



Executive Summary – Coulee Region 2016 Needs Assessment (By Race / Ethnicity: Black / African American)

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.

The responses reported here are from low-income households that reported their race / ethnicity as Black / African American. The data represents at least 141 people (adults and children) that live in the Coulee Region. Demographic information about these low-income households includes:

- 71% had annual incomes less than \$20,000; an additional 9% had incomes between \$20,000 and \$29,999
- 53% had income from wages; 4% from self-employment; 11% from unemployment.
- Sources of cash income / support:
 - 47% from FoodShare
 - 30% from Food Pantry
 - 30% from Medicaid / Medicare
 - 20% from Social Security Disability
 - 11% from Social Security
 - 4% from SSI
- Of the respondents with housing:
 - 65% were renters
 - 12% owned their own home
- 20% could be considered homeless.
- 49% had children:
 - 36% with children were single-parent households
 - 13% with children were married-parent households
- 35% had at least one person limited by a physical, mental or emotional problem.

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 |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Transportation | Finding a reliable car Buying a car, paying for car services / repairs |
| Employment | Finding a job with higher wages Finding a permanent job, with health insurance |
| Emergency Assistance | Getting help with rent payment Getting help with utility bills |
| Housing | Paying for utility bills Paying for rent / security deposit |
| Health | Getting and paying for dental care Paying for health insurance |
| Education | Paying for school Learning money management skills |
| Child and Family Development | Available child care Child care for school age children |
| Business Development | Getting business start-up loans Developing a business plan |