

In 2016, Couleecap Inc. conducted a needs assessment to gather information regarding the needs of low-income individuals and families in Vernon County. Information was gathered via surveys designed for low-income households. Surveys were distributed and a total of 161 responses were used in the analysis of the survey data.

Demographic information about the low-income households includes:

- 71% had annual incomes less than \$20,000; an additional 18% had incomes between \$20,000 and \$29,999.
- 31% had income from wages; 18% from self-employment; 2% from unemployment.
- Other sources of cash income / support:
 - 52% from Food Pantry
 - 48% from FoodShare
 - 32% from Medicaid / Medicare
 - 31% from Social Security
 - 28% from Utility Assistance
 - 25% from BadgerCare
 - 19% from Social Security Disability
 - 12% from SSI
 - 8% from Family and Friends
- Of those with housing:
 - 35% were renters
 - 54% owned their own home
- 8% could be considered homeless.
- 30% had children:
 - 14% with children were single-parent households
 - 16% with children were married-parent households
- 42% had at least one person limited by a physical, mental or emotional problem.
- 9% of adults did not have health insurance; 5% 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:

Areas of Need	Significant Concerns
Health	Having adequate health insurance Paying for health insurance, dental care, eye care, and prescription drugs
Housing	Paying for utility bills Paying for home repairs
Emergency Assistance	Getting help with utility bills Getting help with house repairs
Transportation	Paying for car service / repairs Paying for car insurance
Employment	Finding a job with higher wages Getting training for a better job
Child and Family Development	Obtaining affordable, quality child care Dealing with teenager(s)
Education	Paying for school Getting training for a better job
Business Development	Getting business start-up loans Getting business start-up help

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