

# 2021 Program Report Card: Supports for Youth with Disabilities



**Achieving Youth Results (AYR) Goal:**  
Children and youth will have optimal physical and emotional health.

**Program:** Recreational Support Services  
**Agency:** Ithaca Youth Bureau

**CLIENTS:**  
Youth ages 2-21 who have a developmental disability.

**PARTNERS:**  
School districts, TST BOCES, Racker Centers, Blue Sky Center, Ithaca College, Cornell University, YMCA, OPWDD, TC Mental Health Services, Mental Health Association, LifePlan, Finger Lakes Independence Center, ABA Certified professionals

## RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY HEADLINE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**HOW MUCH:**

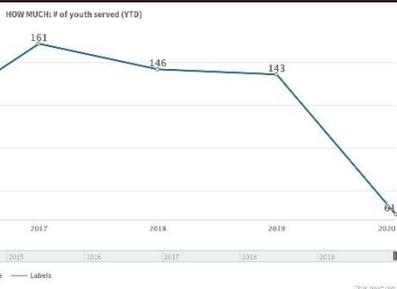
**61 Youth\***

**BETTER OFF:**

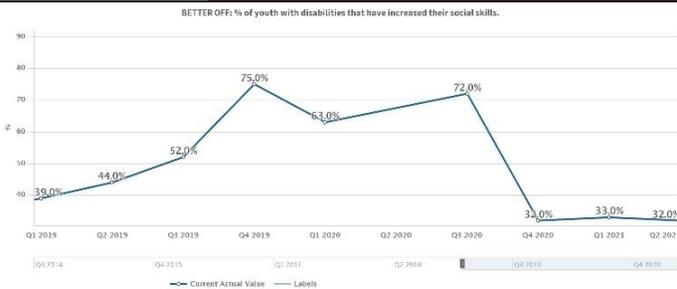
**32%\***

**BETTER OFF:**

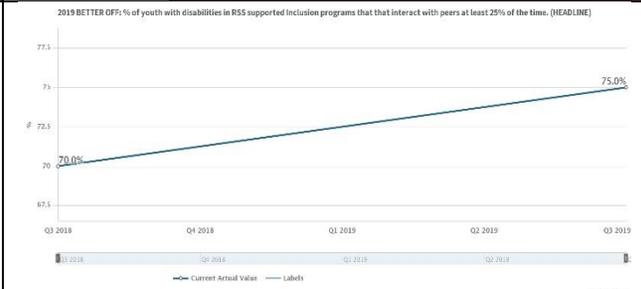
**67%\***



\*Youth served in 2020



\*In Q2 of 2021



\* In Q3 of 2021

## THE STORY BEHIND THE DATA

**GRAPH 1: # of youth served** – At the end of Quarter 3 2021, RSS served a total of 86 youth so far in 2021. In Q3, 69 youth were served, with 48 of those youth attending summer camp at either Cass Park or Stewart Park Day Camp for the first time. RSS plans to work with the Racker Center, BOCES, and ICSD to do more programs for new youth in Q4 2021 to reach the annual goal of 120. RSS has hired well qualified staff to provide successful programming, as well as a behavioral consultant to train the summer staff on how to work successfully with youth with disabilities. RSS also collaborated with camp directors and the Recreation Department of the Youth Bureau to identify youth with special needs during the application process.

**GRAPH 2: % of youth with disabilities that have increased their social skills.** – RSS saw a slight increase in social skills in Q3 of 2021, believed in part due to placing more time and energy into finding high quality staff and providing good training and support for them. Longer relationships between the youth and the staff leads to more success with social skills. We hope to increase staff retention to help accomplish this goal. We are

working with some of the same youth and therefore changing/increasing the expectations for social skill development to encourage growth, hence the trend of less than 50% success rates. It is the hope that success rates will increase over time as the staff get to know the youth better and develop relationships with them. Due to Covid and many youths being isolated, it's been important and necessary to help youth rebuild connections with other people.

**GRAPH 3: % of youth with disabilities in RSS supported Inclusion programs that participate in activities with their typical peers 25% of the time.** - This measure is captured annually during Quarter 3 only, to measure summer camp inclusion. With a 67% success rate in 2021, it is anticipated that this measure will remain stable. Staff training and education helps staff to better work with and understand the needs of youth, long term relationships with the same youth and the same staff allows for more success, and training the general camp staff to understand their role in inclusion all contribute to progress in this measure.

**AGENCY ACTION PLAN TO "TURN THE CURVE"**

**2022 Action Plan**

**HOW MUCH**

- Hiring qualified staff.
- Providing the necessary resources for excellent and diverse programs.
- Collaborating with schools for programming.

**BETTER OFF**

- Working directly in schools to build relationships with teachers and students.
- Staff communicating with each other and teachers and families to better understand the youth they are working with.
- Creating individualized goals.

**BETTER OFF**

- Hiring well qualified staff and training them well.
- Creating an inclusive environment between the support staff and the general staff.
- Providing ongoing support during camp as issues arise.

**2021 Action Plan & Status**

**HOW MUCH**

- Network more with schools and teachers to do hands on programs in schools. **↑ Accomplished in partnership with BOCES and The Racker Center**
- Use ECHO funds and grants to get money to purchase more recreation equipment and games. **↑ Accomplished**
- Hire skilled part-time employees to lead and assist in RSS programs. **↑ Accomplished**

**BETTER OFF**

- Network more with schools and teachers to do hands on programs in schools. **↔ In Process**
- Use ECHO funds and grants to get money to purchase more recreation equipment and games. **↑ Accomplished**
- Hire skilled part-time employees to lead and assist in RSS programs. **↑ Accomplished**

**BETTER OFF**

- Training for staff when it is high quality and consistent. **↑ Accomplished**
- Advertising programs as being inclusive for all. **↑ Accomplished**
- Information from parent/guardian and related agency staff on youth needs. **↑ Accomplished**