

In 2016, Couleecap Inc. conducted a needs assessment to gather information regarding the needs of low-income individuals and families in a four-county service area (Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties). Information was gathered via surveys designed for low-income households. Surveys were distributed in the Couleecap service area and a total of 901 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 14% had incomes between \$20,000 and \$29,999.
- 44% had income from wages; 10% from self-employment; 4% from unemployment.
- Other sources of cash income / support:
 - 45% from FoodShare
 - 44% from Food Pantry
 - 34% from Medicaid / Medicare
 - 28% from BadgerCare
 - 25% from Social Security
 - 24% from Utility Assistance
 - 17% from Social Security Disability
 - 13% from SSI
 - 11% from Family and Friends
- Of the respondents with housing:
 - 47% were renters
 - 48% owned their own home
- 15% could be considered homeless.
- 37% had children:
 - 17% with children were single-parent households
 - 20% with children were married-parent households
- 43% had at least one person limited by a physical, mental or emotional problem.
- 14% of adults did not have health insurance; 7% 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
Housing	Paying for utility bills Paying for rent / security deposit
Emergency Assistance	Getting help with utility bills Need for food
Transportation	Paying for car insurance Paying for car service / repairs
Health	Getting and paying for dental care Paying for health insurance, health care, eye care, and prescription drugs
Employment	Finding a job with higher wages Getting health benefits with job
Education	Paying for school Getting training for a better job
Child and Family Development	Obtaining affordable, quality child care Correcting / disciplining my child
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.