



## **2008-2009 Needs Assessment Report**

Compiled by Community Action Partnership's Community Services Department

### Overview

Every two years Community Action Partnership conducts a needs assessment to receive input from program participants, community partners, CAP Board members and staff about how well the needs of the low income people in their communities are currently being addressed, as well as what other types of services may be necessary to address the issue of poverty. This year **137 program participants, 71 community partners (service providers and public officials), and 58 CAP Board and staff** members completed the survey.

### Demographic Data

#### **Program Participants**

- average age of program participants completing the survey was **48 years old**
- average gross monthly income of program participants completing the survey was **\$720 (\$8340.00 annually)**
- the most utilized CAP programs in the past year included **energy assistance, food bank services, Idaho telephone assistance program, weatherization, financial assistance for basic needs, referrals and advocacy, project share,**
- the majority of CAP program participants learn about services provided by CAP from friends and family (word of mouth)

#### **Community Partners**

- average length of time in current job or public position was **13.5 years**
- the majority are knowledgeable about CAP services (however, public officials are less informed than service providers)
- the 3 most effective ways to inform about CAP programs and services are **agency newsletter, brochures, newspaper**

When asked, “**What are the three most critical problems facing low-income people in your community?**” .....

service providers in North Idaho said:

- lack of decent, affordable housing options
- lack of jobs paying a living wage and providing benefits
- lack of transportation – gas prices

service providers in North Central Idaho and Asotin County said:

- lack of affordable housing
- lack of adequate paying jobs and jobs with benefits
- rising cost of living (food prices, gas prices etc.)

public officials in North Idaho said:

- lack of jobs paying a living wage and providing benefits
- lack of decent, affordable housing options
- lack of ability and services to provide for basic needs

public officials in North Central Idaho and Asotin County said:

- lack of adequate paying jobs and providing benefits
- lack of affordable housing
- transportation (gas prices)

CAP Board and staff members said:

- lack of jobs paying a living wage and providing benefits
- lack of job skills and education
- lack of decent, affordable housing options
- lack of communities awareness of poverty
- lack of quality, affordable child care options
- lack of adequate shelters/transitional housing
- lack of ability and services to provide for basic needs
- lack of affordable health care (medical, dental, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and prevention services, prescriptions)
- **Also mentioned** lack of financial management skill building opportunities, lack of availability and affordability of job training and education, lack of transportation options, insufficient outreach and advocacy services

**Program participants in each county** identified the following as the three most critical problems facing the low-income people in their communities.

**Asotin County**

- lack of jobs, and training
- lack of medical (cost of buying medical)
- cost of basic needs (electricity, food, phone)

**Benewah County**

- lack of work/low wages/no benefits
- high cost of basic needs (food, utilities, fuel, gas)
- educational opportunities

**Bonner County**

- lack of decent, affordable housing options
- lack of transportation options
- lack of work/low wages/no benefits

**Boundary County**

- lack of work/low wages/ no benefits
- lack of decent affordable housing
- high cost of transportation, food, child care, utilities

**Clearwater County**

- lack of jobs
- lack of decent, affordable housing
- lack of transportation (gas prices)

**Idaho County**

- lack of descent, affordable housing
- cost of living
- lack of jobs/low wages/no benefits

**Kootenai County**

- lack of decent, affordable housing
- lack of ability to meet basic needs (food, utilities, etc)
- lack of transportation (gas prices)

**Latah County**

- lack of transportation and high housing costs
- financial assistance with basic needs
- lack of jobs/ low wages/ no benefits

### **Lewis County**

- lack of jobs/low wages/no benefits
- lack of decent affordable housing
- high cost of transportation and food

### **Nez Perce County**

- lack of transportation
- lack of decent affordable housing
- lack of jobs/low wages/no benefits

### **Shoshone County**

- lack of work/low wages/no benefits
- lack of decent, affordable housing options
- lack of affordable child care and high gas prices

In response to the question, "**What services have you needed in the past year that CAP has NOT provided or made available?**" program participants said:

- transportation assistance, gas vouchers
- housing
- telephone assistance
- energy assistance
  
- child care
- buss pass
- cash assistance for housing
- prescriptions
- referrals
- car rental, auto repair
- rental assistance
- community action partnership rentals
- deposits on rental housing
- clothing assistance
- furniture assistance
- financial assistance
- school supplies