

In 2016, Couleecap Inc. conducted a needs assessment to gather information regarding the needs of low-income individuals and families in La Crosse County. Information was gathered via surveys designed for low-income households. Surveys were distributed and a total of 296 responses were used in the analysis of the survey data.

Demographic information about the low-income households includes:

- 64% had annual incomes less than \$20,000; an additional 19% had incomes between \$20,000 and \$29,999.
- 60% had income from wages; 7% from self-employment; 4% from unemployment.
- Other sources of cash income / support:
  - 38% FoodShare
  - 33% BadgerCare
  - 31% Medicaid / Medicare
  - 24% Food Pantry
  - 21% Utility Assistance
  - 16% from Social Security
  - 16% from Family and Friends
  - 13% from Child Support
  - 12% from Social Security Disability
  - 11% Housing Subsidy
  - 9% from SSI
  - 8% Rent Assistance
- Of the respondents with housing:
  - 29% were renters
  - 48% owned their own home
- 25% could be considered homeless.
- 41% had children:
  - 21% with children were single-parent households
  - 20% with children were married-parent households
- 35% had at least one person limited by a physical, mental or emotional problem.
- 12% of adults did not have health insurance; 6% of children did not have health insurance.

Information from the 2016 Couleecap Needs Assessment along with information from other recent, local reports, surveys, and/or assessments will be used to help plan for and implement services to address the needs of low-income households across the Couleecap, Inc. service area.

## **Outcomes**

*Low-Income Households.* Households that responded to the needs assessment were asked to rate issues that were a need for their household. The table below reports the eight areas of need (rank ordered from most to least important) and the top two concerns within each area:

<b>Areas of Need</b>	<b>Significant Concerns</b>
<b>Housing</b>	Paying for utility bills Paying for rent / security deposit
<b>Transportation</b>	Paying for car service / repairs Paying for car insurance
<b>Health</b>	Having adequate health insurance Dealing with increased levels of stress
<b>Employment</b>	Finding a job with higher wages Getting training for a better job
<b>Emergency Assistance</b>	Getting help with utility bills Getting help with rent / security deposit
<b>Education</b>	Paying for school Learning money management skills
<b>Child and Family Development</b>	Obtaining affordable, quality child care Finding child care when child is sick
<b>Business Development</b>	Getting business start-up help Getting business start-up loans

All of the data gathered from the household surveys are reported in the finding sections of this report.