

# YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**May 20, 2020**

**8:30 A.M.**

**Zoom Platform**

**PRESENT:** V. Zeppelin, K. Shanks-Booth, S. Kittel, T. Watts

**EXCUSED:**

**GUEST:** J. Mouillesseaux

**STAFF:** N. Branosky, D. Achilles, S. Alvord

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Shanks-Booth called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 15, 2020**

It was Moved by Ms. Kittel and seconded by Ms. Zeppelin and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of April 15, 2020.

## **CAREER CENTER QUARTERLY REPORT**

Ms. Mouillesseaux reported service delivery has changed during COVID-19. The Office of Employment and Training developed alternative methods for working with youth, such as modifying the TCWDB WIOA Service Delivery Methods policy and adding TWFNY E-Signature policy to meet funding, program, and fiscal monitoring requirements. The Career Center is offering virtual workshops to work on professional skills, life skills and mindful practices. Moving forward with plans to run the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to serve 150 youth at 20 to 40 worksites.

## **REVIEW OF SYEP CONTRACTOR ANSWERS**

Ms. Alvord reported that Ms. Mouillesseaux covered questions asked in her quarterly report. Ms. Alvord updated the committee on the Service Delivery Methods and E-Signature policies which were passed by the Workforce Development Board members at the Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> full board meeting.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Branosky presented on the unemployment claims in Tompkins County from March 21<sup>st</sup> – May 16<sup>th</sup>, which are at 7,132. The statistics show new claims are highest in the under 25 age group.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Shanks-Booth adjourned the meeting at 09:36 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020.

# Tompkins County

Workforce Development Board and  
Office of Employment and Training



**Natalie Branosky**

Director, Workforce Development Board

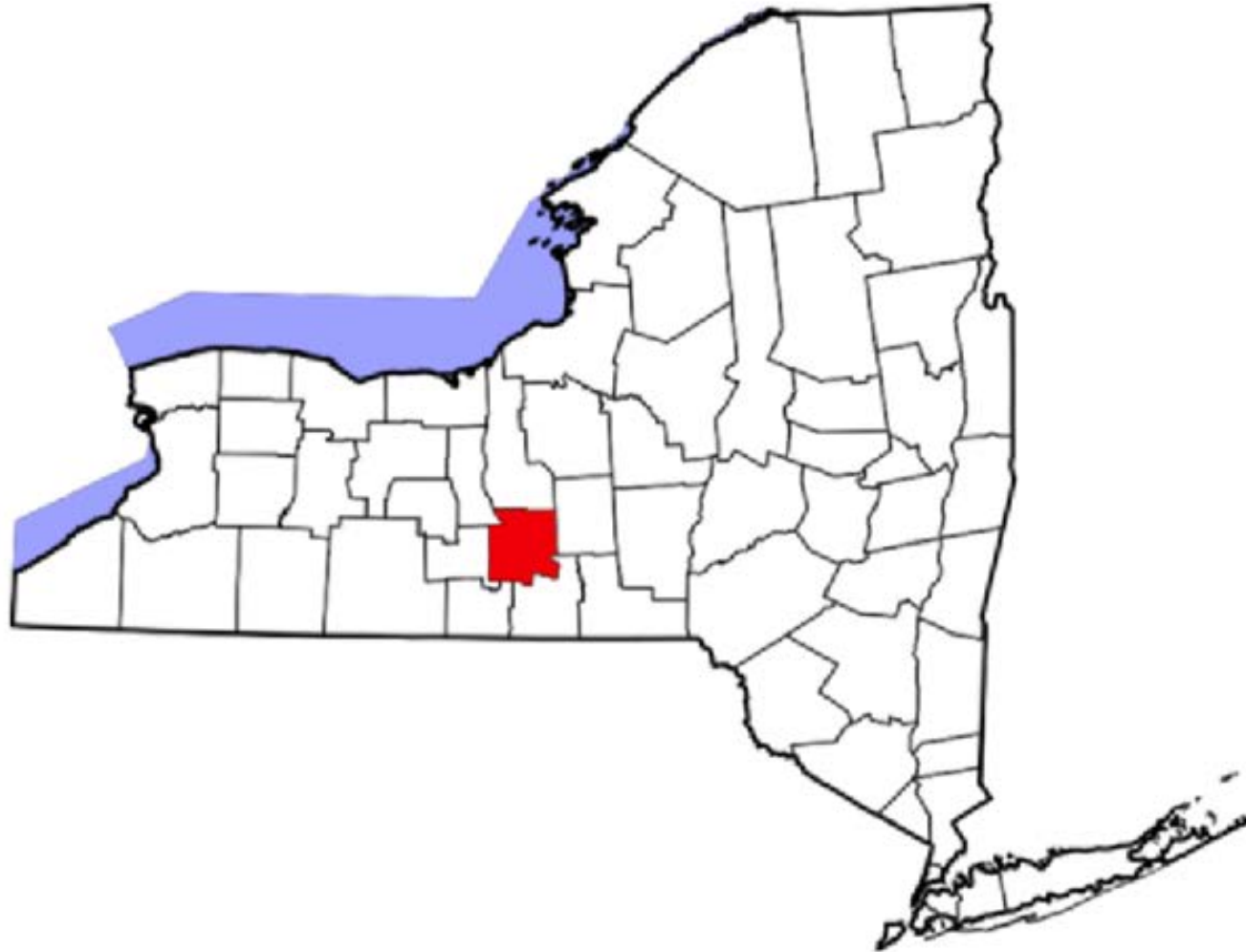
# We are 1 of 550 Workforce Boards



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**We are 1 of 550 Workforce Boards**



# Our Statistics

- Executive Orders: "...all non-essential businesses statewide must close in-office personnel functions effective at 8pm on Sunday, March 22"
- Empire State Development's decisions
- Initial Unemployment Claims
- Southern Tier:

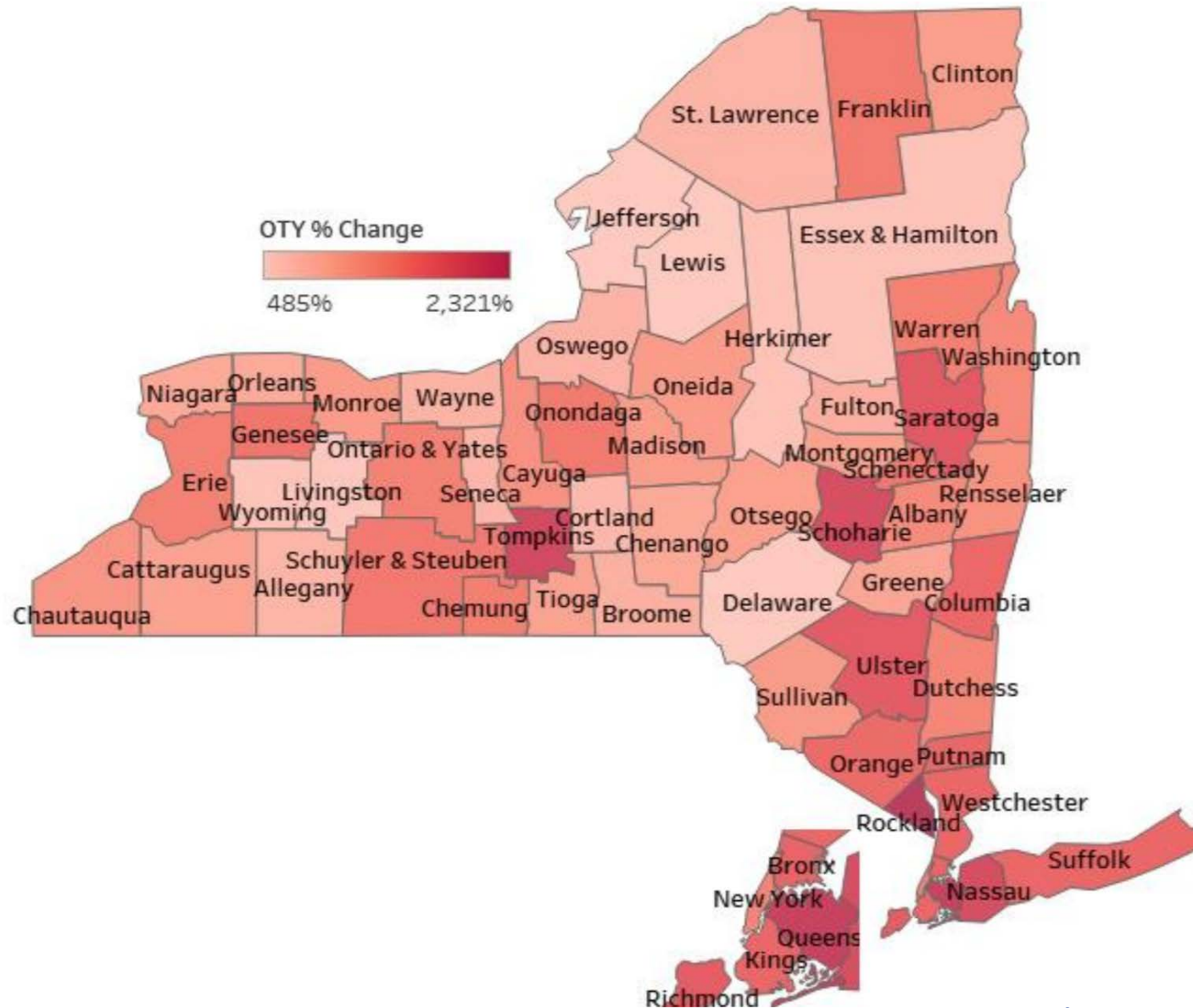
"This time last year..."

2,884 (2019) // 39,609 (2020)

1,273% increase over the YTD

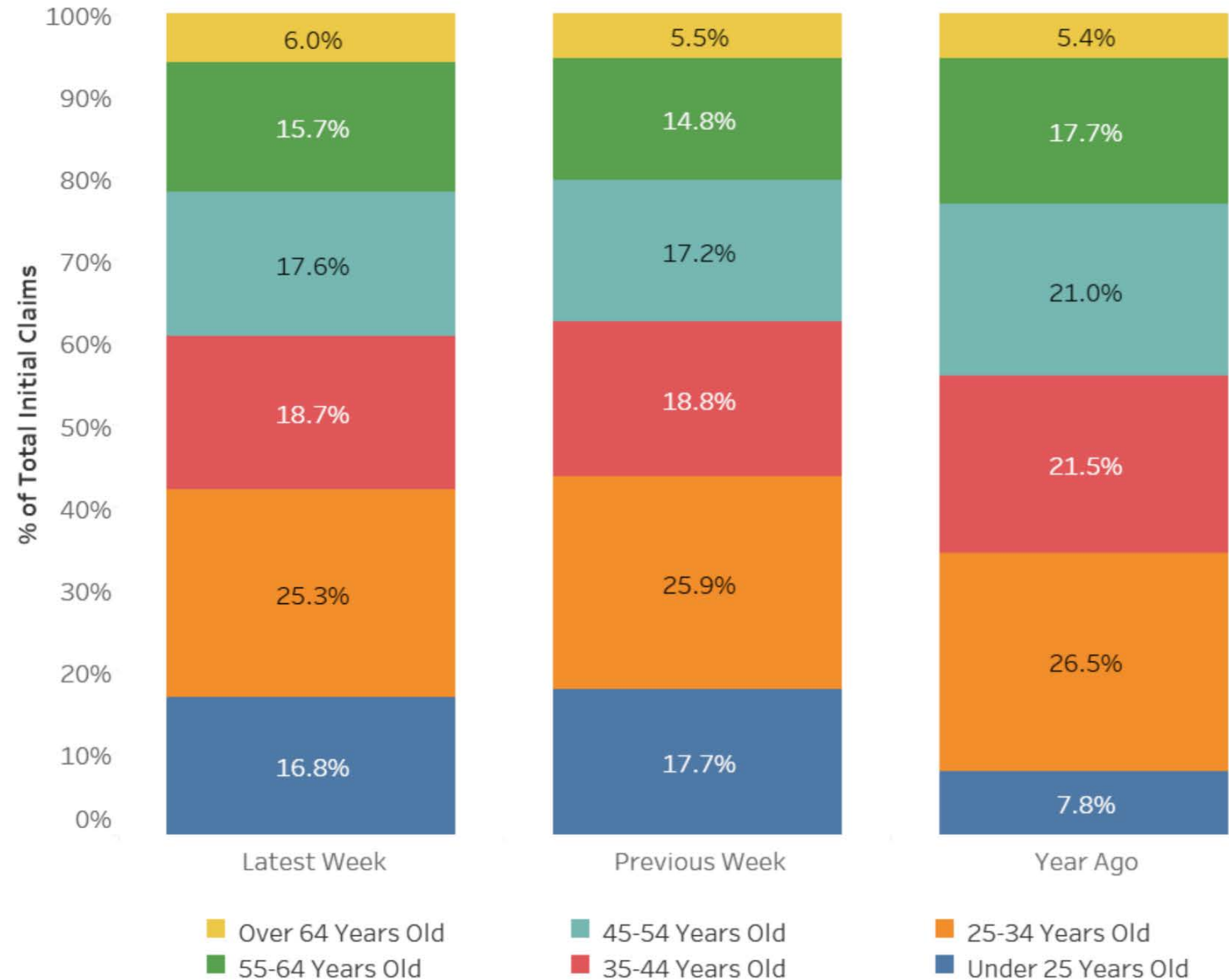
WEEK	CLAIMS
March 21	263
March 28	1,486
April 4	1,075
April 11	974
April 18	496
April 25	608
May 2	521
May 9	648
May 16	1,061
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,132</b>

# This time last year... (5/9/20)



## Initial Claims by Age Group New York State, Week Ending 5/9/2020

Last in,  
first out...





# Strategies for Businesses

- **The Shared Work Program\*** of New York State
- Call 518-549-0496 (information) or 518-457-2635 (determination). Email [sharedworkinfo@labor.ny.gov](mailto:sharedworkinfo@labor.ny.gov)
- Payments based on 1<sup>st</sup> day of certification, approved within 1 week. \*Note: **Ask to be expedited**
- Payments **INCLUDE** \$600 additional weekly “booster” for these workers
  
- *ADVISING:* Keep your workforce connected to health insurance and retirement plans.

# Strategies for Employees

- Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for **self-employed and gig workers**
- \$600 weekly “booster”: This goes to ALL recipients of UI and PUA, **whether unemployed, in Shared Work, partially unemployed, temporary layoff, permanent layoff**
- Federal + State-funded workforce programs: we continue to deliver training components virtually, so please inquire!
- Call the Career Center at (607) 272-7570. Listen to the greeting, leave a message, you’ll receive a call-back within 24 hours.

# Strategies for Both



- Our message to “newly available” workers: go to the Tompkins Workforce ReDirect at [tompkinscountyny.gov/wfny](http://tompkinscountyny.gov/wfny)
- 150 Tompkins County businesses have posted 500 positions... a sign of economic resiliency

# Industry Update: Hospitality

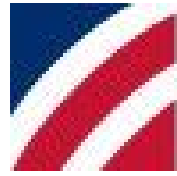
Mohamed Abdelrehim, General Manager  
Homewood Suites, Ithaca NY



- How to bring the workforce back to a safe working environment
- How the relationship between hospitality worker & customer will change
- Social responsibility and appealing to customers
- The long view: industry trends, the outlook for occupancy rates, events, etc.

# Next Steps

- **SOUTHERN TIER:** Design a County-wide (or regional?) re-employment strategy for those at risk of becoming long-term unemployed, drawing on Works Progress Administration (WPA) architecture for a modern, post-COVID economy.
- **STATE + FEDERAL:** Governor has proposed the “Americans First Act” to US Congress. No additional Federal funds to corporations unless they replenish 100% of their workforce.
- **FEDERAL:** NYATEP, urge your US House Members + US Senators to make workforce development a priority in the next Federal Stimulus package. Our TC line:  
“Workforce Development is central to Economic Recovery”



**National Association  
of Workforce Boards**

**H.R. 6800  
Health and Economic Recovery  
Omnibus Emergency Solutions  
(HEROES) Act**

**Rep. Nita Lowey (NY)**

# H.R. 6800: The HEROES Act

- The first COVID-19 response legislation to directly address Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs and the workforce development system
- Proposes \$2.04bn to the workforce development system
- Relaxes eligibility requirements WIOA programs
- Gives priority of services in local One-Stops (Career Centers) to those directly impacted by COVID-19 economically, including:

those seeking employment

individuals with barriers to employment

individuals who are unemployed or underemployed

# Jackie Mouillesseaux-Grube

Career Center Manager Update: COVID-19





# Unemployment Insurance (UI) Sessions & HelpSheets Series

- Higher Ed Institutions
- Public Sector
- Scheduled for: Tompkins Chamber, businesses of all sizes

## **TWO TYPES:**

- Train-the-Trainer (for HR/Department Heads)
- Employee-Focused (layoff, furlough, partial, etc)

# Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

- One of very few summer programs for Youth in the County
- Currently recruiting (150 young people?)
- Job sites -- how to develop these? A 50/50 approach
- Monitoring.....?
- Exploring a no-cost partnership with Coursera -- \*FREE\* enrolment until September 30, 2020 for on-line courses based on professional and workplace skills, linked to micro-credits and certifications (industry-approved)
- Partnership with FLReUse and others
- More to come...



# Career Center Re-Opening

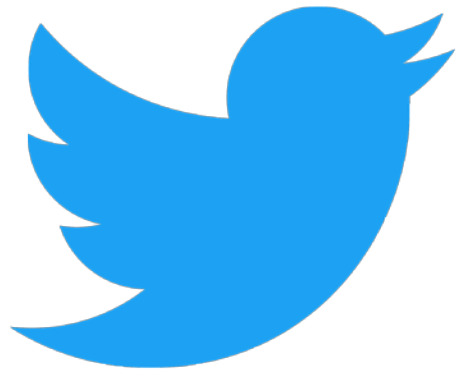
- An “essential business” but.... aligned with Phase 3 (restaurants) → how/when to bring staff back to interface with customers
- NYSDOL is designing a systemic approach for offering virtual services
- Reviewing the floor plans of every Career Center in NYS
- Addressing legal questions about PPE/masks/hand-washing, etc for both customers and staff in a public service environment



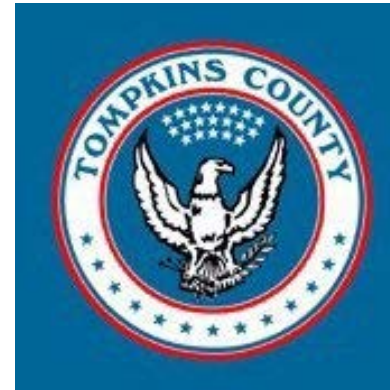
Natalie Branosky, Director

Email: [nbranosky@tompkins-co.org](mailto:nbranosky@tompkins-co.org)

Phone: 202 868 0975



Twitter  
@WorkforceDBTC



OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING



# YOUTH PROGRAMS: QUARTERLY UPDATE

Jackie Mouillesseaux,  
Interim Director

# SERVICE DELIVERY

## DURING COVID-19 & BEYOND

- Alternative Methods of Service Delivery & E-Signature Policies
- Connected with other Career Centers, looked at policies and procedures, considered local needs
- Allows full delivery of programming to youth and adults
- Meets funder, program & fiscal monitor requirements
- Allows Career Center to fully serve the public in modern times and under unique circumstances

# WIOA & DEI

- Mid-March forward
- Weekly check-ins b/w Youth Advisors & Youth
- Assistance w/ pursuing essential jobs
- Assistance w/ applying for UI Benefits
- Weekly Virtual Workshops: soft skills, life skills, mindfulness practice

# WIOA & DEI

- 12 week Pilot Project (DEI), Targeting 15 youth
- June 1<sup>st</sup> Launch - Aug 31<sup>st</sup>
- Incentive-based (gift cards)
- Financial Literacy, Soft Skills, Health & Safety
- Resume, Cover Letter, Interview Prep
- Career Exploration / Pathways
- Mentorship



# SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

- Targeting 150 youth; 20-40 worksites
- Hybrid Model: worksites combined with virtual learning

## Worksites

- Physical and remote
- TC Health Dept: Social distancing, density, face coverings, hygiene
- Worksite supervision and SYEP staff monitoring
- All preparation for Worksites = virtual (paperwork, orientation, communication)

# SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

- Worksites: Danby Youth Farm, ICG, Significant Elements, FLReUse, Village at Ithaca, Groton Food Pantry, SUNY Cortland Liberty Partnership Program, Mary Dourham Boutique, MacCormick, Lansing Residential, Groton CSD?, ICSD?, Newfield CSD?, Trumansburg CSD?, etc
- **Remote Employment and Virtual Learning** (pairing employment with virtual training) – Access to technology; Coursera / Metrix
- **Applications for youth & worksites on-line; flexibility with some IRS docs (e-signatures)**
- **Staff: Navigating new processes, will increase capacity**