

**COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT  
PLAN AND BUDGET PROPOSAL**

**for**

**July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

**Submitted to**

**Cabinet for Health and Human Services  
Department for Community-Based Services  
Division of Protection and Permanency  
Commonwealth of Kentucky**

**by**

**Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc.  
Bowling Green, Kentucky**

**April 15, 2011**

B.1. Introduction to the Agency

- a. Describe the type of agency and include the agency's qualifications, both the agency's **mission and vision**, values, and role the agency plays in the community. Explain the designation of the agency as public or private; state, county, or city government; and profit or non-profit.
- b. Provide up-to-date information on CSBG contact information within the agency. Include the complete contact information (i.e., fax and phone number, mailing address, e-mail address) for the: (1) Executive Director, (2) Financial Director, and (3) CSBG Program Director and/or staff, who should be included on e-mail correspondence or contacted for day-to-day CSBG programmatic or financial matters.
- c. Discuss the geographical area served by the Community Action Agency and distinguish the areas served by programs.
- d. Provide written assurance that any audit of CSBG funds performed by an independent public accounting firm designated by the agency will be performed in compliance with CSBG Audit Specifications in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section 9916 and requirements in the OMB Circular A-133, and the contractual agreement between the agency and CHFS.
- e. Provide written assurance that the agency shall comply with 45 CFR Part 74, except where state procedures, including Kentucky Administrative Regulations, specifically exclude certain sections of Part 74. Also, give assurance that if any agency is a private, nonprofit agency, the agency is in compliance with OMB Circular A-122 and A-110, and for a public agency with OMB Circular A-87 and 45 CFR Part 92.

**Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc.**  
**Community Services Block Grant**  
**PROGRAM WORK PLAN**  
**SFY 2012**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc hereby certifies that the Agency will comply with all requirements of Kentucky's Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Plan and Budget and will cooperate with the Administering Agency to assure compliance with all state and federal requirements within the CSBG Plan and Budget.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. has developed the 2011 – 2012 program work plan in accordance with the Administering Agency's instructions for proposals.

- a. Describe the type of agency and include agency's qualifications, both the agency mission and vision, values, and role the agency plays in the community. Explain the designation of the agency as public or private; state, county, or city government; and profit or non-profit.**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. was established on February 24, 1965 under the authority of the landmark federal law, The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and program services began in 1966. Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation. Federal, state, and local government funding, private contributions and user fees enable the Agency to provide a comprehensive range of services to residents of the Barren River Area of Kentucky, especially those individuals and families confronting poverty conditions.

The mission of the Agency Staff is to create opportunities for individuals and families to be self-reliant. We envision an organization valued and respected for its ability to create opportunities and achieve results, an organization committed to the principles of public service.

The values of Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. include:

- demonstrate compassion, consistency, and the highest ethical conduct in dealing with the public and employees;
- provide training and encouragement for all staff;
- assess and monitor our operations;
- establish goals and a written plan of action which is communicated throughout the organization;
- respond in a timely manner to all questions and complaints from clients and the public at large;
- work to ensure that every staff member is fully committed to the highest standards of public service; and
- engage the Board of Directors and other citizen groups in program development and review.

The Agency will continue to play a leadership role in the development of the counties we serve. We will advocate for the children, youth, families, and senior adults who need our support. Community Action Staff will respect our history, address current needs, and plan for our future.

The Agency is governed by a board of directors which includes elected officials, community representatives, and low-income citizens and advocates. The Board of Directors establishes policy and approves operating budgets while the CEO/Executive Director implements policy and manages personnel and programs. The Agency maintains approximately thirty-five facilities in ten counties. With a budget and assets valuing over \$20 million, the Agency manages approximately ten major programs including, Children's Services (Head Start and Child Care), Community Services (Community Services Block Grant, Supportive Housing, and other services), Food Services, Senior Services, Transportation, Family Preservation, Foster Grandparent, Family Nurturing, and Weatherization.

- b. Provide up-to-date information on CSBG contact information within the agency. Include contact information (i.e., fax and phone number, mailing address, e-mail address) for the (1) Executive Director, (2) Financial Director, and (3) CSBG Program Director and/or staff, that should be included on e-mail correspondence or contacted for day-to-day CSBG programmatic or financial matters.**

Cheryl H. Allen, CEO/Executive Director  
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- c. Discuss the geographical area served by the Community Action Agency, and distinguish the areas served by programs.**

The service area consists of the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) in rural south central Kentucky. The nearly four thousand square miles includes Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren counties. The Bowling Green-Warren County metropolitan area has a population approximately 116,435 and was recently named the third largest city in Kentucky. Most Agency programs are available in all ten counties. The surrounding counties could be characterized as rural with 52.33% of the population being either under 19 years of age or over 60 years of age.

Warren County is the population and market center of this particular development district. Barren and Logan counties are secondary population and market centers. Of the 278,874 individuals within this area, approximately 63.68% reside in Barren, Logan, and/or Warren counties. In December 2010 the US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Branch released the 2009 Poverty Estimates for the United States. 18.4% of the Kentuckians live below the federal poverty level, and in our area the poverty rate varies from 15.1% in Simpson County to 26.5% in Monroe County. By December 2010 the BRADD area was still experiencing double digits unemployment rates. Warren County was the only county in the service area with unemployment rates in single digits at 8.2% while Edmonson County was consistently struggling at 12.3%.

- d. Provide written assurance that any audit of CSBG funds performed by an independent public accounting firm designed by the agency will be performed in compliance with CSBG Audit Specifications in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section 9916 and requirements in the OMB Circular A-133, and the contractual agreement between the agency and CHFS.**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. provides assurance that an audit of CSBG funds will be performed by an independent public accounting firm and in compliance with CSBG audit specifications in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section 9916 and the requirements of OMB Circular A-133, and the contractual agreement between Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. and CHFS.

- e. Provide written assurance that the agency shall comply with 45 CFR 74 except where state Procedures, including Kentucky Administrative Regulations, specifically exclude certain sections of Part 74. Also, give assurance that if any agency is a private, nonprofit agency, the agency is in compliance with OMB Circular A-122 and A-110, and for public agency with OMB Circular A-87 and 45 CFR Part 92.**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. shall comply with 45 CFR 74 except where state procedures including Kentucky Administrative Regulations specifically exclude certain sections of Part 74. As a public agency, Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. is in compliance with OMB Circular A-87 and A-128 and 45 CFR Part 92.

## B.2. Community Needs Assessment (Narrative)-Component to Attachment A

- a. Describe in depth the agency's CSBG community needs assessment process and procedures (e.g., who in the community is involved and how are they involved? Does this represent a cross-selection of the community and explain how? How often does your agency undergo the process?). Make sure the results of your needs assessment is reflected in the 2012 Solicitation Packet and all attachments.

Describe methods utilized to assure community and consumer representation in the needs assessment process. Attach copies of surveys, survey summaries, minutes of the meetings, and other tools such as newspaper articles advertising these meetings that are utilized in obtaining input from the community and consumers.

- b. Describe collaboration in the community needs assessment process with community service organizations.

- c. Describe community strengths and needs, including other service agencies that provide services meeting the community needs in each of the following areas (KRS 273.443):

- i. Services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community or those areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem;
- ii. Activities designed to assist low-income participants including the elderly poor:
  1. To secure and retain meaningful employment;
  2. To attain an adequate education;
  3. To make better use of available income;
  4. To obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment (prevent homelessness);
  5. To obtain emergency services through one time payments or short term loans to meet immediate needs and urgent individual and family needs, including health services, nutritious food, housing, and employment related services.
  6. To provide nutritious supplies or services that may be needed counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition;
  7. To achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community.
  8. To remove obstacles and solve problems by establishing comprehensive, long term programs of family development, which will help achieve goals, solve problems, and maintain self-sufficiency.
  9. To provide on an emergency basis for the provision of goods or services, health care and related services, as may be needed to assure good health care.
  10. To eliminate causes of poverty (not using in Kentucky this year).

- iii. The coordination and established linkages between governmental and other social programs to assure the effective delivery of such services to low-income individuals;
  - iv. Involvement of entities in the private sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the community;
  - v. The development, promotion, and ways to encourage economic development activities, which result in assisting low-income persons to become economically productive members of their community;
  - vi. Provision of education, counseling and technical assistance on compliance with equal opportunity legislation for individuals and community organizations, both public and private.
- d. Prioritize services funded by CSBG, based on the needs assessment process and available resources. Describe in detail the activities to be performed in each, from the point of intake to termination of services, when the service is client-oriented. Utilize Kentucky's most recent publication of Lexicon, and the Lexicon for CSBG Funded Programs and a Classification of CSBG Services.
- e. Describe the manner in which the allocation of funds will be targeted to need, based on your agency's community needs assessment and priority-setting process. (This should align with Attachments (ROMA, Attachments A, B1, & B3).
- f. Describe whether laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky mandate the programs and services being provided and specify the Kentucky Revised Statute(s) that apply.
- g. Describe whether the programs and services to be provided with CSBG funds are those which the Commonwealth of Kentucky currently administers and funds in other state and local agencies.
- h. Specify plans for ensuring the coordination of and non-duplication of the applicant agency's services with other service providers. At minimum provide:
- i. Certification of the agency's willingness to share necessary client information and records within legal limitations and willingness to provide the leadership in arranging for a meeting, not less than two (2) times a year, of all social services agencies in the agency's geographic service area for the purpose of developing substantive interagency cooperation and assessing the social services currently being provided;
  - ii. Identification of activities the agency jointly pursues or coordinates with faith-based organizations, fatherhood programs, healthy marriage programs, rural development and One-Stop partnerships;
  - iii. Description and identification of the agency's coordination and consultation with the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Service Region Administrator (SRA) including: (1) efforts to avoid duplication of services; and (2) services to support

shared clients. **Be specific.** In what ways do you support DCBS and the SRA? What services do you offer that help prevent child maltreatment, promote quality foster care and adoption services, and assist vulnerable adults or low-income families?

- i. Outline the applicant agency's efforts to focus attention on: addressing the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, giving priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime; and promoting increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of low income youth programs with a goal of preventing or reducing youth crime.
- j. All services directed toward coordination and linkages of other community services to impact the community (non-client specific services), rather than individual client service, should be described in narrative, i.e., community participation and economic development which are directed toward amelioration of poverty in the community. Coordination with emergency energy crisis intervention programs under Title XXVI and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 should be described. Please indicate the staff member(s) who will be carrying out coordination and linkage functions and any limitations placed on the individual client services.
- k. Include a copy of the agency's collaborative service agreement with the Senior Region Administrator (SRA) with the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS).

- a. **Describe in depth the agency’s CSBG community needs assessment process and procedures (e.g., who in the community is involved and how are they involved? Does this represent a Cross - selection of the community and explain how?).**

**Describe methods utilized to assure community and consumer representation in the needs assessment process. Attach copies of surveys, survey summaries, minutes of the meetings, and other tools such as newspaper articles advertising these meetings that are utilized in obtaining input from the community and consumers.**

Each year, Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. conducts a comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) in all ten counties of the service area and follows an internal process to collect information from low-income citizens, local elected officials, human service providers, community representatives, and other professionals in an attempt to identify local needs and priorities. The CNA process involved advertising Community Needs Assessment meetings in each county where focus groups analyzed community situational data, identified causes of poverty, determined local needs, discussed resources available, gaps in services, and established priorities. CNA meetings were organized and conducted by local Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) staff many times in collaboration with local Children’s Services, Senior Services, or VISION meetings. In addition to these CNA meetings, consumers were invited to complete a CNA survey while applying for services in the local offices. Also, the Agency Board of Directors was given the opportunity to complete the CNA survey at the local meetings, during the Board of Directors Meeting, or on an individual basis. A cross-selection of the community was represented through this population as outlined by those invited to participate in the process. Five thousand one hundred and six clients and community partners completed the Community Needs Assessment Surveys.

Staff reviewed existing data for the service area describing low-income needs: aging population needs, education, population projections, poverty levels, unemployment, and others. CNA meetings included some of the following activities:

- (a) Reviewed Community Action of Southern Kentucky programs;
- (b) Reviewed local programs;
- (c) Identified local needs;
- (d) Identified possible programs to address the local needs; and
- (e) Identified possible avenues of collaboration.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky ensures low-income persons and the local communities are represented in the CNA process as well as in the character of Agency programs. During the 2010 to 2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as services were delivered to them and were invited to attend the local CNA meetings. Local service providers were also given the opportunity to respond to the same survey by attending the local CNA meetings.

Additionally, the Agency’s Head Start Program completes a comprehensive needs assessment yearly. Data for Head Start’s Needs Assessment is collected from a variety of sources not limited to; Kentucky Kids Count 2010 demographic information, 2010 Labor Force Data from Kentucky’s Office of Employment and Training, FedStats.gov, 2008-2010 Kentucky Postsecondary Education Profile, and

other sources. Also, data was reviewed from the Barren River Area Development District Aging Needs Assessment. The 2011 - 2012 plan and budget was developed to address the targeted needs.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky believes the concerns, thoughts, and beliefs of low-income persons and the local communities are the key to implementing successful programs. First, the Administering Board of Directors with one-third representation of low-income individuals or representatives must approve program activities for the agency. Second, consumers within all agency programs are encouraged to provide feedback regarding programs in which they participate. Third, homeless persons or advocates are encouraged to serve on the regional Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Board of Directors. Fourth, Head Start parents as key members of the Head Start Policy Council make important decisions regarding personnel, finance, and activities for the Head Start Program. Fifth, Foster Grandparents serving as members of the Foster Grandparent Advisory Council make important decisions regarding the Foster Grandparent Program, personnel decisions, and finance issues. Sixth, many low-income individuals are active volunteers in agency programs.

Attached are copies of survey summaries, minutes of the meetings and other tools utilized to obtain input from the community and consumers.

**b. Describe collaboration in the community needs assessment process with community service organizations.**

The Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and Community Action of Southern Kentucky work together to identify and to address client needs in an efficient, effective, and timely manner. In addition, Community Action of Southern Kentucky and DCBS serve jointly on local inter-agency groups which assess the status of services available in the community. This process assures that the agencies maintain a continuing assessment of current social services and local needs.

CSBG staff seeks to obtain involvement from Agency program participants and a variety of community service organizations, including but not limited to public and private groups, faith-based organizations, neighborhood groups, vendors, business representatives, and local officials. Staff conducts surveys of local community needs and participates in county meetings conducted specifically to assess community-wide needs and services. In order to assure the critical input of local service organizations and local inter-agency groups, many of the annual CNA meetings are conducted in collaboration with other agencies.

Specifically, during this year's process, the following groups and organizations were involved:

- Adult Education Centers
- American Red Cross
- Barren River Area Development District
- Bowling Green Police Department
- BRASS, INC.
- Brownsville Community Center
- Edmonson County Chamber of Commerce
- Elected Officials
- Experience Works
- Extension Offices
- Department for Community Based Services
- Faith Based Organizations
- Family Court
- Family Resource Centers

- Gasper River Association
- Head Start Centers
- Health Departments
- Housing Authorities
- Hospice
- Hotel, Inc.
- LifeSkills Industries
- Senior Centers
- St. Vincent De Paul
- United Way
- VISION Meetings
- Warren County Board of Education
- WKU Alive Center
- Youth Service Centers

**c. Describe community strengths and needs, including other service agencies that provide services meeting the community needs in each of the following areas (KRS 273.443):**

- (i) Services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community or those areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem;**

**Strengths**

While the economy continues to struggle across the nation, South Central Kentucky has witnessed some area growth. Vital regional players in industry, education, healthcare and culture have come together to create an atmosphere of revitalization that is drawing residents and businesses from around the world. Last year, the Chamber celebrated twenty-one economic projects announcing 1,653 new and retained jobs and capital investment of more than \$241 million for South Central Kentucky. The Bowling Green Chamber is a collaborative effort of other area Chambers and strives to ensure that every county in the region is served by either their own economic development professional or by the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce with their Menus of Services Program to promote industry projects, economic and job growth.

A major hub of the area is the city of Bowling Green, now the third largest city in Kentucky according to the 2010 census data. The city grew an estimated 17.8 percent from the 2000 census slightly ahead of Owensboro’s. Warren County is in the top five Kentucky counties in population, showing a 23 percent growth. Warren County, one of 12 counties in the state that grew 15 percent or more, had a population behind that of Jefferson, Fayette, Kenton and Boone counties. Elsewhere in the region, Logan, Simpson, Allen, Barren and Edmonson counties’ populations posted growth.

Bowling Green serves as the center of business, education, industry and healthcare for approximately ten counties in South Central Kentucky. Located within a day’s travel of nearly fifty percent of the U.S. population, Bowling Green has experienced tremendous population growth and is home to people from around the world. Bowling Green, a city with a population of over 56,000, is located approximately 110 miles south of Louisville and 65 miles north of Nashville, Tennessee. U.S. Highway 31-W and Interstate 65 intersect with U.S. Highways 68 and 231 at Bowling Green, and the Cumberland and William H. Natcher parkways provide additional easy highway access to Bowling Green.

South Central Kentucky offers amenities usually found in larger cities, while at the same time enjoying the family atmosphere offered by this scenic and relaxed region of Kentucky. Recently recognized as one of America’s Dozen Distinctive Destinations, Bowling Green is firmly rooted in its historic past. In

2009, *Site Selection Magazine* ranked Bowling Green eighth on the list of U.S. Small Towns for number of industry locations and expansions and in 2010, *Forbes Magazine* selected Bowling Green as 33<sup>rd</sup> on their list of “Best Small Places for Business and Careers”. CNNMoney released its “Best Places to Launch” list in 2009, which ranks the best large, middle, and small population metropolitan areas for small business start ups. Bowling Green ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the small cities list (populations under 250,000), placing it in the ranks with cities such as Sioux Falls, S.D.; Dubuque, Iowa, and Abilene, Texas. No other Kentucky city was ranked in Bowling Green’s small cities category. Last year, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) recognized the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce as Chamber of the Year during ACCE's annual conference thereby declaring it the top chamber of its size in the United States and Canada.

In late February, Governor Steve Beshear appointed Bowling Green Mayor Elaine Walker as the new Secretary of State. Mayor Walker was Bowling Green’s 39<sup>th</sup> Mayor and the first to be elected to two successive terms. City Commissioner Joe Denning was named to replace Walker until the November elections making history in Bowling Green as the first African American to serve as Mayor.

The presence of Western Kentucky University (WKU) in the city of Bowling Green offers many opportunities for community growth through education, tourism, and employment. In addition, the continued growth of university athletics enhances WKU, which in turn exposes the community to state and national recognition.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky continues to provide quality services to individuals and families with children as well as those families without children. Agency programs continue to grow and to strengthen due to thorough policies, procedures, systems, and staff. In addition to providing quality services to consumers, the Agency continues to enhance relationships with community partners including but not limited to local government, other non-profit agencies, civic organizations, and private businesses.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky helps plan inter-agency meetings with community partners and other social service organizations to avoid duplication of services and identify gaps in services. The Agency is the convener of the Board for Emergency Food and Shelter for nine of the ten counties of the Barren River Development District; organizes Head Start Policy Council, several Advisory Committees, Regional Continuum of Care meetings, CCC Regional Network, and others that focus on the issues of poverty. Community Action of Southern Kentucky also provides Poverty Simulation trainings throughout the Barren River Area Development District which gives workshop attendees the opportunity to learn more about the realities of living in poverty.

Bowling Green, Kentucky is home to The International Center, Western Kentucky Refugee Mutual Assistance Association. The International Center is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1981 providing a wide array of services. They specialize in advocacy and services to the foreign born and serve refugees, asylees, and immigrants. The International Center is a partner agency of Immigration and Refugee Services of America (IRSA) in the resettlement of refugees and asylees. They provide immigration assistance and are advocates for immigrant rights. They are the only non-profit organization in Kentucky recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals. Community Action of Southern Kentucky recognizes the need for communication and services for the foreign born. Ongoing collaborations between Go by Transit and The International Center are ensuring that residents have

access to public transportation services and understand the transit system. Currently, Community Action of Southern Kentucky has staff members that speak Spanish, German, Swahili, and Bosnian and recently the Agency website was updated with a translation feature that allows users to translate each Agency page into fifty-two different languages. This allows greater access to non-English speaking individuals to learn about programs and services available.

### **Needs**

The recession that the country began fighting in late 2007 continues with every American, particularly our families, being affected. The Barren River Area is no exception to the recession and many local communities are being greatly affected. Over two years many local businesses have made major layoffs or shut their doors completely leaving limited employment opportunities for individuals. While, employment opportunities still exist within some communities, underemployment is prevalent due to the low wages available to the under-educated workforce. Additionally, many people are taking jobs at lower pay even when they are over qualified because there are not enough jobs. Economic opportunity for a variety of workforce skill levels is needed. Additionally, an increase in workforce training appropriate for available workforce needs improvement.

The majority of the Barren River Area with the exception of Bowling Green and Glasgow lacks any public transportation. Several counties are relatively isolated from the major thoroughfares. Regional human service delivery systems do provide certain transportation services for eligible persons. Go bg transit, is a collaborative service between Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. and the City of Bowling Green. Go bg transit operates multiple transit services within designated areas of Bowling Green however does not have the funds to provide services all hours of the day or to the entire City of Bowling Green.

Other community needs include access to affordable housing, affordable childcare services, and affordable medical care. Health care costs continue to rise and challenge all segments of all ten counties; however, the health care costs are especially disproportional in the several counties lacking access to competitive rates. Affordable housing continues to plague many communities and individuals we serve as heating cost, groceries, gas, and other necessities continue to rise simultaneously. Minimum wage income households lack safe, affordable, housing opportunities. Furthermore, affordable housing in most rural areas is very limited in location. Childcare is an expense that has to be paid if individuals want to move forward. They want safe, secure, locations for their children so they can work and get ahead yet the burden of the expense is sometimes more than an individual makes. Unfortunately, there is not enough childcare subsidy assistance available to meet the needs of individuals and families trying to work.

Food insecurity continues to rise. In 2010, eight out of ten counties in Community Action's service area had a greater percentage of public school students who qualified for free or reduced lunch than the state average, some reaching as high as 72% such as Metcalfe County. The other two counties, Simpson and Warren, were equal to the state average of 52%. We are also seeing an increase in participants accessing food pantries and fewer donations due to economic struggles.

Additionally, as we continue to see an increase in non-English speaking populations or English as a second language (ESL), there is a growing need for programs designed to meet their needs. Not only

programs, but program materials need to be converted to different languages for ease of participants understanding.

Fundraising is one way that organizations supplement their budgets, stock food pantries, and provide services to meet community needs. This year, as businesses and individuals struggle with economic hardships, donations have continued to decrease. Decreasing donations affects local agencies but also the individuals being served by those agencies.

**(ii) Activities designed to assist low-income participants including the elderly poor:**

**(1) To secure and retain meaningful employment**

**Strengths**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky recognizes Employment training activities help low-income households obtain the skills and knowledge necessary for employment in the competitive job market. Applicants seeking services are screened upon intake to determine how the agency can enhance individuals' employability. Assistance to low-income households is offered in employment training, resume/application preparation, job search, and interviewing on an individual or group basis, as needs arise. When the lack of job training is seen as a major obstacle to the alleviation of the poverty, referrals are made to the appropriate training entities.

Adult Education and Job Development is a special project of the Agency designed to build upon the other services offered by the Agency. The instructional and supportive services help individuals acquire the skills necessary to become economically self-reliant and thus enhance the family situation. An Education and Training Specialist was hired with American Reinvestment and Recovery funding for our Allen County facility to focus on increasing and improving education and computer skills of Agency participants. This position was maintained through other funding streams when ARRA ended and has branched out to other counties where classes are now being offered. While working with individuals to meet their employment related goals, the Education and Training Specialist as well as other staff will make referrals to the Department of Employment Services and other private sector employers.

The Agency continues as a sponsor/host for training programs such as Experience Works, KTAP, Work Experience Program (WEP) as well as Bowling Green Technical College's Work and Learn Program and Ready to Work Program. These enrollees receive direct training in working with the public, receptionist/clerical duties, task management, record keeping, and public relations. The enrollees are provided on the job training in several of Community Action of Southern Kentucky's programs including Community Services, Head Start Centers, Childcare Centers, and Senior Centers. In Warren County, the Agency also provides a work training program for high school students with special needs in food services, senior meal programs and in our custodial and maintenance department. The Agency's Human Resources Assistant provides training on employment skills to many participants who may be placed with our Agency or with other agencies.

Experience Works, Inc. is a national non-profit organization that offers training, employment, and community service opportunities for senior citizens. Individuals must be at least 55 years old with limited income and unemployed. Upon acceptance in the program, senior citizens are placed at non-profit or governmental offices for approximately twenty hours per week and receive \$7.25 per hour as

they gain training, which will increase their employability. The Agency provides opportunities for senior citizens through this program at numerous sites in Children's Services, Community Services, and Senior Services.

The Agency's CEO/Executive Director serves on the Barren River Area Workforce Investment Board of Directors, Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Associate Director is an active member on the Bowling Green Chamber's Workforce Development committee and of the Business Education Partnership sub-committee.

A representative of the office for Vocational Rehabilitation operates from the Butler County Community Services Office one day a week. This proximity affords a ready working relationship among these programs – an arrangement most conducive to comprehensive service to the needs of program participants.

Community Services Staff seek qualified applicants within the participants of Agency programs for jobs created by program activities, such as Summer Food Service Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Senior Center, and Children's Services.

As the Agency continues to utilize K-Tap volunteers in many offices, we are partnering with the Housing Authority of Bowling Green's Reach Higher Program to provide job skills training to participants. The Reach Higher Program provides welfare recipients six months of job skills training and weekly life skills classes to prepare them for employment. As a partnering site the Agency provides the participant with hands on work experience, at 32 hours a week, for a six month period. Each Friday the participant attends the life skills class hosted by the Housing Authority.

Follow-up and support services will vary according to individuals needs but will include contacts with prospective employers, application/resume assistance, notification of job leads, one-on-one counseling assistance with child care/transportation arrangements, etc. The Supportive Housing Program offers such services directly to support participation in employment opportunities.

Through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds (ARRA), Community Action of Southern Kentucky implemented the Employment Enhancement Program which continues today through regular CSBG funding and is operated by CSBG outreach staff. Staff have recently begun providing employment enhancement training along with RSVP and a volunteer to a local alternative school. The Employment Enhancement Program is a work plan for the unemployed and underemployed population that they serve throughout our Agency. These work sessions focus on employment enhancement education to better prepare to obtain, maintain and / or upgrade employment. Many low-wage workers have limited education and few skills in seeking employment. Work sessions were facilitated to develop self confidence, filling out job applications, how to handle interviews, resume building, dressing for the interview and discovering the skills they possess will be useful in their employment search. These work sessions include simulations so each participant would have a chance to experience the roles they would be playing in real life employment seeking situations. Additionally, staff work with clients to identify and address participant's strengths and areas of growth. They work closely together to identify barriers to employment, and encourage the changes necessary to make employment a reality. The efforts are collaborative in nature as they work with other Agency Staff, community partners, local employers and

employment agencies to identify opportunities within each community to ensure success in gaining meaningful employment.

The Kentucky Transpark, an environmentally friendly and attractive, high-tech commerce and business park, is located on U.S. 31-W and Highway 68/80 on the north side of Bowling Green in Warren County. This mixed use, south central Kentucky development is centrally located, within 600 miles of 43% of the U.S. population and less than a mile from Interstate 65, the busiest north/south corridor. With additional access to rail transportation and a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure, the Transpark will facilitate the “Just in Time” needs found in many of today’s businesses.

There is a new Incubator Program in Butler County. The program is designed to assist entrepreneurs by providing assistance securing a location for the business, initially working to fill empty commercial building in Morgantown and matching the individual business’ needs with the location’s resources. The program would pay half the lease cost up to \$4,000 per year, half the cost of establishing signs up to \$1,000 per year, and half the cost of appropriate professional services up to \$1,000 per year. Business owners would have responsibilities such as providing quarterly statements to the incubator oversight committee and complete the coaching process with one of the Butler County Entrepreneurial Coaches before opening the business. The program will financially support a business for 12 months, and the most a single business could receive is \$7,000.

In cooperation with Bowling Green Technical College and Kentucky Community & Technical College System and Western Kentucky University, the Transpark features onsite educational and research centers. These facilities provide customized workforce training and specialized services to meet the needs of, not only Transpark tenants, but newly created, existing or expanding regional businesses as well. Adjacent to that, a regional high school technical center known as, the Warren County Schools Area Technology Center is located. The school has five training programs, auto technology, welding technology, construction technology, information technology, and health science. Currently students from Greenwood, Warren Central, Warren East, Bowling Green High, Lighthouse Academy and Edmonson County attend classes. Approximately 160 students attend class per day.

Additionally Bowling Green attracted a Minor League Single A baseball team, the Bowling Green Hot Rods, an affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. A new stadium was built in 2009 and employs 150 to 200 part-time employees. Another area attraction, Beech Bend Park performed a multi-million dollar park expansion and several significant improvements to the existing facilities. This 379 acre family recreation destination located in Bowling Green, Kentucky is home to an amusement park, water park, campground and nationally recognized drag strip and stock car track.

### **Needs**

The majority of the counties in the Barren River Area Development District experienced double digit unemployment rates throughout 2009, higher than the national average, according the data from the Department of Numbers. In December the US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Branch released the 2009 Poverty Estimates for the United States. 18.4% of Kentuckians live below the federal poverty level, and in our area the poverty rate varies from 15.1% in Simpson County to 26.5% in Monroe County.

With Barren, Logan, Simpson and Warren being the only counties with average weekly wages over \$600; gas prices continue to strain the budgets of our area workers, as many travel to other counties for employment. For example, sixty five percent of Edmonson County residents commute to another county for employment and forty six percent of Metcalfe County residents commute to another county for employment.

Many of the available jobs within the BRADD are entry-level positions that pay minimum wage or are part-time positions, which rarely offer any benefits. Neither of these is sufficient enough to replace welfare benefits. Additionally, a trend of temporary full-time and part-time positions, which do not offer employee benefits, has increased. Numerous placement agencies, which specialize in hiring temporary staff, have appeared in many of these communities. The Agency provides opportunities for senior citizens through this program at numerous sites in Children's Services, Community Services, and Senior Services in an effort to find qualified individual to fill positions that may result in longer term employment.

Industry closings and lay-offs have heavily impacted the Barren River Area. Many local factories are cutting their workforce or have ceased operations completely. In addition, layoffs in neighboring communities can be devastating to those surrounding counties as many individuals travel out of county to work. Also, some local communities with one major employer can be crippled by a shutdown or mass layoff forcing individuals to drive further, take less pay, and pay more for in wear and tear on vehicles.

In 2010, Metcalfe County experienced a flood that resulted in several buildings, businesses, and homes being condemned. Federal Emergency Management Agency funds were approved to help the county residents and buildings rebuild but the process has been slow.

The City of Bowling Green has been affected by the economy in as well. Due to budget constraints, from revenue collections in Fiscal Year 2007 to Fiscal Year 2011, the City of Bowling Green's General Fund revenue budget has decreased by \$4.2 million. The city has been forced to operate and provide community services at FY 2006 revenue levels. The city has had to furlough five employees, eliminate numerous existing positions, and freeze the continued implementation of the pay plan. A number of outside agencies have had to make sacrifices too as they have also had to greatly reduce the amount of community/capital investment funds in the capital budget. This community has numerous non-profit agencies, which depend on local, state, and/or federal funding in order to provide services and to employ community members. Many of these agencies have experienced level funding or a decrease in funding, which in many cases, led to decrease in staff, wages, and/or programs.

Community Action received a total reduction of 74% from City funds for FY 10/11. Due to lack of adequate funding, Community Action made the difficult decision to close Little Treasure #3 Child Care in July 2010. Children and staff were transitioned to the Agency's other two local child care centers. No staff were terminated during the transition due to staff retirements and unfilled positions. Community Development Block Grant funding allocations administered through the City of Bowling Green have been announced for FY 11/12 with the anticipated reduction of 10 to 25% from last year's funding level and requests greater than available dollars. Community Action's Children Services received \$31,750, a substantial cut from the \$50,000 received last year and Go bg transit received

\$15,000 of the \$60,000 requested for mandatory ADA services although the increase in demand for services is up thirty four percent for disabled customers.

**(2) To attain an adequate education**

**Strengths**

Education activities are supportive services designed to assist low-income households in gaining access to and enrolling in GED, adult literacy programs, Adult Basic Education (ABE), vocational training, and other educational training programs. Upon intake, program applicants are screened in regard to educational background. When appropriate, a detailed educational needs assessment is performed, educational goals are included in the services plan, and referrals are made to the appropriate adult education programs. County Coordinators may make referrals to when appropriate as a component of service planning. Follow-up supportive services many include the acquisition of textbooks and supplies, GED test scheduling, advocacy, and progress checks.

The region is served by three colleges and one university located in Bowling Green. Five additional colleges or university campuses can be found within the Barren River Area. According to the Kentucky Education Cabinet, thirty-seven colleges and university campuses and ten technical schools are located within sixty miles of Bowling Green.

Western Kentucky University (WKU), one of the fastest growing universities in the state, maintains a growing campus in Bowling Green, has a satellite campus in nearby Glasgow and offers off-campus courses in communities such as Brownsville, Morgantown, and Russellville. WKU offers many opportunities and services for non-traditional students including but not limited to Bowling Green Community College, Veterans Upward Bound, and Women in Transition. Over the past several years web enrollment has steadily increased and WKU has risen to meet student demand. To assist those who work during the week but still want the classroom experience WKU offers a variety of weekend classes to students.

Go bg transit which is a collaborative service between Community Action of Southern Kentucky and the City of Bowling Green, operates multiple transit services within designated areas of Bowling Green. Last year, a new transit route was linking student housing and WKU Campus with transfer points to other shuttles that service shopping, restaurants, hospitals, and other local interest areas. As a way to promote ridership on public transit, and help alleviate the shortage of parking spaces at Western Kentucky University, WKU purchases Student Passes from GO bg transit for \$40 per Semester Pass then sells them to students for \$10 a Semester Pass. A student who purchases the pass for Fall and Spring Semesters rides free all summer. This pass is for unlimited rides on GO bg transit routes and shuttles. WKU Transit and GO bg transit have several joint stop locations which permit a student, faculty, or staff to transfer from one system to the other.

In 1992, Lindsey Wilson College-Scottsville Campus opened on the Scottsville Square. The satellite campus continues to grow and now offers: Associate of Arts in Business Management, Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education and Development, and Bachelor of Arts in Human Services and Counseling, Bachelor of Business Administration, and Bachelor of Communications. In January 2008, Lindsey Wilson College-Scottsville Campus offered their first Masters Program in Counseling and Human Services.

Kentucky Advanced Technology Institute, Daymar College, Barren County Area Technology Center, and Barren County Health Technology Center all provide educational opportunities to local citizens. Moreover, Bowling Green Technical School reported enrollment continues to increase. Additionally, PJ's Beauty College, South Central Kentucky Barber College, and Lindsey Madison Institute offer programs for those interested in cosmetology and barbering. Last year a new cosmetology school opened in the city of Bowling Green; The Regina Webb Academy.

In Butler County, Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems, which no longer employs individuals in the Butler County Plant, has donated one building for the use of a vocational technical school. Additionally, the building known as the Butler County Educational Complex is being used for community education, family literacy, Educational Opportunity Center, parenting classes, free computer classes, English as a second language, and the Alternative Learning Center. They also have a Family in Transition class in conjunction with the local court system. This class is court ordered to couples with children who are in the process of divorce.

In cooperation with Bowling Green Technical College and Kentucky Community & Technical College System and Western Kentucky University, the Kentucky Transpark features onsite educational and research centers. These facilities provide customized workforce training and specialized services to meet the needs of, not only Transpark tenants, but newly created, existing or expanding regional businesses as well. Adjacent to that, a regional high school technical center was constructed. It is known as the Warren County Schools Area Technology Center. The school has five training programs, auto technology, welding technology, construction technology, information technology, and health science.

Adult education programs in each county include those sponsored by the local school boards and an adult literacy program usually associated with the local library. Many libraries offer public enrichment programs and Community Education Programs for adults. Community Action of Southern Kentucky offers an adult education & job development program. The instructional and supportive services help individuals acquire the skills necessary to become economically self-reliant and enhance the family situation. In this program, staff assists adult students in determining their educational needs, setting goals, and taking the necessary steps to improve their personal and family life. Similarly, an Education and Training Specialist was hired with American Reinvestment and Recovery funding for our Allen County facility to focus on increasing and improving education and computer skills of Agency participants. The Agency was able to continue this position though other grant funds after ARRA ended.

The Agency's Head Start Program is a child development program funded to serve 683 three and four year old children from income-eligible families. Some of the services offered through Head Start include but are not limited to education, health services, disability services, nutrition education, speech and hearing screenings, and social services. The Agency's Head Start Program is a delegate of the Community Action Council in Lexington, funded to serve thirty-six Migrant children and families. To be eligible, the family had to have an income eligible child, had to have moved in the past two years for the purpose of agriculture, and over 50% of their income must have come from agriculture. All staff for the Migrant Head Start Program is bi-lingual, and all instruction is spoken in Spanish.

Community Action has seen a significant increase in the number of children for whom English is not their primary language. Sixty-four families spoke a language other than English as the primary language

in the home and there is some difficulty in meeting the needs of the families because of the lack of resources within the service area. The majority of these families speak Spanish; The Agency is in the process of hiring the vacant Translator/Transition Coordinator for 40 weeks for 40 hours per week to assist primarily Latino children with transition in and out of Head Start.

Community Action manages an on-site child care center in a housing complex for primarily single parent students. Through a grant with Kentucky Housing Corporation, Wabuck Development built the complex to include a Community Center and Child Care. Residents of the complex have first priority in the child care center; however, if the center is not at capacity, slots are open to the public. The development is located in an area formally known as the Bowling Green Enterprise Community. Traditionally consisting of higher levels of poverty, unemployment, single parent families, predominately female head-of-household, crime related problems, lower educational levels and/or training skills, fewer transportation opportunities, a lack of decent, safe and affordable housing, youth development problems, and a fragmented system for the delivery of services. Scholar House, opened in 2008 to residents and the child care facility, Little Scholar's Child Care, opened in February of 2009. The development has 54 units and targets the single parent who is a full-time student. Residents of the facility who qualify for Head Start have on-site facilities complete with wrap-around child care services.

Parents who attend school and working parents do not often have the luxury of having summers off, which means that they have the added burden of finding care for their children when Head Start is not in session. Community Action Children's Services currently provides full-day/full-year services to five classrooms of children in Warren County and one classroom of children in Metcalfe County so that parents can work and/or attend school.

Locally, four new schools were completed last year. Two of the new schools, Richardsville and Bristow Elementary, were built behind existing ones to replace those already there. Both of those new schools are among the first most energy efficient school buildings in the country; planned as 'Net Zero' buildings that use solar panels along with energy-saving design elements. The third project was the construction of a new middle and high school in South Warren County. There was an explosive enrollment growth in Warren County and the new schools were needed to relieve the pressure. The new 339,000 square foot facility is the largest school in the state of Kentucky and houses both the middle and the high schools connected by an auditorium in the middle. This unique design allows both schools to share one kitchen facility and with the connecting auditorium allows middle school students the opportunity to take advanced courses.

CSBG funds support educational scholarships in each of Barren River Area counties for income-eligible high school graduates and/or adult students. The scholarship may be applied to post-secondary programs at a college or university, vocational or technical school, or a professional program. Last year, the Agency awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to graduating high school seniors and non-traditional students throughout our region, for a total of thirty-nine scholarships and \$58,500. In addition, CSBG funds were utilized to pay the GED testing fee for several low-income individuals. Certified Nursing Aide test fees were paid for one client and course and book fees were paid for another, both have passed their CNA exams.

### **Needs**

According to the South Central Kentucky Prospector, almost twenty nine percent of adults over 25 years of age who live in the Barren River Area do not have a high school diploma, and only 11.2 percent

complete a bachelor's degree or higher. Thirty-four percent or more of the people living in Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Metcalfe, and Monroe counties do not have high school diplomas. This is 14.66 percent higher than the average for Kentucky.

As with most post secondary institutions, WKU has continued to increase full time tuition. Full time students at WKU will pay \$3,780 undergraduate level and \$4,160 graduate level per semester for in-state tuition. Bowling Green Technical School's tuition cost is \$130 per credit hour while Daymar students pay between \$290 and \$365 per credit hour depending on the course studied. Currently, there are discussions about projected budget cuts to universities and local school districts throughout the state. These projected cuts could mean an even bigger increase in tuition cost for private education, post-secondary education and fees. Budget cuts also mean loss of jobs, loss of programs, and an increase in student to teacher ratio in the classrooms.

Some school districts in our local region are struggling to reach goals mandated under the No Child Left Behind Act though many have reported growth in other areas. After failing to meet federal standards of adequate yearly progress some districts are subject to consequences such as; notifying parents, revising the district's improvement plan, receiving technical assistance from the state and continuing to be subject to corrective action from the Kentucky Department of Education. A school has to meet its targets for two consecutive years to get out from under federal consequences. The school system in Metcalfe County failed to meet state requirements for educational gains and is receiving frequent visits from the Kentucky Department of Education to implement corrective action.

The fee to take the GED test has steadily risen over the years. Last year, the amount rose from \$50 to \$55 per time the test is taken an increase for the second year in a row. This fee is not always affordable for low-income individuals and can be a deterrent for someone who wants to pursue educational opportunities and become more self-reliant.

Community Action Head Start Centers have a funded enrollment number of children and can only serve a certain number of children. There are, however, more children needing services than available enrollment slots. A waiting list is maintained based on a point system so the children who are most in need are the ones who are served first.

More Afterschool Programs are needed for children of parents who are working. Often children are left unattended at home in the afternoons or in care of older siblings and expected to complete homework and other household chores. Afterschool Programs provide much needed supervision, instruction, and recreation for children whose parents work later than the typical school day.

### **(3) To make better use of available income**

#### **Strengths**

Community Services Staff determine the need for income management services during intake interview. Private counseling on financial planning and consumer education takes place between Community Services Staff and low-income households as benefits are issued. Referrals are made to the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP), Child Support Office, Food Stamp Office, and others deemed appropriate.

Community Action offers individual and group training related to budget counseling and income management. Specifically, individuals and families accessing supportive housing services work one-on-one with Agency Staff to prepare monthly household budgets which track expenditures, prioritize spending, and encourage saving. Several community partners, including but not limited to Housing Authority of Bowling Green, Housing and Development Services (HANDS), and Department for Community Based Services within the BRADD region offer free assistance on personal income management and counseling.

The Agency has partnered with the local extension offices to provide classes regarding budgeting with food stamps, cooking with the food in the pantry, and using coupons. For example, Community Action of Southern Kentucky in collaboration with the University of Kentucky Extension office in Edmonson County provided food preservation classes in conjunction with the Community Action Garden Program. In preparation for the Garden Program, the County Coordinator contacted the Extension Office developed a Garden Expo to generate interest in gardening and preservation classes, approximately 57 people attended. Each of the ten community partners in attendance was allotted ten minutes for a demonstration related to gardening, soil preparation, container gardening, composting, composting worms, selecting plants for your garden, herbs, soil samples, and the importance of bees in the garden. The County Coordinator worked with Kentucky Nutritional Education Program (KYNEP) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Agents to schedule follow-up classes. A once-a-month cooking class is scheduled to begin in March and will last through June in an effort to generate interest for healthy eating. A canning class is scheduled for July when gardens are at their fullest and a Meal Stacking class is planned to follow. The Simpson County Coordinator is working with a local church and the extension office to offer gardening to interested individuals who may not have land for a garden. The church is donating plots to individuals who receive garden vouchers and who sign up for canning classes with the extension office. New this year, a Composting class, in partnership with the Agency's RSVP Program, has taught participants how recycle and make their own fertilizer which they can use on their gardens and not worry about pesticides or costs. The Garden Program is directly related to income management and teaching clients to conserve food cost. It also gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment as well as promotes good health and eating habits.

Other saving tips being taught by Community Service's staff discuss the benefits of using common ingredients for household cleaning such as vinegar, baking soda, and rubbing alcohol instead of spending money on more expensive items like Drano, Windex, and bathroom, and floor cleaners. Another class was taught with the homemade gifts in mind such as painted tiles, candle making, baked goodies in a jar, and picture frames instead of buying expensive items to give during the holidays.

This is the fourth year Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. is collaborating with the Barren River Asset Building Coalition to offer free assistance with tax preparation in several counties. Other partners in the coalition are AARP, the local refugee center, a domestic violence shelter, local volunteers, and the local public libraries. Community Action of Southern Kentucky is responsible for three free tax sites, Allen, Edmonson, and Warren counties but provided space for a coalition partner to provide taxes from our Monroe County Senior Center as well. To date over 1,147 tax returns have been filed by the Coalition.

*Go bg transit*, is a collaborative service between Community Action of Southern Kentucky and the City of Bowling Green. *Go bg transit* operates multiple transit services within designated areas of Bowling

Green. Five routes run Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. with fixed stops repeating hourly. The Go to Work service operates Monday through Friday between 5:20 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Go shopping, the Saturday shopping shuttles are available on the first Saturday of each month to local shopping areas. The fleet consists of 22 vehicles, including 19 buses (all lift or ramp equipped) and 3 vans (1 of which is lift-equipped). Accessible vehicles are in use in all services to provide access for persons with disabilities.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky is making great strides to meet the needs of public transportation in the Bowling Green area. Management decisions and marketing efforts led to growth of the transit system even in difficult economic times. *GO bg transit* ridership increased by 7% in FY10 compared to FY09, and experienced annual growth from FY04 – FY09 ranging from 11% to 33%. This included a 12% increase of ADA trips in FY10. As we continue to face rising fuel costs, *GO bg transit* offers individuals a safe, economical, means of getting where they need to go. Tickets are \$2 per trip versus \$4 a gallon but smart shoppers can purchase a *go Pass* which allows them more travel for less cost.

Additionally, transit received American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding during FY 09. This funding has been used to purchase five (5) low-floor, kneeling, ramp-equipped, 24 passenger buses for use on the route systems. These ramp-equipped buses improve accessibility for persons with mobility issues. A person with limited mobility should find it easier to step onto the ramp than to go up steps into a bus. For passengers who use wheelchairs and scooters for mobility, the use of the ramp versus use of a lift decreases time required to board/disembark. This improves headways on routes, lessening delays to routes caused by the time required to board and secure passengers who use wheelchairs and scooters.

The Foster Grandparent Program has speakers from the Social Security Office and other community partners presenting information to the Foster Grandparents during both Pre-Service Training and In-Service Training. The Foster Grandparents benefit greatly from this information on living with a limited, fixed income and the interaction allowing them to ask questions and get prompt answers.

During the Christmas season, many communities including but not limited to Allen and Butler counties collect gifts for needy families, and in many of these communities, Community Services Staff coordinate this service. Last Christmas season the Hart County Community Services Office was the recipient of a local canned food drive organized by the area hospital for needy families. The Foster Grandparent and Head Start Programs work collaboratively with community partners during the Christmas season as well. Head Start workers are contacted yearly by various organizations that want to donate gifts for Head Start children. Last year, every child and every Foster Grandparent received Christmas gifts through this donation process.

In FY 10, Community Action partnered with Angel Food Ministries to help individuals and families buy food for less. Angel Food Ministries sells vouchers for food boxes that will last a family of four for one week for the cost of \$30 plus tote rental of \$4. In Allen County, Community Services and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) jointly share in the process of getting residents signed up with Angel Food Ministries and providing volunteer services on distribution day to hand out Angel Food orders. The Agency's Community Collaborations for Children Program allocates \$2000 or approximately 65-70 vouchers and totes annually as a faith based initiative to help the families served in the community.

## Needs

While the country sees increases in the cost of living, high unemployment rates, and slim employment opportunities, many households continue in lower paying jobs. Employment with few to no benefits are often the only opportunities available to lower-income families. Economists have already warned that price of gas is once again on the rise and will peak at nearly \$4.00 a gallon this summer. The high cost of gas has caused a financial strain on the low-income individuals who were traveling to medical appointments, to receive services, or to work. With the limited access to public transportation in the rural communities, gasoline prices will continue to impact individuals of all economic statuses.

Families are struggling to make ends meet often making tough choices between paying for food, medicine, utilities, and/ or rent. Families with limited income continue to be tempted by society's attraction to have more material items, a desire to be like everyone else. This materialistic attraction discourages prioritizing financial obligations and conserving home income. Many families lack the skills needed to financially budget for monthly expenses and save for unexpected expenses.

Families with limited income are often enticed by Tax Programs that promote same day returns. However, most do not realize that in exchange for a fast tax return they are paying an average \$100 fee called a "refund anticipation loan." This fee reduces the average refund amount by about 10 percent. Another temptation for many individuals is the local Payday Lender or Cash Advance Store. These seemingly one time quick fixes have exorbitant interest rates and often lead families into an endless cycle of debt. For families with poor credit and no savings, a payday loan seems like the perfect solution to a short-term cash flow problem. But all too often these "no credit check required" loans have long-term consequences that put families further behind and further in debt.

### **(4) To obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment (prevent homelessness)**

## Strengths

The Supportive Housing Program of Community Action of Southern Kentucky continues to focus specifically upon the housing needs of low-income households. Participants include but are not limited to the elderly, disabled population, and households with children. County Coordinators in the Barren River Area counsel households on landlord/tenant relations, clarify the terms of the contracts between the landlord and tenant, and assist in the development of housing contracts between landlords and low income households. Additionally, financial assistance is available for first month's rent or housing deposit through the Supportive Housing Program for households who agree to participate in the six-month program. Routinely, County Coordinators work with households to develop financial plans and options that will enable families to attain housing stability in quality structures.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through KHC funds the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) for our ten-county service district. The program establishes a district-wide partnership among four homeless shelters and Community Action of Southern Kentucky which is the lead agency for the partnership, serving as administrative channel for funds supporting emergency shelter services and resettlement services for homeless families in ten counties. The grant was renewed for an additional year through 2012. SHP provides a percentage of the initial rental and utility deposits and/or a

percentage of first month's rent and utility payments in order to establish housing stability among homeless families.

All Community Services Staff as well as the Barren River Stabilization Services partners utilize Kentucky's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Kentucky HMIS is an information system for agencies, in Kentucky, which provide housing and services to homeless people. With the Kentucky HMIS software, providers can capture client level information, over time, allowing the provider staff to give more effective service and speed the referral process. It allows agencies to share information for faster intake and processing. Agencies can coordinate services to best assist their clients. Within an agency, it can be used to share client's needs and track the services provided.

Community Services Staff serve on a Regional Planning Board for the statewide Homeless Continuum of Care (COC) planning process. This board is responsible for developing local homeless priorities, contributing to the Consolidated Plan for the Kentucky COC, and selecting proposals for funding under the SHP. The regional COC has been established to investigate and/or to generate on-going support of homeless prevention benefits. Referral activities focus chiefly upon home loan assistance, subsidized housing, mortgage assistance, and other housing programs.

The Community Services Offices in all counties receive a listing of available affordable rental property from KHC on a monthly basis. In conjunction with this list, contacts with local officials and utilities are used to locate vacant rental housing. Supportive and follow-up services are typically required for each participant in this service area due to the unavailability of affordable housing. Activities may include advocacy, utility connection assistance, direct contacts with landlords and program officials, location of moving assistance, and application assistance.

Financial assistance is issued from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program for households who have experienced a recent economical disaster. Community Services Program may also mobilize public and private resources on behalf of the housing needs of low-income households through locally funded agencies and organizations, such as, local ministerial groups, veterans' organizations, school groups, and charitable organizations.

County Coordinators are case managers for the Kentucky Housing Corporation's (KHC) Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Within this program, families enter into a five-year contract that requires them to seek and to maintain employment, to attend a comprehensive homeownership-counseling program, and to remain welfare-free for one year prior to expiration of the contract.

Each county office provides referrals for the HUD Section 8 Rental Assistance Program, which is administered through KHC and/or the City of Bowling Green. These programs focus directly on the housing needs of the homeless, the elderly poor, handicapped family members, and families with children. County Coordinators assist in establishing waiting lists for Section 8 by advising applicants on eligibility, required documentation for the application, and establishing Federal preference for the program. Landlords are informed of procedures for placing property on the program. Program participants are also advised of available KHC programs for financing security deposits, down payments, and closing costs, as well as home ownership and special needs programs.

The Agency maintains a Relocation Agreement with the City of Bowling Green's Community Development Block Grant Office that commits agency-administered resources to families displaced by enforcement of the City's housing ordinances. Last summer, a mobile home park was evacuated and several families were displaced during the process. Community Action was a stakeholder in helping families find and relocate to safe housing.

The Community Services Staff in each county conduct the outreach, referral, eligibility determination, and application activities for the Agency's Home Weatherization Program. If during the intake interview the need for weatherization is determined, steps are taken to enroll program participants in the agency-operated program. Referrals are made when services outside the realm of the Agency are required. The Community Services Staff complete several steps necessary for weatherization services to be rendered. In each weatherization request, home ownership and income is verified, and applications are reviewed. After twelve months, applicants may be re-certified to maintain eligibility. In general, the local Community Services Staff may offer recruitment and application assistance to other home energy conservation projects, such as the Community Action Kentucky Rehabilitation Assistance and the Repair Affair.

### **Needs**

The cost of housing increases at greater strides than does the household income. While the median household income for Kentuckians is \$40,061, the median household income for the BRADD service area ranges from \$26,626 to \$43,316 with only two counties reaching a medium income of \$40,000. As the cost of fuel continues to rise the increase is passed on to the consumer in everyday cost of living expenses such as, utility costs, food, and other consumer products.

Additionally, households who live on a fixed income are forced either to sacrifice other basic needs, such as food and medication in order to have a home or to live in an unsafe housing unit. Still others are without homes due to the lack of affordable housing within our community.

Many of our homeless shelters remain at full capacity with few available slots for the growing homeless population. Over half of the Barren River Area counties do not have access to a homeless shelter within their community. In order to stay in a shelter, they are forced to leave their community, possibly even the community in which they work.

Emergency Food and Shelter Funding is one way the Agency is able to help individuals and families maintain safe, adequate housing and prevent homelessness. These program funds can be used when a family has suffered a one-time economic crisis and be payable for rent expenditures. Emergency Food and Shelter Funds have not been made available for this year yet because of the Federal budget deficit and decisions about possible funding have not been released at this time.

The Barren River Area has experienced a continuous increase in housing foreclosures over the last 12 months. For 2010 Warren County alone had 410 foreclosures that were referred to the Master Commissioner. This number was almost 25% higher than the previous year in which 315 homes were referred to the Master Commissioner. Across the nation foreclosure activity followed a similar pattern. According to the Realty Trac U.S. Foreclosure Market Report for 2010; Nevada has the highest foreclosure rate in the country, with one in every eleven homes involved in foreclosure filings. Kentucky

ranked in as number 40, showing foreclosure filings for one in every 494 homes. As the numbers of foreclosures continue to rise, there is an added burden on our Community Service Programs.

- (5) To obtain emergency services through one time payments or short term loans to meet immediate needs and urgent individual and family needs, including health services, nutritious food, housing, and employment related services**

### **Strengths**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky provides comprehensive emergency services for participants in Agency programs from a vast array of funding sources. Unless these immediate needs are met, it would be nearly impossible for an individual to move forward in any capacity. The participant's crisis, whether it be rent, food, utility, or employment is often their sole focus and until addressed through intervention, voucher assistance, food assistance, case management, or referral they cannot be open to progress. This assistance takes a lot of personnel time. Most participants don't seek services until they are in a crisis situation and need help.

The emergency needs of program applicants are established during the intake interview. Referrals are accepted from the area's churches, human service providers, local governments, and the public at large. In determining eligibility for emergency services, Community Services Staff consider the following factors in assessing the applicant's emergency situation:

- the extent to which applicant cannot control the circumstances;
- the one-time nature of the event; and
- the applicant's degree of vulnerability.

Community Action Staff meet with local officials, emergency service providers, and agency personnel to establish procedures for weather emergencies. Additionally, a list of program participants who are at high risk of needs during weather and other emergencies is available for telephone and face-to-face safety checks. Communications, transportation, food, and shelter provisions are arranged for those in need.

Also, the Agency serves on the Warren County Citizens Corp, providing social services contact and transportation for the emergency response teams; and several agency Staff serve on Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). CERT is a local grass roots training program which prepares local individuals to work gathering preliminary information for first responders. For example, local residents would respond to immediate needs of the neighborhood, locate other local residents, and evaluate damage to property.

Homeless shelters in Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, and Warren counties provide emergency and transitional shelter to victims of domestic violence and to the general homeless population. The American Red Cross and county rescue teams respond to victims of natural disasters while an array of private service providers including but not limited to St. Vincent DePaul Society, local ministerial associations, and private churches offer emergency financial and food assistance. Specifically, the Agency has partnered with Good Samaritan of Franklin and Logan County, and St. Vincent DePaul in Brownsville and the city of Bowling Green to assist the low-income through direct referrals and enhanced collaboration regarding food assistance. In Brownsville we also partner with another local faith-based partner to provide food

assistance and other immediate needs such as coats in the winter and fans in the summer for low income individuals.

Local Community Services offices provide assistance through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program to households experiencing economic emergencies. Eight Community Services offices maintain an emergency food pantry, and the remaining two work closely with local food pantries to maintain a referral source for needy households. Emergency food and clothing supplies are maintained by most agency offices. Community Action of Southern Kentucky Staff routinely solicits the donation of these types of items and issue donated foods to eligible program applicants. Staff members in many of our offices cooperate with the local Boy Scout “Scouting for Food Drive” and other organizations to stock on-site emergency food pantries. Program applicants in need of emergency food, shelter, or clothing are assisted in the following ways: pantry services, clothing banks, food/shelter vouchers, church food vouchers, and referrals to other local emergency service providers. Staff routinely advocate on behalf of program participants to obtain emergency transportation or transportation to essential services.

Furthermore, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is offered to households in a home heating crisis. This year 6,714 households received assistance during the Subsidy component and an additional 7,761 households received assistance during the Crisis component of LIHEAP. During the winter months, *Operation Warm Hearts*, a program with Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (WRECC), provided emergency assistance to low-income households. During this year’s *Operation Warm Hearts*, WRECC customers donated approximately \$4,901 providing both income management assistance and emergency payment assistance to seventy-four households. In 2008, Community Action of Southern Kentucky collaborated with Farmers Rural Electric Cooperative to offer *Operation Warm Hearts* to customers serviced by them. In FY10, \$2,560 was donated and eighteen households received assistance.

Community Services staff work with the Kentucky Vision Program and local Lions Clubs making referrals and filling out applications for vision screenings and eyeglasses. Routinely, Community Action serves as a screener for other programs requiring income guidelines and verification. The Family Preservation staff are often making appointments and providing transportation services to the Health Department when working with families. Additionally, Community Action has a Clothing Warehouse located in Allen County where individuals and families can get clothing they are in need of or staff can access the Warehouse on the client’s behalf.

Employment services are offered through the Employment Enhancement Program or on a case-by-case basis depending on what the client’s needs may be. Agency staff are willing work with clients to review applications, resume’s, and make referrals when and where appropriate.

### **Needs**

Limited funding precludes any service provider from completely satisfying the demand for emergency financial assistance and other tangible necessities. Economic fluctuations affect households’ ability to plan and to provide adequately for current and future needs of all household members. Uncontrollable market variances, such as increase in home energy prices, distress the financial focus of even relatively stable households and individuals.

In the last several years the number of new families seeking services continues to increase. Based on reports from our State Association Office, Community Action Kentucky, in FY 09 Community Action of Southern Kentucky provided service to 4,266 new households and in FY 10 and additional 3,488 new households. Furthermore, in FY 09 only 107 households reported having zero income however that number increased to a resounding 673 households reporting zero income in FY 10 and 781 have reported zero income to date in FY11.

In more rural counties, there can be a sense of isolation. Transportation is limited and may be are no or limited supports for accessing services. Numerous existing services are fragmented and fail to recognize interrelated problems and causes. Eligibility requirements for assistance vary widely among agencies. Many communities need access to an unrestricted source of assistance that can respond to forces beyond the control of vulnerable populations. Local non-profits are faced with providing more services with the same amount of funding and many times with less funding. The Bowling Green – Warren County Welfare office, a locally funded non-profit, had a decrease in their Warren County Government funding for 2008, which is a major portion of their annual budget. This funding stayed level through 2010; then had a slight increase of just under 5% for 2011. During this time they saw a fifteen percent increase in clients during 2009 and a ten percent increase in clients seeking assistance in 2010. A spokesperson for the Agency stated that they were making more referrals to other agencies, as their funding cannot cover the volume of assistance needed.

The Warren County Department of Children Based Services (DCBS) reports that their client base has doubled in the past year. Their staffing has increased to maximum capacity and the numbers of clients continue to rise. There is no room locally to house more office space to hire more workers. Clients who have never had to access these services are a majority of the new cases. Funding for their services is provided by the Kentucky General Fund and TANF, but has its limits. Funding is based on an error rate of less than 5%. As the workers reach overloaded schedules their error rating rises, which reduces access to the funding they so desperately need. Lack of funding for services would adversely affect multiple families in this community.

**(6) To provide for nutritious supplies or services that may be needed to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition**

**Strengths**

To supplement the diets of low-income households within our community, a variety of public nutrition programs exists such as free or reduced cost breakfasts and lunches, Food Stamps, and Summer Food Service Program. County Coordinators provide referrals to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, elderly nutrition programs, church food pantries, the local Department for Community Based Services, and provide food through the local food pantry to low-income families who are in need. Eight counties maintain an emergency food pantry in the Community Services Office to assist with food needs. In Edmonson County, the Agency works directly with St. Vincent de Paul to provide food vouchers to those individuals in need. Additionally, Senior Services in all ten counties is the key contact for the vouchers for the Farmer's Market.

In FY 2009, Community Action partnered with Angel Food Ministries to help individuals and families buy food for less. Angel Food Ministries sells vouchers for food boxes that will last a family of four for one week for the cost of \$30 plus tote rental of \$4. In Allen County, Community Services and Retired

Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) jointly share in the process of getting residents signed up with Angel Food Ministries and providing volunteer services on distribution day to hand out Angel Food orders. The Agency's Community Collaborations for Children Program allocates \$2000 or approximately 65-70 vouchers and totes annually as a faith based initiative to help the families they serve.

When the school season ends, the Agency sponsored the Summer Food Service Program in six of the Barren River Area counties. In four other counties, the school systems provide the service with the assistance from County Coordinators as needed. The Program is the single largest Federal resource available for local sponsors who want to provide nutritious food to children while school is not in session. Last summer, the Agency served approximately 26,696 meals thru June and July across 29 sites. There were 1,238 different children that accessed the program in 2010.

The Body Mass Index of children in our Head Start program area is very high with twenty eight children being served by a medical professional for being overweight. Head Start staff work with families and children in a variety of ways to address this issue. Assistance is provided by: as least twice annual growth assessments of children, documented conversation with families to identify and develop a plan for improvement, referrals to the child's health care provider and/or nutritionist, address physical activity during the Head Start day and at home, nutrition activities in the classroom, materials sent home with children to address nutrition, training at parent meetings, and provide nutritious meals according to USDA guidelines to children. To combat obesity, all teaching staff were trained in "I am moving, I am learning" and are incorporating two hours of moderate to vigorous physical activity in classrooms per day.

In Monroe County, the County Coordinator works directly with the local Judge Executive's Office and Community Outreach, local homeless shelter, to provide commodities at three different sites in the rural community and the Senior Center Manager distributes approximately 200 senior commodities through the Senior Center. In Butler County and Simpson the Agency is the sponsor for the commodities program serving approximately 405 families between the two counties on a monthly basis. In Edmonson County, Agency Staff coordinate the monthly commodities program for senior citizens for approximately 160 households. The Glasgow Housing Authority partners with the Agency to distribute commodities monthly to senior citizens in the Glasgow and Barren County Community.

Throughout the year, several local groups and organizations have organized food drives, which benefit the Agency's local food pantries. Local Boy Scout troops and local church groups as well as the National Association of Letter Carriers have collected and donated numerous food items for the local community. United Way of Southern Kentucky held a region wide food drive titled "Feed the Need" in Allen, Barren, Logan, Simpson, and Warren counties. Volunteers were on hand two days to pass out suggested items lists to customers as they entered stores and help manage donations. Volunteers also were at the main drop off site in each county helping sort and package the donated items. "Feed the Need" was created last year in response to the increased need in our communities for resources. After speaking with the local food pantries that benefited from the drive last year, it became abundantly clear that the need for this drive continues this year. This year 57,897 items were collected and distributed to these local food banks.

The Garden Program is designed to assist households in growing their own gardens. Households are given vouchers for fruit and vegetable plants and/or seeds and fertilizers to begin a garden. County

Coordinators collaborate with local county extension offices in an attempt to educate households about productive gardening tips. Most households save between \$200 and \$500 in food cost per year due to the productivity of their garden. For example, in preparation for the Garden Program, the Edmonson County Coordinator contacted the Extension Office and worked to develop a Garden Expo to generate interest in gardening and preservation classes, approximately 57 people attended. Community partners in attendance presented and/or demonstrated information related to gardening, soil preparation, food preservation, and the importance of bees in the garden. The County Coordinator worked with Kentucky Nutritional Education Program (KYNEP) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Agents to schedule follow-up classes. A once-a-month cooking class is scheduled to begin in March and will last through June in an effort to generate interest for healthy eating. A canning class is scheduled for July when gardens are at their fullest and a Meal Stacking class is planned to follow. The Simpson County Coordinator is working with a local church and the extension office to offer gardening to interested individuals who may not have land for a garden. The church is donating plots to individuals who receive garden vouchers and who sign up for canning classes with the extension office. New this year, a Composting class, in partnership with the Agency's RSVP Program, has taught participants how to recycle and make their own fertilizer which they can use on their gardens and not worry about pesticides or costs. The Garden Program is directly related to income management and teaching clients to conserve food cost, is healthier for the family, meets their needs longer, and is critical during summer months when children are out of school for the summer and at home eating more. It also gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment as well as promotes good health and eating habits.

The Salvation Army in Warren County, Jesus Community Center in Logan County, Bowling Park Homeless Shelter in Metcalfe County, and Community Outreach in Monroe County provide hot meals to individuals in distress, and the Good Samaritan in Logan and Simpson counties assists with food needs through local food pantries. The Barren River Area Safe Space provides hot meals to individuals in their domestic violence shelter. Additionally, on Saturdays, Meals, Inc. in Warren County provides warm meals to senior citizens.

The Agency's Senior Services provides meals to senior citizens in the local Senior Center as well as to senior citizens who are not physically able to attend. These seniors who cannot attend at the center receive nutritious meals at home through this program. In Warren County alone, 95 seniors receive a daily meal from this program. Additionally, each low-income Foster Grandparent receives a meal every day they serve during the year. Currently, all Foster Grandparents meet the low-income criteria.

God's Food Pantry in Allen County, Food from the Heart in Edmonson County, St. Vincent de Paul in Brownsville, Revenna Baptist Church in Metcalfe County, and the local American Red Cross chapters collaborate closely with the Agency to ensure food supplies and services are provided for the low-income community.

### **Needs**

According to the USDA Economic Research Service, in 2009, 14.7 % of US households did not have access to enough food to meet their basic needs and over forty percent of low-income children live in hunger or at-risk of hunger. A recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study determined that 49 million Americans - 17 million of them children - were unable to consistently get enough food to eat in 2009. Nearly 15 percent of households were having trouble finding food, the highest number recorded since the agency began measuring hunger in 1995. In 2009, Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic

hunger relief organization shows 19% of Kentucky's children (under 18), and 23.3% of Kentucky's children under the age of five were living with food insecurity.

The Backpack Program, through Feeding America, is one way that many organizations and schools try to meet the needs of children in our school systems. Children are identified by school personnel as being hungry, or food insecure, and referred to the program. This program sends backpacks filled with food home with children on weekends, food that is child-friendly, nonperishable and easily consumed. In Edmonson County, the University Cooperative Extension Office partnered with Feeding America who had previously received grant funding to operate the Backpack Program. Through donations and grant funding 100 students receive a bag a week to combat hunger. Last year, the grant funding ended and the UK Extension Office was notified that they would need to seek donations in the amount of \$80 per child per school year to feed the 100 children they served. Due to lack of funding, UK sought donations and applied for Emergency Food and Shelter Funds but the difference in amount led to twenty-two less children being served.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Kentucky's adult obesity rate is the 7<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation at almost thirty one percent and in a new report issued June 2010 by Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Johnson Wood Foundation (RWJF), Kentucky ranks the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest of overweight youth (ages 10-17) at 21%. Locally, the Barren River District Health Department studied obesity in children within the district in 2008. They found, on the day of the sixth grade physical, twenty-nine percent of children could be diagnosed as obese and twenty percent as overweight using the same formula to calculate the Body Mass Index (BMI) that is used by physicians (i.e. plotting height and weight on growth charts).

The TFAH report also states the current economic crisis could exacerbate the obesity epidemic. Food prices, particularly for more nutritious foods, continue to rise, making it more difficult for families to eat healthy foods. At the same time, safety net programs and services are becoming increasingly overextended as the numbers of unemployed, uninsured and underinsured continue to grow. In addition, due to the strain of the recession, rates of depression, anxiety and stress, which are linked to obesity for many individuals, also are increasing.

December 2008 funding for aging services in the Barren River Area received an immediate funding cut of \$128,000. \$5,587 dollars of that cut was to the Home Delivered Meals program. That cut translates into a loss of 941 meals which is the equivalent of meals for 4 people for a whole year and the loss in funding has not been recovered. Funding for congregate meals remained the same in FY 11 as FY10 however cost of food increased and thus decreasing the number of meals available. The need for meals however has not decreased. As a result 73% of the available congregate meals had been expended in the first six months of the FY year. The Senior Center Program has reached out to the community to find ways to supplement the meals program in an effort to ensure meal availability through the end of this fiscal year. Several church and community groups have committed to provide meals on a weekly or monthly basis.

**(7) To achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community**

**Strengths**

Agency staff continues efforts to increase both public awareness and public involvement in Agency program activities. A systematic public information program will continue in each county to include distribution of Community Action of Southern Kentucky's Annual Report, Agency brochure, and program fact sheets. There are also numerous opportunities within the Agency and throughout the community to assist low-income individuals in achieving greater community involvement. For example, within the Agency, low-income individuals serve as volunteers in service delivery, as consultants to advisory councils, as program planners for programs, and as participants in the Community Needs Assessments.

Children's Services has one of the largest volunteer pools within the Agency; Head Start parents are encouraged to volunteer in many capacities within many Agency programs. Head Start volunteers can volunteer to do numerous activities for the children and program. Some of the activities include reading to the children, assisting teachers, and planning holiday parties.

Thru the Recovery Act Funds a Public Information Coordinator position was created and sustained when ARRA funding ended. This position allowed the Agency to educate the community about poverty and our services. The Public Information Coordinator has been responsible for maintaining current research information regarding employment, education, and health in order to prepare a wide range of communications and information materials including press releases, fact sheets, brochures, articles, and news letters; arrange and coordinate press conferences, special events, and opportunities for public input; make presentations at public meetings and to organizations, clients and groups to explain projects and programs.

CSBG provides space in outreach offices for Kentucky Homeplace (access to medical, social and environmental services *at the lowest cost possible*), Vocational Rehabilitation, and Social Security Administration to reach low-wage workers, seniors, and others. CSBG staff work with local churches and other faith-based organizations to screen clients for eligibility. CSBG provides space for meetings such as Regional Continuum of Care, Emergency Food and Shelter, and HUD Homeless Management Information Systems training (HMIS), and operational costs of program outreach (media, news releases, staff time, client services, etc.), space and/or personnel cost to provide Poverty Simulation workshops (a role-playing workshop that offers an opportunity to learn more about the reality of living in poverty) free of charge to the community. Staff serve as members and/or officers on other Agency Boards/Councils/Committees making decisions affecting their communities including staff who serve/served as, Secretary of Family Resource Youth Service Center, Secretary of the local Welfare Committee for the Salvation Army, Secretary of the Repair Affair Committee, Secretary of the Hart County Safety Committee, Chair of the local Inter Agency Council Meeting (Vision), Family Self Sufficiency Program Coordinating Committee, Family Resource Advisory Council, 4-H Extension Council, ASAP(Substance Abuse Prevention Program) Board, and United Way allocations Committee, to name a few. The Agency's CSBG Director is a Nationally Certified ROMA Trainer and provides assistance to other agencies and/or trainers throughout the State when requested.

In many Agency offices volunteers are used to meet the needs of programs, services, and office efficiency. In the Community Service's offices, workers use volunteers from the Kentucky Transitional

Assistance Program (KTAP). These volunteers serve in a variety of roles within their placement office including service delivery, as consultants to advisory councils, as program planners for programs, linking individuals to other programs and services, to refer individuals to community projects including but not limited to school activities, and neighborhood clean up, as assistants for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, as managers for the Clothing Warehouse, as receptionists for the local offices, as site supervisors for the Summer Food Service Program, and as participants in the Community Needs Assessments.

Volunteers are also active in many of the Senior Centers. For example, in Logan County, Senior Center Volunteers do everything from wrapping silverware and riding meal routes to actually managing a meal delivery route themselves or overseeing the daily activities of a center when staff are needed elsewhere.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a volunteer program funded by the Corporation for National Service and began nationally in 1971 and locally in 2003. RSVP volunteers are 55 years of age or older, willing to serve on a regular basis without compensation, and reside in or nearby the community they serve. RSVP participant sites include but are not limited to local law enforcement agencies, Head Start, and local health departments. One hundred and sixty-one RSVP volunteers are active within Allen, Barren, Logan, Simpson, and Warren counties provided 18,870 volunteer hours in FY 10.

The Foster Grandparent Program began in 1965 as a national effort, and locally, the program began in 1981 with seven Foster Grandparents. Today in ten counties, ninety-nine Foster Grandparents, age fifty-five and older, work at forty-two different sites with two to four children each. The Foster Grandparents work with children who have special needs such as physical, mental, or emotional disabilities as well as with those who are in the juvenile justice system. The children as well as the Foster Grandparents benefit from the 20 hours per week of individual attention and assistance.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky continues to involve faith-based organizations and groups in the activities of the Agency. In Butler County, local churches collect personal hygiene and household cleaning items for low-income families, and Gasper River Association partners with the Agency to distribute USDA commodities. Several churches, in five counties, have partnered with the Agency's Supervised Visitation Program to provide space for supervised visits allowing family members whose children are in out-of-home placement a location for family visits. Other church groups have come together to help make mats for the homeless, recycling project with RSVP, using plastic grocery bags and in many counties, local churches supervise Summer Food Service Program sites.

An advantage of being located close to the University is student involvement. Many students throughout their coursework need to fulfill volunteer hours, internships, or practicum. Fortunately, Community Action of Southern Kentucky has licensed staff that are willing to supervise these volunteers and interns in their departments.

Advocacy services are provided to program participants in virtually all of the CSBG service areas. Agency staff serves as spokespersons for low-income households and links with the private sector and public sectors. Community Services Staff routinely serve as authorized representatives of program participants during food stamp re-certification and similar services. The Agency presents issues related to poverty to the public by way of media exposure, public speaking, community contacts, and

board/advisory council membership. Research and policy papers will continue as an Agency function to describe the needs in our service area and propose solutions to identified problems. Staff will continue to receive training that will equip them to advocate on behalf of low-income individuals including families with children, the homeless, pregnant adolescents, and the elderly.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky used CSBG funds to purchase the Poverty Simulation Training Kit. The Agency's Associate Director and Community Services Program Director were both trained as facilitators for the Simulation and to date have provided six Poverty Simulations throughout the service area. The Poverty Simulation Workshop is a role-playing experience that offers the opportunity to learn more about the realities of living in conditions of poverty. Participants enter the workshop with an assigned identity and family profile and role-play the lives of single parents trying to care for their children to senior citizens trying to maintain their self sufficiency on Social Security. The task of each family is to provide food, shelter and other basic necessities during the simulation while interacting with various community resources staffed by low-income volunteers. Participants experience one month of poverty compressed into the real time of the simulation (generally three hours total). Afterward in the debriefing, they share insights of experience, often expressing frustration, sadness, and stress. The participants thus far have a vast array of backgrounds including DCBS staff, elected officials, community partners, housing, police, educators, local government, media personalities, and others. The request for Poverty Simulation Workshops has continued to increase as it becomes more publicized.

### Needs

The public continually needs to be educated about Community Action and about the services provided to low-income individuals and families. They need to know what has taken place during the last forty-five years and what still needs to be done. The public needs to know our mission and purpose is not a hand out but a hand up that so many of our neighbors and friends need during this economic hardship. Research and policy papers need to continue and be stronger in the fight for funding when describe the needs in our service area and propose solutions to identified problems.

Communities would benefit from increased recruiting of lower-income households for volunteer services. Outreach activities for volunteer recruitment need to be tailored to the specific needs of lower-income households (i.e. it is hard for people who do not live 'in town' to be as involved, consider your agency dress code and make exceptions). Utilizing this population in mainstream activities is a compelling means of combating some attitudes that can contribute to chronic, intergenerational poverty and to negative perceptions of lower-income households. We need to educate the community and change 'It's not my problem' thinking. Poverty impacts everyone.

Continued education to local businesses and agencies about the mission of Community Action of Southern Kentucky will benefit the community. As more local businesses and agencies are educated about the importance of stronger families and communities, more collaborations between these groups and the Agency will ensue.

- (8) To remove obstacles and solve problems by establishing comprehensive, long term programs of family development which will help achieve goals, solve problems, and maintain self-sufficiency**

## **Strengths**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. and other community partners provide case management, advocacy, and referrals to promote financial self-sufficiency within low-income households. Family Preservation and Reunification Programs, Kentucky Housing Corporation's Family Self Sufficiency Program, and Supportive Housing Program are just a few of the many community programs available to low-income households. Staff draw upon a multitude of resources and skills as the initial service plan evolves toward progressively greater self-reliance.

The Family Preservation Program provides in-home specialists who are trained to work with families in crisis whose children are at imminent or serious risk of removal. The Family Reunification Program provides in-home specialists who are trained to work intensively with family members whose children, at time of referral, are in out-of-home care in order to prepare them for reunification. Children who have been in out-of-home care longer than seven days but less than 15 days of the last 22 months are eligible for services. Both used the Homebuilders Model to identify family strengths as well as areas of concern and work with family members to increase their ability to function as a unit. Additionally, both strive to provide emotional support, concrete services, teach methods/techniques for dealing with identified problems and empower parents to successfully confront those problems that have disrupted the family in the past by building upon identified strengths. The Family Preservation Program provides TANF eligible services as well; meaning they provide the same above mentioned programs to families that are income eligible under 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

The Agency offers Family Nurturing & Access to Visitation Services in all ten counties of the Barren River Region. The program offers four primary services: Mediation, Supervised Visitation, Therapeutic Monitoring, and Neutral Drop-Off/Pick-Up. Family Nurturing and Access to Visitation Services are currently available via referral by the families themselves or community partners. The purpose of the Access and Visitation Grant funded by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is to support and facilitate non-residential parent's access to and visitation of their children, by means of activities including mediation, counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements. When parents are separated, often it is the children who suffer not only from the disruption of the family, but also from the loss of routine and regular contact with a parent. As long as the safety of the child is given paramount importance, our staff works to maintain and strengthen family ties. The goals and objectives of the Access and Visitation Grant are in keeping with the agency's mission to strengthen family ties. From July through February 2011, the Access to Visitation program has received a total of forty-three (43) referrals. Forty-one (41) families, 80 adults and 70 children have received supervised visitation for non-custodial parents. Eleven (11) of those non-custodial parents have received therapeutic monitoring which includes parent education, modeling, and counseling. Twelve (12) of the families have received neutral drop off services when custodial and non-custodial parents cannot, due to a domestic violence order (DVO), or do not want to be in close proximity to each other. Access to Visitation has mediated five (5) cases to develop and coordinate a visitation schedule and develop a parenting plan that may prevent the need for court involvement. . The Access to Visitation program monitors child support payments from intake through closure and follow up. The key operating philosophy is that the greater the access a non-custodial parent has to his/her child, the more likely he/she is to support his/her children financially, emotionally and socially.

From July through February 2011, the Community Collaboration for Children's In Home Service's program has served a total of twenty-three (23) families, 33 adults, and 39 children. There have been 345 hours of intervention. The parent education curriculum for the in-home services is *Common Sense Parenting* which covers topics related to preventive and corrective teaching, handling emotionally intense situations, and helping children succeed in school. Parents received a completion certificate at the end of services. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3 is used to screen all children under the age of 5 to determine the goals child development goals and make referrals as appropriate. The North Carolina Family Assessment Scale is us to assess area of strengths and areas of concern to develop the family goals. Families typically receive six to eight weeks of intervention.

From July through February 2011, the Community Collaboration for Children's Supervised Visitation program has provided services to twenty-two families, 39 adults and 47 children. There have been a total of 277 supervised visits provided for a total of 423 hours. All families have either maintained their goal for permanency, received unsupervised visits, or the children have been returned home. In addition to supervising visits, Family Service Associates provide parent education using the *Common Sense Parenting* curriculum. Families typically receive four to six months of services.

The Supportive Housing Program (SHP) is designed to promote, as a part of a local Continuum of Care strategy, the development of supportive housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons in the transition from homelessness and to enable them to live as independently as possible. The goals of the program are to help homeless individuals and families to achieve residential stability, to increase their skill levels and/or incomes, and to obtain greater self-determination. The program places less emphasis on emergency shelter and crisis services, and a greater emphasis on projects that serve homeless individuals who are already removed from the crisis situation.

The Kentucky Housing Corporation's Family Self Sufficiency Program consists of families who enter into a five-year contract of participation that requires them to seek and maintain employment, to attend comprehensive homeownership counseling program, and to remain welfare-free for one year prior to expiration of contract. Through Community Services, case managers provide expertise that helps the participant establish short and long term goals as well as connect the participants to services and programs designed to help the participants.

Community Action is offering parenting classes focused on prevention of child abuse, neglect, building relationships, safety, and stability. Classes provide logical, practical teaching methods to help the child learn self discipline and encourage unconditional love for the child. Perfect parents do not exist, but through the sessions, parents learn a variety of logical techniques to use as a foundation for discipline. Topics include understanding child development, setting expectations, using consequences, being a teacher, using praise effectively and teaching your child self-control. Parents learn how to improve communication with their children, how to help their children succeed in school and how to encourage positive behavior and prevent misbehaving. Class discussions, peer support, homework assignments, videos and group activities will allow parents opportunities to learn, practice and share results with each other. Homework consists of question based exercises, which are worded in a way for parents to practically use these skills with their children. Role plays and demonstrations are used to practice parenting discipline techniques and skills. The class also includes guest speakers to discuss topics requested by the parents, such as nutrition, budgeting and child abuse prevention. Classes are offered to the public and also as a collaborative partnership with Haven 4 Change, a substance abuse treatment

facility for women.

The Agency's Child Care Centers serve children age six weeks of age and older. Each center strives to provide age appropriate education in learning through play environment; caring and trained employees; nutritious meals; and a clean and safe environment. Funding is provided by parents' fees for services and subsidized payments from the Audubon Child Care Assistance Program. In addition to financial support from various Agency programs, support is provided by the City of Bowling Green, Edmonson County Fiscal Court, Metcalfe County Fiscal Court, and Warren County Fiscal Court. Additionally, the Agency's Child Care Centers participate in the STARS rating system. STARS is Kentucky's Child Care Quality Rating System through the Early Childhood Initiative. Raters come in and look at health and safety, education, materials, and environment to determine the STAR level. For each STAR, a center receives a one time monetary award. In addition, with participation, centers are able to order non-consumable materials and supplies from local Early Childhood Councils without having to expend Community Action funds. Currently all Agency centers are STAR rated centers. In the past three years, through the addition of Little Scholars and a four year old preschool classroom, Community Action has increased the capacity of child care by seventy slots.

Community Services training strategies emphasize learning about other programs and opportunities for the improvement of daily living conditions of lower-income households. Community Services staff at all levels continuously share program information within the agency and with other community partners. Community Services staff assume an active role in local interagency networking for the benefit of lower-income households.

*Go bg transit*, is a collaborative service between Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. and the City of Bowling Green. *Go bg transit* operates multiple transit services within designated areas of Bowling Green. Five routes run Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. with fixed stops repeating hourly. The Go to Work service operates Monday through Friday between 5:20 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Go shopping, the Saturday shopping shuttles are available on the first Saturday of each month to local shopping areas. The fleet consists of 22 vehicles, including 19 buses (all lift or ramp equipped) and 3 vans (1 of which is lift-equipped). Accessible vehicles are in use in all services to provide access for persons with disabilities. On Earth Day 2010, *Go bg transit* offered free bus rides all day to local citizens for a total of 595 free trips, which was the second highest daily ridership to date. The highest daily ridership to date was on Dec. 1, 2010, with 620 passenger trips, with all passengers paying regular fares.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky is making great strides to meet the needs of public transportation in the Bowling Green area. Management decisions and marketing efforts led to growth of the transit system even in difficult economic times. *GO bg transit* ridership increased by 7% in FY10 compared to FY09, and experienced annual growth from FY04 – FY09 ranging from 11% to 33%. . This included a 12% increase of ADA trips in FY10.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky Community Services also partnered with Head Start and the Summer Food Service Program to bring awareness to the "Too Good for Drugs" Program operated by Head Start Centers to reduce risk factors of substance abuse and negative behavior while teaching positive decision making skills. This program works with the family holistically to build positive self esteem in children through an educational emphasis on substance abuse prevention through building

self-efficacy. Head Start Center staff worked with children and families on identifying risk factors for addictive behaviors and building skills to overcome these risk factors. The program used the “Too Good for Drugs” curriculum which is a school based prevention program designed to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among students. The curriculum focuses on goal setting, decision making, bonding with pro-social others, identifying and managing emotions and communicating effectively. “Too Good for Drugs” has been designated a Model Program by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In addition to “Too Good for Drugs” the program uses “Second Step” curriculum as a supplement. The curriculum is used for preschool and elementary children to promote social and emotional competence while reducing aggressive and other negative behaviors. Parent meetings/trainings were also incorporated as an essential part of the program. During FY 2010, the “Too Good for Drugs” Program serviced one hundred and ninety three Head Start and school age children, two hundred and forty four children ages six to eighteen year olds from the Summer Food Service Program, and one hundred and ninety three parents or grandparents.

### **Needs**

Expansion of programs regarding family development and self-sufficiency is a great need within the community. Family Preservation, Family Nurturing, and Too Good for Drugs are examples of programs designed to strengthen the family unit, encourage positive decision making and reduce high risk behavior. These programs empower parents and children with to take ownership of their actions and provide them with tools needed to achieve self-sufficiency.

The need of self-sufficiency programs within the community is greater than can be supplied by service providers due to a decrease in or lack of funding for these types of programs. Additionally, service providers must continue to increase coordination efforts within agencies and with other service providers in attempts to maximize resources and services available to clients.

Even though the Agency has made strides in increasing intra agency collaboration, intra agency case management could be facilitated and encouraged to minimize fragmentation of service delivery. The creation of a clearinghouse for client data could maximize effective use of a variety of programs.

The President’s Budget Request includes changes in funding for Community Action which will reduce the Community Services Block Grant. Without CSBG funding, the communities in 10 counties lose the #1 resource agency as stated by the Barren River Area Development District’s FY 2012 Aging Needs Assessment Results. These communities would lose a trusted, local social service provider that takes on program responsibilities, fills gaps and works in partnership with faith-based and other organizations to help people in need be self-reliant.

Without CSBG funds, the garden program would not be able to provide nearly 800 households with a \$20 voucher to grow vegetables for their families, meeting their needs much longer and healthier than food pantry assistance. It enhances family time and is especially critical during summer months when children are home from school eating more. No new and innovative projects would evolve, such as meal stacking, food preservation and preparation, which have evolved from the Garden Program. Food reservation classes and other opportunities including learning composting, making homemade laundry detergent, and financial literacy education, assist 243 families per year toward achieving self-sufficiency. These initiatives are teaching people that \$20 dollars in seeds can produce so much more

value when you learn other skills. Individuals and families have learned to save money and increase healthy eating habits. With the canning, freezing, and other preservation and preparation classes, individuals and families are able to be self-reliant for months and/or longer. 143 would not have received budget/credit counseling, in addition to the 138 individuals in 114 households that attended budgeting workshops last year.

Without CSBG core funding, the ability for residents in three counties to have access to services at a one-stop facility would be reduced or eliminated. The Agency's Allen County facility and Education and Human Services Building in Warren county provides all services in one location, including those directly funded by CSBG, Head Start, Senior Center, Child Care, Adult Education and Job Development and other services. The Hart County location houses both CSBG and Senior services, and without CSBG support, the Senior Center would not be able to be centrally located and provide additional supports for our most fragile and growing population to be self reliant. The Resource and Development Center in Warren County provides CSBG services including Low Income Home Energy Assistance Emergency Food and Shelter, Food Pantry, Case Management, Employment Enhancement, Tax Preparation, and Garden Program, along with Child Care and Head Start under one roof through CSBG funds.

- (9) To provide on an emergency basis for the provision of goods or services, health care, and related services, as may be needed to assure good health care**

### **Strengths**

Health services are designed to assist program participants in receiving needed medical care or medical payment services. This is accomplished by referrals to health departments, vocational rehabilitation, physicians, Medicaid/Medicare, nursing homes, the Community Free Clinic, home health care, and other health services. Community Services Staff assess client needs for referral services regarding substance abuse, teen-age pregnancy, and suicide prevention. Program participants are assisted in making applications to the Kentucky Vision Project, National Eye Care Project, Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (K-CHIP), and the Kentucky Physicians Care Program. Follow-up and support services include advocacy, application/insurance assistance, transportation, and prescription assistance.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. assists numerous senior citizens with enrolling in the Medicare Part D Program. Through direct services provided by Senior Services at the local Senior Centers, low-income people with Medicare reduced their prescription drug costs by receiving benefits from the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003. Other Agency programs provided outreach and referrals to the Senior Centers for this service. Additionally, through the Senior Centers, senior citizens can benefit from health care services such as speakers, exercise, and screenings. Senior citizens can also benefit from transportation to medical appointments. The Senior Center Program Director and two RSVP volunteers have been trained to teach Tai Chi which is a good exercise for arthritis and recently, the Director, most Senior Center Managers, and one Volunteer were trained to teach the Arthritis Foundation Exercises as well.

For the fourth year, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance "Help is Here Express" bus tour partnered with Community Action of Southern Kentucky to help uninsured and financially struggling individuals access information on programs and provide prescription medicines for free or nearly free. The bus tour is part of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) – a nationwide effort sponsored by America's pharmaceutical research companies – raising awareness of patient assistance programs and

the need to effectively address the rising and alarming rates of chronic disease in the United States. Patients can also learn about new medicines in development to fight chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and asthma.

The Allen County RSVP and CSBG coordinators are responsible for ordering and distributing Angel Food packages. The RSVP and CSBG programs partnered with Restoration Unlimited to continue the service when a local church group could no longer continue the service. The service is currently provided through the assistance of 4 RSVP volunteers who are age 55 and older. Approximately 30% of the 366 low cost food orders provided from 7/09 – 6/10 were purchased by senior adults over the age of 60. Each food order purchased provides \$60.00 worth of groceries for the cost of \$30.00.

Promoting oral health is an integral part of the overall well-being of our children, and necessary for their healthy development. Head Start supports children in the program in obtaining a dental home, an annual dental examination and follow-up treatment when needed. During the 2009-2010 Program year, 755 of the 790 children who attended the Head Start program at any time during the program year received a dental exam. 75 of the 83 children identified as needing treatment, received treatment prior to the end of the program year and others are continuing treatment through other months.

The Barren River District Health Departments, as well as, Allen and Monroe Health Departments, provide preventive care services and environmental health services. Additionally, they provide the HANDS program, a voluntary home visitation program to first time parents at no cost. Participation in this program can start at any time during pregnancy and until the baby reaches three months of age and last until the child turns two years old. The program focuses on health, nutrition, safety, stimulation and development, and connecting parents to community resources. Some of the program goals are independence and self-sufficiency and ensuring all children are cared for in a loving, nurturing, stimulating environment. Western Kentucky University's Health Services provides numerous services to students, faculty, and staff including urgent care, annual examinations, internal medicine, and laboratory testing.

Many of our counties are plagued with extremely high rates of teen-age pregnancy. Sixty percent of the counties served by the Agency have teen pregnancy rates above that of the entire state. Adolescent pregnancy is recognized as a primary precursor of poverty status. In response to this apparent need, several counties have teamed with Cooperative Extension Service and Youth Service Centers in the local counties to develop a series of educational sessions for pregnant adolescents. Topics include but are not limited to pre-natal care, parenting skills, developmental activities, and infant nutrition. In Metcalfe County, community partners including but not limited to Adult Education, Metcalfe County Health Department, Metcalfe County schools, and Community Action of Southern Kentucky collaborated for the annual Baby Open House. During March 2010, a total of twenty four expectant mothers, received a variety of child focused information regarding nutrition, health needs, child development, education, child safety and care.

Primary Care Centers provide equal access to medical and dental services to Medicaid and uninsured clients, including laboratory services and case management. Additionally, the Centers participate in pharmaceutical assistance programs. In the city of Bowling Green, the Fairview Health Clinic provides medical services including prescriptions to the working poor and low income on a sliding scale. Due to these services, individuals have received care at this facility instead of the local emergency rooms.

Within the Fairview Health Clinic, Bosnian and Hispanic translators are available. In 2008, The Fairview Health Clinic opened a new office in Butler County to help reach more clients in need.

In the Barren River Area Development District, eight hospitals offer services including surgical services and emergency services. Additionally, health clinics are available in local communities to address health concerns and needs. Community free health clinics that offer free medical and dental services to working individuals without health insurance coverage or Medicaid are available in Warren, Metcalfe, and Barren counties.

Kentucky Homeplace, which was established in 1994 by the Kentucky General Assembly, was originally developed by the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health as a demonstration project and was funded by the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources lost their funding in 2008; however they were able to reopen in 2009. Kentucky Homeplace employed people from the local community as Family Health Care Advisors (FHCA's). The FHCA's were trained to provide a variety of health and social services to people living in their communities including but not limited to providing health information; notifying participants of services available in the community, state, or nation; referring to agencies or providers; making appointments for participants; speaking to agencies or providers on behalf of participants; and helping arrange transportation, where available. Kentucky Homeplace provided services in all ten counties served by the Agency, and in Butler and Allen counties, FHCA's utilized space in the local Community Services office.

Numerous mental health agencies address mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse. LifeSkills, Inc., the local community mental health center, Hope Harbor, the local rape crisis center, and Barren River Area Safe Space, the local domestic violence shelter, offer free or reduced mental health services to the community. In addition, WKU offers free mental health counseling to its students.

Eight out of the ten counties in the Barren River Area Development District are designated as Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) by the U. S. Public Health Service. Four of the ten counties are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) in the area of primary care: Allen, Edmonson, Hart and Metcalfe. Access to care due to a lack of health care providers and / or the ability to pay for services is the primary reason cited by the individuals for not seeking health care. The Institute for Rural Health Development and Research at Western Kentucky University (WKU) attempted to address many of the health disparity and access issues faced by this population. Their Mobile Health and Wellness Unit focuses on student engagement and community service throughout the entire Barren River area. In collaboration with other community based organizations and private businesses, the Unit provides health screenings to the area's population along with health education. To accomplish this, the Institute engaged numerous undergraduate and graduate students from WKU. In addition, dental care is provided as well as vision screenings, eye glasses, influenza and pneumonia immunizations for the senior population; lifestyle programs tied to diabetes management, heart disease prevention and maintenance and smoking cessation.

### **Needs**

According to United Health Foundation, Kentucky has the following statistics for 2010:

- 25.6% of Kentuckians smoke;

- 14.8% of Kentuckians are without health insurance;
- Approximately 1% of deaths are related to heart disease; and
- Less than 1% of deaths are related to cancer.

Many households lack health care coverage, and the high cost of medical treatment may deter many from routine screenings or visiting the doctor before an illness becomes overwhelming. For example, low-income individuals work as temporary or part-time employees, and therefore, they receive no health care benefits within their employment. Due to rising costs of health insurance and mass layoffs by industries over the last two years many more people are having difficulty keeping health insurance for themselves and their children.

Broader access to services is needed for low-income individuals. Employment, transportation, childcare, and health care cost could all detour someone from seeking routine and preventative screenings. Traditional hours of operation may not meet the needs of many who face these types of barriers on a daily basis.

As a result of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds made available to our Agency, we developed a program to assist with some health and dental cost for those seeking employment. Our Community Needs Assessment identified Health as a growing need in our service area. Often the clients we serve have no health or dental insurance and insufficient funds to cover any extenuating costs. This program assisted with local health, vision, and dental providers to alleviate eliminate this barrier to addressing several specific needs including, health, income management, linkages, and self sufficiency but also indirectly employment.

**(10) To eliminate causes of poverty and to include youth and senior programs**

Kentucky is not utilizing Category 10 of the NASCSP Service Categories.

**(iii) Describe the coordination and established linkages between governmental and other social programs to assure the effective delivery of such services to low-income individuals;**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky seeks to address poverty through linkages between governmental and other service programs as well as through agency services. Volunteer recruitment, fundraising, participation and leadership in inter-agency groups, and presentations to the community-at-large; impact the coordinated effort of service providers within the community. Additionally, Community Action of Southern Kentucky reaches the public through media releases to local newspapers, radio stations, internet, and television stations.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky participates in and with boards and committees, such as, Family Resource and Youth Service Centers, literacy councils, and Continuum of Care that address low-income interests. The Head Start Policy Council meets monthly to discuss funding, policies, procedures, and issues specific to the children we serve and our Foster Grandparents have a monthly In-Service to receive training and learn of services available to them within the Agency and in the community. Specifically, the County Coordinator in Metcalfe County is the Secretary for the local Salvation Army and the County Coordinator in Hart County is the Secretary for the local Repair Affair Committee and

Secretary of the County Safety Committee. The County Coordinators and Director of Community Services carry out the linkages and coordination efforts; yet, numerous staff throughout the agency participate with linkage and coordination efforts.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky coordinates the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Through this program low-income households are assisted with heating costs. Through the coordinated efforts of service providers such as Department for Community Based Services, Family Resource and Youth Service Centers, and United Way of Southern Kentucky agencies, LIHEAP continues to provide needed services to low-income households.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky is actively involved in the coordination of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Board of Directors. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program provides assistance to eligible households with emergency rent, utility, or food needs. In 2010, Community Action of Southern Kentucky was the local convener of the board for the fourteen agencies that applied for funding.

The active involvement of government officials on Community Action of Southern Kentucky's Administering Board of Directors assures the awareness and involvement of local government in effective service delivery to low-income households.

**(iv) Describe how the agency will encourage the use of entities in the private sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the community;**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky is committed to the collaborative efforts with the private sector in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the community. Currently, the Community Services Program benefits from in-kind contributions of goods and services from private entities in local communities. For example, in Allen County, Kids Wearhouse, a clothing distribution center, exists due to donations from community members, and in Logan County, the *People Need People* column within the local newspaper allows local citizens to donate specific items to meet specific needs of low-income households. Likewise, the Bowling Green Daily News in collaboration with United Way of South Central Kentucky includes a weekly listing of needs for individual families, *Friend In Need*, reported by the agencies, and the newspaper reports the positive responses to reinforce public contributions.

For some time, Kentucky Utilities has been involved in *Project Winter Care*, Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (WRECC), and Farmers Rural Electric Cooperative (Farmers RECC) involved local customers in a program titled *Operation Warm Hearts*, which assisted low-income families with heating costs. WRECC and Farmers RECC customers donated funds to provide assistance to households at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. In addition, WRECC provides energy evaluation self audit packets to the homeowners. Once the self-audit is completed and mailed in, WRECC compiles a written report for the homeowner. The report will recommend improvements to make the home more efficient. There is no cost for this service and is available through all WRECC offices.

Additionally, the Bowling Green Enterprise Community donated \$18,000 Community Action of Southern Kentucky to offer a heating assistance program to households that reside in the Bowling Green

Enterprise Community who fall between 130% and 150% of the federal poverty level. As of June 30, 2010 all funds were expended and 75 households had received assistance from these funds.

County Coordinators maintain communication with the Department for Employment Services, local employment agencies, and local employers in regards to employment opportunities. Through Chamber of Commerce membership, the Agency has opportunities to communicate with local employers and business professionals while investing in the future of business in the specific community. The CEO/Executive Director serves on the Workforce Investment Board of Directors, while the Associate Director serves on the Chamber Workforce Development Committee.

Numerous private groups such as the Boys Scouts of America and National Association of Letter Carriers organize food drives and disperse the collected food to agencies for low-income households. Faith-based organizations within the local communities such as ministerial associations, local churches, and the Good Samaritan are an excellent resource for many clients. The Agency continues to work closely with organizations, specifically churches, which are recipients of Second Harvest food to ensure non-duplication of services and linkages for low-income participants. In Logan County, First Baptist Church sends \$25.00 per month to assist with *People Need People*, Calvary Baptist Church in Bowling Green provides meals to those in need, and Pamida, a local grocery store donated \$1,000 in Hart County to be used as needed for the food pantry. Last year, a family member was so grateful to Community Action for helping a loved one that they donated \$500 in Hart County help others in need. In Simpson County, The Windhover Foundation donated \$2,500 in Simpson County to help individuals in the community who may need a helping hand.

United Way of Southern Kentucky recognized a need for additional food donations in the communities they serve. In response to that need, a two-day "Feed the Need" food drive was organized in Allen, Barren, Logan, Simpson, and Warren counties at local grocery stores, as well as, other locations serving as drop off points for the public. Community Action was a recipient of food donations in all five counties.

The CEO/Executive Director is very involved with the Noon Rotary Club in Warren County. Through her interaction, many business owners and local political figures receive education about poverty and seek to ameliorate poverty in this community.

In early FY 2009 Community Action of Southern Kentucky began a partnership with The Laura Goad Turner Charitable Foundation which resulted in the donation of the J.L. Turner & Son Warehouse property, on Old East Main Street, where the Dollar General Corporation legacy began. In addition to the property donation, the Foundation committed \$1,750,000 towards a new 13,600 square foot facility for Community Action services in Allen County. The new handicap accessible Allen County Community Action Center came to fruition with a grand opening on June 26, 2010. The new facility houses the Head Start/preschool Programs, Seniors Services, Community Services, Adult Education and Job Development; a one stop shop with wrap around services to help meet the needs of the individuals and families we serve. Furthermore, as a result of an evaluation conducted by community leaders in Allen County on the needs of children from birth to six years of age, the Foundation approved additional funding of a challenge grant up to \$250,000. A total of \$141,405 was raised to help pay for construction of the project. These funds will be matched with \$50,000 a year allocations towards an additional preschool classroom in Allen County. The Agency has received numerous private donations and is

working diligently toward reaching our goal. United Way contributed \$25,000, Farmer National Bank \$25,000, Dollar General Corporation \$20,000, Community Action of Southern Kentucky Annual Golf Tournament \$4,500, Modern Woodmen (Allen County) \$2,500, and several individuals were instrumental in helping us reach this goal.

Groups such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion as well as private individuals routinely make financial contributions to Community Services Program initiatives and other Community Action of Southern Kentucky programs.

Sun Products, a local business, continues to collaborate with the Agency to provide clothing detergent, dish washing detergent, fabric softener, and personal care items to Agency consumers. Sun Products graciously donated over \$53,570 in products to low-income households in the Barren River Area in 2010. The teamwork and enthusiasm displayed by both groups is amazing. Currently, we are organizing our next collaboration.

A Repair Affair was conducted in Hart County during 2010 to assist local households with minor repairs to their homes. This event was possible because of a grant through the Kentucky Housing Corporation as well as donations from local businesses. Several applications were processed and seventeen of those households actually received repairs to their homes. The local Community Services Office served as the point of contact for applications, and the County Coordinator served as the secretary for the board and on the decision-making committee which made decisions regarding who was eligible for repairs and who would receive the assistance, as well as, actually working on repairs for one particular home. The homes which needed wheel chair ramps received priority during the process.

**(v) The development, promotion, and ways to encourage economic development activities, which result in assisting low-income persons to become economically productive members of their community;**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky's mission to create opportunities for individuals and families to become self-reliant supports the concept of economic development on an individual basis as well as a community basis. Historically, affordable childcare services and public transportation have been reoccurring challenges for low-income households. Currently, Community Action of Southern Kentucky's Children's Services and Transportation Services continue to lead the efforts of the agency to meet these needs.

Participation in local Chambers of Commerce and Chamber of Commerce Leadership Development Programs allow staff to influence the participation of the poverty community in broad economic development movements. Community Services staff advocate for the application of community development initiatives to the needs of low-income households. Additionally, Agency Staff actively participate with Southern Kentucky Society for Human Resources Management, the Workforce Development Committee and Government Relations committees of Bowling Green's Chamber of Commerce, and Kentucky Public Human Resources Association.

The Agency promotes and encourages low-income families in becoming economically productive by empowering clients and helping clients discover their marketable skills. Clients are referred to

occupational training programs and Workforce Investment Act training courses, and clients are engaged in commodity generating programs such as the garden program and craft projects.

In Warren County, Agency Staff actively participate in a Program Coordinating Committee at the Housing Authority to address local needs including transportation, equal opportunity, education, childcare, youth development, employment, and housing.

**(vi) Provision of education, counseling and technical assistance on compliance with equal opportunity legislation for individuals and community organizations, both public and private.**

The agency complies with all provisions of Equal Opportunity Legislation. The Human Resources Assistant serves as the Equal Opportunity Officer and provides training, counseling, and technical assistance to individuals and to public and private organizations.

Agency staff works with the Equal Opportunity Officer or the local Human Rights Commission to address client requests for assistance in this area. Kentucky Legal Aid serves as a community resource in equal opportunity issues. The Agency continues its on-going efforts to extend all community services to minorities and challenged individuals. Currently, the Agency has on staff, individuals that speak Spanish, Bosnian, Swahili, and German.

The Migrant Head Start Program focuses on services for thirty six children up to five years old and their families. Services include nutrition education, health services, and disability services as well as prenatal and social services. Children will receive educational services which will help prepare them for kindergarten while the families will receive services designed to ensure they have the basic necessities. All Migrant staff are bi-lingual and class instruction is conducted in Spanish. Community Action has seen a significant increase in the number of children for whom English is not their primary language. Sixty-four families spoke a language other than English as the primary language in the home and there is some difficulty in meeting the needs of the families because of the lack of resources within the service area. The majority of these families speak Spanish; The Agency is in the process of filling a vacant Translator/Transition Coordinator for 40 weeks for 40 hours per week to assist primarily Latino children with transition in and out of Head Start.

Within Children's Services, bi-lingual members of staff translate all our Head Start forms to Spanish so the Hispanic families can have access to information in their primary language. Additionally, an Agency employee translates information provided by speakers and staff at monthly Head Start Parent Meetings. The Agency has also attempted to provide Public Transit information to the Bosnian and Hispanic populations in their primary languages and in Braille for the visually impaired.

Go bg transit and Community Services also have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plans for clients and/or participants that may need additional help accessing services. When such instances arise, a plan is in place for addressing these situations and providing assistance necessary so services can be administered. 'I Speak' cards are located at each Community Service office to help clients with limited English skills can indicate to staff their native language so staff may contact and Interpreter when necessary.

- d. Prioritize services funded by CSBG, based on the needs assessment process and available resources. Describe in detail the activities to be performed in each, from the point of intake to termination of services, when the service is client-oriented. Utilize Kentucky's most recent publication of Lexicon, and the Lexicon for CSBG Funded Programs and a Classification of CSBG Services.**

According to the 2010 needs assessment, the major identified needs of the community were employment related (not enough jobs, low paying jobs, high cost of living), affordable housing, and assistance with health/medical concerns/costs. These were followed by the need for community to be more involved and education. The major causes of poverty in the communities were also employment related (not enough jobs, low paying jobs, and high cost of living), lack of affordable housing, and health (poor health/low access to health services, substance abuse) and education (GED, college, vocational). Services and Programs needed in the communities were reported to be emergency assistance, job training, housing assistance, health care assistance including health/nutrition education, and education. All of which correlates to information gathered in focus groups (not enough jobs, low paying jobs, lack of affordable housing, lack of education, health and medical needs). A complete copy of the Needs Assessment survey results and Community Reports is included with this application.

Besides using the needs assessment data, thorough review of the Head Start comprehensive Needs Assessment, review of the previous CSBG Section G reports for client trends, statistical information for compilation of this grant application including median income, poverty rates, high school graduation rates, and health statistics were considered and compared to previous years.

In order to most effectively address the needs of the Barren River Area Development District, families and individuals in our communities, Community Action must continue to focus on the areas identified above as means to end poverty. Emergency services will continue to rank high and demand a large percentage of staff time as expected during times of economic hardship however to help families move out of poverty emergency services will be a support service but not a number one priority.

With CSBG funding, Community Action of Southern Kentucky will use funding in the following areas for 2011/2012 Fiscal Year:

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Employment         | 6. Income Management |
| 2. Housing            | 7. Linkages          |
| 3. Health             | 8. Nutrition         |
| 4. Education          | 9. Self Sufficiency  |
| 5. Emergency Services |                      |

From the point of intake, staff will work with each individual/family to determine the area/s of need most appropriate to help them reach sustainable levels to become self reliant. Together staff and individuals will work on areas of improvement specific to the client's need.

Detailed explanation of the services offered by Community Action of Southern Kentucky in each of the nine categories can be found in the previous section used by the Kentucky Work plan for the Community Services Block Grant.

**e. Describe the manner in which the allocation of funds will be targeted to need, based on your agency's community needs assessment and priority-setting process.**

Funds will be targeted and distributed according to the needs identified within the Community Needs Assessment; unavailable services in our ten county region; research data, and feedback from collaborative meetings attended throughout the year; with priority given to the respective services needed. In keeping with sound management practices, the funds will be allocated across the ten-county service area unless operational and other costs prove cost-prohibitive.

Results Oriented Management Accountability (ROMA) is an interagency and intra-agency initiative promoting outcome-based management strategies for community, state, and federal agencies participating in the CSBG programs. The Office of Community Services' Monitoring and Results Act designed ROMA. Community Action of Southern Kentucky measures and demonstrates outcomes and performance indicators achieved according to the six national ROMA goals.

Through local inter-agency, Agency Staff including County Coordinators meet regularly with community partners to discuss local activities and events and share information about services. Additionally, community partners are members of the Agency's Board of Directors and Advisory Councils while Agency Staff are also members of advisory councils, board of directors, and agency committees. This interaction not only assists in the communication of ideas but acts as increased measure to prevent duplication of services.

**f. Describe whether laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky mandate the programs and services being provided and specify the Kentucky Revised Statute(s) that apply.**

The programs and services must be provided within the legal requirements established by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and by the applicable Federal Laws as outlined in KRS 273.441 – KRS 273.443. However, specific services are regarded as allowable rather than mandated.

**g. Describe whether the programs and services to be provided with CSBG funds are those which the Commonwealth of Kentucky currently administers and funds in other state and local agencies.**

CSBG programs and services are designed for a targeted population and operationally enhance and support rather than duplicate other programs and services administered by other State and local agencies. The Agency utilizes contracts from the State to fund including but not limited to Weatherization and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The programs and services must be provided within the legal requirements established by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and by the applicable Federal Laws as outlined in KRS 273.443.

**h. Specify plans for ensuring the coordination of and non-duplication of the applicant agency's services with other service providers. At minimum provide:**

- (i) Certification of the agency's willingness to share necessary client information and records within legal limitations and willingness to provide the leadership in arranging for a meeting, not less than two (2) times a year, of all social services**

**agencies in the agency's geographic service area for the purpose of developing substantive interagency cooperation and assessing the social services currently being provided;**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky recognizes the importance of collaboration and cooperation within the Agency and with other service providers in order to ensure coordination and non-duplication of services. The Agency will continue its willingness to provide leadership in arranging regular meetings among social service agencies. During this fiscal year, Community Collaboration for Children Network was one of the many groups for which the Agency provided leadership in arranging meetings for the purpose of developing substantial interagency cooperation and assessing the social services currently being provided.

Management team meetings with the Agency's CEO/Executive Director, Associate Director, various agency staff, DCBS Service Region Administrator (SRA), DCBS agency staff, and the Community Collaboration for Children's T & TA representative were often scheduled prior to the Community Collaboration for Children Regional meetings.

Our agreement with Department for Community Based Services assures that confidential client information may be accessed between the agencies. Furthermore, the Agency further certifies its willingness and desire to share client information and records within legal limitations.

**(ii) Identification of activities the agency jointly pursues or coordinates with faith-based organizations, fatherhood programs, healthy marriage programs, rural development and One-Stop partnerships;**

To provide services to the homeless population, Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. maintains a working partnership with four faith-based homeless shelters. These faith-based homeless shelters in addition to the domestic violence homeless shelter provide services to low-income households in Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, and Warren counties. Additionally, Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regional Continuum of Care encourages faith-based organizations who are interested in HUD funding to address homelessness locally or regionally to apply for local funds.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. serves as the convener of the regional Board of Directors for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) servicing nine counties in one service area but participate in the tenth county as well. Through EFSP, new alliances with faith-based organizations are established, and other alliances continue growth in efforts to access funds for low-income households.

For years, the Allen County Ministerial Association has utilized Allen County Community Services Office as an access to human services within the community. Further, the Allen County Coordinator screens applicants for emergency funds generated by the Allen County Ministerial Association. In Barren County, the County Coordinator works closely with one local church regarding their application requirements for emergency funds and referrals when appropriate. In Butler County, Gasper River Association allows Community Action to use their location as a distribution site for monthly commodities. In Logan County, the Ministerial Association works closely with the Good Samaritan organization, and the Logan County Coordinator works closely with both groups. In Simpson County,

the Community Services Office screens applicants for assistance with local churches, and the local churches rely on our “system” of intake to identify needy individuals and families.

Numerous faith-based organizations utilize the Summer Food Service Program. For example, at local vacation bible schools and summer recreation programs, church members volunteer as site managers for food distribution to the targeted audience. In Simpson County, a local church managed several new sites which allowed children outside of more heavily populated areas to benefit from this service. Several churches, in three counties, have partnered with the Agency’s Supervised Visitation Program to provide space for supervised visits allowing family members whose children are in out-of-home placement a location for family visits and in many counties, local churches supervise Summer Food Service Program sites.

In Allen County, Community Services and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) jointly share in the process of getting residents signed up with Angel Food Ministries and providing volunteer services on distribution day to hand out Angel Food orders. The Agency’s Community Collaborations for Children Program currently allocates \$2000 or approximately 65-70 vouchers and totes as a faith based initiative to help families prevent abuse and neglect.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc. strives to expand fatherhood involvement through training and locally designed initiatives aimed at encouraging males to take a more active part in the education process of their children. The Agency has a strong foundation on which to build fatherhood involvement activities. The Barren River Community Collaboration for Children, which the Agency coordinates, provides mini-grants for non-profits and faith based groups to conduct local fatherhood events. These mini-grant funded projects focus on promoting child abuse and neglect prevention, fatherhood, and faith based initiatives.

Healthy marriage programs are emphasized through the Family Preservation Program, Family Reunification, in home services and Supervised Visitation Program. These programs work to maintain intact families, to create stable home environments for children, and to improve family functioning. Children’s Services and Community Services also refer households to therapists within LifeSkills, Inc., the community mental health center and other professional marriage and family therapists.

Two Community Services Coordinators have been trained to facilitate the curriculum which is focused on providing structured education and encouragement to married couples. In March 2010, a three day workshop was held in Monroe County with fourteen active participants covering all ten skills and one work session devoted to income management. Another work session was held during one day ARRA Employment Seminar hosting 125 participants, presenting all ten skills, a short video, a group exercise.

The Agency strongly supports One-Stop partnerships as evidenced by its efforts to integrate agency services into communities and facilities shared by related programs. In Allen County, Community Services, Head Start, Adult Education and Job Development, and Senior Center are housed together in an attempt to connect families and elderly with community resources and referrals offered by Community Services. In Edmonson County, Community Services, Head Start, and Childcare are located in the Brownsville Community Center, which is connected to the local courthouse. In Monroe County, the Community Services Office is located in the basement of the local courthouse. In Warren County, Children’s Services, Community Services, Senior Center, Supervised Visitations Program, and

Community Collaborations for Children are located at our Education and Human Services Building in an attempt to offer multiple services in a single facility. Also in Warren County, Community Services and Children Services are located at our Resource and Development Center. This center also has room for Supervised Visitations, and classes for budgeting and employment.

- (iii) Description and identification of the agency's coordination and consultation with the Department for Community Based Services, Service Region Administrator(s) including: (1) efforts to avoid duplication of services; and (2) services to support shared clients. *Be specific. Identify services to support families. How do you support or what services do you offer that help prevent child maltreatment, promote quality foster care and adoption services, and assist vulnerable adults or low-income families?***

A Memorandum of Agreement with the local Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) is in place to ensure that these two agencies work cooperatively toward the goal of serving those households in need of services and programs administered by each agency. Management team meetings are held at least four times a year and include the Agency's CEO/Executive Director, Associate Director, CCC program director, FPP program director, DCBS Service Region Administrator (SRA) or designee, DCBS agency staff, and CCC state Training and Technical Assistance staff.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky serves as the fiscal agent and coordinating entity for the Community Collaborations for Children Regional Network. The Service Region Administrator and other DCBS management staff participate with local parents and service providers to identify priority needs for children and families in our area. The project provides enhancement and preventive services to families in crisis or children at risk of abuse or neglect. Collaboration among service providers is central to the project's design.

The Family Preservation Programs (FPP) provides trained professionals to work intensively with families in crisis whose children are at imminent or serious risk of removal. The Family Reunification Program provides in-home specialists who are trained to work intensively with family members whose children, at time of referral, are in out-of-home care in order to prepare them for reunification. Children who have been in out-of-home care longer than seven days but less than 15 days of the last 22 months are eligible for services. Both using the Homebuilders Model identify family strengths as well as areas of concern and work with family members to increase their ability to function as a unit. Additionally, both strive to provide emotional support, concrete services, teach methods/techniques for dealing with identified problems and empower parents to successfully confront those problems that have disrupted the family in the past by building upon identified strengths. Department for Community Based Service, Division of Protection and Permanency refers families to this program. In March 2008, the Family Preservation Program received notification of grant funds awarded to expand the Family Preservation Program. This expansion added one supervisor position, one support staff, and five new specialists positions and will differ only in that it is allocated for use with income eligible participants who do not exceed 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

The Supervised Visitation Program provides Family Service Associates who are trained to work with family members whose children are in out-of-home placements. Family Service Associates provide supervised visitation in the family's home or at another location as deemed appropriate by the

Department for Community Based Services, Division of Protection and Permanency. The Program focuses on keeping the family safe and help prepare the family for permanency planning and supporting the creation of an environment suitable to reunify children in placement with their family. As important, the program addresses improving family functioning so the behavior that led to the children being removed will be reduced.

The Agency offers Access to Visitation Services in all ten counties of the Barren River Region. The program offers four primary services: Mediation, Supervised Visitation, Therapeutic Monitoring, and Neutral Drop-Off/Pick-Up. Access to Visitation Services Program is currently available via referral by the families themselves or community partners. The purpose of the Access and Visitation Grant funded by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is to support and facilitate non-residential parent's access to and visitation of their children, by means of activities including mediation, counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements. When parents are separated, often it is the children who suffer not only from the disruption of the family, but also from the loss of routine and regular contact with a parent. As long as the safety of the child is given paramount importance, our agency works to maintain and strengthen family ties. The goals and objectives of the Access and Visitation Grant are in keeping with the agency's mission to strengthen family ties.

Community Action of Southern Kentucky has two trained facilitators for the Poverty Simulation. In 2010 DCBS contacted Community Action and requested a Poverty Simulation Training for their Regional Managers which consisted of approximately eighty staff. Afterward in the debriefing, they shared insights of the experience, often expressing frustration and stress when trying to get tasks accomplished but great appreciation for the overall experience. Many DCBS staff recommended the training be mandatory for all DCBS workers as part of their training exercises.

- i. Outline the applicant agency's efforts to focus attention on: addressing the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, giving priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime; and promoting increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of low income youth programs with a goal of preventing or reducing youth crime.**

The Agency's plan addresses the needs of youth development programs that support the primary role of the family. Among these programs are Summer Food Service, Children's Services, and Peer-Assisted Learning Program.

After the traditional school year ends, Summer Food Service Program provides daily, nutritious meals and snacks to children and youth in our service area. These meals help meet the nutrition demands of children and youth for physical and mental development while relieving pressure on the family food budget. Numerous non-agency groups that focus on youth development such as Bowling Green and Logan County Parks and Recreation Departments, Glasgow Public Housing Authority, LifeSkills summer youth programs and local church programs utilize this nutritional program.

Many of our counties are plagued with extremely high rates of teen-age pregnancy. Sixty percent of the counties served by the Agency have teen pregnancy rates above that of the entire state. Adolescent pregnancy is recognized as a primary precursor of poverty status. In response to this apparent need,

several counties have teamed with Cooperative Extension Service and Youth Service Centers in the local county to develop a series of educational sessions for pregnant adolescents. Topics include but are not limited to pre-natal care, parenting skills, developmental activities, and infant nutrition. In Metcalfe County, community partners including but not limited to Adult Education, Metcalfe County Health Department, Metcalfe County schools, and Community Action of Southern Kentucky collaborated for Baby Open House. During March 2010, a total of twenty-four expectant mothers, received a variety of child focused information regarding safety and care.

The agency operates four child care centers in a few counties because quality early childhood services reduce teen pregnancies and prevent crime involvement. In addition to financial support from Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc., support is provided by the City of Bowling Green, Edmonson County Fiscal Court, Metcalfe County Fiscal Court, and Warren County Fiscal Court.

Community Action manages an on-site child care center in a housing complex for primarily single parent students. Through a grant with Kentucky Housing Corporation, the complex was built to include a Community Center and Child Care. The location of the development is in the area formerly known as Bowling Green Enterprise Community. Historically, the Enterprise Community Zone consists of higher levels of poverty, unemployment, single parent families, predominately female head-of-household, crime related problems, lower educational levels and/or training skills, fewer transportation opportunities, a lack of decent, safe and affordable housing, youth development problems, and a fragmented system for the delivery of services. Little Scholar's Child Care, opened in February of 2009. The development has 54 units and targets the single parent who is a full-time student. Residents of Scholar House who qualify for Head Start have on-site facilities, complete with wrap-around child care services.

Through United Way funding, the Agency began "Too Good for Drugs" program in Logan County. The project works to build self-efficacy in youth and children in order to reduce the probability of substance abuse in low-income families. In addition to the youth and children in the project, staff and community partners provide education to parents on recognizing risk factors and warning signs and how to build protective factors and self esteem in their children.

In an attempt to reduce and/or to prevent youth problems and crime, Community Action of Southern Kentucky facilitates in all ten counties a scholarship program, which is hoped to promote economic self-sufficiency. Income eligible high school seniors are encouraged to apply for this \$1,500 scholarship. Last year alone, \$24,000 in scholarships was given to these income eligible high school seniors.

County-based initiatives supported by CSBG funds often address the educational needs of lower-income youth by offering enrichment experiences such as summer camp and field trips and tangible support such as school supplies and clothing.

In Monroe and Warren counties, a partnership between Children's Services and local elementary schools created opportunities for youth to serve as school reading mentors for Head Start children. Through Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), elementary students came to classes to read to the three and four year old Head Start children.

The Family Preservation Program, Family Reunification Program, Supervised Visitation Program, Access to Visitation, Mediation, Supervised Visitation, Therapeutic Monitoring, and Neutral Drop-Off/Pick-Up provide valuable services to children and families throughout the ten county area.

- j. All services directed toward coordination and linkages of other community services to impact the community (non-client specific services), rather than individual client service, should be described in narrative, i.e., community participation and economic development which are directed toward amelioration of poverty in the community. Coordination with emergency energy crisis intervention programs under Title XXVI and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 should be described. Please indicate the staff member(s) who will be carrying out coordination and linkage functions and any limitations placed on the individual client services.**

Community Action of Southern Kentucky seeks to address poverty conditions through coordination and linkages of other community services as well as through client services. These services are described in the narrative and may include volunteer recruitment, fundraising, community presentations, participation with inter-agency groups, and initiating referral and linkage mechanisms with other service groups in the community.

County Coordinators serve as case managers for the KHC's Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Monthly case management sessions with participants and written reports of progress toward household goals are a portion of the requirements of this program. Participants have as an incentive for participation the growth of an escrow account that can be used for a home down payment after five years of program participation.

All County Coordinators coordinate with emergency energy crisis intervention programs under the Title XXVI and the Low-Income Home Energy Program of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 to alleviate energy crises in poverty households.

Primarily, the County Coordinators and the Director of Community Services carry out linkage and coordination functions. Coordination and linkage opportunities are compounded in Warren County, the market and educational center of the service area. Since Warren County has the highest population, Community Services in this particular county receives a very high volume of demand for human services. The staffing in the Warren County office includes the County Coordinator and Supportive Housing Case Manager. This will enhance and compliment individual client services rather than limit those services in any way.

Please find below a list of community partners and the staff member(s) responsible for the linkage and participation:

- Adult Education, all Community Service Staff
- ALIVE Center, County Coordinator
- Allen County Ministerial Association, County Coordinators
- Allen County Mission, County Coordinator
- American Cancer Society, County Coordinator

- American Red Cross, County Coordinators
- America's Second Harvest of Kentucky's Heartland, various Agency Staff
- Angel Food Ministries, County Coordinators
- Barren River Aging Council, Director of Senior Services
- Barren River Area Safe Space, all Community Services Staff
- Barren River Area Transportation Council, Transportation Manager and Public Transit Coordinator
- BEST Center, County Coordinator
- Bowling Park, County Coordinator
- Boys and Girls Club, County Coordinators
- Churches, County Coordinators
- City Section 8, County Coordinators
- Commonwealth Free Health Clinic, County Coordinators
- Community Action Kentucky, Executive Director, Associate Director, Director of Finance, Director of Community Services
- Community Family Services Partners, County Coordinators
- Community Outreach, County Coordinators, Director of Community Services
- Continuum of Care, Director of Community Services and SHP Case Manager
- Department for Community Based Services, all Community Service Staff
- Experience Works, various Agency Staff
- Family Home Health Care, County Coordinators
- Family Resource Centers, all Community Service Staff
- FEMA/EFSP Board, County Coordinators
- Gasper River Association, Butler County Coordinator
- Gentleman's Unlimited, County Coordinator
- Good Samaritan, Inc., County Coordinators
- Habitat for Humanity, County Coordinators
- Hear Now, County Coordinators
- Helping Hands Advisory Council, County Coordinators
- Hope Harbor, Agency Staff
- HOTEL, Inc., County Coordinators
- Jesus Community Center, County Coordinators
- Kentucky ASAP, County Coordinator
- Kentucky Farmworkers Program, County Coordinators
- Kentucky Head Start Association, Executive Director , Director of Children's Services, and Children's Services Staff
- Kentucky Heartland Outreach, County Coordinators
- Kentucky Housing Corporation/Family Self-Sufficiency, County Coordinators
- Kentucky Public Human Resources Association, Executive Director, Associate Director, and Human Resources Manager
- Lifeline HomeHealth, County Coordinators
- LifeSkills, County Coordinators
- Local Chambers of Commerce, Executive Director, Associate Director, and County Coordinators

- Local County Governments, Executive Director
- Local County Extension Offices, County Coordinators
- Local health departments, County Coordinators
- Local housing authorities, County Coordinators
- Local newspapers, County Coordinators
- Local school districts, numerous Agency Staff
- Metcalfe County Community Medical, County Coordinator
- Metcalfe County Migrant Education, County Coordinator
- Monroe County Cancer Coalition, County Coordinator
- Monroe County Economic Development Center, County Coordinator
- Monroe County Health and Nutrition Coalition, County Coordinator
- National Association of Community Action Agencies, Executive Director
- Noon Rotary, Executive Director
- Reaping the Harvest Food Pantry, County Coordinator
- Regional Area Council, County Coordinator
- Safe Kids, County Coordinator
- Salvation Army, County Coordinators
- Simpson County Community Partnership for Protecting Children, various Agency Staff
- Simpson County Literacy Program, County Coordinator
- Southern Kentucky Society for HR Management, Human Resources Assistant
- St. Vincent De Paul, County Coordinators
- United Way, numerous Agency Staff
- Vision Steering Committee, County Coordinators
- Volunteers-In-Action, Agency Staff
- Warren County Welfare Office, County Coordinators
- Workforce Excellence Partnership, County Coordinator
- Workforce Investment Board of Directors, Executive Director
- Youth Service Centers, all Community Service Staff

## **Community Meeting Report Allen County**

Date: August 19, 2010 and September 16, 2010

Location: Allen County Community Action Center, Allen County Extension Office

Attending: 45 attended/347 surveys completed

Significant causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 2010 - 2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter assistance, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Allen County Community Needs Assessment meetings were held in collaboration with DCBS, the Allen County Family Resource Center, Allen County Health Dept., and the Allen County Home Extension Office. A news release inviting the community to the meetings was sent to the local newspaper and radio stations, and telephone invitations were given to community partners. Office visitors and clients were also invited to attend these community meetings. Forty five individuals attended the meeting, and 347 valid surveys were available for computation.

The major causes of poverty in the county were listed as: not enough jobs, low paying jobs and high cost of living. Respondents cited jobs that pay a living wage, assistance with health and medical concerns, and decent affordable housing as the three primary needs in the community.

## **Community Meeting Report Barren County**

Date: October 27, 2010  
Location: Barren County Community Services  
Attending: 6 attended/18 surveys completed

Significant causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 2010-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to heating assistance and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Barren County Community Needs Assessment meeting was held in collaboration with the Glasgow – Barren County Housing Authority, Barren County Resource Directors and Head Start. A news release inviting the community to the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and radio stations, and telephone invitations were given to community partners. Office visitors and clients were also invited to attend this community meeting. Six individuals attended the meetings, and 18 valid surveys were available for computation.

The three most often cited causes of poverty were not enough jobs, low paying jobs, and substance abuse. The three primary needs in the community were jobs that pay a living wage, decent affordable housing, and assistance with health and medical concerns.

## **Community Meeting Report Butler County**

Date: August 26, 2010

Location: Gasper River Baptist Association Office

Attending: 12 attended/103 surveys completed

### Significant causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 2010-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter assistance, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Butler County Community Needs Assessment meeting was held in collaboration with the Morgantown – Butler County Housing Authority, and the Gasper River Association of Baptists. A news release inviting the community to the meetings was sent to the local newspaper, and telephone and written invitations were given to community partners. Office visitors and clients were also invited to attend these community meetings. Twelve individuals attended the meeting, and 103 valid surveys were available for computation.

The three primary needs in Butler County were jobs that pay a living wage, assistance with health and medical concerns, and decent, affordable housing. The three most cited causes of poverty were not enough jobs, low paying jobs, and high cost of living.

## **Community Meeting Report Edmonson County**

Date: September 24, 2010

Location: Edmonson County Community Center, Brownsville

Attending: 15 attended/384 surveys completed

### Significant causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 2010-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter assistance, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Edmonson County Community Needs Assessment meeting was held at the Brownsville Community Center in collaboration with WRECC, American Red Cross, St. Vincent's de Paul, BRASS, BRADD, Hospice of Southern KY. A news release inviting the community to the meeting was sent to the local newspaper, and telephone invitations were given to community partners. Office visitors and clients were also invited to attend this community meeting. Fifteen individuals attended the meeting, and 384 valid surveys were available for computation.

The three most often cited causes of poverty were not enough jobs, low paying jobs, and high cost of living. The three primary needs in the community were jobs that pay a living wage, assistance with health and medical concerns, and decent, affordable housing. Many looking for work have stated that they the lack of education and job skills required to get new employment as an additional cause of poverty.

## **Community Meeting Report Hart County**

Date: August 24, 2010  
Location: Community Action Senior Center  
Attending: 13 attended/378 surveys completed

### Significant Causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 2010-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Hart County Community Needs Assessment meeting was held at the Community Action Senior Center. A news release inviting the community to the meeting was sent to the local newspaper, and telephone invitations were given to community partners. Office visitors and clients were also invited to attend this community meeting. Thirteen individuals attended the meeting, and 378 valid surveys were available for computation.

Jobs that pay a living wage, decent, affordable housing, and assistance with health and medical concerns were the three primary needs in Hart County. Not enough jobs, the high cost of living, and low paying jobs were cited as the three major causes of poverty in the area.

## **Community Meeting Report Logan County**

Date: October 21 and 27, 2010

Location: Russellville Head Start and Adairville Senior Center, respectively

Attending: 29 attended/378 surveys completed

Significant causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 2010-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter assistance, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Logan County Community Needs Assessment meetings were held in collaboration with the Logan County Head Start Parent's meetings at the Russellville Head Start Center, and Adairville Senior Center. A news release inviting the community to the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and written invitations were given to community partners. Office visitors and clients were also invited to attend this community meeting. Twenty nine individuals attended the meeting, and 378 valid surveys were available for computation.

Jobs that pay a living wage, decent affordable housing, and assistance with health / medical concerns or costs were the three most commonly cited needs in Logan County. The major causes of poverty were listed as not enough jobs, low paying jobs, and the high cost of living.

## **Community Meeting Report Metcalfe County**

Date: October 18, 2010

Location: Community Services Office

Attending: 6 attended/65 surveys completed

### Significant causes of poverty:

During the 2010-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter assistance, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Metcalfe County Community Needs Assessment meetings were held in collaboration with the Metcalfe County DCBS and Family Resource Center. A news release inviting the community to the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and written invitations were given to community partners. Office visitors and clients were also invited to attend this community meeting. Six individuals attended the meeting, and 65 valid surveys were available for computation.

Among the need most often noted was jobs that pay a living wage, tied for second was decent, affordable housing and a need for more youth programs. Tying for third most important need was assistance with health concerns or costs and help budgeting money that low income families receive. Also high on the list was a need for more education or job skills. The significant causes of poverty in the area are not enough jobs, low paying jobs, and the high cost of living. Additionally loss of a major employer and ineffective uses of income were among the top causes of poverty.

## **Community Meeting Report Monroe County**

Date: March 16, 2011

Location: Tompkinsville Head Start

Attending: 9 attended/145 surveys completed

### Significant causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 2010-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

Within Monroe County, the Agency's Head Start Program and the Monroe County Extension Office collaborated in this year's Community Needs Assessment. A news release inviting the community to the meeting was sent to the local newspaper. Nine individuals attended the meeting, and 145 surveys were available for computation.

The needs in the area most often cited were described as "Jobs that pay a living wage" in the area, high transportation cost, and not enough jobs. The most often cited causes of poverty reported were not enough local jobs and low wages.

## **Community Meeting Report Simpson County**

Date: October 14, 2010

Location: Simpson County Senior Center

Attending: 14 attended/244 surveys completed

### Significant causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 210-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter assistance, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Simpson County Community Needs Assessment meeting was held at the Simpson County Senior Center. Telephone and written invitations were given to community partners. Fourteen individuals attended the meeting, and 244 valid surveys were available for computation.

Jobs that pay a living wage, decent, affordable housing, and assistance with health and medical concerns were the three most important needs in Simpson County. The most often cited causes of poverty were not enough jobs, low paying jobs, and the high cost of living. Substance abuse and lack of affordable housing also ranked high among causes of poverty.

## **Community Meeting Report Warren County**

Date: September 17, 2010  
Location: Boys and Girls Club  
Attending: 42 attended/1680 surveys completed

### Significant causes of poverty in your county/area:

During the 2010-2011 program year, consumers were invited to respond to a survey as they received services including but not limited to emergency food and shelter assistance, heating assistance, and supportive housing services. Additionally, community partners and consumers were invited to attend a community meeting and to respond to the same survey.

The Warren County Community Needs Assessment was held in collaboration with the County Vision Meeting, hosting community service organizations, including; American Red Cross, Warren County Schools, Bowling Green Police Department, Community Education, WKU Alive Center, United Way, Habitat for Humanity, HOTEL, Inc., and several other service, non-profit, and government agencies. News releases inviting the community to the meetings were sent to the local newspaper. Office visitors and clients were also invited to attend this community meeting. Forty two individuals attended, and 1,680 valid surveys were available for computation.

Jobs that pay a living wage, decent affordable housing, and assistance with health and medical concerns were the primary needs in Warren County. The most often cited causes of poverty were not enough jobs available, low paying jobs, and the high cost of living.



## Community Needs Assessment Questionnaire

Please take a few minutes to answer the following questionnaire. It is part of our agency's annual community needs assessment process. These questions have been designed to help us take an honest look at how best to serve low-income families in our community.

What is your age? 544 18-25    1193 26-35    889 36-44    1013 45-54    803 55-65    606 66 & Over

Are you male or female? 964 Male    4023 Female

What is your race?    126 American Indian    8 Asian    976 Black/African American  
45 Hispanic/Latino    3754 White/Caucasian    55 Other

I am completing this Community Needs Assessment as a:    3459 Client    179 Community Partner  
17 Board Member    428 Community Member

Education level (**Select only one.**)    1517 Less than HS Diploma/GED    1692 HS Diploma/GED  
848 Some College/vocational    460 College/vocational graduate  
112 Post-baccalaureate

Please provide us with the following information about your household. This information will be utilized for statistical purposes only.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of persons living in your household

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of household members under the age of 18 who live in your home at least 6 months out of the year

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of household members ages 60 and over

In which county do you live?    629 Allen    106 Barren    134 Butler    506 Edmonson  
508 Hart    436 Logan    90 Metcalfe    145 Monroe  
414 Simpson    2055 Warren

What are the major needs of your community? **Please mark the (3) most important answers for your family.**

752 More people need to get involved to make our community a better place to live. How? \_\_\_\_\_

1406 Our community needs decent, affordable housing for individuals and families to rent or buy.

2297 People in my community need jobs that pay a living wage.

692 People in my community need more education/job skills. 64 GED/High School    20 Vocational    15 College

456 People in my community need help with budgeting money they receive.

419 People in my community do not have adequate food to meet their nutritional needs.

655 People need more information about programs/services available in the community.

1238 People need assistance with health/medical concerns or costs.

227 People need assistance with school supplies.

589 Our community needs more youth programs.

631 Our community needs more rental assistance programs.

414 Our community needs more help in repairing homes.

272 Our community needs emergency shelters.

238 Our community needs more housing for the elderly and/or handicapped.

173 Our community needs senior citizen programs.

127 Our community needs parenting skills classes.

125 Our community needs healthy marriage/ healthy relationship classes.

389 Our community needs a transportation system.

252 Our community needs to have safe, affordable child care (subsidized).

70 Our community needs support groups. What kind? \_\_\_\_\_

388 Our community needs more available services to help people become self reliant.

Please turn page over. →

What do you think are the major causes of poverty where you live? **Please choose only three (3) reasons.**

- |                                 |                                      |   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <u>397</u> Divorce              | <u>371</u> Lack of training          | <u>477</u> Poor health/low access to health services    |
| <u>2349</u> Not enough jobs     | <u>402</u> Low motivation            | <u>578</u> Lack of affordable housing                   |
| <u>1820</u> Low paying jobs     | <u>164</u> Domestic violence         | <u>391</u> Not enough government assistance             |
| <u>535</u> Substance abuse      | <u>228</u> Teen pregnancy            | <u>351</u> Loss of major employer                       |
| <u>1557</u> High cost of living | <u>361</u> Ineffective use of income | <u>513</u> Lack of education: choose one                |
|                                 |                                      | <u>79</u> GED/HS <u>20</u> Vocational <u>25</u> College |

What services or programs does your community need? **Please mark three (3) of the services most needed by your family.**

- 805 Programs (Information Fairs) that explain the services available in my community
- 1753 Emergency financial assistance programs for rent/mortgage/utilities
- 422 Adult education programs
- 472 Budget training programs
- 1641 Low rent housing programs
- 196 Volunteer programs
- 1199 Job training programs
- 796 Food pantries/commodities
- 1213 Health care assistance
- 370 Senior citizen programs
- 224 Parenting skills classes
- 216 Healthy marriage/healthy relationship classes
- 130 Spouse abuse shelter/counseling
- 715 Transportation
- 322 Subsidized child care
- 98 Adult daycare
- 120 Support groups –what types? \_\_\_\_\_
- 292 School supply assistance
- 601 Youth programs
- 289 Health/nutrition education

What makes it tough for you or your family members to get and keep a job? **Please choose no more than two (2) reasons.**

- |                                      |                               |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>846</u> No training or job skills | <u>1282</u> Health problems   | <u>675</u> Lack of transportation |
| <u>489</u> No child care             | <u>179</u> Lack of motivation | <u>105</u> Discrimination         |
| <u>1320</u> Disability               | <u>691</u> Currently employed | <u>427</u> Other _____            |
| <u>297</u> No affordable child care  |                               |                                   |

Do you rent or own your home? **Please choose only one (1) answer.**

- 2284 I rent my home.
- 544 I rent my home, and my rent is based on my income (Section 8, HUD, Shelter Plus Care, any government assistance).
- 1573 I own my home.

*Thank you for completing this questionnaire. This information will assist us in helping people, meeting the community needs, and providing hope. This program is funded, in part, under a contract with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services/Department for Community Based Services with funds from the Community Service Block Grant Act of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*