2017 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Rhode Island Association of Community Action Agencies

2017

Our Agencies

RI Association of Community Action Agencies | 2
Statewide Survey Findings

Blackstone Valley Community Action Program | 4
Serving Pawtucket, Central Falls, Lincoln, Cumberland Areas

Community Action Partnership of Providence | 6
Serving Providence Area

Community Care Alliance | 8
Serving Woonsocket Area

Comprehensive Community Action | 10
Serving Cranston, Foster, Scituate, Coventry Areas

East Bay Community Action | 12
Lower Bay Region - *Serving Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Middletown, Jamestown, Little Compton Areas*
Upper Bay Region - *Serving East Providence, Warren, Bristol, Barrington Areas*

Tri-County Community Action Agency - Northern Region | 14
Serving North Providence, Johnston, North Smithfield, Smithfield, Burrillville, Glocester Areas

Tri-County Community Action Agency - Southern Region | 16
Serving Exeter, Charlestown, Narragansett, Westerly, Hopkinton, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Richmond, West Greenwich, Block Island Areas

Westbay Community Action Partnership | 18
Serving Warwick, West Warwick, East Greenwich Areas

Our Mission

The mission of the Rhode Island Community Action Association is to serve Rhode Island's network of Community Action Agencies through training, and technical assistance, public education, capacity building, and for the development of public policy to address the impact of poverty in Rhode Island.

Our Vision

We envision Rhode Island Community Action Association as a strong unified network of effective community action agencies, guided by excellence and integrity in the promotion of social and economic justice in the state of Rhode Island.

The Social Return on Investment – every dollar given to a CAP Agency through CSBG Funding leverages $19.90 in non-federal service dollars!

Source: 2015 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) NASCSP

CHALLENGES TO RHODE ISLAND HOUSEHOLDS

Over a third of Rhode Islanders identify affordable food, places to live and utility bills as serious problems.

Agency case studies and focus groups, with over 100 clients per agency, cited a lack of available jobs, health problems/ disability, and public transportation as reasons for an inability to meet basic needs. Generational poverty, housing cost burdens, credit card debt and delays in health and dental care cost continue to keep some individuals from moving forward.

42% of those with an unemployed adult in the household indicate that health problems/disability is the cause for unemployment. Over 70% of Rhode Islanders delay health and dental coverage because of cost.

1 out of 5 residents — *our neighbors and friends* — are served by a Rhode Island Community Action Agency.

35% of Rhode Islanders have a high school degree or less. 65% of Rhode Islanders have some college, technical training or higher education. However, it's still not enough for most to attain a livable wage in Rhode Island.

Transportation is a significant barrier to accessing employment, job training, youth/teen activities, continuing education, or behavioral/mental health care for adults.

RhodeIslandAssociation
ofCommunityActionAgencies

www.ricommunityaction.org

Established in 1992, Rhode Island Association of Community Action Agencies is a trade association for seven (7) Community Action Agencies serving all 39 cities and towns, providing training and technical assistance to the local community action agencies. Rhode Island Association of Community Action Agencies, along with our community partners, work on policies that serve low to moderate income families. With this survey, Rhode Island Association of Community Action Agencies aims to discover the most pressing challenges Rhode Islanders face so that the statewide network of Community Action Agencies will be better prepared to address these state challenges. The following is a breakdown of the survey respondents:

- 1,500 Rhode Islanders participated in the 2017 survey, a 15% response rate
- 500 clients, from all seven community action agencies, participated in the 2017 survey, a 10% response rate
- 75 professional stakeholders participated in the 2017 survey; 37% response rate
- 40% own their own home; 31% reported credit rating as a barrier to homeownership

TOP BARRIERS
Due To Cost In RI

#1 Utility Bills
#2 Healthy Food Choices
#3 Dental Care for the Whole Family
#4 Clothing
#5 College or Continuing Education

#1 Jobs/Employment
#2 Financial Literacy
#3 Employment Skills Services
#4 Safe Activities for Youths/Teens
#5 A Safe Place to Live

TOP BARRIERS
Due To Availability In RI

STATEWIDE SURVEY FINDINGS

BIGGEST
Challenges in RI

#1 Living Wage Employment
#2 Housing Cost Burdens
#3 Transportation
#4 Education Attainment
#5 Job Training/Skills Services

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

49% About the Same
36% Worse
15% Better

49% Carry $5000 or More in Credit Card Debt
36% Report NO Credit Card Debt
7% Used a Payday Loan in the Past Year

CORE AREAS
Residents Need Support for Self-Sufficiency

#1 Employment Opportunities
#2 Transportation
#3 Job Training/Skills Service
#4 Housing Affordability
#5 Child Care Affordability

TOP CONCERNS
For Aging Adults in RI

#1 Transportation
#2 Home Health Access
#3 Medication Management
#4 Home Maintenance.Repairs
#5 Household Services

BVCAP
Where better lives begin.

www.bvcap.org

Since 1965, the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program (BVCAP) has been assisting low income people and empowering them to become self-reliant and responsible citizens. BVCAP serves over 23,000 individuals. The staff of over fifty people reflects the ethnic diversity of our community, enabling us to be sensitive to our clients' culture and language, while providing the best possible support. For thousands of families, BVCAP is a safety net, providing basic necessities like food, clothing and fuel assistance during difficult times.

- 78% of households have 2 or more members in the household
- 50% of households have at least one child
- 47% of households have at least one member employed
- At least 70% of households have an annual income less than $45,000

POVERTY

What Causes Poverty?

48% Not Enough Jobs
38% Lack of Training or Education
30% Low Wages
23% Drug Use/Addiction

36% Poor Credit Rating is a Barrier to Homeownership
25% Own Their Own Home

HOUSING

Communities Served:
Pawtucket, Central Falls, Lincoln, Cumberland

CHILDREN & YOUTH

50% Are Raising Children

Top 3 Issues for Raising Children

29% Lack of Safe Activities for Youth/Teens
19% Cost of Childcare
19% Lack of Child Care Openings

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

57% About the Same
23% Worse
20% Better

58% Report NO Credit Card Debt
25% Carry $1000-$5000 Credit Card Debt
18% Carry $5000+ Credit Card Debt

BASIC NEEDS

50% Have Issues with Affordable Food
46% Have Issues with Paying Utilities – Gas, Water, Electricity
35% Have Issues with Affordable Family Dental Care
32% Have Issues with Affordable Clothing
29% Lack of Safe Activities for Youth/Teens

EMPLOYMENT

looking for work

48% Report Health or Disabilities as a Barrier
22% Report Lack of Available Jobs as a Barrier
15% Report Lack of Required Education as a Barrier

CAPP Community Action Partnership of Providence

www.cappri.org

Community Action Partnership of Providence (CAPP) serves the residents of Providence as a leading provider of social services. CAPP serves over 11,500 households and 28,000 indivduals per year. Many are households facing challenges in the high cost of energy and other basic needs. The most recent Community Needs Assessment conducted in 2016 by CAPP, in collaboration with Rhode Island Community Action Association and the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, allows us to profile the Working Families who typically seek out and receive services.

- 75% have 2 or more members in the household
- 61% of households have at least one child
- 49% of households served have at least one member employed
- 20% of households served pay more than $1,000.00 for rent or mortgage

POVERTY

What Causes Poverty?

49% Lack of Training
42% Low Wages
38% Not Enough Jobs
31% Single Parent Household

58% Pay More Than 50% of Income for Rent/Mortgage
25% Live in Subsidized Housing
20% Own Their Own Home

HOUSING

Communities Served:
Providence

CHILDREN & YOUTH

61% Are Raising Children

Top 3 Issues for Raising Children

53% Have Availability Issues for Childcare, Pre-School/School Age Programs

33% Struggle to Pay for Medical and Dental Care for the Family

32% Have Trouble Finding Safe Activities for Youth/Teens During Times Out of School

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

63% About the Same

32% Worse

5% Better

46% Report No Credit Card Debt

40% Household Income Less Than $15,999

21% Spent Savings to Meet Living Expenses

BASIC NEEDS

58% Are Behind on Utility Payments

50% Say Cost of Healthy Food is a Problem

46% Have Issues with Affordable Clothes

30% Lack of Reliable Transportation

EMPLOYMENT

looking for work

42% Report Lack of Specific Job Skills/ Education as a Barrier

37% Report Health or Disabilities as a Barrier

32% Report Lack of Available Jobs as a Barrier

26% Report Lack of Child Care as a Barrier

Community Care Alliance

empowering people to build better lives

www.communitycareri.org

Community Care Alliance integrates the services of a community action agency and a community mental health center, and annually over 13,000 people are helped by our comprehensive, wrap-around approach. Our practice uses evidence-informed programming to achieve positive outcomes by collaborating with the people we serve and our community partners. The shape of the community in which our clients live looks like this:

- 60% of clients are between 25 and 44 years of age
- 57% of households consist of 2 adults with one or no children
- 18% of clients are single parents
- 74% of clients attained < eighth grade education through some college but no degree
- 66% of clients are employed
- 53% of households have at least one unemployed adult

POVERTY

What Causes Poverty?

52% Lack of Training
48% Drug Addiction
40% Not Enough Jobs
35% Disability

97% Do Not Own Their Own Home
57% Pay More Than 50% of Their Income for Rent
43% Live in Subsidized Housing
11% Are Homeless

HOUSING

Communities Served:
Woonsocket

CHILDREN & YOUTH

29% Are Raising Children

Top 3 Issues for Raising Children

28% Struggle to Pay for Dental Care for the Family

16% Have Cost and Availability Issues for Childcare, Pre-School/School Age Programs

12% Have Trouble Finding Safe Activities for Youth/Teens During Times Out of School

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

41% About the Same

44% Worse

14% Better

39% Household Income Less Than $15,999

29% Spent Savings to Meet Living Expenses

5% Used a Pay Day Loan Service

BASIC NEEDS

38% Lack Reliable Transportation

37% Say Cost of Healthy Food is a Problem

34% Have Issues with Affordable Clothes

23% Are Behind in Utility Payments

EMPLOYMENT

looking for work

65% Say Health Problems Prevent Employment

46% Lack Job Skills/Lack of Jobs Impedes Employment

17% Lack of Transportation Impedes Employment

CCAP
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM
YOUR COMMUNITY'S HELPING HAND

www.comcap.org

Since 1966, Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) has been providing comprehensive, integrative health, dental and behavioral health, child care programs, family support and development programs, education and job readiness programs and supportive social services. Annually CCAP served over 19,000 households and 35,000 people. These services help people achieve personal and economic self-sufficiency.

- 77% of clients are renters
- 56% of client households have at least one adult who is unemployed
- 48% of clients have at least 1 child living in the home
- 46% of clients have technical or 2 year, post-secondary education

POVERTY

What Causes Poverty?

57% Lack of Transportation
47% Low Wages
41% Lack of Jobs
28% Drug Use/Addiction/Lack of Affordable Housing

HOUSING

74% Pay More Than $600 Per Month in Rent
23% Own Their Own Home

Communities Served:
Cranston, Foster, Scituate, Coventry

CHILDREN & YOUTH

17% Are Single Parents with Children Under the Age of 18

Top 3 Issues for Raising Children

37% Lack/Cost of Safe Activities for Youth and Teens

27% Cost/Availability of Child Care Programs

22% Lack/Cost of Preschool Programs

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

59% About the Same

23% Worse

18% Better

49% Report NO Credit Card Debt

28% Carry Less Than $4,999 in Credit Card Debt

23% Carry $5000+ Credit Card Debt

BASIC NEEDS

63% Have Issues with Paying Utilities – Gas, Water, Electricity

61% Have Issues with Affordable Food

49% Have Issues with Affordable Family Dental Care

43% Have Issues with Affordable Medical Care

41% Have Issues with Safe and Affordable Housing

EMPLOYMENT

looking for work

39% Report Health or Disability Problems as a Barrier to Employment

25% Report Lack of Available Jobs as a Barrier to Employment

17% Report Lack of Affordable Childcare as a Barrier to Employment

east bay community action program
THE BRIDGE to SELF-RELIANCE

50 Years of Service
1965-2015

www.ebcap.org

For over 50 years, East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) has been providing a wide array of integrated health and human services to people of all ages. Services include Head Start, and Early Head Start; family health, behavioral health, and dental services; family development case management services including social service information and referral and basic human needs; job training; home visiting programs; food pantries; youth programs; the East Bay Coalition for the Homeless; Heating and Energy Services; the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Feeding and Nutrition Program (WIC) and senior services including case management, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparents (FGP) and the Ocean State Senior Dining Program (meals in a social setting).

- 56% of households have children <18 residing in the household
- 33% of households have two or more adults and one or more children
- 52% of households have a least one member employed

POVERTY

What Causes Poverty?

43% Lack of Training
24% Drug Use/Addiction
20% Not Enough Jobs
19% Disabilities

77% Do Not Own Their Home
58% Pay More Than 50% of Income For Rent
34% Live In Subsidized Housing
6% Are Homeless

HOUSING

Communities Served:
East Providence, Barrington, Warren, Bristol, Little Compton, Tiverton, Portsmouth, Middletown, Newport and Jamestown

CHILDREN & YOUTH

56% Are Raising Children

Top 3 Issues for Raising Children

35% Cost/Availability of Child Care programs

27% Lack of Dental Care for the Family

20% Lack of Safe Activities for Youth/Teens

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

52% About the Same

38% Worse

10% Better

42% Households less than $15,999

34% Spent Savings to Meet Living Expenses

2% Use a Pay Day Loan Service

BASIC NEEDS

20% Cost of Healthy Food is a Problem

18% Have Issues Accessing Affordable Clothes

15% Are Behind in Utility Payments

11% Lack of Reliable Transportation

EMPLOYMENT

looking for work

50% Health Problems Prevent Employment

37% Report Lack of Job Skills Prevents Employment

26% Report Looking For Work

11% Lack of Transportation Prevents Employment

Tri-County
CommunityActionAgency
NORTHERN REGION

www.tricountyri.org

Tri-County's Northern Region serves over 15,000 low and moderate income Rhode Islanders annually. The majority of families served by Tri-County work full or part time jobs yet they struggle to meet daily basic needs. This is due to a variety of factors including inadequate work skills, low wage jobs, and the high cost of critical necessities such as daycare, healthcare, auto insurance, housing, and rising consumer debt. Tri-County's most recent Community Needs Assessment helps to provide a look at the type of individuals and families that rely on this Agency to help them survive in today's tough economy.

- 82% of clients have at least a HS Diploma or GED
- 31% have at least a 2 year degree or technical certificate
- 63% of households have at least 1 adult working
- 2% of clients receive State cash assistance (Welfare)

POVERTY

What Causes Poverty?

49% Low Wages
44% Lack of Job Training
44% Not Enough Jobs
29% Lack of Affordable Housing

65% Do Not Own Their Own Home
47% Pay More Than 50% of Income for Rent
47% Live in Subsidized Housing
38% Cite Poor Credit as Reason They Do Not Own Home

HOUSING

Communities Served:
North Providence, Johnston, North Smithfield, Smithfield, Burrillville, Glocester

CHILDREN & YOUTH

58% Are Raising Children

Top 3 Issues for Raising Children

37% Struggle to Pay for Dental Care for the Family

20% Have Cost and Availability Issues with Childcare

12% Have Trouble Finding Safe Activities for Youth/Teens After School

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

56% About the Same

32% Worse

12% Better

29% Household Income Less Than $15,999

20% Spent Savings To Meet Living Expenses

11% Used a Pay Day Loan Service

BASIC NEEDS

54% Are Behind in Utility Payments

50% Say Cost of Healthy Food is a Problem

40% Have Issues with Affordable Clothing

16% Lack of Reliable Transportation

EMPLOYMENT

looking for work

53% Lack of Job Skills or Lack of Jobs Impedes Employment

37% Say Health Problems Prevent Employment

13% Lack of Transportation Impedes Employment

Tri-County
CommunityActionAgency
SOUTHERN REGION

www.tricountyri.org

Tri-County's Southern Region serves over 10,000 low and moderate income Rhode Islanders annually. The majority of families served by Tri-County work full or part time jobs yet they struggle to meet daily basic needs. This is due to a variety of factors including inadequate work skills, low wage jobs, and the high cost of critical necessities such as daycare, healthcare, auto insurance, housing, and rising consumer debt. Tri-County's most recent Community Needs Assessment helps to provide a look at the type of individuals and families that rely on this Agency to help them survive in today's tough economy.

- 89% of clients have at least a HS Diploma or GED
- 40% of clients have at least a 2 year degree or technical certificate
- 64% of households have at least 1 adult working
- 2% of clients receive State cash assistance (Welfare)

POVERTY

What Causes Poverty?

65% Low Wages
43% Lack of Training
39% Lack of Affordable Housing
35% Not Enough Jobs

75% Do Not Own Their Own Home
66% Pay More Than 50% of Income for Rent
59% Cite Poor Credit Rating as Reason Do Not Own Home
47% Live in Subsidized Housing

HOUSING

Communities Served:
Exeter, Charlestown, Narragansett, Westerly, Hopkinton, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Richmond, West Greenwich, Block Island

CHILDREN & YOUTH

64% Are Raising Children

Top 3 Issues for Raising Children

47% Struggle to Pay for Dental Care for the Family

41% Have Trouble Finding Safe Activities for Youth/Teens After School

30% Have Issues Affording Childcare, Pre-School/School Age Programs

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

53% About the Same

28% Worse

19% Better

53% Spent Savings to Meet Living Expenses

34% Household Income Less Than $15,999

11% Took Early Withdrawal from Retirement

BASIC NEEDS

75% Are Behind in Utility Payments

71% Say Cost of Healthy Food is a Problem

59% Have Issues with Affordable Clothing

38% Trouble Paying for Home Maintenance

EMPLOYMENT

looking for work

46% Say Health Problems Prevent Employment

25% Lack of Available Jobs

25% Lack of Affordable Child Care

westbay community action
Helping people. Changing lives.

www.westbaycap.org

Westbay is the most diverse multi-service agency in Kent County and serves more than 9,500 households each year through a variety of services. Recently Westbay Community Action along with Rhode Island Community Action Association and the Rhode Island Department of Human Services performed a needs assessment, as many people completed this assessment Westbay would like to introduce you to our typical "Working Family" who seeks out assistance in one of our over 40 programs.

- 64% of clients have 2 or more members in the household
- 52% of households have at least one child
- 52% of households served have at least one member employed
- 44% of households own their own homes with 35% of households paying more than $1,000.00 for rent or mortgage

POVERTY

What Causes Poverty?

52% Low Wages
51% Lack of Training or Education
34% Not Enough Jobs
32% Drug Use/Addiction

HOUSING

44% Own Their Own Home
38% Down Payment is a Barrier to Homeownership

Communities Served:
Warwick, West Warwick, East Greenwich

CHILDREN & YOUTH

52% Are Raising Children

Top 3 Issues for Raising Children

18% Cost of Child Care
11% Lack of Child Care Openings
13% Lack of Safe Activities for Youth/Teens

INCOME & FINANCES

compared to last year

55% About the Same
29% Worse
16% Better

48% Report NO Credit Card Debt
33% Carry $1000-$5000 Credit Card Debt
18% Carry $5000+ Credit Card Debt

BASIC NEEDS

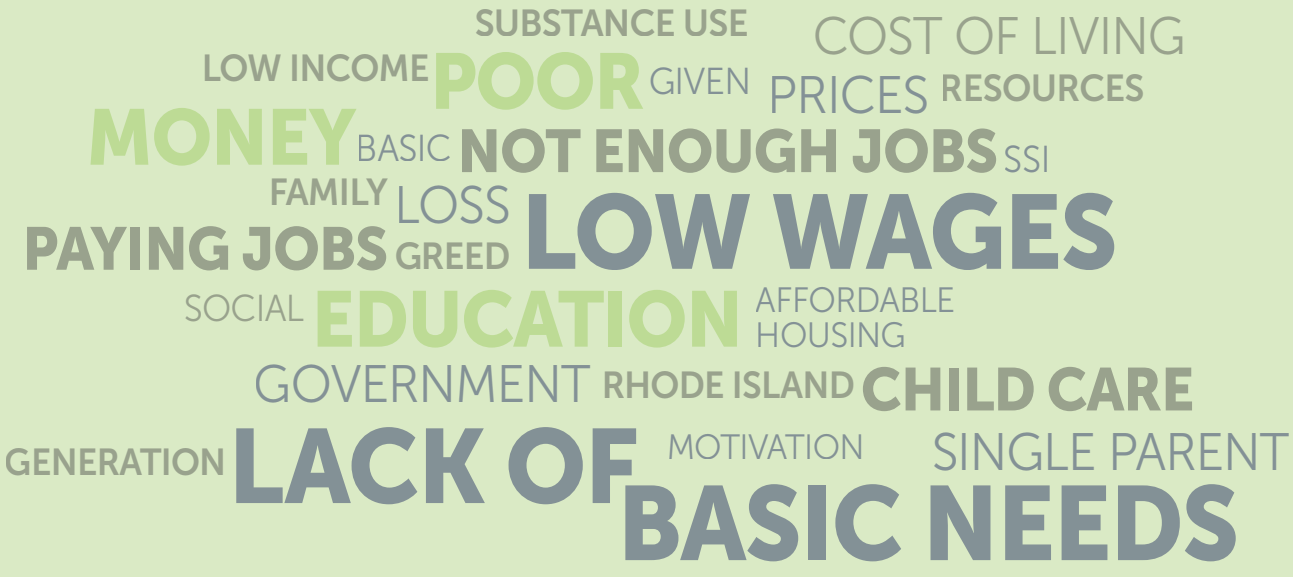
68% Have Issues with Affordable Housing
38% Have Issues with Affordable Family Medical Care
36% Have Issues Accessing Affordable Food
35% Have Issues with Affordable Family Dental Care
27% Have Issues with Paying Utilities – Gas, Water, Electricity

EMPLOYMENT

looking for work

41% Report Health or Disabilities as a Barrier
32% Report Lack of Available Jobs as a Barrier
19% Report Lack of Child Care as a Barrier

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE CAUSES POVERTY?



(COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY: 900 RESPONSES)

WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

(COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL STAKEHOLDERS SURVEY: 75 RESPONSES)

For over 50 years, RI Community Action Agencies have been committed to helping individuals and families achieve personal and economic self-sufficiency.

In 2016, RI Community Action Agencies served more than 175,000 Individuals and 88,000 Households with a variety of wrap-around health, dental, mental health, education, case management, employment and job readiness training, child care, family support, housing and supportive social services.

As a statewide network of community action agencies, we have the expertise and capacity to address a wide range of community needs with dedication, compassion and creativity.

We understand the root causes of poverty and the impact it has on children and families. We continue to be steadfast in our commitment to "helping people and changing lives" in all Rhode Island communities.

For further information about the RI Community Action Association and individual community action agencies, please go to our website at **www.ricommunityaction.org**

Rhode Island Association of Community Action Agencies would like to thank the thousands of Rhode Islanders who took the time to complete our survey in order to generate the data in this Community Needs Assessment Report. Further, we would like to thank the staff at the Community Action Agencies for their assistance with the development of this report.

This report was funded by the State of Rhode Island's Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Funds. We are appreciative of Frederick Sneesby, CSBG Administrator, and the Rhode Island Department of Human Services for their generous support of this project.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

RhodeIslandAssociation ofCommunityActionAgencies

www.ricommunityaction.org

Rhode Island
Association
of Community
Action Agencies