



Community Action Partnership's vision is our community working together to end poverty.

We envision a community where all people have sufficient money, relationships and meaning in their lives to thrive; a community where everyone is equipped to fully achieve his potential; a community where each person is valued and all people are meeting their needs by utilizing their talents, potential and passions.

Community Action Partnership is a catalyst for building relationships which equip and inspire people to end poverty in our community.

2011 Needs Assessment Report

Compiled by Community Action Partnership's Community Services Department

Overview

Every two years Community Action Partnership (CAP) conducts a needs assessment to receive input from program participants, community partners, public officials, civic organizations, and CAP Board and staff about the needs of low-income people in communities within our 11-county service. This year, 503 program participants (Clients), 129 community partners (Service Providers), and 73 CAP Board, staff and public officials (Key Informants) completed the survey.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have a primary mission to make the entire community more responsive to the needs, interests, and problems of low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities. CAAs accomplish this mission by mobilizing resources in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of the community in order to advocate for the needs of their constituents.

The effectiveness of CAAs should be measured not only by the services the agencies directly provide, but more importantly, by improvements and changes in the communities' attitudes, practices, and responsiveness toward low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and in allocating public and private resources for anti-poverty purposes.

Through Community Action Partnership, CSBG addresses community needs in our 11-county service area in the following ways:

- Administration and reporting of bi-annual community Needs Assessment
- Outcomes reporting
- Determining client eligibility (at or below 125% of OMB Federal Poverty Guideline)
- Coordination of services
- Food Bank and nutritional education
- Financial assistance or Referrals for basic needs for such items as:
 - Temporary shelter
 - Transportation
 - Prescriptions/health care
 - Tuition
 - School and work supplies
 - Rent Assistance
 - Energy Assistance
 - Housing Assistance
 - Weatherization
 - High Impact Strategies/Educational Opportunities (Circles® Initiative, Bridge the Gap Project, Kindergarten Readiness)
 - Community mobilizing (Center for Community Building to End Poverty)
 - Economic development
 - Legislative change
 - Child Care Resource and Referral (Training for child care providers, and referrals for child care)
 - Senior Nutrition Services, Information and Referrals, Advocacy, Case Management

Client Assessment

- 66% of respondents were female, 34% of respondents were male
- 43.9% of client respondents report full or part time employment as their only source of income
- Average gross monthly income of program participants completing the survey was \$860.00.
- The majority of CAP program participants learn about services provided by CAP from friends and family (word of mouth)
- 70% of respondents identified the most utilized CAP programs in the past year as energy assistance (1st) and food bank (2nd); 13% of respondents identified weatherization (3rd).
- 98% reported CAP's customer service as excellent/good and 99.8% indicated they would seek out CAP to address future needs

Community Partner Assessment

- The most effective way to inform other social service providers and public officials is through a CAP newsletter/e-mail
- Community Partner respondents identified the three most important CAP programs as the Food Bank, Weatherization and Financial Assistance for Basic Needs
- 93.9% are comfortable referring someone to CAP

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

Participants reported:

- Lack of jobs
- Lack of low-income health and dental care
- Lack of transportation

Service providers reported:

- Lack of jobs with benefits
- Lack of decent, affordable housing options
- Lack of transportation and gas prices

Public officials reported:

- Lack of jobs paying a living wage and providing benefits
- Lack of decent, affordable housing options
- Lack of low-income health care options

Respondent Commentary

- Clients requested financial assistance with medical, vision, dental needs, and referrals to find help with their housework and yard work, as well as assistance with basic home and car repair.
- Key Informants described CAP services as unique, important and effective. CAP was identified by one respondent as “the safety net for those that fall through the cracks”.
- Providers commented on CAP’s effectiveness.
 - “They are the ‘clearinghouse’ for our area because we do NOT have other agencies like health and welfare”
 - “CAP is a valuable resource for guiding people and facilitating access to programs.”