Community Needs Assessment Summary

Purpose

The Community Needs Assessment (CNA) is a comprehensive process used to determine the needs and resources within a community. This process is recognized as best practice and a key resource for planning, application, program implementation, and evaluation. For Community Action Agencies such as OWCAP, this process is called Results Oriented Management and Accountability, or ROMA. Every Community Action Agency must comply with National Organizational Standards which includes implementation of and compliance with *ROMA Next Generation*. As Community Action Agencies are uniquely funded to be able to fill identified gaps in each respective and unique community, the CNA provides agencies with specific information identifying these service and resource disparities.

CNAs are more than gathering and analyzing data. This process serves as a basis for creating change. A community-based needs assessment helps an agency address poverty by providing a snapshot of poverty levels within the service area. Agencies begin to establish transformation by setting a framework and programs to stabilize families and individuals, as well as promote to self-sufficiency. It collects important information as to what issues organizations may be working on, and where gaps in services exist. Moreover, CNAs provide opportunity to develop and strengthen community partnerships. Finally, a CNA helps the agency in a strategic planning process by providing the foundation for intentional operational development. This allows the agency to evaluate how it is meeting the needs of the community and determine what programs or projects may have become obsolete; in addition to creation or implementation of new programs or projects thus providing new opportunities for the agency.

Process

A Community Needs Assessment (CNA) is completed every three years. The process includes data collection and analysis, data and issue prioritization, and the creation of a Community Action Plan.

The 2019 Weber County Community Needs Assessment involved surveys, interviews, forums, focus groups, and other data collection activities, and were only completed with the assistance of low-income residents and representatives; partners including Weber State University; Midtown Community Health Clinic; Intermountain Health/Alliance; Boys and Girls Club; YMCA; United Way of Northern Utah; Kidz Town; LSI; Cottages of Hope; faith-based organizations; local elected officials; OWCAP Board of Trustees; and OWCAP staff. In addition, in depth analysis was conducted on reports published by Utah State, Weber County, and other private organizations, for quantitative data and statistics associated to poverty and poverty-related issues.

Issue areas investigated were:

1. Income
2. Education
3. Employment
4. Housing
5. Nutrition
6. Health
7. Transportation

Attached herein is a sampling of the survey response demographics and qualitative data collected.

Results

After completing all data collection and analysis, the results were compiled with the most commonly identified themes thusly:

1) Cost of housing
2) Substance Abuse
3) Intergenerational Poverty
4) Mental Health
5) Unhealthy Lifestyles

Action Plan

OWCAP has created an action plan to work on during the course of the next three years, to make progression to improve the community in the areas identified during this process.

Goal 1: Increase availability of housing resources and information

Goal 2: Increase resources for opioid abuse education/prevention, including distribution of Naloxone kits

Goal 3: Create and maintain long-term supports for IGP individuals

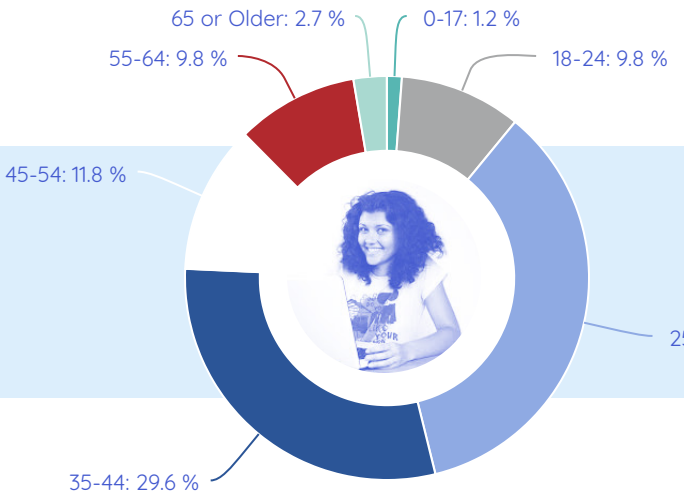
Goal 4: Increase availability of mental health resources and information

Goal 5: Increase information and resources for healthy lifestyles

2019 Community Needs Assessment

Survey Response Demographics

Age Range



Education

Marital Status

55% of Respondents were Married

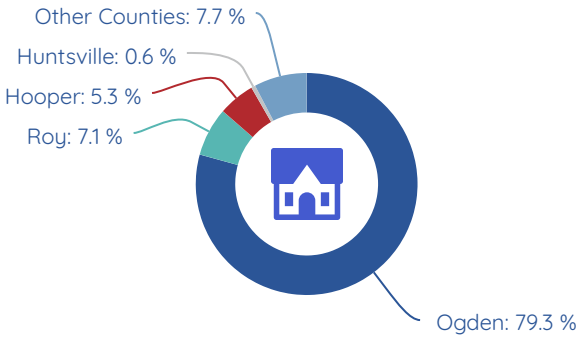
Children

70% of Respondents were the legal guardian of children

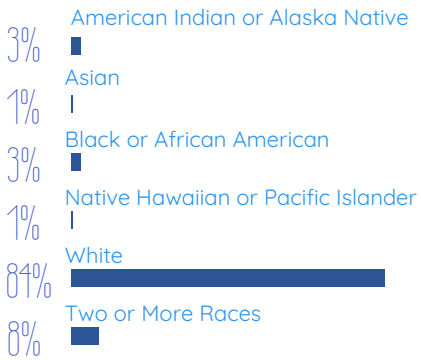
Gender

86% of Respondents were female

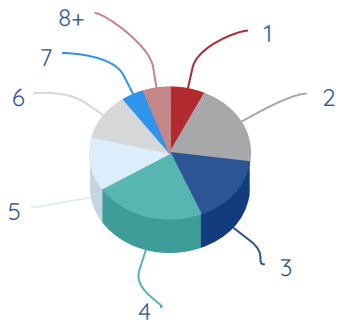
Residential Location



Race



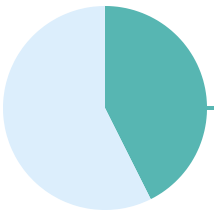
Household Size



Ethnicity

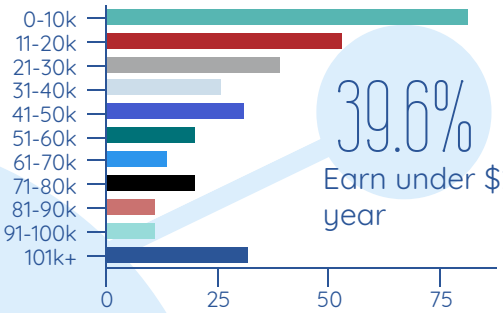
24.5% of Respondents were were Hispanic/Latino

Survey Respondent Data



42.6%

Regularly puts money into a savings Account

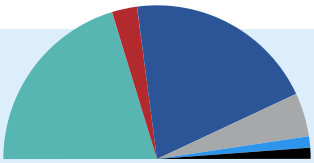


39.6%

Earn under $21,000 per year

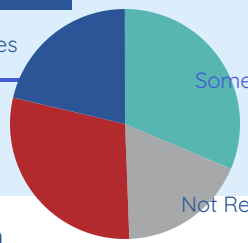
91%

Has their own means of transportation



Knows who their locally elected officials are

21%



29%

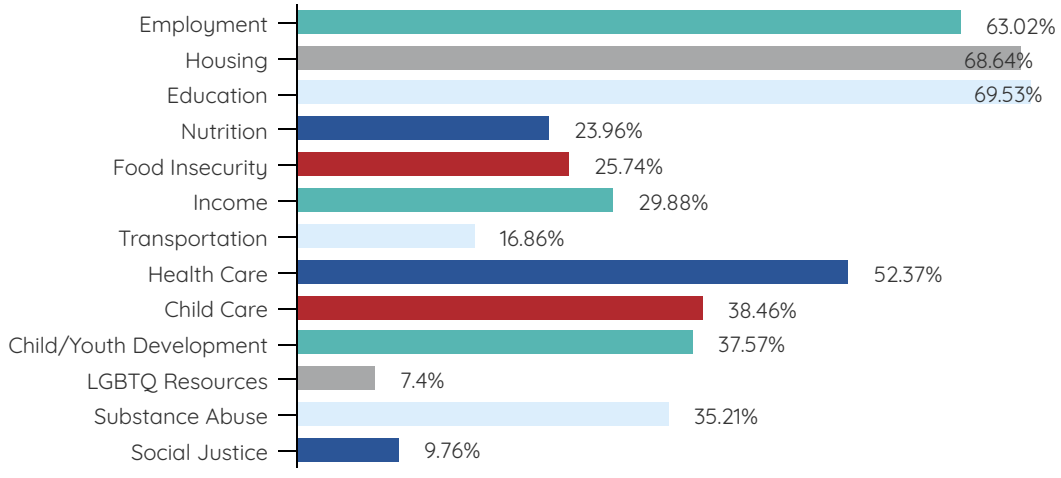
Do not know who their locally elected officials are

- Renting Apartment/House
- Renting a Room
- Home Owner
- Staying with Family or Friends
- Homeless
- Other

80%

Rents or owns a Home or Apartment

In the survey respondent's opinions, the number one factor keeping individuals and families in poverty:

- Low paying jobs
- Lack of education
- High cost of living
- Substance abuse
- Intergenerational Poverty
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of income
- Lack of determination/motivation
- Cliff Effect
- Laziness / poor habits / comfort zone
- Having a poverty mindset
- Not enough jobs
- Community Resources enabling people
- Low self-esteem/no hope
- Lack of transportation
- No access to community resources
- Lack of financial literacy / poor budgeting
- Knowledge of how to exit poverty
- High cost of child care
- Lack of support
- Not enough child care
- Disability/chronic Illness
- High cost of education
- Social Injustice / discrimination / sexism

Top areas that Community-Based Organizations should be focusing on, in survey responses: