

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		HSI	
Emergency rent, utilities, shelter	57%	Emergency rent, utilities, shelter	56%
Food or nutrition	35%	Food or nutrition	38%
Know more of what's available	30%	Education	37%
Health-related or medical	29%	Housing situation improvement	33%
Transportation	26%	Child Care	26%
Other	25%	Transportation	25%
Housing situation improvement	24%	Employment services	25%
Education	21%	Know more of what's available	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 HSI to at least 100% of the FPG, it would generate an additional \$154,605,500 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

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- 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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For questions or to see the full Community Needs Assessment Report, please contact Human Services:

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

Community Action Agencies



laying the groundwork for our communities

2008 Community Needs Assessment



2008 Community Needs Assessment

A Research Report from Human Services, Inc. (HSI)

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 Human Services, Inc. (HSI) 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 Human Services, Inc. services.

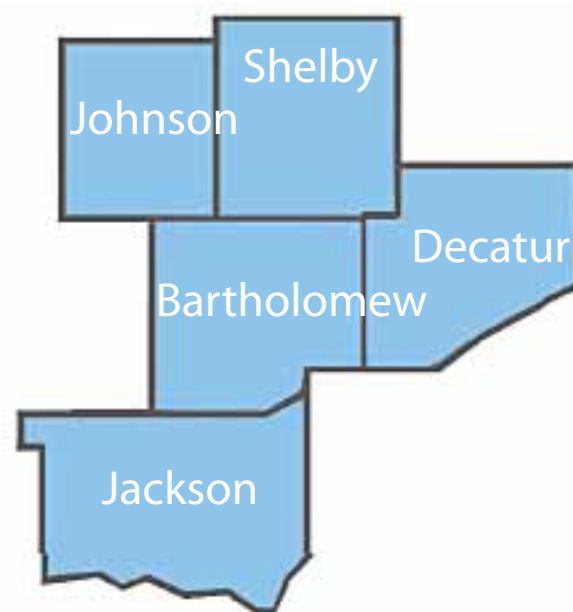
In 2007, Human Services served 27,344 low-income Hoosiers.

Of those served...

- 56%** of heads of households were working
- 47%** lived in rental housing
- 33%** were single-parent female headed households
- 20%** were children
- 7%** were 70 years old or older
- 6%** were African-American
- 6%** were Hispanic/Latino
- 4%** had two or more years of post-secondary education

Human Services Service Area

Indiana's South Central Region



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

HSI is eager to share its findings with others who wish to serve low-income families in South 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, 9% of the HSI service area population, or 28,926 people, lived below the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). These numbers have increased from 7%, or 20,398 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 Bartholomew County would need to make \$3,406 monthly or \$40,873 annually to reach economic self-sufficiency. For this same family type in the remainder of Human Services service area, it would take the following for this family to meet economic self-sufficiency:

Decatur County
\$2,856 monthly or \$34,270 annually
Jackson County
\$2,979 monthly or \$35,752 annually
Johnson County
\$3,708 monthly or \$44,492 annually
Shelby County
\$3,220 monthly or \$38,645 annually

Twenty-one percent, or 60,234, of the HSI 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
Bartholomew	11%	8,021	7%	5,164
Decatur	10%	2,454	9%	2,248
Jackson	12%	4,904	9%	3,428
Johnson	7%	9,294	6%	6,337
Shelby	10%	4,253	8%	3,221
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 HSI, with the exception of Jackson County, were below the statewide average. The child poverty rates for the counties served by Human Services are as follows:

Bartholomew County	16%
Decatur County	15%
Jackson County	18%
Johnson County	9%
Shelby County	14%

It is estimated that 10,378 children (under the age of 18) in the HSI service area were living in poverty in 2007.

Working Poor

Sixty-seven 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 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 HSI service area was 4%, making it lower than the statewide unemployment rate of 5%. However, this is an increase of 2% from 2000 for this service area.

Unemployment Rates		
Counties	2007	2000
Bartholomew	4%	3%
Decatur	5%	2%
Jackson	4%	3%
Johnson	4%	2%
Shelby	4%	3%
Indiana	5%	3%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Other Barriers

Renting vs Homeownership

In 2007, 66 percent of HSI's client survey respondents lived in rental units compared to 28 percent of Indiana residents who lived in rental units statewide. Whereas 24 percent of HSI's client survey respondents owned their home. This is compared to a statewide homeownership rate of 72 percent in 2007.

Homelessness

Ten percent of client survey respondents have been homeless in the last 12 months. When projecting that out to the entire HSI service area population, it means 1,328 families have been homeless in the last 12 months.

Transportation

Twenty-three percent of HSI client survey respondents did not have a car in working order. Of those who do not have a car, 69% consider this to be a barrier or problem, and 67% feel they could acquire better employment if they had a car in working order.

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 \$992. Client respondents, 25 years old and older, with a two-year post-secondary degree, had an average monthly income of \$1,916.

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, over half (54%) worked less than 36 hours per week. When accounting for spouses, 48% worked less than 36 hours per work. These figures are below the statewide averages, which were 63% and 55% respectively.

Child Support

For single-parent families, child support is a crucial income source to help these families meet their basic needs. Forty-two percent of client survey respondents were eligible to receive child support, but only one in four of those families (27%) actually received their support regularly over the last year.

Health Insurance

Sixty 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. Fourteen percent of survey respondents stated that neither they as individuals nor their family had private or public health insurance.