

2024 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION



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Organizational Standards

The following table indicates where information pertaining to specific CSBG Organizational Standards can be found within the CNA.

	Location of CSBG Organizational Standards Information by Standard	
Standard	Reference Point	Summary of CSBG Organizational Standards related to Community Needs Assessment
1.2	Page 5-7 & Appendix B	The organization analyzes information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment.
2.2	Page 17-19 & Appendix A	The organization utilizes information gathered from key sectors of the community in assessing needs and resources during the community assessment process or other times. These sectors include at minimum: Community -based organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, the public sector, and educational institutions.
3.1	Last CNA 2021	CNA is to be conducted every 3 years.
3.2	Pages 13-16	Collects current poverty data and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity.
3.3	Pages 17-19 & Appendix B	Collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its service areas.
3.4	Page 20-21	Includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the associated needs.
3.5	CSBG Advisory Council Meeting Approval May 8, 2024 & SETRPC Executive Committee Approval May 15, 2024	Government body formally accepts the completed assessment.

Executive Summary

The federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act and the Texas Department of Community Affairs (TDHCA) requires that all sub-recipients of Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds conduct a community action plan...that includes a community-needs assessment for the community served...” In 2001, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued Information Memorandum 49, requiring all eligible entities to conduct needs assessments and use the results to design programs to meet the community needs. The CNA must be conducted every 3 years, collect current poverty data and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity. It must also include both qualitative and quantitative data on its service area and include key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the associated needs. Additionally, IM 138 requires information obtained through a community assessment to comply with Organizational Standards.

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) Community Services Division (CSD) conducted a community assessment for the counties of Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, and Orange. This assessment was conducted over a span of February through May of 2024. Some of the data collected is from surveys that were completed during the CNA process by residents, community partners, elected officials and focus groups. The last CNA was conducted in 2021.

An assessment of family, agency, and community needs was conducted, and the results are contained herein, with emphasis on family and community issues for those living below the poverty level. An assessment of community resources was conducted during the same period.

A list of each counties top five (5) needs was created from information received for each county and the agencies’ top five (5) top needs were determined. The major findings and recommendations contained herein specifically address the top five (5) needs of the Agency as a whole. While multiple needs were revealed, below are the final top five (5) needs in our service area. SETRPC-Community Services Division CSBG program, can address some of the needs based on program capacity and partnerships. This information will aid in program development of its annual Community Action Program Plan and its Strategic Plan for 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Top 5 Needs

Final Ranking	Need #1	Need #2	Need #3	Need #4	Need #5
All Counties	Help inform and motivate individuals to access mental health resources in the community	Help individuals obtain education and workforce training to obtain higher wage employment	Counties need effective and connected public transportation	Counties need more safe and affordable housing	Help individuals with stabilization assistance (rent and utilities)

Background and Organizational Profile

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) is a voluntary association of local governments serving twenty-three (23) member cities and twenty-seven (27) special purpose districts in the Southeast Texas counties of Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, and Orange. SETRPC is organized into nine (9) functional divisions: Administration, 9-1-1 Emergency Network, Disaster Recovery, Golden Triangle Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Criminal Justice/Homeland Security, Foster Grandparent Program, Transportation & Environmental Resources, Area Agency on Aging/211 and the Community Services Division. The agency currently employs 57 full-time and part-time employees and has an annual estimated budget of \$14 million.

The SETRPC serves as a community action agency and provides direct social services by way of its Community Services Division (CSD). The CSD conducts programs for the poor, persons with disabilities, the elderly, the homeless, and families seeking self-sufficiency. Programs managed include Community Services Block Grant: Targeting Our Possibilities and Stabilization Programs, Lighthouse Weatherization Program and The Southeast Texas Coalition for Homeless (SETCH).

SETRPC-Community Services Division mission is *“To empower low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs and increase their opportunity to realize their full potential through education and community service collaborations.”*

Community Profile

Identification of Counties and Major Communities

The SETRPC service region is located between Houston, Texas and Lake Charles, Louisiana. The region of Southeast Texas is connected by Interstate Highway 10, as well as US Highways 69, 96, 90, 105 and 287. Southeast Texas includes part of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and most of the Texas portion of the Intracoastal Waterway. The area is also crossed by numerous rivers and streams, the largest being the Sabine River and Neches Rivers. The Big Thicket is an area of dense forest that begins in Hardin County and goes farther north into Jasper County and beyond. On April 2021, Governor Abbott approved Jasper County to move to the SETRPC. Tri-County Community Action, Inc was the designated CSBG entity for Jasper County and has not changed.

Texas



Population

According to the United States Census Bureau Decennial Census, between 2010 and 2020 the population in the report area grew by 6,090 persons, a change of 1.43%. A significant positive or negative shift in total population over time impacts healthcare providers and the utilization of community resources.

Population changes within the region from the 2010 to the 2020 U.S. Census is shown below.

	Hardin	Jasper	Jefferson	Orange	Region
Population, Census, 2020	56,231	32,980	256,526	84,808	430,545
Population, Census, 2010	54,635	35,710	252,273	81,837	424,455
Increase/Decrease	1,596	-2,730	4,253	2,971	6,090
Population Change, Percent	2.92%	-7.64%	1.69%	3.63%	1.43%

Poverty Data

Population in Poverty, Percent

The poverty rate change in the report area from 2012 to 2022 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area decreased by -2.05%, compared to a national change of -3.3%.

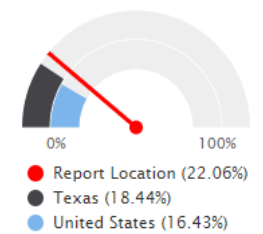
Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Population in Poverty, Percent
Report Location	410,626	90,601	22.06%
Hardin County	55,766	9,964	17.87%
Jasper County	31,924	9,169	28.72%
Jefferson County	239,089	57,005	23.84%
Orange County	83,847	14,463	17.25%
Texas	28,615,931	5,276,994	18.44%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22. [Show more details](#)

Percent Population with Income at or Below 125% FPL Report Location (22.06%) Texas (18.44%) United States (16.43%) 0%-100%

Percent Population with Income at or Below 125% FPL



Family Poverty Rate 125%

In the report, SETRPC service area 22.06% or 90,601 individuals are living in households with income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because

poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

In the report area 17.43% or 18,555 family households are living with income below 125% (ACS) of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Report Area	Family Households, Total	Families with Income at or Below 125% FPL	Families with Income at or Below 125% FPL, Percent
Report Location	106,462	18,555	17.43%
Hardin County	15,175	1,924	12.68%
Jasper County	8,615	2,087	24.23%
Jefferson County	60,396	11,632	19.26%
Orange County	22,276	2,912	13.07%
Texas	7,173,843	1,042,287	14.53%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

The SETRPC-CSD CSBG is contracted to assist households living at/or below 125% or 200% of the FPL. CSBG Program(s) FPL differ based on individual program income requirements.

Program Year 2024 Income Limits for CSBG

(Effective January 24, 2024)

Persons in Family/Household	125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines	200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	\$18,825	\$30,120
2	\$25,550	\$40,880
3	\$32,275	\$51,640
4	\$39,000	\$62,400
5	\$45,725	\$73,160
6	\$52,450	\$83,920
7	\$59,175	\$94,680
8	\$65,900	\$105,440
Families with more than 8 persons	Add \$6,725 for each additional person	Add \$10,760 for each additional person

Eligibility for CSBG is calculated at 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

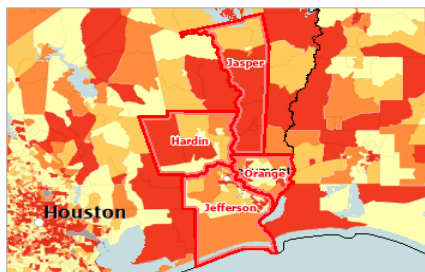
SOURCE: U.S Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

Families in Poverty

The number of families in poverty by type are shown in the report area. According to ACS 2018-2022 5-year estimates for the report area, there were 14,167 families living in poverty.

Report Area	Total Families	Families in Poverty Total	Families in Poverty Married Couples	Families in Poverty Male Householder	Families in Poverty Female Householder
Report Location	106,462	14,167	4,684	1,400	8,083
Hardin County, TX	15,175	1,520	607	159	754
Jasper County, TX	8,615	1,687	727	206	754
Jefferson County, TX	60,396	8,937	2,603	843	5,491
Orange County, TX	22,276	2,023	747	192	1,084
Texas	7,173,843	765,437	308,422	71,232	385,783
United States	81,432,908	7,151,167	2,666,469	783,254	3,701,444

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22. [Show more details](#)



Married Family Households Living Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2018-22

- Over 9.0%
- 6.1 - 9.0%
- 3.1 - 6.0%
- Under 3.1%
- No Married Families Reported
- No Data or Data Suppressed
- Report Location

Income

Income Levels

Two common measures of income are Median Household Income and Per Capita Income based on American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Both measures are shown for the report area below.

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Report Location	No data	\$32,088
Hardin County	\$70,164	\$33,700.43
Jasper County	\$48,818	\$31,251.38
Jefferson County	\$57,294	\$30,770.17
Orange County	\$71,910	\$35,300.62
Texas	\$73,035	\$37,513.59
United States	\$75,149	\$41,261.47

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22. [Show more details](#).

Household Income

Report Area	Estimated Population	Median Household Income
Hardin County, TX	57,500	\$70,432
Jasper County, TX	31,969	\$50,763
Jefferson County, TX	237,473	\$55,065
Orange County, TX	84,457	\$63,901
Texas	29,420,371	\$72,279
United States	325,012,887	\$74,755

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2022. → Show more details

Household Income Levels, Percent

Report Area	Under \$25,000	\$25,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$199,999	\$200,000+
Report Location	20.42%	21.59%	28.02%	23.31%	6.67%
Hardin County, TX	18.72%	17.26%	29.78%	27.31%	6.93%
Jasper County, TX	25.44%	25.55%	27.82%	17.07%	4.12%
Jefferson County, TX	21.68%	22.64%	27.58%	21.73%	6.37%
Orange County, TX	15.67%	19.66%	28.28%	27.95%	8.45%
Texas	15.66%	18.79%	29.42%	25.52%	10.60%
United States	15.71%	18.11%	28.88%	25.88%	11.41%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22. → Show more details

Employment

Jobs and Earning by Sector

The number of jobs and total wage and salary earnings from employment in the report area are broken down by economic sector in this indicator output. These figures include both private and government employment. The sectors listed represent private employment except for the last table which includes all the earnings from jobs with local, state, and federal government.

Hardin	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
Field of Work	Construction	Retail	Finance	Professional	Health Care and Social Assistance	Government
# of Jobs	2,535	2,962	1,534	1,050	1,732	2,604
Average Income	\$62,285	\$35,052	\$13,093	\$48,632	\$62,218	\$57,397
Jasper						
Field of Work	Construction	Retail	Finance	Professional	Health Care and Social Assistance	Government
# of Jobs	950	1,971	777	518	No Data	2,163
Average Income	\$41,074	\$29,031	\$23,967	\$52,739	No Data	\$57,018
Jefferson						
Field of Work	Construction	Retail	Finance	Professional	Health Care and Social Assistance	Government
# of Jobs	18,027	16,592	8,270	7,640	19,361	17,460
Average Income	\$81,313	\$38,154	\$36,412	\$99,574	\$61,574	\$76,974
Orange						
Field of Work	Construction	Retail	Finance	Professional	Health Care and Social Assistance	Government
# of Jobs	3,544	4,236	1,630	1,704	1,854	4,541
Average Income	\$59,512	\$33,221	\$27,083	\$69,516	\$46,180	\$61,050

In-Demand Skills

Top 10 Skills Needed in the Area			
	Skill	Median Salary	Median Max Salary
1	Nursing	\$72,576.00	\$83,328.00
2	Cash Register	\$31,104.00	\$31,104.00
3	Merchandising	\$33,664.00	\$35,456.00
4	Hand Tools	\$52,096.00	\$62,336.00
5	Fall Protection	\$41,600.00	\$41,472.00
6	Power Tool Operation	\$50,816.00	\$58,240.00
7	Caregiving	\$24,576.00	\$27,008.00
8	Industrial Construction	\$66,976.00	\$66,560.00
9	Restaurant Operation	\$26,496.00	\$29,952.00
10	Selling Techniques	\$50,048.00	\$60,032.00

Data Source: Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas, Labor Market Information Updated 4.19.2024. <https://setworks.org/labor-market-information/#>

Unemployment

From 3/31/2024 to 4/27/2024 there were 1,288 Unemployment Claims in our service area. See the breakdown in the table below.

Hardin	Unemployment count 103				
Rank	1	2	3	4	5
UI Claims Industry	Industrial building construction	Oil and gas pipeline and related construction	Professional employer organizations	Commercial and institutional building construction	Nonresidential electrical contractors
Jasper	Unemployment count 83				
Rank	1	2	3	4	5
UI Claims Industry	Commercial and institutional building construction	Industrial building construction	Limited-Service Restaurants	All other general merchandise retailers	Home health care services
Jefferson	Unemployment count 892				
Rank	1	2	3	4	5
UI Claims Industry	Industrial building construction	Oil and gas pipeline and related construction	All other nonresidential trade contractors	Temporary help services	Commercial and institutional building construction
Orange	Unemployment count 210				
Rank	1	2	3	4	5
UI Claims Industry	Industrial building construction	Commercial and institutional building construction	Nonresidential electrical contractors	Oil and gas pipeline and related construction	Professional employer organizations

Education

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps CSBG understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training

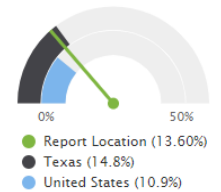
or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 years old and is an estimated average for the period from 2018 to 2022.

For the CSBG area, 13.26% have at least a college bachelor’s degree, while 34.67% stopped their formal educational attainment after high school.

Percent Population and Education Level

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Report Location	13.60%	34.67%	23.69%	9.46%	13.26%	5.31%
Hardin County, TX	11.1%	38.6%	23.3%	8.5%	14.1%	4.3%
Jasper County, TX	12.7%	47.2%	20.7%	7.1%	8.5%	3.8%
Jefferson County, TX	15.3%	31.7%	23.8%	9.3%	13.9%	6.1%
Orange County, TX	10.7%	35.8%	24.8%	11.6%	12.8%	4.3%
Texas	14.8%	24.5%	20.9%	7.6%	20.7%	11.5%
United States	10.9%	26.4%	19.7%	8.7%	20.9%	13.4%

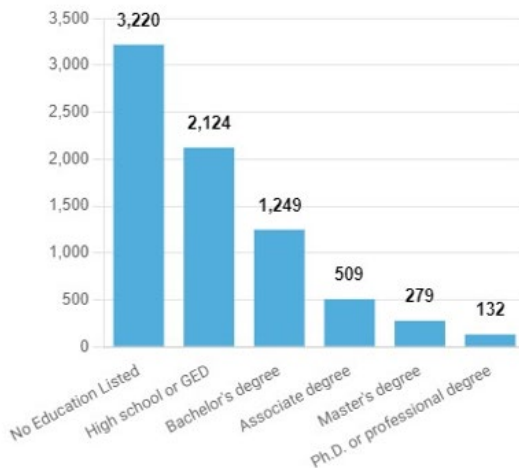
Percent Population with No High School Diploma



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22. → Show more details

Job Postings by Educational Attainment



Population by Educational Attainment

3-County Region

- Graduate Degree (5.6%)
- Associates Degree (9.6%)
- Grade School (5.7%)
- Bachelors Degree (13.2%)
- High School (8%)
- Some College (24.4%)
- High School Diploma (33.5%)



It is also reported that females age 25+ (34,318) have obtained some form of secondary education more than male counterparts age 25+ (33,868).

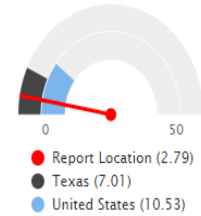
Access-Head Start

Head Start is a program designed to help children from birth to age five who come from families at or below poverty level. The program’s goal is to help children become ready for kindergarten while also providing the needed requirements to thrive, including health care and food support. Head Start facility data is acquired from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2022 Head Start locator. The report area has only a total of 8 Head Start programs with a rate of 2.79 per 10,000 children under

5 years old. Although the agency does not provide the Head Start program, we want to highlight the fact that the region lacks Head Start services and is well below the U.S and State of Texas numbers.

Report Area	Children Under Age 5	Total Head Start Programs	Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)
Report Location	28,654	8	2.79
Hardin County, TX	3,686	3	8.14
Jasper County, TX	2,439	2	8.2
Jefferson County, TX	17,162	2	1.17
Orange County, TX	5,367	1	1.86
Texas	1,928,473	1,352	7.01
United States	20,426,118	21,511	10.53

Head Start Programs Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, HRSA - Administration for Children and Families. 2022. → Show more details

Disconnected Youth

Our region reports that the percentage of youth aged 16-19 who are not currently enrolled in school and who are not employed exceeds both the U.S and the State of Texas numbers. Of the 21,265 youth (16-19), over 2,383 (11.21%) are not in school and not employed.

Youth Not Working and Not in School			
Report Area	Population Age 16-19	Population Age 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed	Population Age 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed, Percent
Report Location	21,265	2,383	11.21%
Hardin County	2,967	179	6.03%
Jasper County	1,841	198	10.76%
Jefferson County	12,161	1,400	11.51%
Orange County	4,296	606	14.11%
Texas	1,708,397	141,153	8.26%
United States	17,571,402	1,220,306	6.94

Social & Economic Factors

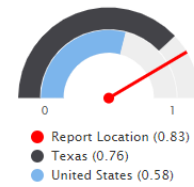
Social Vulnerability Index

The degree to which a community exhibits certain social conditions, including high poverty, low percentage of vehicle access, or crowded households, may affect that community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in the event of disaster.

The social vulnerability index is a measure of the degree of social vulnerability in counties and neighborhoods across the state, where a higher score indicates higher vulnerability. The report area has a social vulnerability index score of 0.83, which is greater than the state average of 0.76.

Report Area	Total Population	Socioeconomic Theme Score	Household Composition Theme Score	Minority Status Theme Score	Housing & Transportation Theme Score	Social Vulnerability Index Score
Report Location	429,830	0.76	0.89	0.76	0.76	0.83
Hardin County, TX	57,356	0.40	0.80	0.43	0.38	0.49
Jasper County, TX	35,562	0.94	0.95	0.63	0.82	0.94
Jefferson County, TX	253,136	0.92	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.96
Orange County, TX	83,776	0.46	0.84	0.55	0.58	0.62
Texas	28,635,442	0.74	0.69	0.89	0.63	0.76

Social Vulnerability Index Score



Mental Health

The CSBG service area lacks providers that specialize in mental health. Mental health providers include licensed clinical social workers and other credentialed professionals specializing in psychiatry, psychology, counseling, or child, adolescent, or adult mental health.

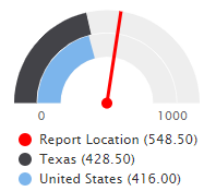
Within the report area there are 182 mental health providers, this represents 42.27 providers per 100,000 total population. The report area has a total of 182 mental health providers, representing 42.2 providers per 100,000 total population, which is significantly less than the state average of 79.47 and U.S average of 176.26.

Crime

Within the report area, the 2015-2017 three-year total of reported violent crimes was 7,077, which equates to an annual rate of 548.50 crimes per 100,000 people, higher than the statewide rate of 428.50. Violent crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Report Area	Total Population	Violent Crimes, 3-year Total	Violent Crimes, Annual Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)
Report Location	430,044	7,077	548.50
Hardin County, TX	56,125	271	160.90
Jasper County, TX	35,498	398	373.70
Jefferson County, TX	253,821	5,449	715.50
Orange County, TX	84,600	959	377.80
Texas	27,937,316	359,196	428.50
United States	366,886,849	4,579,031	416.00

Violent Crime Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)



Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Uniform Crime Reports. Additional analysis by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. Accessed via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. 2015-2017. → Show more details

Within the report area, there are a total of 390 deaths due to firearm wounds. This represents an age-adjusted death rate of 18.3 per every 100,000 total population. This data for the region also exceeds the U.S (12.2) and State of Texas (12.7) rate.

Demographics by County

Data Source: U.S Census Bureau. American Community Survey. S1701.Poverty Status in the Past 12 months.

<https://data.census.gov/table>

Hardin County

Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-17	
Number	Percent
2,072	15.35%

Seniors 65+ Living in Poverty	
Number	Percent
1,002	10.7%

Living in Poverty by Gender		
Gender	Number	Percent
Female	754	49.6%
Male	159	10.05%

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone			
Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
643	5,871	17.6%	12.5%

Population Living in Poverty by Race Alone, Total						
Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
6,149	698	0	27	0	9	623

Jasper County

Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-17	
Number	Percent
2,519	33.2%

Seniors 65+ Living in Poverty	
Number	Percent
684	10.4%

Living in Poverty by Gender		
Gender	Number	Percent
Female	754	44.7%
Male	206	12.2

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone			
Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
458	4,267	21%	18%

Population Living in Poverty by Race Alone, Total						
Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
4,296	1,949	65	1	0	365	615

Jefferson County

Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-17	
Number	Percent
16,088	26.6%

Seniors 65+ Living in Poverty	
Number	Percent
4,463	12.2%

Living in Poverty by Gender		
Gender	Number	Percent
Female	19,618	61.4%
Male	843	9.4%

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone			
Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
8,310	8,549	15.2%	9.6%

Population Living in Poverty by Race Alone, Total						
Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
8,959	24,565	0	1,009	0	3,529	5,755

Orange County

Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-17	
Number	Percent
3,437	16.4%

Seniors 65+ Living in Poverty	
Number	Percent
1,057	8.1%

Living in Poverty by Gender		
Gender	Number	Percent
Female	1,084	53.6%
Male	192	9.5

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone			
Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
1,775	5,864	21.9%	9%

Population Living in Poverty by Race Alone, Total						
Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
6,130	7,322	148	539	53	1,067	5,708

Methodologies Conducted in Each County

Timeline, Outreach, Data Collection and Focus Group Narrative

Following the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Cycle, the CNA was conducted to identify the needs and resources of the SETRPC region, prioritizing the needs of the low-income sector. The CNA is necessary to identify outcomes and indicators that align with what the communities' needs are and to design agency services based those identified gaps in services. The agency can identify the services it is better equipped to handle and prioritize those services to achieve results and to better leverage resources in the community.

On March 6, 2024, Community Services Division-CSBG team held a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) planning meeting to discuss the findings in the 2021 CNA and discuss changes and new trends that were present in the community and develop a systematic process for creating a profile of the needs and resources of the low-income population in the service area. In this initial meeting the group reviewed and discussed the questions that would appear on three surveys aimed to determine what needs were most prominent in each county and determine if they still aligned with the data the CNA wanted to capture. After some discussion, the group decided to remove questions related to natural disasters (including COVID-19) from all surveys including the Spanish ones and move forward with the same questions used previously used. A final version of the survey monkey questionnaires was reviewed for residents, public officials, and community partners and approved for distribution. The group also suggested offering the survey electronically. By offering an electronic version of the survey it would be more cost effective by cutting down on the number of surveys that would have to be printed. The data would also be captured at a faster rate and stored directly onto the website versus having to manually enter the data on the paper surveys.

A link and a QR code for the electronic survey was generated for usage. The group also discussed resources and strategized methods to collect, capture, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data from a broad array of sources within the community. Focus groups were also discussed and scheduled to take place in each county. A CNA timeline was also created to give a visual of the time frame that tasks needed to be accomplished to successfully meet the CNA deadline for submission.

On March 7, 2024, The CNA survey was released to SETRPC leadership team for completion and requested the survey be forwarded to the clients that they serve in their respective programs, including Area Agency on Aging, Golden Triangle RSVP, The Lighthouse Program, and Foster Grandparent Program. The SETRPC leadership team was also asked to provide partnering agencies' information for Jasper County as they are now a part of the SETRPC service area; although CSBG did not provide services, CSD still wanted to capture the community's needs. CSD has a particularly good contact list of partnering community agencies and a mass email was composed that included the survey monkey link and QR code for distribution among the people they serve. The email also advised that a printed version of the survey was available for

distribution as well as one in Spanish. CSD requested that agencies reach out if they are willing to assist or would like to distribute printed surveys. Partnering social service organizations and agencies that were emailed include CSD's Social Service Coalition members, Southeast Texas Coalition for the Homeless, Healthcare Networking Association, Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, Orange United Way, United Way of Mid & South Jefferson County, SETX Food Bank, Hardin County Health Department, Stand Down Committee for Homeless Veterans, and the Port Arthur Health Department. Inside the agency, CSD printed surveys and distributed to divisions that requested paper surveys and coordinated with them to provide CSD with names and addresses for members served in an effort to mail paper surveys out.

As the keeper of the CSD-Social Services Coalition member list, electronic distribution of the survey was quick, and responses began to come in from both residents and partnering agencies. Surveys which were manually collected and returned via mail, the SETRPC staff began to enter the responses into Survey Monkey for analysis.

All throughout the month of March, CSD Team members continued to distribute surveys to residents, remind public officials to complete the surveys, and encourage community partners to continue survey distribution in Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, and Orange counties. The Port Arthur Health Department, Goodwill, United Board of Missions, and Some Other Place, an organization for low-income individuals, agreed to distribute surveys to its clientele who came to their location for assistance. The South East Texas Food bank, who is a strong community partner, agreed to distribute surveys during their mobile food drives that took place in various counties. Other divisions invited CSD to community events for onsite survey distribution. Flyers and electronic focus groups invitations were created and distributed to all community partners and elected officials for each county.

The overall responses from Survey Monkey were surprising in that the majority of respondents from the Individual Residents indicated the need to access food, stabilization (rent and utilities) affordable housing, and mental health. In the previous CNA in 2021 residents did not indicate significant need so this was a good indicator that the community needs had shifted.

The next step in data collection were the five focus groups with community leadership to determine the meaning of the survey responses and get some feedback of resident and leadership responses.

On March 12, 2024, Orange County focus group took place.

March 14, 2024, North Jefferson focus group took place. *

March 19, 2024, Hardin Count focus group took place.

March 21, 2024, South Jefferson focus group took place. *

April 2, 2024, Jasper County focus group took place.

*Historically, Jefferson County focus group is held only in North Jefferson (Beaumont) however, this year CSD wanted to give South Jefferson (Port Arthur) an opportunity to voice their own needs. These two cities have different demographics and industries so, we wanted to give them both a chance to express their individual needs and hear from all Jefferson County leadership, community partners and the residents of needs within their own respective regions.

Each focus group examined the reasons that would account for answers to the surveys and concluded that Mental Health had become a new priority for many individuals and that we had entered a new era where mental health was just as important as general health. There has also been an increase in the cost of living due to inflation, food, and stabilization (rent & utility assistance) was once again a top need in all the counties. Affordable housing and transportation were also prevalent among survey respondents and leadership teams felt these were ongoing community needs that kept appearing throughout the years. The summary of each one of these focus groups is attached to this report.

On March 20, 2024, The SETRPC Executive Committee meeting took place, and SETRPC Executive Director informed and encouraged attendee focus group participation and surveys completion. There was a brief discussion of what all the focus group entailed and for what the data collected would be used.

On March 27, 2024, The CSBG Advisory Council (AC) meeting took place, and CSD Director informed and encouraged focus group participation and survey completion. AC members were also called upon to lead focus groups and discussions addressing community needs and survey findings. They were also called upon for survey distribution and data collection. Unfortunately, AC response was low, and participation was minimal in the CNA process.

April 8, 2024, was the final day to capture electronic survey data and enter paper surveys. A final report of CNA surveys will take place on April 9, 2024. Data gathered will then be analyzed and sorted to determine each county's top five (5) needs and the agencies' service are top five (5) overall needs.

April 24, 2024, The SETRPC Director leadership team, CSBG Advisory Council members, and CSD-CSBG team held a special focus group to review the identified needs; community leadership focus groups vs. community identified needs via surveys. The data gathered from the four county residents was presented to the panel for review along with the data received from elected officials and community leaders. The ROMA cycle was utilized to narrow down and solidify Jefferson counties top five (5) needs and along with the rest of the county's top five (5) needs as the data reflected. The needs were also categorized as family, agency, or community needs. Once all the data has been finalized the composition of the CNA will begin to take place and be presented to the CSBG Advisory Council at the May 8, 2024, meeting for discussion and approval. Once the CSBG Advisory Council approves the CNA, it will then be presented to SETRPC Executive Committee for final approval on Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Once approved by the Executive Committee, it will then be published on the SETRPC website at www.setrpc.org where anyone can access and view the report. A final approved copy will then be submitted to TDHCA on/or before June 1, 2024, as required.

Analysis of Data

Description of Causes of Poverty

- Lack of access to living wage employment opportunities
- Lack of access to food due to cost increase
- Limited access to healthcare and only a few specialists who accept Medicaid
- Individuals lack the education and skills to hold more than minimum wage jobs
- High cost of utilities
- Lack of affordable and safe housing
- Lack of broadband access in the outlying areas of the region
- Lack of knowing where to find help and the need for navigation through the maze of helping agencies and government programs

Description of Conditions of Poverty

- Inability to pay for daily needs and bills
- Increase in cost of living
- High rates of youth committing crimes
- Inability to obtain high wage employment
- Homelessness
- Lack of safe and affordable housing in the community
- Feelings of powerlessness and depression; mental health
- Lack of motivation to work

Community Strengths and Assets

- Trust among partners
- Intellectual capacity
- Right people at the table
- History of collaboration
- Experience in community development and collaboration

Gaps in Services and Barriers

- Mental health programs
- Affordable and safe housing
- Lack of medical specialists pertaining to mental health
- Cost of healthcare
- Education for living wage jobs
- Employment Opportunities
- Lack of youth focused services and mentorship
- No connectivity in existing transportation services
- Lack of communication of services available withing community partners
- Cost of secondary education
- Lack of affordable daycare

Agency Recommendation

SETRPC's Top 5 Recommendations	
1	Mental Heathcare
2	Employment/Workforce Training
3	Stabilization
4	Youth Support
5	Transportation

Top 5 Needs for Each County

Resident, organization, and elected officials' surveys were tracked by county. The rankings were derived from results of the surveys in combination with focus group discussion and quantitative data.

Hardin County	
1	Access to resources
2	Affordable Housing
3	Mental Healthcare
4	Employment/Workforce Training
5	Transportation

Jasper County	
1	Mental Healthcare
2	Adult/Senior Citizen Support
3	Employment/Workforce Training
4	Transportation
5	Food Assistance

Jefferson County	
1	Safe and Affordable Housing
2	Transportation
3	Youth Supports
4	Mental Healthcare
5	Employment/education Support

Orange County	
1	Stabilization
2	Affordable Housing
3	Employment
4	Transportation
5	Mental Health

Top 5 Needs from Hispanic and Latino Survey Respondents

Spanish Speaking Resident Survey Responses Jefferson & Hardin (No responses from Orange)	
1	Help obtaining Food
2	Assistance making Home More Energy Efficient
3	Nutrition Education
4	Programs, Activities, Workshops on Leadership Skills
5	English as a Second Language

Results: Top 5 Needs for Service Area Categorized by CSBG Domains

Utilizing a ranking tool provided by TDHCA, the committee and staff determined the following needs will be our focus in the coming three years.

Rank	Service Area TOP 5 needs	Level	Domain
1	Mental Healthcare	Family	Health and Social Behavior
2	Employment/Workforce Training	Family	Income and Asset Building
3	Transportation	Community	Infrastructure
4	Safe & Affordable Housing	Community	Housing
5	Stabilization	Family	Income and Asset Building

Next Steps: Addressing the Needs

Generally speaking, all of our current funding is programmatically assigned in that the funds are designed for a specific targeted demographic and with a special purpose with a set of spending restrictions and funding-led performance target indicators. As such, some of the needs identified in the CNA, SETPC-Community Services Division (CSD) CSBG can continue to utilize current funding to continue to set goals and provide poverty intervention measures based upon our own funding resources. For example, our agency can directly address the need of “Individual need to obtain education and workforce training to obtain higher wage employment” because we have the exiting Target Our Possibilities (TOP) Program that is an in-depth case management program that support secondary education and workforce training and fosters self-sufficiency. For this need, SETRPC-CSD will rely on community partners including the local colleges and universities to provide us with referrals and spread awareness that this program exists and available for individuals pursuing secondary education and/or workforce training.

Alternatively, other needs that SETPC-CSD has identified in the community that we do not have direct funding for, will be addressed through the help of our community partnering agencies. We will rely on their knowledge of resources/funding that we do not have access to and collaborate to make a greater impact in the community. For example, SETRPC-CSD has limited resources to address the transportation barrier that exists within the community. However, we can rely upon our partners in the Social Services Coalition to share community resources that offer bus vouchers and/or private donations for transportation. The agency also has the Transportation & Environmental Resources Division that operates the Rural Transit District, and the Transportation section manages and operates the rural transportation program, South East Texas Transit (SETT). This service is demand-response for the general public residing in rural areas of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange County. Because of the partnership connectivity, the residents in need can obtain services from multiple sources.

Following the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) model, SETRPC-CSD will use the assessment data results above to guide our annual Community Action Plan (CAP) and guide our 5-year Strategic Plan with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely) goals. These SMART goals will be developed to address family, agency, and community level needs, revitalize our low-income community, and to empower families with low income to become self-sufficient. Going back to what our partnering agencies kept repeating at the focus groups “Together we are better” our agency cannot tackle all of the needs identified in the CNA but, we can work in conjunction with like-minded, community-oriented partners and collaborate and share our knowledge and resources so that together we can make a stronger impact in our communities.

Appendix A: Focus Group Data

2024 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Focus Groups		
Date:	County:	Location:
Tuesday, March 12, 2024	Orange	Orange County Expo Center 11475 FM1442, Orange, TX 77630 https://forms.gle/HGXSa8vmq8Yx7JkB9
Thursday, March 14, 2024	North Jefferson	SETRPC 2210 Eastex Fwy Beaumont, TX 77703 https://forms.gle/sqgx7d6VUR5EHZ3X6
Tuesday, March 19, 2024	Hardin	Hardin County Health Department 1135 Redwood St, Kountze, TX 77625 https://forms.gle/xvkYt9H4eewgPxtm8
Thursday, March 21, 2024	South Jefferson	Port Arthur Heath Department 5860 9th Ave Port Arthur, TX https://forms.gle/EN7wegWq1W86Dg4r7
Tuesday, April 2, 2024 https://forms.gle/HGXSa8vmq8Yx7JkB9	Jasper	Jasper County Courthouse Annex 271 E Lamar St Jasper, TX 75951 https://forms.gle/ohwaj4W9r3c7oXKM6
Wednesday, April 24, 2024	Leadership/ Advisory	Present/Discuss preliminary focus group and community needs findings.
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	Advisory	Present CNA draft to Advisory for approval
Wednesday, May 15, 2024	Executive	Present Final CNA to Executive for approval

FOCUS GROUP MEETING – ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Welcome

The format for the Forum: I will pose some questions and open the floor for people to raise their hands and provide their input. We will be respectful of each person’s input and engage in healthy dialogue. We will record the focus group session and your input.

The following individuals were present for a focus group discussion of the 2024 Community Needs Assessment for Orange County. The group consisted of the following individuals:

1. Magen Lee
2. Michelle Tubbleville
3. Tramena Horn
4. Tara Devilbiss
5. Maureen McAllister
6. Faith Hooks
7. Robyn Burdette
8. Stephanie Robertson
9. Sara Torres-Garcia,
Facilitator

Explanation of Community Needs Assessment: As a requirement of the receipt of Community Services Block Grant funds which are utilized by our organization to provide services such as Stabilization, Secondary Education and Workforce training, and Case Management services, we are conducting surveys, interviews, focus groups, and forums to help us identify community needs in key areas such as employment, education, housing, health, emergency assistance, nutrition, transportation, and other areas and to identify barriers and resources.

Because SETRPC-Community Services Division is a recipient of the CSBG funds we are conducting a Community Needs Assessment as part of the requirements to receive Community Services Block Grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. As part of the survey, we are interviewing key stakeholders in the community.

A Power Point presentation was projected, and the following questions were presented, discussed, and addressed by the focus group:

Slide 5-Needs:

1. What are some of the greatest needs that low-income people face in our community?

Help obtaining increased job skills, job training in order to earn better wages, Computer skills training, Assistance to attend trade or technical

school, or college, Childcare so that parent can attend school, Assistance with goals and self- sufficiency, Financial Education/Budgeting Classes/Credit Counseling, Help with applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc., Assistance with safe temporary shelter for homeless persons, Affordable Housing, Help with utility bills, Mental and Behavioral Health Counseling or Classes, Community Revitalization, Health Insurance/Medical Care , Food, Transportation, Help finding resources in the community, Child care, Deferred property maintenance

2. The responses to the questions in the individual surveys regarding top needs have changed in comparison to the previous CNA conducted in 2021. Why do you think the needs have changed?
The consensus in the group was the circumstances have changed. The CNA in 2021 consisted of the community having gone through the COVID-19 pandemic. The gaps in service were different because there was a lot more governmental assistance.

Slide 7-Barriers:

3. What do you think are some of the gaps or barriers to services in the community?
Lack of knowledge, Coordination of services, Lack of affordable childcare facilities, lack of housing
4. What do you think are some key community revitalization needs?
More housing, safer neighborhoods, access to more/better medical facilities
5. Why do these barriers exist?
Disasters, lack of funds, unexpected life expectations

Identify needs, group discussion:

6. Of the needs that we have identified, what do you think are the top 7?
Employment, Education, Income & Asset Building, Housing, Health and Social/Behavioral Development, Civic Engagement & Community Involvement, Emergency Assistance

7. What are the TOP 5 needs?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Stabilization Assistance | Family |
| 2. Housing | Community |
| 3. Employment | Individual |
| 4. Transportation | Community |
| 5. Mental Health | Individual |

Slide 8-Community Assets:

8. Is your organization currently addressing any of the needs that you identified?
Yes
9. If yes, please specify which are being addressed and how.
Soup kitchens (churches), United Way, Region 5 (GED), Lamar State College – Orange (higher education), GOALS (EST, GED, Food Pantry)
10. What types of social service programs would be most beneficial for the next three (3) years in this community?
One stop-shop to access community resources.

Slide 9- Impact/Collaboration:

11. How can our agency partner with your organization to address the needs identified?
More community collaboration
12. How do we educate the community?
Community Resource Fairs
13. How do we help to break the poverty cycle?
Obtain additional funding to assist the community.
14. How can community leadership help address the needs?
Advocate to leaders in charge.

Slide 10- Assign level of need:

15. What level do you think the need is designed to: Individual, Family, or Community? See Slide 7 – Question 7.
16. What improvements do you think the community should focus on?
Safe and Affordable housing as well as education or training.
The improvements could be in areas such as job creation, affordable housing, accessible and affordable health care, affordable childcare, transportation, education or training, community facilities, community services, commercial services, etc.

Slide-11- Our Mission:

17. Does our mission align with what we are doing? Yes
18. Does your agency’s mission align with what you are doing? Yes
19. What (if any) recommendations to improve Community Action?
Notify what services and resources are available in the community.
20. Closing Remarks “We are better together”

FOCUS GROUP MEETING – North Jefferson County
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Thursday, March 14, 2024

Welcome

The format for the Forum: I will pose some questions and open the floor for people to raise their hands and provide their input. We will be respectful of each person’s input and engage in healthy dialogue. We will record the focus group session and your input.

The following individuals were present for a focus group discussion of the 2021 Community Needs Assessment for Orange County. The group consisted of the following individuals:

1. Karla Quigley
2. Michelle Richer-Mingerink
3. Keisha Williams
4. Angeliqueca Avery
5. Eyvette Viltz-Pree
6. Pat Murray
7. Rev. Robert Sartin
8. Martha Simien
9. Dale Breaux
10. George Hartsfield
11. Pastor Allen Perkins
12. Mark Piggott
13. Cody Guidry
14. Caci Groom
15. Shaunnette Jordan
16. Jimmy Sparks
17. Kennedy Smith
18. Bonnie Brooks
19. Nicole Hayes
20. Christine Jackson
21. Cody Courts
22. Miles Haynes
23. Sara Torres-Garcia, Facilitator

Explanation of Community Needs Assessment: As a requirement of the receipt of Community Services Block Grant funds which are utilized by our organization to provide services such as Stabilization, Secondary Education and Workforce training, and Case Management services, we are conducting surveys, interviews, focus groups, and forums to help us identify community needs in key areas such as employment, education, housing, health, emergency assistance, nutrition, transportation, and other areas and to identify barriers and resources.

Because SETRPC-Community Services Division is a recipient of the CSBG funds we are conducting a Community Needs Assessment as part of the requirements to receive Community Services Block Grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. As part of the survey, we are interviewing key stakeholders in the community.

A Power Point presentation was projected, and the following questions were presented, discussed, and addressed by the focus group:

Slide 5-Needs:

1. What are some of the greatest needs that low-income people face in our community?

List all the needs mentioned.

Affordable Housing/ Shelter Affordable Childcare, Education, Health Care, Mental Health Care, Employment, Food, Legal Assistance, Recidivism Programs, Financial Literacy, Communication/Marketing, Transportation

2. The responses to the questions in the individual surveys regarding top needs have changed in comparison to the previous CNA in 2021. Why do you think the needs have changed?

In 2021, the country was deeply enthralled in the fight against COVID19. The pandemic left many people unemployed and in a diminished state of health, while a spike in mental illness and substance use occurred. However, with residents receiving stimulus checks, and there being an abundance of funding for stabilization in 2021, the need for that type of assistance decreased. In the last couple of years federally issued moratoriums banning evictions and disruption of utility services ended, unemployment, and governmental aid are no longer plentiful; therefore, communities are finding themselves in a worsened state financially, compounded by the forementioned health/mental healthcare, and substance use issues plaguing our communities.

Slide 7-Barriers:

3. What do you think are some of the gaps or barriers to services in the community?

The words that continued to resurface were “Accessibility” and “Communication.”

4. What do you think are some key community revitalization needs?

Key community revitalization needs are safe affordable housing, transportation within and between counties, access to health/mental healthcare.

5. Why do these barriers exist?

The group mentioned a greater need for advocacy for the underserved.

Identify needs, group discussions:

6. Of the needs that we have identified, what do you think are the top 7?

Affordable Housing/ Shelter, Healthcare/Mental Health, Employment, Food, Transportation, Affordable Childcare, Communication/Marketing

7. What are the TOP 5 needs?

1. Shelter	Community
2. Healthcare/ Mental Health	Individual/Community
3. Employment	Individual
4. Food	Family
5. Transportation	Community

Slide 8-Community Assets:

8. Is your organization currently addressing any of the needs that you identified? Yes
9. If yes, please specify which are being addressed and how.
The group identified that there are healthcare facilities, mental health and substance use treatment facilities; workforce training/employment programs; the SETX food bank provides food to many organizations to distribute throughout the community; and affordable public transportation is available. However, the group still believes that more of these services are needed with easier access.
10. What types of social service programs would be most beneficial for the next three (3) years in this community?
The group mentioned the area needs a one-stop shop so that residents can go to have most if not all these needs met. (Example: Gulf Coast in Houston)

Slide 9- Impact/Collaboration:

11. How can our agency partner with your organization to address the needs identified?
Clear Communication is needed between agencies so that all are informed about programs/services each agency provides.
12. How do we educate the community?
Communication and marketing were topics that continued to resurface in the conversation. The group mentioned providing accurate information and viable referrals to residents.
13. How do we help to break the poverty cycle?
Education, life skills and financial literacy training are key. While poverty is sometimes caused by circumstance, the cycle of poverty is often a result of bad choices. A change of mind will breed a change of circumstances.
14. How can community leadership help address the needs?
Leaders can advocate for those who have no voice.

Slide 10- Assign level of need:

15. What level do you think the need is designed to: Individual, Family, or Community?
16. What improvements do you think the community should focus on?
The improvements could be in areas such as job creation, affordable housing, accessible and affordable health care, affordable childcare, transportation, education or training, community facilities, community services, commercial services, etc.

Slide-11- Our Mission: Empowering low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs and increase their opportunity to realize their full potential through education and community service collaborations.

17. Does our mission align with what we are doing? Yes

18. Does your agency's mission align with what you are doing?

19. What (if any) recommendations to improve how Community Action Agencies serve our community?

Thriving partnerships are key.

Slide-12:

20. Feedback- These conversations must be ongoing at some point birth action plans.

"We are better together."

Closing remarks

FOCUS GROUP MEETING – Hardin County
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Thursday, March 19, 2024

Welcome

The format for the Forum: I will pose some questions and open the floor for people to raise their hands and provide their input. We will be respectful of each person’s input and engage in healthy dialogue. We will record the focus group session and your input.

The following individuals were present for a focus group discussion of the 2024 Community Needs Assessment for Orange County. The group consisted of the following individuals:

1. Pastor Arthur Smith
2. Treva Smith
3. Sharon Whitley
4. Letasha Jones
5. Mayor Danny Reneau
6. Andrea Richard
7. Kasie Chargois
8. Amber Meredith
9. Ebony Jones
10. Pastor Allen Perkins
11. Whitney Heinicke
12. Mary Adams
13. Christine Jackson
14. Sara Torres-Garcia, Facilitator

Explanation of Community Needs Assessment: As a requirement of the receipt of Community Services Block Grant funds which are utilized by our organization to provide services such as Stabilization, Secondary Education and Workforce training, and Case Management services, we are conducting surveys, interviews, focus groups, and forums to help us identify community needs in key areas such as employment, education, housing, health, emergency assistance, nutrition, transportation, and other areas and to identify barriers and resources.

Because SETRPC-Community Services Division is a recipient of the CSBG funds we are conducting a Community Needs Assessment as part of the requirements to receive Community Services Block Grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. As part of the survey, we are interviewing key stakeholders in the community.

A Power Point presentation was projected, and the following questions were presented, discussed, and addressed by the focus group:

Slide 5-Needs:

1. What are some of the greatest needs that low-income people face in our community?
List all the needs mentioned.

Affordable Housing, Youth Supports, Affordable Childcare, Education/ ESL, Health Care, Mental Health Care, Employment/Workforce Training, Access to Resources, Food, Prescription Assistance, Stabilization Assistance, Substance Abuse, Transportation

2. The responses to the questions in the individual surveys regarding top needs have changed in comparison to the previous CNA in 2021. Why do you think the needs have changed?

In 2021, the country was deeply enthralled in the fight against COVID19. The pandemic left many people unemployed and in a diminished state of health, while a spike in mental illness and substance use occurred. However, with residents receiving stimulus checks, and there being an abundance of funding for stabilization in 2021, the need for that type of assistance decreased. In the last couple of years federally issued moratoriums banning evictions and disruption of utility services ended, unemployment, and governmental aide are no longer plenteous; therefore, communities are finding themselves in a worsened state financially, compounded by the forementioned health/mental healthcare, and substance use issues plaguing our communities.

Slide 7-Barriers:

3. What do you think are some of the gaps or barriers to services in the community?
The words that continued to resurface were accessibility to existing resources, and communication; however, the group also expressed more funding and resources are needed for Hardin County.
4. What do you think are some key community revitalization needs?
Key community revitalization needs are safe affordable housing, transportation especially for those that live in the most rural areas of the county. In addition, the group mentioned a need for broadband accessibility for the County.
5. Why do these barriers exist?
The group mentioned a greater need for advocacy for the underserved.

Identify needs, group discussions:

There was discussion regarding the need for youth support programs for school aged children, especially during summer months to provide a safe place to play, learn and have access to nutritious food.

6. Of the needs that we have identified, what do you think are the top 7?
Affordable Housing/ Shelter, Access to Resources, Employment/ Workforce Training, Transportation, Health/Mental Healthcare, Prescription Assistance, Substance Abuse

What are the TOP 5 needs?

1. Access to Resources	Community
2. Healthcare/ Mental Health	Individual
3. Affordable Housing	Community
4. Employment/ Workforce Training	Individual
5. Transportation	Community

Slide 8-Community Assets:

7. Is your organization currently addressing any of the needs that you identified? Yes
8. If yes, please specify which are being addressed and how.
The group identified that there are churches and community organizations that do help to distribute information throughout the community. In addition, there are healthcare facilities, mental health and substance use treatment facilities/ clinics and mobile units to ensure these services are available to all residents.; workforce training/employment programs; and the SETX Transit to provide transportation for a low affordable cost. However, the group still believes that more of these services are needed with easier access.
9. What types of social service programs would be most beneficial for the next three (3) years in this community?
The groups mentioned the area needs a one-stop shop so that residents can go to have most if not all these needs met.

Slide 9- Impact/Collaboration:

10. How can our agency partner with your organization to address the needs identified?
Clear Communication is needed between agencies so that all are informed about programs/services each agency provides.
11. How do we educate the community?
Communication and marketing were topics that continued to resurface in the conversation. The group mentioned providing accurate information and viable referrals to residents.
12. How do we help to break the poverty cycle?
Education, life skills and financial literacy training are key. While poverty is sometimes caused by circumstance, the cycle of poverty is often a result of bad choices. A change of mind will breed a change of circumstances. Investing in youth to break down barriers at an early age.
13. How can community leadership help address the needs?
Leaders can advocate for those who have no voice.

Slide 10- Assign level of need:

14. What level do you think the need is designed to: Individual, Family, or Community?
15. What improvements do you think the community should focus on?

The improvements could be in areas such as job creation, affordable housing, accessible and affordable health care, affordable childcare, transportation, education or training, community facilities, community services, commercial services, etc.

Slide-11- Our Mission: Empowering low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs and increase their opportunity to realize their full potential through education and community service collaborations.

16. Does our mission align with what we are doing? Yes

17. Does your agency's mission align with what you are doing? Yes

18. What (if any) recommendations to improve how Community Action Agencies serve our community?

Thriving partnerships are key.

Slide-12:

19. Feedback- These conversations must be ongoing at some point birth action plans.
"We are better together."

Closing remarks

FOCUS GROUP MEETING – South Jefferson County

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Welcome

The format for the Forum: I will pose some questions and open the floor for people to raise their hands and provide their input. We will be respectful of each person’s input and engage in healthy dialogue. We will record the focus group session and your input.

The following individuals were present for a focus group discussion of the 2024 Community Needs Assessment for South Jefferson County. The group consisted of the following individuals:

1. Pearlanna Carron
2. Jay Keith
3. Gwen Williams
4. Gussie Cohea
5. Betty Jacobs
6. Kaala Jacobs
7. Denise Boutte
8. Dora D. Rouen
9. Nuong Tran
10. Linda Huong Nguyen
11. Chrissie Mouton
12. Allen Perkins
13. RaNysha Roberts
14. Gabrielle Smith
15. Laura Welch
16. Calvin Shepherd Jr.
17. Eddie Patin
18. Margaret Marsh
19. Christina Green
20. Rosaland Shelton
21. Glennetta Nichols
22. Maricela Figueroa
23. Alicia Lewis
24. Angela Briscoe
25. Fredia Washington
26. Rachel Borne
27. Denise Young
28. Shelly Christian
29. Anicia Salinas
30. Judith Smith
31. Karla Quigley
32. Mary Wycoff
33. Stephanie Roberts
34. Christine Jackson
35. Sara Torres-Garcia, Facilitator

Explanation of Community Needs Assessment: As a requirement of the receipt of Community Services Block Grant funds which are utilized by our organization to provide services such as Stabilization, Secondary Education and Workforce training, and Case Management services, we are conducting surveys, interviews, focus groups, and forums to help us identify community needs in key areas such as employment, education, housing, health, emergency assistance, nutrition, transportation, and other areas and to identify barriers and resources.

Because SETRPC-Community Services Division is a recipient of the CSBG funds we are conducting a Community Needs Assessment as part of the requirements to receive Community Services Block Grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. As part of the survey, we are interviewing key stakeholders in the community.

A Power Point presentation was projected, and the following questions were presented, discussed, and addressed by the focus group:

Slide 5-Needs:

1. What are some of the greatest needs that low-income people face in our community?

List all the needs mentioned.

Stabilization, Education/ESL, Safety, Childcare, Access to Services, Emergency Services (Disaster), Education Related Assistance, Food, Transportation, Healthcare, Mental Healthcare, Employment, Affordable Housing, Youth Support Programs.

2. The responses to the questions in the individual surveys regarding top needs have changed in comparison to the previous CNA in 2021. Why do you think the needs have changed?
The needs have changed over the last three years due to the pandemic. Assistance was plentiful during that time; however, COVID-19 left many people with long-term health and mental health challenges. In addition, while assistance was plentiful, many businesses closed, introducing a new group (middle class) to the low-income sector. The top needs identified in 2021 and those identified in 2024 have changed drastically.

Slide 7-Barriers:

3. What do you think are some of the gaps or barriers to services in the community?

The group collectively agreed that access and/or coordination of services is a huge issue in the community. Another barrier mentioned was that many residents lack the proper documentation required to receive assistance (valid ID, vital statistic documents; etc.)

4. What do you think are some key community revitalization needs?

The group mentioned there needs to be coalition or live list of available services in the area.

5. Why do these barriers exist?

Many in the group mentioned that agencies are territorial and do share information.

Identify needs, group discussions:

6. Of the needs that we have identified, what do you think are the top 7?

Mental Health, Employment, Education, Affordable Housing, Youth Support Programs, Affordable Childcare, Transportation

7. What are the TOP 5 needs?

1. Mental Healthcare	Individual
2. Employment	Individual
3. Education	Individual
4. Affordable Housing	Community
5. Youth Support	Community

Slide 8-Community Assets

8. Is your organization currently addressing any of the needs that you identified? Yes
9. If yes, please specify which are being addressed and how.
The group identified that there are churches and community organizations that do help to distribute information throughout the community. In addition, there are healthcare facilities, mental health and substance use treatment facilities/ clinics; workforce training/employment programs; and SETX Transit and public transportation provided to residents at a low affordable cost. However, the group still believes that more of these services are needed with easier access.
10. What types of social service programs would be most beneficial for the next three (3) years in this community?
The group suggested quarterly or bi-annual resource fairs.

Slide 9- Impact/Collaboration:

11. How can our agency partner with your organization to address the needs identified?
Clear Communication is needed between agencies so that all are informed about programs/services each agency provides.
12. How do we educate the community?
Communication and marketing were topics that continued to resurface in the conversation. The group mentioned providing accurate information and viable referrals to residents.
13. How do we help to break the poverty cycle?
Education, life skills and financial literacy training are key. While poverty is sometimes caused by circumstance, the cycle of poverty is often a result of bad choices. A change of mind will breed a change of circumstances. Investing in youth to break down barriers at an early age.
14. How can community leadership help address the needs?
Leaders can advocate for those who have no voice.

Slide 10- Assign level of need:

15. What level do you think the need is designed to: Individual, Family, or Community?
16. What improvements do you think the community should focus on?

The improvements could be in areas such as job creation, affordable housing, accessible and affordable health care, affordable childcare, transportation, education or training, community facilities, community services, commercial services, etc.

Slide-11- Our Mission: Empowering low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs and increase their opportunity to realize their full potential through education and community service collaborations.

17. Does our mission align with what we are doing? Yes

18. Does your agency's mission align with what you are doing? Yes

19. What (if any) recommendations to improve how Community Action Agencies serve our community? Community Collaboration in all aspects of service delivery.

20. Feedback

“We are better together.”

Closing remarks

FOCUS GROUP MEETING – Jasper County
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Welcome

The format for the Forum: I will pose some questions and open the floor for people to raise their hands and provide their input. We will be respectful of each person’s input and engage in healthy dialogue. We will record the focus group session and your input.

The following individuals were present for a focus group discussion of the 2024 Community Needs Assessment for South Jefferson County. The group consisted of the following individuals:

1. Mark Piggott
2. Seth Martindale
3. Greg Kelley
4. Judge Mark Allen
5. Billy Ted smith
6. Roy Parker
7. Brittany Cloud
8. Lori McGee
9. Eddie Hopkins
10. Sam Matthews
11. Amanda Gates
12. Mayor Anderson M. Lands
13. Debra Harris
14. James Gunter
15. Angel McCroskey
16. Sammy McCroskey
17. Kevin Holloway
18. Dennis Marks
19. Laura Moore
20. Rodney Norsworthy
21. Stephanie Roberts
22. Christine Jackson
23. Sara Torres-Garcia, Facilitator

Explanation of Community Needs Assessment: As a requirement of the receipt of Community Services Block Grant funds which are utilized by our organization to provide services such as Stabilization, Secondary Education and Workforce training, and Case Management services, we are conducting surveys, interviews, focus groups, and forums to help us identify community needs in key areas such as employment, education, housing, health, emergency assistance, nutrition, transportation, and other areas and to identify barriers and resources.

Because SETRPC-Community Services Division is a recipient of the CSBG funds we are conducting a Community Needs Assessment as part of the requirements to receive Community Services Block

Grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. As part of the survey, we are interviewing key stakeholders in the community.

A Power Point presentation was projected, and the following questions were presented, discussed, and addressed by the focus group:

Slide 5-Needs:

1. What are some of the greatest needs that low-income people face in our community?

List all the needs mentioned.

Veteran Supports, Distance/Isolation, Indigent Support, Financial Literacy, Education Support/ Adult Literacy, Safety, Access to Services, Senior Citizen Support, Food, Transportation, Healthcare, Mental Healthcare, Employment Opportunities, Workforce Training, Broadband Access, Safe Affordable Housing, Youth Support Programs, Stabilization Services.

2. The responses to the questions in the individual surveys regarding top needs have changed in comparison to the previous CNA in 2021. Why do you think the needs have changed?

The needs have changed over the last three years due to the pandemic. Assistance was plentiful during that time; however, COVID-19 left many people with long-term health and mental health challenges. In addition, while assistance was plentiful, many businesses closed, introducing a new group (middle class) to the low-income sector. The top needs identified in 2021 and those identified in 2024 have changed significantly.

Slide 7-Barriers:

3. What do you think are some of the gaps or barriers to services in the community?
The group collectively agreed that access and/or coordination of services is a huge issue in the community. The group mentioned that Jasper County is isolated, and residents often must travel at least an hour to access services.

4. What do you think are some key community revitalization needs?
The group mentioned the area could benefit from investment in infrastructure to revitalize the community and bring businesses and services to the area that will be readily accessible to the residents.

5. Why do these barriers exist?
Some mentioned that a great percentage of the county's population is made up of senior retirees and many young people move away to pursue higher education and employment opportunities. A lack of infrastructure, services and opportunities are a few reasons residents choose to move away and is a contributing factor in the area being less attractive to potential businesses/organizations.

Identify needs, group discussions:

6. Of the needs that we have identified, what do you think are the top 7?
Health/Mental Healthcare, Senior Citizen Support, Employment, Workforce Training, Transportation, Access to Resources, Youth Support.

7. What are the TOP 5 needs?

1. Mental/ Healthcare	Community
2. Senior Citizen Supports	Individual/ Community
3. Employment	Individual
4. Workforce Training	Individual
5. Transportation	Community

Slide 8-Community Assets

8. Is your organization currently addressing any of the needs that you identified? Yes

9. If yes, please specify which are being addressed and how.

The group identified that there are healthcare facilities, mental health clinics and urgent care centers located throughout the community; AAA, churches, libraries serve as resources for the senior population; workforce training/employment programs are available through TWC, and community colleges; and programs to address transportation needs are in the works. However, the group still believes that more of these services are needed with easier access.

10. What types of social service programs would be most beneficial for the next three (3) years in this community?

The group identified and acknowledged that community leaders along with elected officials must spend the next few years speaking with law makers, informing them of the identified needs and requesting funding for the county to address those needs for the residents of the community.

Slide 9- Impact/Collaboration:

11. How can our agency partner with your organization to address the needs identified?

Clear Communication is needed between agencies so that all are informed about programs/services each agency provides.

12. How do we educate the community?

Communication and marketing were topics that continued to resurface in the conversation. The group mentioned providing accurate information and viable referrals to residents.

13. How do we help to break the poverty cycle?

Education, life skills and financial literacy training are key. While poverty is sometimes caused by circumstance, the cycle of poverty is often a result of bad choices. A change of mind will breed a change of circumstances.

14. How can community leadership help address the needs?
Leaders can advocate for those who have no voice. Create opportunities.

Slide 10- Assign level of need:

15. What level do you think the need is designed to: Individual, Family, or Community?
(answered on #7)

16. What improvements do you think the community should focus on?
The improvements could be in areas such as job creation, affordable housing, accessible and affordable health care, affordable childcare, transportation, education or training, community facilities (infrastructure), community services, commercial services, etc.

Slide-11- Our Mission: Empowering low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs and increase their opportunity to realize their full potential through education and community service collaborations.

17. Does our mission align with what we are doing? Yes

18. Does your agency's mission align with what you are doing? Yes

19. What (if any) recommendations to improve how Community Action Agencies serve our community? Delivery services in Jasper County. Expanding services into the area in addition to was allocated via Tri-County Community Action.

- 20. Feedback**
"We are better together."

Closing remarks

SETRPC Community Needs Assessment

South East Texas Regional Planning Commission would like your input to better serve you.

City and County where you live: <i>Beaumont Tx. Jefferson</i>				
Elected Official	Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Partner	Board Member	Client

Instructions:

1. Select all of the needs you feel are important (You can have multiple)
2. Rank the needs from 1 to 7, 1 being the highest and 7 being the lowest

Domain/ Category	Needs	1. Select All Your Needs	2. Rank your TOP 7 needs
Employment	Help finding a job with a living wage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
	Help obtaining increased job skills, job training in order to earn better wages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
Education	GED classes		4
	English as a Second Language Classes		
	Adult Education or Night School		
	Computer Skills Training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Assistance to attend trade or technical school, or college	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Education programs for children to gain literacy skills and obtain school readiness skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Childcare so that parent can attend school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Income & Asset Building	Assistance with goals and self-sufficiency		5
	Financial Education/Budgeting Classes/Credit Counseling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Help with applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc.		
Housing	Assistance with safe temporary shelter for homeless persons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
	Affordable Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Help paying rent or mortgage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Help with utility bills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Help to make my home more energy efficient (weatherization)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Health and Social/ Behavioral Development	Nutrition Education/Healthy Eating Education workshops		4
	Assistance with major health conditions in your area (i.e., diabetes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Mental and Behavioral Health Counseling or Classes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Programs and Activities for Seniors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Assistance for elderly and disabled and persons with chronic health conditions to maintain independence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Programs and activities to prevent criminal recidivism for youth and adults		
Civic Engagement & Community Involvement	Programs, activities, workshops on leadership skills, community involvement		7
	Activities and or programs to improve social networks and ability to engage (ex: voter education, citizenship classes, volunteer training, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Community Revitalization (such as neighborhood clean-up projects, crime prevention, recreational areas, etc.)		
Emergency Assistance	Prescription Assistance		2
	Health Insurance/Medical Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Food	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Transportation		
	Help finding resources in the community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Child Care Assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other			

Thank you for taking time to provide us your feedback.

SETRPC Community Needs Assessment

South East Texas Regional Planning Commission would like your input to better serve you.

City and County where you live: <u>Wimberton - Hardin County</u>			
Elected Official	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Partner	Board Member
		V	Client

Instructions:

1. Select all of the needs you feel are important (You can have multiple)
2. Rank the needs from 1 to 7, 1 being the highest and 7 being the lowest

Domain/ Category	Needs	1. Select All Your Needs	2. Rank your TOP 7 needs
Employment	Help finding a job with a living wage	✓	2
	Help obtaining increased job skills, job training in order to earn better wages	✓	
Education	GED classes		1
	English as a Second Language Classes		
	Adult Education or Night School	✓	
	Computer Skills Training	✓	
	Assistance to attend trade or technical school, or college		
	Education programs for children to gain literacy skills and obtain school readiness skills	✓	
	Childcare so that parent can attend school	✓	
Income & Asset Building	Assistance with goals and self-sufficiency	✓	3
	Financial Education/Budgeting Classes/Credit Counseling	✓	
	Help with applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc.		
Housing	Assistance with safe temporary shelter for homeless persons	✓	6
	Affordable Housing		
	Help paying rent or mortgage		
	Help with utility bills		
	Help to make my home more energy efficient (weatherization)	✓	
Health and Social/ Behavioral Development	Nutrition Education/Healthy Eating Education workshops		4
	Assistance with major health conditions in your area (i.e., diabetes)	✓	
	Mental and Behavioral Health Counseling or Classes	✓	
	Programs and Activities for Seniors	✓	
	Assistance for elderly and disabled and persons with chronic health conditions to maintain independence	✓	
	Programs and activities to prevent criminal recidivism for youth and adults		
Civic Engagement & Community Involvement	Programs, activities, workshops on leadership skills, community involvement		7
	Activities and or programs to improve social networks and ability to engage (ex: voter education, citizenship classes, volunteer training, etc.)	✓	
	Community Revitalization (such as neighborhood clean-up projects, crime prevention, recreational areas, etc.)	✓	
Emergency Assistance	Prescription Assistance		5
	Health Insurance/Medical Care		
	Food	✓	
	Transportation	✓	
	Help finding resources in the community	✓	
Other	Child Care Assistance		

Thank you for taking time to provide us your feedback.

SETRPC Community Needs Assessment

South East Texas Regional Planning Commission would like your input to better serve you.

City and County where you live: <i>Orange, Orange, TX</i>				
Elected Official	Resident	Community Partner	Board Member	Client
	✓	✓		

Instructions:

1. Select all of the needs you feel are important (You can have multiple)
2. Rank the needs from 1 to 7, 1 being the highest and 7 being the lowest





Domain/ Category	Needs	1. Select All Your Needs	2. Rank your TOP 7 needs
Employment	Help finding a job with a living wage		
	Help obtaining increased job skills, job training in order to earn better wages		
Education	GED classes		
	English as a Second Language Classes		
	Adult Education or Night School		
	Computer Skills Training		
	Assistance to attend trade or technical school, or college		
	Education programs for children to gain literacy skills and obtain school readiness skills		
	Childcare so that parent can attend school		
Income & Asset Building	Assistance with goals and self-sufficiency		
	Financial Education/Budgeting Classes/Credit Counseling		
	Help with applying for Social Security, SSDI, WIC, TANF, etc.		
Housing	Assistance with safe temporary shelter for homeless persons	✓	2
	Affordable Housing	✓	1
	Help paying rent or mortgage	✓	5
	Help with utility bills	✓	
	Help to make my home more energy efficient (weatherization)	✓	
Health and Social/ Behavioral Development	Nutrition Education/Healthy Eating Education workshops		
	Assistance with major health conditions in your area (i.e., diabetes)		
	Mental and Behavioral Health Counseling or Classes		
	Programs and Activities for Seniors		
	Assistance for elderly and disabled and persons with chronic health conditions to maintain independence		
	Programs and activities to prevent criminal recidivism for youth and adults	✓	3
Civic Engagement & Community Involvement	Programs, activities, workshops on leadership skills, community involvement		
	Activities and or programs to improve social networks and ability to engage (ex: voter education, citizenship classes, volunteer training, etc.)	✓	7
	Community Revitalization (such as neighborhood clean-up projects, crime prevention, recreational areas, etc.)	✓	6
Emergency Assistance	Prescription Assistance		
	Health Insurance/Medical Care		
	Food		
	Transportation	✓	4
	Help finding resources in the community		
	Child Care Assistance		
Other	<i>legal assistance</i>	✓	

Thank you for taking time to provide us your feedback.

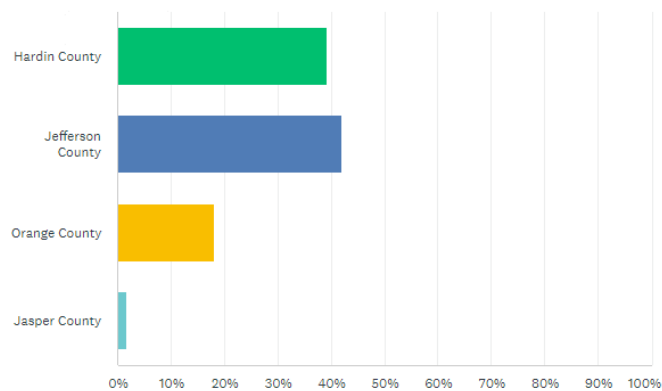
Appendix B:

Survey Data

SurveyMonkey
 2024 Community Needs Assessment
 Residents, Community Partners, and Community Leadership

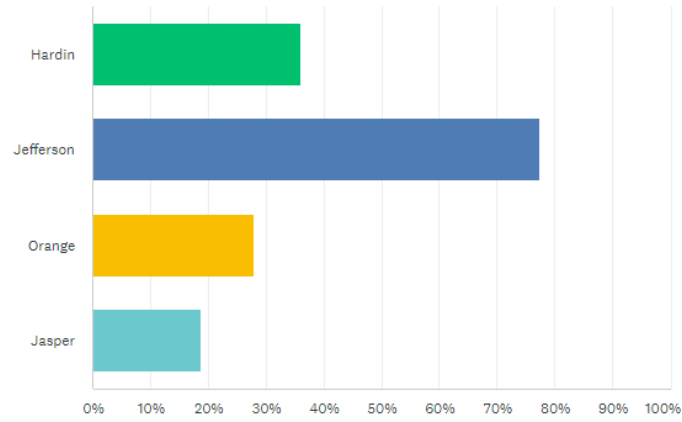
2024 Elected Officials and Board Members CNA Survey Modified 04/25/2024	 4 responses
2024 Organizations Survey Modified 04/24/2024	 75 responses
2024 Community Needs Survey for Residents Modified 04/17/2024	 352 responses
Encuesta de Necesidades de la Comunidad 2024 Para Residents Modified 04/15/2024	 12 responses

Residents

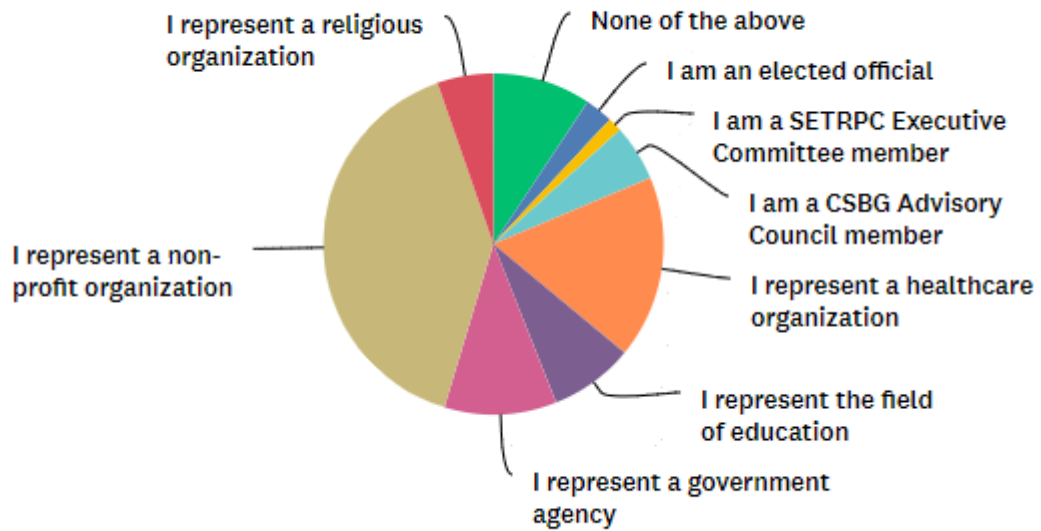


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Hardin County	39.20% 138
▼ Jefferson County	42.05% 148
▼ Orange County	18.18% 64
▼ Jasper County	1.70% 6
Total Respondents: 352	

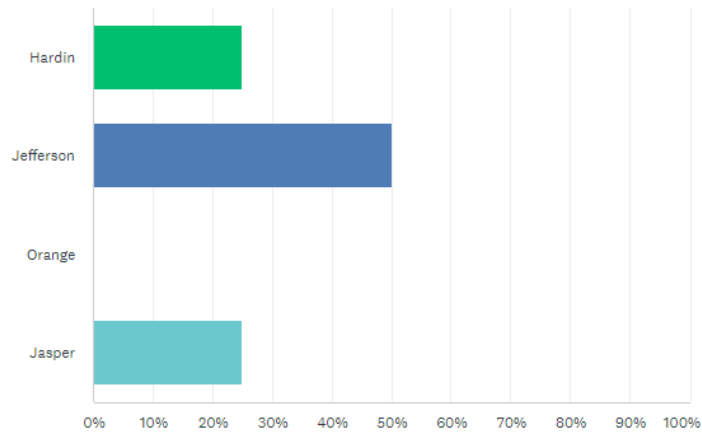
Community Partners



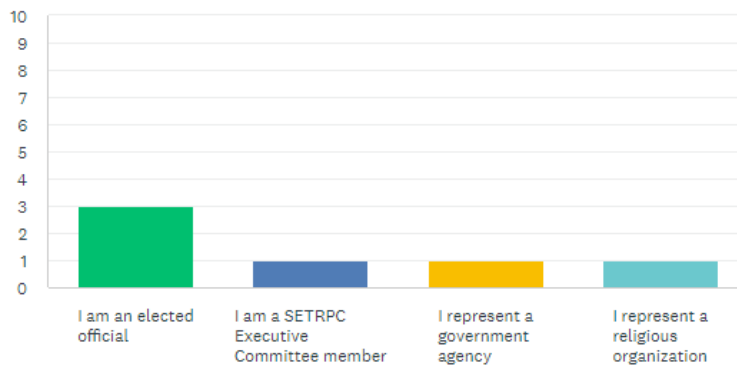
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Hardin	36.00% 27
Jefferson	77.33% 58
Orange	28.00% 21
Jasper	18.67% 14
Total Respondents: 75	



Community Leaders



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Hardin	25.00% 1
▼ Jefferson	50.00% 2
▼ Orange	0.00% 0
▼ Jasper	25.00% 1
TOTAL	4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ I am an elected official	75.00% 3
▼ I am a SETRPC Executive Committee member	25.00% 1
▼ I represent a government agency	25.00% 1
▼ I represent a religious organization	25.00% 1
Total Respondents: 4	

Thank you!

To the residents of Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, and Orange Counties and to all who took part in the 2024 Community Needs Assessment.

