

EXTENT OF POVERTY

2009 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Data						
State/ County	Total Number of Individuals in Poverty	Poverty Rate	Number of Children in Poverty	Child Poverty Rate	Number of Seniors in Poverty	Senior Poverty Rate
Indiana	831,434	13.4%	288,174	18.5%	61,714	8.0%
Allen	43,324	12.6%	16,133	17.5%	2,212	5.9%
DeKalb	3,942	9.5%	1,357	12.5%	370	7.5%
LaGrange	5,006	13.6%	2,057	17.5%	732	17.1%
Noble	5,286	11.3%	2,060	16.3%	337	6.6%
Steuben	3,290	10.2%	1,101	14.8%	351	7.9%
Whitley	1,895	5.9%	568	7.4%	300	7.1%

In 2009, CANI served 32,581 individuals in our service area (Allen, DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley Counties).

Of those residents served:

- 100% lived in households with incomes less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (\$33,075 for a family of four in 2009);
- 67% had household incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (\$22,050 for a family of four in 2009);
- 60% were female;
- 47% were children (0-18 years old);
- 41% were minorities; and
- 11% were over 55 years old (2009 Community Services Block Grant data).

We believe all of us are vulnerable to poverty. The economic and social costs are enormous and the consequences have significant effects on everyone, and we believe there are cost-effective solutions to poverty. Through efforts that create jobs that pay living wages with benefits, affordable housing, access to health care, and education we can reduce poverty. Fighting poverty is also a key economic development strategy. According to the 2009 Indiana Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

data, if we could move each of the families served by CANI, who are at or below poverty to 100 percent of the FPG (\$18,310 for a family of three in 2009), their collective annual income would be \$171,326,670. This money would then be spent in the community, further stimulating local economies. To see how CANI is helping Hoosiers to reach economic self-sufficiency, see the Strategies to Address the Causes of Poverty section of this Executive Summary.

LOCALLY IDENTIFIED CAUSES OF POVERTY

The client survey was randomly sent to those who had received services from CANI in 2009. Five hundred and seventeen surveys were completed. Clients who received the survey were asked what their community needs were and what were the barriers to clients having those needs met.

Top Community Needs As Identified by Clients	Percent
Affordable Housing	71.4%
Help for people who are unable to pay their electric/gas bills	69.4%
Health Insurance Coverage	68.1%
Help for people who are unable to pay their water bills	65.8%
Help for people who are unable to pay their rent or mortgage	65.0%

Barriers As Identified by Clients	Percent
Barrier to Health Insurance: COST	67.2%
Barrier to Child Care: NO TRANSPORTATION	49.3%
Barrier to Transportation: PRICE OF GAS	41.8%
Barrier to Work: PHYSICAL DISABILITY	39.1%
Barrier to Child Care: COST	34.0%

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE CAUSES OF POVERTY

CANI offers many programs and services. Some of the programs CANI offers that specifically address the community needs and barriers identified by clients include:

Housing Choice Voucher and Shelter Care Plus Program– CANI offers the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Shelter Care Plus Programs which helps pay a portion of a family's rent. Families can live in safe housing they could not otherwise afford. In particular, the Shelter Care Plus vouchers are designed for those

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE CAUSES OF POVERTY

Housing Choice Voucher and Shelter Care Plus Program (cont.) – who are homeless and disabled, and are one of the following: seriously mentally ill, recovering drug or alcohol abusers, or HIV-positive. Clients must be compliant with program requirements to remain eligible. Also, clients must currently be in treatment for one of the three diagnoses with a partner agency. For more information about either of these programs, contact Matt Beer, (260) 423-3546, ext. 233.

PRR (Purchase, Rehabilitation and Resale) Program - CANI is proud to offer the PRR Program, making the dream of home ownership a reality for some families in our service area. This program allows CANI to purchase, rehabilitate and resell homes to qualifying families. The goal is to make attractive homes available to families and support the stability of neighborhoods. Education is provided to guide potential home buyers through the process. CANI hires local contractors to remodel the homes prior to putting them on the market.

Energy Assistance Program - CANI's Energy Assistance Program provides financial assistance to low-income households to maintain utility services during the winter heating season. We provide intake, application processing and utility vendor payments. To qualify for assistance households must be at or below 150% of the FPG, provide income documentation, current heat and electric bills, social security cards for each household member and a completed application. Energy Conservation Classes are also presented in each county to provide educational information to participants of this program. The classes include energy tips to help individuals lower their energy consumption and ultimately their energy costs.

Child Care Assistance Program – CANI offers the child care assistance program and is the intake agent for Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties. Parents must be working, going to school, or receiving job training to qualify for this program. The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) allows parents the opportunity to maintain employment and complete educational goals without the overwhelming financial burden of child care costs. The family must be Indiana residents within income guidelines and have a child below the age of 13. For more information about Child Care Vouchers, contact Family Services Manager Marianne Stanley, or call (260) 423-3546, ext. 229.

To learn more about these programs offered or for more information about this report, please contact CANI at: Address: 227 E. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46853
Phone Number: 260-423-3546 Web Site: www.canihelp.org
Email: stevehoffman@canihelp.org.



The Community Needs Assessments are funded in part by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) with CSBG-D funds. For more information about IHCDA please visit: www.in.gov/ihcda.

Community Action of Northeast Indiana 2011 Community Needs Assessment



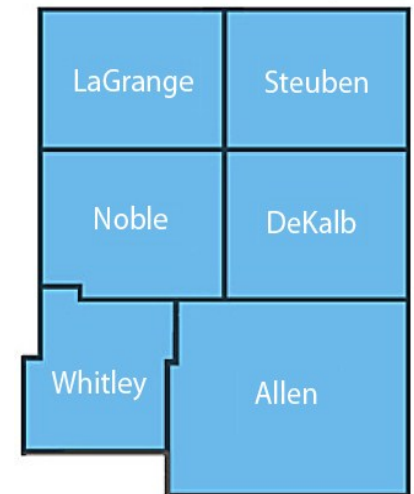
Executive Summary

In order to better serve the residents of our community, 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 Northeast Indiana (CANI) board and staff participated in the statewide Community Needs Assessment 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 sources.
- Client and stakeholder surveys were designed and administered directly to Hoosiers who are served by CANI or who partner with CANI.

CANI Service Area



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Poverty is the cause of unnecessary and preventable suffering among millions of Americans and thousands of Hoosiers of all ages. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, in 2009, 831,434 Hoosiers lived in poverty or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) - \$22,050 for a family of four in 2009. In 2009, in CANI's service area (Allen, DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley Counties), 62,743 individuals lived in poverty or below the FPG. Of those individuals in poverty 23,276 were children (under the age of 18 years old) and 4,302 were seniors (65 years old and over).