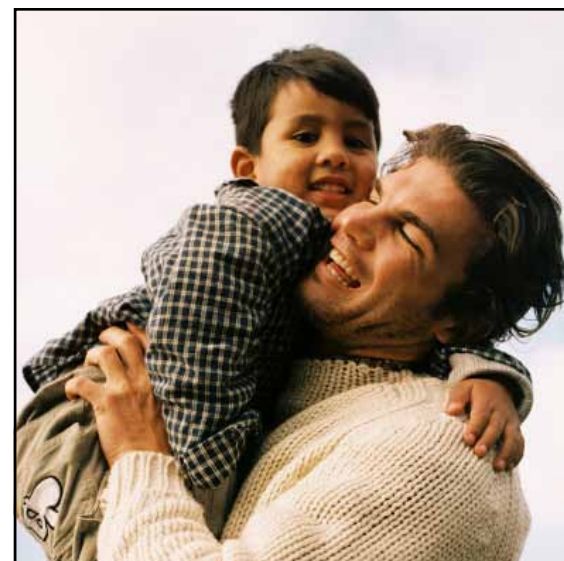


Listening to Families

Client Opinion of Needs

Below are the top eight needs of families, as identified by clients themselves. The percentages are based on the number of families who stated they had social services needs, and identified the particular need from the categories listed in the chart below.



Indiana		CAECI	
Emergency rent, utilities, shelter	57%	Emergency rent, utilities, shelter	98%
Food or nutrition	35%	Food or nutrition	64%
Know more of what's available	30%	Health-related or medical	57%
Health-related or medical	29%	Know more of what's available	53%
Transportation	26%	Other	52%
Other	25%	Transportation	43%
Housing situation improvement	24%	Housing situation	26%
Education	21%	Mental Health	24%

Source: 2007 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Data



Economic Impact

Fighting poverty is not just altruistic; it is a key economic development strategy. Based on client survey data, if we could move each of the families served by CAECI to at least 100% of the FPG, it would generate an additional \$16,597,765 per year in income. This money would then be spent in the community, further stimulating the local economy.



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Indiana Community Action Association would like to recognize and thank groups and individuals for their support and participation with the Community Needs Assessments:

- Each of Indiana's 24 Community Actions Agencies, without their participation and resources, success on this project could not be achieved;
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- Special thanks are extended to Steve Hoffman with the Community Action of Northeast Indiana and Lora Olive with the Indiana Community Action Association, for their dedication to making these Community Needs Assessments a success.

For questions or to see the full Community Needs Assessment Report, please contact CAECI:

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For more information about IHEDA please visit www.in.gov/iheda/.

Community Action Agencies



laying the
groundwork
 for our
communities
 2008 Community Needs Assessment



Executive Summary

2008 Community Needs Assessment

A Research Report from Community Action of East Central Indiana, Inc. (CAECI)

In order to better serve the low-income residents of the region, it is important that we maintain an up-to-date picture of who they are and what they need. To do this, the Community Action of East Central Indiana, Inc. (CAECI) board and staff participated in a statewide study which was conducted by the Indiana Community Action Network.

The research was conducted in two parts:

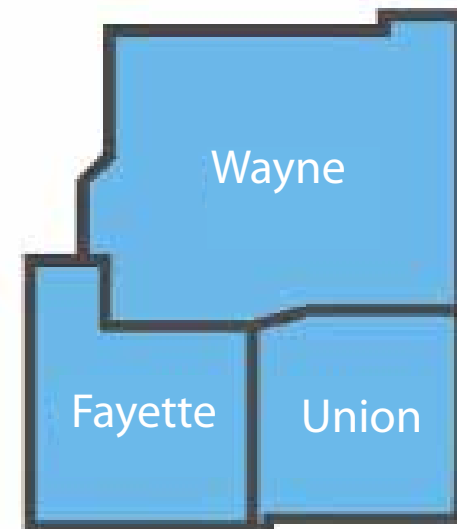
- Background research was conducted using secondary data available from federal, state, and local resources.
- A client survey was designed and administered directly to Hoosiers who use CAECI's services.

In 2007, CAECI served 7,445 low-income Hoosiers.

Of those served...

- 65%** lived in rental housing
- 39%** of heads of households were working
- 39%** were children
- 24%** were single-parent female headed households
- 10%** were 70 years old or older
- 9%** had two or more years of post-secondary education
- 8%** were African-American
- 2%** were Hispanic/Latino

CAECI Service Area Indiana's East Central Region



The findings are helpful to the CAECI board and staff who want to better understand CAECI clients and their needs. CAECI is using the findings to plan new strategies and services designed to help reduce poverty.

CAECI is eager to share its findings with others who wish to serve low-income families in East Central Indiana.

The client survey respondents are a valid and reliable sample of the low-income population. This makes it possible for any community group to factor in these results when considering service for community programs and projects.

Overcoming Poverty and Income Barriers

Service Area Poverty

According to U.S. Census Bureau, in 2007, 14% of the CAECI's service area population, or 13,968 people, lived below the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). These numbers have increased from 10%, or 10,483 people, in 2000. In 2007, the FPG for a family of four was \$20,650 a year.

Self-Sufficiency Standard

Studies have shown that it actually takes about twice the FPG for a family to actually be economically self-sufficient. According to the 2005 Indiana Self-Sufficiency Standard, a family of four (two adults, one infant, and one preschooler) in Fayette County would need to make \$2,753 monthly or \$33,032 annually to reach economic self-sufficiency. For this same family type in the remainder of CAECI's service area, it would take the following for this family to meet economic self-sufficiency:

Union County
\$2,819 monthly or \$33,829 annually
Wayne County
\$2,798 monthly or \$33,572 annually

Thirty-one percent, or 30,963, of the CAECI's service area population lived below 200% FPG in 2007.

	2007 Poverty Rate	# All Persons & Ages in Poverty, 2007	2000 Poverty Rate	# All Persons & Ages in Poverty, 2000
Fayette	14%	3,369	8%	1,978
Union	12%	832	10%	701
Wayne	15%	9,767	11%	7,804
Indiana	12%	755,245	10%	559,484

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Children in Poverty

In 2007, Indiana's child poverty rate was 17%. All counties served by CAECI, were at or above the statewide average. The child poverty rates for the counties served by CAECI are as follows:

Fayette County 20%
Union County 17%
Wayne County 23%

It is estimated that 4,904 children (under the age of 18) in the CAECI service area were living in poverty in 2007.

Working Poor

Thirty-eight percent of client survey households with adults under 65 years old had at least one adult working, compared to 48% for the state as a whole.

Single-Parent Female Headed Households in Poverty

Sixty-seven percent of female client survey respondents under 40 years old, who had incomes below 100% of FPG, were single-parents.

Employment and Education

Unemployment Rates

In 2007, the unemployment rate in the CAECI service area was 6%, making it higher than the statewide unemployment rate of 5%. This is an increase of 2% from 2000 for this service area.

Unemployment Rates		
Counties	2007	2000
Fayette	7%	4%
Union	5%	3%
Wayne	5%	4%
Indiana	5%	3%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Education Level and Income

Post-secondary education is becoming increasingly important to the earning potential of families. For client survey respondents 25 years old and older, without any post-secondary education, the average monthly income was \$796. Client respondents, 25 years old and older, with a two-year post-secondary degree, had an average monthly income of \$1,269.

Full Time vs Part Time Employment

A key indicator of yearly household income is number of hours worked (increased hours worked having a far greater impact on overall income than an increase in hourly wage). Of those client survey respondents who were employed, nearly two-thirds (61%) worked less than 36 hours per week. When accounting for spouses, 53% worked less than 36 hours per work. These figures were below the statewide averages, which were 63% and 55% respectively.

Other Barriers

Renting vs Homeownership

In 2007, 55 percent of CAECI client survey respondents lived in rental units compared to 28 percent of Indiana residents who lived in rental units statewide. Whereas 38 percent of CAECI client survey respondents owned their home. This is compared to a statewide homeownership rate of 72 percent in 2007.

Homelessness

One percent of client survey respondents have been homeless in the last 12 months. When projecting that out to the entire CAECI service area population, it means 39 families have been homeless in the last 12 months.

Transportation

Thirty-five percent of CAECI client survey respondents did not have a car in working order. Of those who do not have a car, 51% consider this to be a barrier or problem, and 28% feel they could acquire better employment if they had a car in working order.

Child Support

For single-parent families, child support is a crucial income source to help these families meet their basic needs. Twenty-nine percent of client survey respondents were eligible to receive child support, but only one in four of those families (26%) actually received their support regularly over the last year.

Health Insurance

Seventy-three percent of client survey respondents who were employed, did not have private health insurance, indicating that the majority work in jobs with little to no health insurance benefits. Twelve percent of survey respondents stated that neither they as individuals nor their family had private or public health insurance.