

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		JobSource	
Emergency rent, utilities, shelter	57%	Know more of what's available	54.6%
Food or nutrition	35%	Transportation	53.3%
Know more of what's available	30%	Food or Nutrition	50.7%
Health-related or medical	29%	Health-related or medical	50.7%
Transportation	26%	Employment Services	42.9%
Other	25%	Emergency rent, utilities, shelter	41.6%
Housing situation improvement	24%	Education	40.3%
Education	21%	Other	37.7%

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 JobSource to at least 100% of the FPG, it would generate an additional \$34,813,791 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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For questions or to see the full Community Needs Assessment Report, please contact JobSource:

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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 JobSource

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 JobSource 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 JobSource's services.

In 2007, JobSource served 9,856 low-income Hoosiers.

Of those served...

- 67%** lived in rental housing
- 45%** of heads of households were working
- 42%** were children
- 31%** were single-parent female headed households
- 23%** were African-American
- 11%** had two or more years of post-secondary education
- 6%** were 70 years old or older
- 4%** were Hispanic/Latino

JobSource Service Area

Indiana's East Central Region



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

JobSource 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 JobSource service area population, or 16,986 people, lived below the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). These numbers have increased from 9%, or 11,941 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 Madison County would need to make \$3,193 monthly or \$38,314 annually to reach economic self-sufficiency. Twenty-seven percent, or 34,000, of the JobSource service area population lived below 200% FPG in 2007.

Children in Poverty

In 2007, Indiana's child poverty rate was 17%. In Madison County, served by JobSource, the child poverty rate was 23%, higher than the statewide average. It is estimated that 6,526 children (under the age of 18) in the JobSource service area were living in poverty in 2007.

	2007 Poverty Rate	# All Persons & Ages in Poverty, 2007	2000 Poverty Rate	# All Persons & Ages in Poverty, 2000
Madison	14%	16,986	9%	11,941
Indiana	12%	755,245	10%	559,484

Source. U.S. Census Bureau

Working Poor

Forty-six 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

Seventy-six 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 JobSource service area was 6%, making it higher than the statewide unemployment rate of 5%. This is an increase of 3% from 2000 for this service area.

Unemployment Rates		
Counties	2007	2000
Madison	6%	3%
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 \$621. Client respondents, 25 years old and older, with a two-year post-secondary degree, had an average monthly income of \$850.

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 three-fourths (74%) worked less than 36 hours per week. When accounting for spouses, 72% worked less than 36 hours per work. These figures are significantly higher than the statewide averages, which were 63% and 55% respectively.

Other Barriers

Renting vs Homeownership

In 2007, 68 percent of JobSource client survey respondents lived in rental units compared to 28 percent of Indiana residents who lived in rental units statewide. Whereas 27 percent of JobSource client survey respondents owned their home. This is compared to a statewide homeownership rate of 72 percent in 2007.

Homelessness

Three percent of client survey respondents have been homeless in the last 12 months. When projecting that out to the entire JobSource service area population, it means 133 families have been homeless in the last 12 months.

Transportation

Thirty-six percent of JobSource client survey respondents did not have a car in working order. Of those who do not have a car, 62% consider this to be a barrier or problem, and 52% 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. Forty percent of client survey respondents were eligible to receive child support, but less than one-third of those families (29%) actually received their support regularly over the last year.

Health Insurance

Eighty-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. Twenty-seven percent of survey respondents stated that neither they as individuals nor their family had private or public health insurance.