Park, sharing parenting info and child-friendly giveaways alongside local agencies and resource centers. About 180 people attended, stopping to talk and share ideas for mental health and self-care.

The monthly **Coalition for Families** meets virtually and includes a guest speaker on a relevant topic. In 2023, these included social emotional development, affordable energy efficiency, peer advocate support, co-parenting conflict resolution, barriers to employment, and more, with 85 parents or professionals joining.

The Youth Game Club was developed in partnership with a parent who identified the need for opportunities for neurodiverse youth to socialize in a safe space. The Finger Lakes Toy Library provided games, and the Club met monthly with a summer break.

Youth socializing around games in a safe, non-judgmental, inclusive environment brought families together month after month. Parents who attended had the opportunity to connect and support one another — an unexpected but added benefit!



“I really appreciate being able to participate in this class. Before it started I felt adrift – resolved to tackle our challenges but struggling to even tread water. Now my perception has changed; I am more optimistic as I have been able to connect and engage with our son knowing what the root of his struggles are.

- Parenting Class Member

Connecting Farmers to Land

As part of American Farmland Trust's **Farmland for a New Generation Program**, CCE Tompkins helps farmers find land, negotiate leases, and understand financing options. The program also helps retiring farmers transition land to a new farmer and non-operating landowners find farmers to lease to.

In 2023, Farmland for a New Generation:

- Connected two apple farmers with two orchards looking for a second life.
- Connected two hay field landowners with two farmers looking for additional hay land.
- Provided outreach to seven dairy and meat farmers looking for land, as part of our effort to find a new farmer for a 246-acre former dairy farm.
- Provided assistance to two veteran farmers looking for land in our area and connected them with the Cornell Small Farm "Farm Ops" program.
- Connected a farmer with the Finger Lakes Land Trust to explore leasing options for regenerative grazing on nature preserves.
- Assisted five property owners seeking farmers to sell or lease land to — listing on NYFarmlandFinder.org, reaching out to specific farmers that were potential matches, providing information on rental rates, and helping property owners understand agricultural assessment tax benefits.



From top: A community tour of Shelterbelt Farm; volunteers learn to take soil samples for the Payment for Ecosystem Services program; a chestnut harvester demonstration.

Protecting Soil & Water

The **Finger Lakes Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)** pilot program aims to develop a regional program to compensate farmers for the ecosystem services that they provide such as carbon sequestration in healthy soils and trees, improved water infiltration rates, and reduced runoff and erosion.

In 2023, the program continued to collaborate with county farmers, volunteers, and community stakeholders to test methodologies to quantify ecosystem services on farms and develop financial mechanisms for compensation.

The pilot centers the experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and beginning farmers in co-design and co-development through conversations around programmatic elements. The Finger Lakes PES Work Team is the advisory committee for the program with 50+ members bringing community perspectives and technical expertise. Thirteen volunteers attended a soil health workshop and training in April before taking field samples on six farms.

In 2024, the program will expand to include 12 farms in total.

Growing Agroforestry Opportunities

Following a staff change, our focus on encouraging and expanding agroforestry opportunities continued in 2023. We coordinated two hazelnut- and chestnut-grower farm events — each was attended by over 40 people, mostly new and beginning farmers. An agroforestry farm day was also well attended despite chilly temperatures in late October.

The nut cropping Specialty Crop Block Grant from the USDA, managed by the NY Farm Viability Institute, made big strides forward, assessing crops from the Southern Tier to the Hudson Valley. CCE Tompkins' Agroforestry Educator conducted many on-site visits to help land owners address specific challenges and general farm land planning.

Sharing What Nature Gives

Our long-running **Horticulture Education Series**, which reached more than 250 people in 2023, expanded our offerings as we continued to bring back hands-on, in-person events. Of the 15 held in 2023, our Edible Plant and Mushroom Walk was one of the most popular. Registrations filled quickly, and everyone showed up enthusiastic and curious in spite of less-than-ideal weather. Our group walked through a local nature preserve and identified plants and mushrooms. Though the plan was to spend an hour walking a mile-long loop, the program ended up lasting two hours as we answered questions and explored side trails.

Studies show being outside has mental and physical health benefits, and foraging is a low-cost way to increase food security. We are expanding the Horticulture Education series to include these issue area objectives in programming.

The **Master Gardener Volunteer Program**, which has 98 participants, partnered with Esty Street Garden to organize a Seed Swap. Esty Street Garden is part of the Food Justice Project which supports the growing and distribution of local, healthy food as a means to end food discrimination, especially in Black and Brown communities.

At the event, we offered almost 50 varieties of seeds donated from companies, volunteers, and staff. Many people grow the same few vegetables each year — this event allowed folks to see new varieties and take home what they wanted of each without cost. More than 50 people participated, getting seeds and growing advice and leaving excited to get their seeds started!



A mushroom found during the walk; Seed Swap participants collecting locally-grown bean seeds.

Planning Our Food Future

A resilient, equitable, and healthy food system is built on the coordinated, collaborative efforts of leaders and changemakers. The 2023 **Tompkins Food System Summit** was designed to strengthen capacity to create the future of our food system. Our intentions were to:

- Connect, share, build understanding, acknowledge challenges, and explore solutions.
- Cultivate functional, trusting relationships necessary for innovation and transformation.
- Elevate and amplify the voices and stories of community changemakers.
- Examine processes for cooperation and collaboration, coordinated action based on shared values, resource sharing, and deep community.

Designed in collaboration with 35 food system leaders who facilitated interactive sessions, 95 attendees gathered for the two-day Summit. The Tompkins County Food System Plan - accepted in 2022 - offers a foundation for goals and recommendations to support a stronger food system.



A panel of local farmers speaks at the Food Systems Summit.

Planting Ithaca's Beauty

Since 2002, the **Community Beautification Program** has maintained stunning seasonal garden beds for our local community, with dozens of volunteers contributing to our efforts and educating the public about the specific plants chosen and their role in the garden. This past year, we had three of our most visible gardens mapped, preparing educational materials about specific plants which can be viewed on the CCE Tompkins website by scanning a QR code that has been incorporated into on-site signage.

In addition, the Beautification Program redesigned a small garden that overlooks Ithaca Falls, a well-known attraction for visitors and locals alike. Using primarily native plants and shrubs purchased from local nurseries, we transformed the otherwise empty space into a garden that invites pollinators by the dozens.



Learn for Yourself!



The Beautification Brigade preparing flowers at CCE Tompkins; community beautification plot overlooking Ithaca Falls.

Energy Warriors & Cozy Basements!

CCE Tompkins' **Energy Warriors** program is a paid twelve-week course that offers a crucial first step for individuals with barriers to employment who seek a career in clean energy. In addition to classroom learning, Energy Warriors trainees attend a solar power boot camp and learn how to perform energy assessments.

The **Cozy Basements!** program takes Energy Warriors to the next level by offering hands on experience for trainees and a direct benefit to community members. Under professional supervision, paid trainees insulate residential basement rim joists — a low-cost, high-impact weatherization service that keeps homes warmer and reduces energy usage.

By the end of 2023, Cozy Basements! trainees insulated the rim joists of over 25 homes, with a focus on low- and moderate-income households. As of 2024, one of the trainees is now fully employed in the clean energy workforce (staff of CCE Tompkins!) and a similar program has started at New Roots Charter School, offering environmental literacy education to local high school students.



From top: Energy Warriors trainees applying rim joist insulation in a local home; Energy Warriors program staff and participants celebrate their graduation, November 2023.

Clean Energy for the Southern Tier

Last year, CCE Tompkins became the headquarters of a new Southern Tier Clean Energy Hub, receiving funding and guidance from New York's energy authority NYSERDA to move our economy toward a clean energy future.

This hub is branded as **Smart Energy Choices**, with CCE staff in extension offices across Broome, Chemung, Delaware, Schuyler, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties providing free energy advising to residents (with a focus on lower-income households), nonprofits, places of worship, and small businesses. Staff also provide assistance in accessing tax incentives and energy-related programs as well as energy education

for students and workforce development for those with barriers to employment.

In July of 2023, over 150 clean energy leaders, educators, and partners gathered in Ithaca for Just Transition! — an event commemorating the end of the local **Get Your GreenBack Tompkins** (GYGB) program and the launch of Smart Energy Choices. Organizers recognized partners and highlighted lessons and hopes for the future.

Throughout its over-10-year run, GYGB worked with the community to implement projects including the ReUse Trail, Streets Alive!, and development of the Energy Navigators volunteer program.

The new regional Energy Hub will help residents and business owners be more comfortable in their homes and businesses and save money on their energy bills.

As GYGB was established to help Tompkins County reach energy-reduction goals, the new project aims to help New York reach its ambitious energy-reduction goals. Learn more at SmartEnergyChoices.org.



Get Your GreenBack Coordinator Karim Beers, NY Senator Lea Webb, and NY Assemblyperson Anna Kelles speak at the community celebration.

Local Communities *Leading the Way*

As part of **NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC)** and **DEC Climate Smart Communities (CSC)**, the Towns of Newfield, Dryden, and Union and the Villages of Lansing and Delhi made significant progress with assistance from CCE Tompkins and citizen involvement. CCE Tompkins runs the CEC program across the eight-county Southern Tier Region and the CSC program in Tompkins and Tioga.

All five municipalities took actions to engage residents in sustainability, reduce energy use and emissions, draw investment from the state to support local projects, and draft plans to face the stresses of a changing climate.

In each, citizen committees advised on climate and conservation. These volunteers and officials rely on up-to-date information — especially with new resources available through the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The knowledge of CCE Tompkins educators helps navigate programs and access grants or planning expertise.

Using our relationships with officials and volunteers, Extension staff advanced climate adaption planning — drafting a Natural Resources Inventory for Lansing; reinvigorating a Climate Smart Task Force in the Village of Delhi; and connecting Union, Dryden, and Newfield to grant funding to decarbonize facilities.

Successes in our region:

- Over \$130,000 awarded across 5 municipalities for upgrades and green energy projects.
- Union founded a Conservation Advisory Committee, advancing programs for the protection of monarch butterfly habitats, model legislation for wetlands protection and reuse programs, and municipal decarbonization.
- Dryden leveraged NYSERDA grants to significantly remodel the town Department of Public Works building with major energy efficiency improvements.
- Lansing collaborated with CCE Tompkins on the Lansing Non-Pipes Alternatives program to help the community address gas reliability issues by reducing gas use, and worked together on and adopted a Natural Resources Inventory outlining community and natural features that contribute to social resilience and local character.
- Delhi achieved Clean Energy Communities designation, earning a grant for a Clean Energy Fund, and completed a 100% retrofit of outdated high-pressure sodium street lights to efficient LEDs.

Way2Go *Helping You Get There*

Way2Go is CCE Tompkins' transportation information and learning hub, connecting people with options and opportunities to create a system that works for everyone. In 2023, we strengthened partnerships, learned about challenges, and identified solutions to help people afford, access, and use transportation.

We organized **electric vehicle (EV) education** through free auto finance and car buyer maintenance classes, presented with Alternatives Federal Credit Union and Ridge Road Imports and attended by 65 people. Participants learned about loans and leasing, refinancing, credit scores, EVs and gas cars, how to assess used cars, and basic maintenance.

In the fall, Way2Go launched our new **Wayfinders Travel Training program**. Starting with McGraw House, about 23 senior residents learned about the variety of options available through activities designed to help people feel comfortable making the shift away from driving alone. Way2Go demonstrated how to navigate the TCAT bus schedule and Google Maps, leading an afternoon group trip to the Ithaca Mall.

Way2Go continued to work with the **Transportation Equity Coalition** on the final phases of the Transportation Equity Needs Assessment. We presented a draft of the assessment during meaning-making sessions, where participants offered reflections and recommendations that will be included in a report shared this year.

We re-launched our regional program **Move Together New York** to address mobility constraints for travel across county lines and facilitate improved connections and transportation information on a regional level.



Way2Go, CCE Tompkins staff, and volunteers rode e-bikes in the Ithaca Festival Parade; a used car mechanics workshop for local residents.

9,743 Way2Go website visits
1,800 views on transit instruction videos
1,292 people referred to transit resources
17,500 reached via education programs

Meeting Community Needs through Health & Wellness

The **Student Resource Navigator Program** employs undergraduate Cornell University pre-health students to reach out to people who have screened positive at their doctors' offices for unmet health-related social needs and facilitate their connection to social care resources. In 2023, the program expanded to receive referrals from four primary care partners (Cayuga Women's Health, Northeast Pediatrics, Cayuga Primary Care Dryden Family Medicine, and Cayuga Primary Care Cayuga Park). It was also honored with a Town-Gown Award from Cornell for campus-community collaboration.

In 2023, the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** collaborated with Amici House, Beverly J. Martin Elementary School, Dryden Elementary School, Ithaca City School District, Tompkins Mental Health's PROS program, and individual home visits. From these partnerships, 55 families — 177 family members and 63 youth — participated.

Participants in EFNEP take a series of at least six sessions that include cooking and interactive activities on nutrition, food resource management, food safety, and physical activity. After these sessions, they complete pre/post surveys on health-related topics. Our local results indicate improvements in cooking skills, dietary quality, food resource management, and overall improvements in local food security (see below).

The objective of **SNAP-Ed Nutrition** programming is to improve health and reduce food insecurity and hunger among the SNAP/SNAP-eligible population by providing nutrition education. Our nutritionists lead workshops, food demonstrations, cooking classes, grocery store tours, and community events. In 2023, our nutritionist reached 755 participants through direct education.



A SNAP-Ed family cooking class in the CCE Tompkins Teaching Kitchen.

Our **Teaching and Commercial Kitchens** provided 1,172 hours of rental space to nine vendors, in addition to providing a place for every program area of CCE Tompkins to host events related to nutrition, cooking, and local food.

We continued to provide back-end support and evaluation to the **Produce Prescription Program**, which is now run regionally through Rural Health Network. Over 350 participants were enrolled in a four-county region through a USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) grant, with additional enrollees covered by other funding sources.



Families learn to make healthy, budget-friendly food together in our programs.

EFNEP Survey Results:

- **94%** showed improvement in diet quality indicators (eating fruits or vegetables, drinking less soda or fruit drinks, and cooking dinner at home)
- **94%** showed improvement in food resource management (cooking dinner at home, comparing food prices, or planning meals)
- **53%** showed improvement in physical activity behaviors (exercising for 30 minutes, doing workouts, or making small changes to be more active).
- **69%** showed improvement in food safety practices (washing hands, washing surfaces after cutting raw meat or seafood, not thawing frozen food, or using a meat thermometer).
- **23%** showed improvement in food security indicators (not eating less than you need or having enough money to feed your family).

We also participated in community outreach events with the **Chronic Disease Working Group**, a coalition made up of both medical providers and community based organizations.

Farm to School hosted events at eight schools across three districts, including school-wide taste tests, classroom lessons, and cooking demos. They also worked with seven partners over the summer to provide garden support and programming. Customizable recipes like pickles with different types of garden herbs were particularly popular with students!

Throughout the year, we continued to provide education around **life skills and personal finances** for those attending Day Reporting. This program will expand in 2024 to other sites so we can offer life skills programming to meet a variety of community needs. We also began providing mental health navigation to participants in our workforce development programs as well as organizing a workshop on neurodivergence for Cornell & Ithaca High School students, families, and staff.

As a team we are motivated to provide support to anyone facing challenges related to the social determinants of health.



A Farm to School activity held at the Enfield Community Council.

COMPOST EDUCATION >>

Reducing Waste Through Composting

At events and festivals in Tompkins County, **Master Composters** spoke to nearly 1,700 people and diverted more than five tons of food scraps from the landfill. Staff reached an additional 250 people by providing educational workshops at our demonstration site and at many locations in Tompkins County.

The Compost Program trained 16 Master Composters in 2023, with an additional 66 returning to teach. Leading independent projects in their communities, Master Composters volunteered almost 1,000 hours. The Program Manager and volunteers supported the Ithaca Farmers Market, joining sustainability committee meetings and staffing collection stations.

The program worked with multi-family groups at Unity House, Commonland Community, the Freeville Community Garden, and more to start or improve composting. Support and encouragement via the telephone and online “Rotline” aided about 150 residents, while fact sheets and videos were viewed thousands of times.



Master Composters at the Ithaca Farmers Market.

GET INVOLVED >>

Be a Part of Our Work!

Volunteers connect CCE to our communities, extending the far-reaching roots of our work.

Ongoing opportunities include:

- Organizational Leadership Program Committee
- Beautification Brigade
- Citizen Pruners
- Energy Navigators
- 4-H Youth Program Leaders
- 4-H Club & Fair Programs
- Master Composters
- Master Gardeners
- Nutrition Education Volunteers
- Payment for Ecosystem Services Field Sampling Volunteer
- Tompkins Food Future Team

Find an application form and descriptions of each opportunity at CCEtompkins.org/volunteer.



Beautification Brigade maintaining a Master Gardener demo plot; Payment for Ecosystem Services volunteers in an orchard.

A new mural by Margaret Kops Kuveke titled Msit No'kmaq (Mi'kmaq for "all my relations") honors the connections between humans, animals, and all of nature.

It was created as a part of the Thriving Futures art project, a collaboration with Ithaca Murals that also included fifteen painted electrical boxes and a mural at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County

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