

To remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency, the statewide needs assessment explores the eight community action poverty indicators.

1. To benefit from accessible and affordable healthcare.
2. To secure and retain meaningful employment.
3. To utilize available transportation options.
4. To attain an adequate education, with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families.
5. To make better use of available income.
6. To obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment.
7. To ensure proper nutrition by encouraging healthy eating habits.
8. To obtain emergency assistance to meet immediate and urgent family and individual basic living needs.

The following poverty indicators served as our primary and secondary data collection issue areas.

Poverty Indicators:

- Health
- Employment
- Transportation
- Education
- Use of Income
- Housing
- Nutrition
- Emergency Situations

Supplemental Indicators:

- Children’s Needs

Primary and Secondary Data Collection

After determining the poverty indicators, our focus shifted to the identification of primary data collection sources. Primary sources included gathering quantitative and qualitative feedback through surveys.

Survey Results

CAPNC identified survey distribution partners throughout Natrona County. As a result, there were only 20% of the circulated client surveys completed and 20% of the circulated community partners surveys completed. Consequently, there were 279 needs assessment survey respondents, with the largest segment of respondents ages 24-44. The majority were female (73.8%), White (80.8%), with a monthly household income of \$1,666+ (14.0%) listing high school/G.E.D. as the highest level of education completed (29.1%). Survey respondents were asked whether a key area or poverty indicator was an issue for them and/or their family.



The overall ranking of the eight key poverty indicators along with the top three reasons identified for each was as follows:

1. Health – 41.3%

The top three reasons identified were:

1. Lack of health insurance
2. Lack of dental services
3. Lack of free or low-cost medical services

2. Housing – 40.1%

The top three reasons identified were:

1. Affordability of rent/house payments
2. Lack of affordable/suitable housing
3. Credit Issues

3. Employment – 34.9%

The top three reasons identified were:

1. Lack of employment opportunities
2. Lack of reliable transportation
3. Physical Disability

4. Transportation – 30.4%

The top three reasons identified were:

1. Price of gas
2. Cost of owning and operating a vehicle
3. Cost of vehicle repair

5. Use of Income – 25%

The top three reasons identified were:

1. Lack of knowledge about addressing credit issues
2. Lack of knowledge on how to save/invest money
3. Lack of knowledge about money management, i.e. credit card debt, budgeting, checking accounts, etc.

6. Nutrition – 22.8%

The top three reasons identified were:

1. Not enough income to cover food cost
2. Not eligible for food stamps (SNAP)
3. Lack of transportation, i.e. to grocery store, food pantry or other food resources

7. Education – 13.1%

The top three reasons identified were:

1. Lack of vocational skills or training
2. Lack of computer access at home
3. Lack of GED/Adult Education Classes

8. Emergency Situations*

The top three reasons identified were:

1. No health insurance
2. Lack of income for prescription drugs
3. Lack of food

*(NOTE: The format of the Emergency Situations did not allow for a ranking or percentage; rather it asked respondents to *choose the three most important emergency situations that may be problems in the area.*)

Community Stakeholder Feedback

The second form of primary data collection came from surveying community stakeholder representatives from a variety of social service agencies listed under Acknowledgement and other community members. The purpose of these surveys was to identify how other agencies might be addressing the key poverty indicators.

Open-ended questions about each of the key poverty indicators encouraged expression of qualitative feedback. Questions such as, "Is your agency addressing EMPLOYMENT issues in your community and if so, how? The responses in detail are included at the end of each poverty issue as part of the county reports. Overall questions and responses included the following feedback.

Please describe your involvement with the community

- 30 - Other.....left blank
- 25 - Social Service Provider (not CAPNC)
- 10 - Early Head Start or Head Star personnel
- 9 - Casper Workforce personnel
- 6 - Teacher/Educator
- 4 - CAPNC employee
- 4 - Local Clinic or Hospital personnel
- 3 - Concerned parent
- 3 - Public Defender
- 2 - Continuum of Care Collaborative
- 2 - Local County Health Department personnel
- 2 - Local elected County Commissioner
- 2 - Local physician/nurse
- 2 - Public school board or school official
- 1 - Boys & Girls Club personnel
- 1 - Early Head Start or Head Start Parent
- 1 - Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing personnel
- 1 - Law Enforcement Personnel
- 1 - Veterans Service Provider