

2024/2025
Community Needs Assessment and
Community Action Plan

DRAFT

California Department of Community Services
and Development

Community Services Block Grant



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Introduction

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has developed the 2024/2025 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP) template for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Service Providers network. Each agency must submit a completed CAP, including a CNA to CSD on or before **June 30, 2023**. Changes from the previous template are detailed below in the “What’s New for 2024/2025?” section. Provide all narrative responses in 12-point Arial font with 1.15 spacing. When the CNA and CAP are complete, they should not exceed 65 pages, excluding the appendices.

Purpose

Public Law 105-285 (the CSBG Act) and the California Government Code require that CSD secure a CAP, including a CNA from each agency. Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act directs that receipt of a CAP is a condition to receive funding. Section 12747(a) of the California Government Code requires the CAP to assess poverty-related needs, available resources, feasible goals, and strategies that yield program priorities consistent with standards of effectiveness established for the program. Although CSD may prescribe statewide priorities or strategies that shall be considered and addressed at the local level, each agency is authorized to set its own program priorities in conformance to its determination of local needs. The CAP supported by the CNA is a two-year plan that shows how agencies will deliver CSBG services. CSBG funds are by their nature designed to be flexible. They shall be used to support activities that increase the capacity of low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient.

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification

The Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances are found in section 676(b) of the CSBG Act. These assurances are an integral part of the information included in the CSBG State Plan. A list of the assurances that are applicable to CSBG agencies has been provided in the Federal Programmatic Assurances section of this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and certify that they are complying.

State Assurances and Certification

As required by the CSBG Act, states are required to submit a State Plan as a condition to receive funding. Information provided in agencies’ CAPs will be included in the CSBG State Plan. Alongside Organizational Standards, the state will be reporting on [State Accountability Measures](#) in order to ensure accountability and program performance improvement. A list of the applicable State Assurances and the agency certification for them are found in the State Assurances section of this template.

Compliance with CSBG Organizational Standards

As described in the Office of Community Services (OCS) [Information Memorandum \(IM\) #138](#) dated January 26, 2015, CSBG agencies will comply with implementation of the Organizational Standards. CSD has identified the Organizational Standards that are met through the completion of the CAP and the CNA. A list of Organizational Standards that will be met upon completion of the CAP can be found in the Organizational Standards section of this template. Agencies are encouraged to utilize this list as a resource when reporting on the Organizational Standards annually.

What's New for 2024/2025?

Community Action Plan Workgroup (CAPWG). In summer 2022, CSD organized a workgroup to inform the development of the 2024/2025 CNA and CAP. Workgroup members were selected from the CSBG Service Provider network and the ROMA Coalition. The feedback CSD received from the workgroup has informed not only the 2024/2025 template but also the accompanying CAP training scheduled for mid-December 2022.

Public Hearings – Additional Guidance. The public hearing requirement has been modified. Two years ago, we were in an active pandemic due to the COVID-19 virus. The public health guidelines throughout the state advised communities against large gatherings. CSD advised agencies to follow public health protocols and hold public meeting virtually if an in-person meeting was not an option. For the public hearing on the 2024/2025 draft CAP, CSD requests that agencies conduct in-person, virtual, or hybrid public hearings. While transmission rates of COVID-19 remain high in many communities, agencies are requested to follow their local public health guidelines when deciding in which format to conduct the public hearing. For more information, please see the Public Hearing section of this template.

CNA Helpful Resources. The Helpful Resources section in Part I: Community Needs Assessment contains additional data sets and resources. On recommendation of the CAPWG, CSD has added data sets from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Wisconsin, and a point-in-time data set from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We have also added links to the Local Agencies Portal where you can find examples of completed Community Needs Assessments and project timelines from the CSBG Service Providers network.

Part II: Community Action Plan. The number of questions in the Tripartite Board of Directors, Service Delivery System, Linkages and Funding Coordination, and Monitoring sections has changed. Questions were removed because it was determined that agencies meet these reporting requirements through other CSBG work products such as monitoring and Organizational Standards. In the Service Delivery System and Linkages and Funding Coordination sections, new questions were added. These questions will be covered during the template training webinar.

Sunset of COVID-19 Flexibilities. In the 2022/2023 template, CSD allowed agencies to indicate on selected questions whether there were changes to the response provided in the 2020-2021 CAP or whether agencies would like CSD to accept the 2020-2021 response without adaptations. This option was an effort to reduce administrative burden on agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic. While

CSD has retained some of the flexibilities developed in the previous template, the option for agencies to reference responses in their prior CAP has been discontinued.

Response and Community Awareness. This section replaces the “Additional Information” section in the previous template. For 2024/2025 CSD has included questions pertaining to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The questions about disaster preparedness have been retained from the previous template. While none of this information is directly mandated by statute, CSD is requesting the information to gauge where the CSBG Service Provider network is as a whole on these topics. Responses to the questions in this section are mandatory.

ROMA Certification Requirement. Under section 676(b)(12) of the CSBG Act, CSD and all CSBG agencies are required to assure that we will participate in a Results Oriented Management and Accountability System “not later than fiscal year 2001.” CSD and the CSBG Service Providers have fulfilled this requirement through various approaches. With respect to the ROMA certification of the network CAPs (Organizational Standard 4.3), CSD has allowed agencies to submit their CAP without the signature of a ROMA trainer or implementer if the agency did not have a ROMA trainer or implementer on staff. CSD staff who had the requisite training would certify those CAPs on behalf of the agencies. This process will still be in place for the 2024/2025 template. However, for the 2026/2027 template, CSD will require that CSBG Service Providers provide their own ROMA certification either by staff who have the required ROMA training or in partnership with another agency or organization. CSBG Service Providers should begin formulating a plan to fulfill this requirement.

Checklist

- Cover Page and Certification**
- Public Hearing(s)**

Part I: Community Needs Assessment

- Narrative**
- Results**

Part II: Community Action Plan

- Vision Statement**
- Mission Statement**
- Tripartite Board of Directors**
- Service Delivery System**
- Linkages and Funding Coordination**
- Monitoring**
- Data Analysis, Evaluation, and ROMA Application**
- Response and Community Awareness**
- Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification**
- State Assurances and Certification**
- Organizational Standards**
- Appendices**

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)
2024/2025 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan
Cover Page and Certification

Agency Name	COMMUNITY ACTION OF VENTURA COUNTY
Name of CAP Contact	
Title	
Phone	
Email	

CNA Completed MM/DD/YYYY:
 (Organizational Standard 3.1)

Board and Agency Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency complies with the Federal CSBG Programmatic, and State Assurances as outlined in the CSBG Act and California Government Code, respectively for services provided under the Federal Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Community Action Plan. The undersigned further certifies the information in this Community Needs Assessment and the Community Action Plan is correct and has been authorized by the governing body of this organization. (Organizational Standard 3.5)

Board Chair (printed name)	Board Chair (signature)	Date
Executive Director (printed name)	Executive Director (signature)	Date

Certification of ROMA Trainer/Implementer (If applicable)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency's Community Action Plan and strategic plan documents the continuous use of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation).

NCRT/NCRI (printed name)	NCRT/NCRI (signature)	Date

CSD Use Only

Dates CAP (Parts I & II)		Accepted By
Received	Accepted	

Public Hearing(s)

California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d)

State Statute Requirements

As required by California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d), agencies are required to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the draft CAP. All testimony presented by low-income individuals and families during the public hearing shall be identified in the final CAP. Agencies shall indicate whether or not the concerns expressed by low-income individuals and families have been addressed. If an agency determines that any of the concerns have not been addressed in the CAP, the agency shall include in its response document, information about the concerns and comment as to their validity.

Guidelines

Notice of Public Hearing

1. Notice of the public hearing and comment period must be published at least 15 calendar days prior to the public hearing.
2. The notice may be published on the agency's website, social media channels, and/or in newspaper(s) of local distribution.
3. The notice must include information about the draft CAP; where members of the community may review, or how they may receive a copy of, the draft CAP; the dates of the comment period; where written comments may be sent; date, time, and location of the public hearing; and the agency contact information.
4. The comment period should be open for at least 15 calendar days prior to the public hearing. Agencies may opt to extend the comment period for a selected number of days after the hearing.
5. The draft CAP must be made available for public review and inspection at least 30 days prior to the public hearing. The draft CAP can be posted on the agency's website, social media channels, and distributed electronically or in paper format.
6. Attach a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing as Appendix A to the final CAP.

Public Hearing

1. Agencies must conduct at least one public hearing on the draft CAP.
2. Public hearing(s) will be held in the designated CSBG service area(s).
3. Low-income testimony presented at the hearing or received during the comment period must be memorialized verbatim in the Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document and appended to the final CAP as Appendix B.
4. The Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document should include the name of low-income individual, his/her verbatim testimony, an indication of whether or not the need was addressed in the draft CAP, and the agency's response to the testimony if the concern was not addressed in the draft CAP.

Additional Guidance

COVID-19 poses unique challenges to fulfilling the public hearing requirement. CSD asks that agencies continue to adhere to state and local public health guidance to slow the spread of the virus and ensure public safety. The health and safety of agency staff and the communities you serve is paramount. Therefore, for the purposes of fulfilling the public hearing requirement on the draft CAP, agencies may conduct the public hearing in-person, remotely, or using a hybrid model (in-person and remotely) based on the public health protocols in place in their communities.

Public Hearing Report

Date(s) of Public Hearing(s)	
Location(s) of Public Hearing(s)	
Dates of the Comment Period(s)	
Where was the Notice of Public Hearing published? (agency website, newspaper, social media channels)	
Date the Notice(s) of Public Hearing(s) was published	
Number of Attendees at the Public Hearing(s) (Approximately)	

Part I: Community Needs Assessment

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

Helpful Resources

In 2011, NASCSP published a [Community Action to Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Tool](#) that supports planning and implementing a comprehensive CNA. The tool lays out design choices, planning steps, implementation practices, analysis, and presentation options.

The National Community Action Partnership has an [Assessment Tool](#) designed specifically for the community needs assessment process. Here you can select from a variety of county-specific data sets.

Examples of Community Needs Assessments and project timelines from agencies within the California CSBG Providers network can be found on the [Local Agencies Portal](#) under the CSBG – Resources tab. If you do not have an account or have not received CSD login credentials, please email CSD at ExternalAccess@csd.ca.gov.

To provide a comprehensive “picture” of the community needs in your service area(s), agencies will collect and analyze both quantitative and qualitative data. Links to several national and state quantitative data sets are given below. Local and agency data also provide information about the needs of the community.

Sample Data Sets			
U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Data	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic Data	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Data & Report	
HUD Exchange PIT and HIC Data Since 2007		National Low-Income Housing Coalition Housing Needs by State	National Center for Education Statistics IPEDS
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator		University of Wisconsin Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings	
California Department of Education School Data via DataQuest	California Employment Development Department UI Data by County	California Department of Public Health Various Data Sets	
California Department of Finance Demographics	California Attorney General Open Justice	California Governor’s Office Covid-19 Data	California Health and Human Services Data Portal
CSD Census Tableau Data by County			Population Reference Bureau KidsData

Community Needs Assessment Narrative

CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(3)(C), 676(b)(9)

Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

1. Describe how your agency collected and included current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for your service area. (Organizational Standard 3.2)

The CAVC Community Needs Assessment Community Survey included questions on household characteristics, income, employment, gender, age, and race/ethnicity. Additionally, data was collected from the U.S. Census American Community Survey, Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, UCLA Labor Center, and Ventura County Community Health Collaborative

2. Describe the geographic location(s) that your agency is funded to serve with CSBG. If applicable, include a description of the various pockets, high-need areas, or neighborhoods of poverty that are being served by your agency.

We provide services throughout Ventura County, which has a significant income disparity. The area includes affluent communities like Thousand Oaks and West Lake Village, as well as areas with high poverty rates, such as Oxnard and Santa Paula. The top 1% of earners in the county make an average of \$1.298 million, while the remaining 99% earn an average of \$62,000 per year. Approximately 8.9% of Ventura County's residents live below the poverty line, with the majority of those living in Oxnard and Santa Paula, but there are also pockets of poverty in certain zip codes. 93001, 93003, 91360, 93012, 93041, 93015, 93022, 93023, 93063, 93065, 93021.

3. Indicate from which sources your agency collected and analyzed quantitative data for the CNA. (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

Federal Government/National Data Sets

- Census Bureau
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Department of Housing & Urban Development
- Department of Health & Human Services
- National Low-Income Housing Coalition
- National Center for Education Statistics
- Academic data resources
- Other online data resources
- Other

Local Data Sets

- Local crime statistics
- High school graduation rate
- School district school readiness
- Local employers
- Local labor market
- Childcare providers
- Public benefits usage
- County Public Health Department
- Other

California State Data Sets

- Employment Development Department
- Department of Education
- Department of Public Health
- Attorney General
- Department of Finance
- State Covid-19 Data
- Other

Surveys

- Clients
- Partners and other service providers
- General public
- Staff
- Board members
- Private sector
- Public sector
- Educational institutions

Agency Data Sets

- Client demographics
- Service data
- CSBG Annual Report
- Client satisfaction data
- Other

4. If you selected "Other" in any of the data sets in Question 4, list the additional sources.

5. Indicate the approaches your agency took to gather qualitative data for the CNA. (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

Surveys

- Clients
- Partners and other service providers
- General public
- Staff
- Board members
- Private sector
- Public sector
- Educational institutions

Interviews

- Local leaders
- Elected officials
- Partner organizations' leadership
- Board members
- New and potential partners
- Clients

Focus Groups

- Local leaders
- Elected officials
- Partner organizations' leadership
- Board members
- New and potential partners
- Clients
- Staff

 Community Forums **Asset Mapping** **Other**

6. If you selected "Other" in Question 6, please list the additional approaches your agency took to gather qualitative data.

7. Describe your agency's analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data collected from low-income individuals and families. (Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.3)

After analyzing the qualitative data from 6 focus groups made up of clients, community members, and leaders within our low-income communities, we compared their top needs identified with the utmost needs identified in the surveys (quantitative data)

For example, The quantitative data indicated housing insecurity as the top need in our survey. The top need identified in our qualitative data was the lack of affordable housing, a real need expressed in our focus groups. All the focus groups we facilitated in person to gather qualitative data were about 60-80 minutes. We conducted focus groups in cities where we know levels of poverty are high and also in cities where the perception is the community is affluent, but we are aware that there is a real need for assistance in those communities as well; We facilitated four focus groups in English, one in Spanish and another one was bilingual. When comparing this data to the larger sets (Census Bureau Statistics), our data amplified the issues in low-income communities.

We also worked closely with agency partners to help us promote the survey among the low-income communities they serve. The survey and focus groups were also open to everyone in Ventura County.

8. Summarize the data gathered from each sector of the community listed below and detail how your agency used the information to assess needs and resources in your agency's service area(s). Your agency must demonstrate that each sector was included in the needs assessment; A response for each sector is required. (CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(3)(C), 676(b)(9), Organizational Standard 2.2)

A. Community-based organizations

During focus group conversations, service providers from partner agencies expressed feeling burnt out or spread too thin. Community-based organizations have been on the front line, helping clients during and after the most challenging time of the pandemic. They feel exhausted, and with inflation and more families needing transportation and experiencing food insecurity, they require more assistance to continue their work. Some desire more support from elected officials, while others want to see more collaboration among community-based organizations to fill in the gaps. Moreover, hiring and filling all positions has been challenging due to a lack of funding and inflation. It's difficult to retain team members at the current pay rate. To better serve our communities and colleagues from other agencies, we must recognize the importance of collaboration and coalition building. It's also crucial to identify ways to support team members

and agency partners who may be overextended.

B. Faith-based organizations

Data gathered through discussion with our faith-based partner, it was expressed that many low-income families in our community are unable to access much-needed aid due to their undocumented status. Despite residing in California for an extended period, they are ineligible for unemployment benefits and other COVID-related assistance. As a result, they are facing numerous obstacles with limited support. While we have been able to support them through CSBG-funded programs, these programs serve the entire low-income community, and we are unable to meet all of their needs. To address this issue, we plan to work with other agencies to provide additional aid to these families. We will also fundraise for utility assistance, as they are not eligible for HEAP. It is worth noting that 70% of our agriculture workforce in Ventura County is undocumented, underscoring the pressing need for assistance.

C. Private sector (local utility companies, charitable organizations, local food banks)

Feedback gathered through focus group interviews revealed that the pandemic has had a significant impact on families. Those who lost their jobs faced difficulty finding new employment due to a shortage of available jobs and a lack of reliable childcare. Even when they were able to secure a job, it often did not provide a living wage. As a result of the pandemic, inflation has risen to an all-time high, and with the COVID-19 benefits coming to an end, more families are experiencing food insecurity than in previous years. Our Community Market served 5247 unduplicated households in 2022, and we have seen an increase in the number of families coming to our food pantry in 2023. This may be due to other food pantries closing, while ours has remained open and consistent for years. We work with over 25 local pantries to distribute produce from our food hub program bi-weekly, serving other areas in the county. We recognize that food insecurity is a challenge for families across the country, and we are committed to continuing to provide support. However, we need to find additional funding sources to sustain and expand our program to reach families who cannot make it to our Community Market.

D. Public sector (social services departments, state agencies) Based on focus group interviews, it was found that the unhoused members of our community require more shelter beds and programs that address their mental health. It is important for local cities to take more responsibility for the unhoused and for there to be an increase in the number of social workers who can assist in obtaining housing. Our homeless services program provides hygiene support, mail services, food, and referrals, and in 2022 we aided 372 unduplicated unhoused adults. Although we cannot take on mental health assistance ourselves, we aim to

establish better relationships with agencies that can provide it and make more effective referrals. Collaboration is also a key focus for us.

E. Educational institutions (local school districts, colleges)

Data gathered in focus group conversation with college professor and community liaison in the local school district, primary concern is that young people are feeling disconnected and are more comfortable doing everything online. The professor is worried that they might not participate in in-person events. The pandemic has caused the community to lose social connections, and we can still see the impact on mental health. To address this, we plan to expand mental wellness community workshops and collaborate with the county's public health and behavioral health department to increase resources and reach. Another concern is overcrowding in housing, which affects the mental wellness of the household. We will continue to advocate for safe housing accessible to our low-income community.

9. "Causes of poverty" are the negative factors that create or foster barriers to self-sufficiency and/or reduce access to resources in communities in which low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of the data, describe the causes of poverty in your agency's service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

Our focus group and survey data analysis revealed several obstacles preventing individuals from transitioning out of homelessness and into stable, low-income housing. Additionally, there are even more challenges when trying to move from low-income to "above the poverty line" and eventually homeownership, as expressed by the majority of our focus groups.

For those experiencing homelessness, immediate access to housing and a supportive system equipped to address mental health and substance abuse issues are critical. There is also a perception that the more dire one's situation, the better their chance of accessing services and becoming eligible for housing. We require more assistance to maintain housing for those currently unhoused and preventative measures to keep families from experiencing homelessness.

As the COVID emergency ends, we are witnessing more families who owe back rent and may face eviction. Our survey results demonstrated that high rental prices are participants' primary difficulty, with 78% of respondents citing this challenge. This was also unanimously expressed by our focus groups.

An area that needs improvement is providing living wage jobs for low-income families and individuals. Even if they work full-time or have multiple positions, their salary should be increased to cover their expenses. During a focus group, one participant shared that they sometimes struggle to have enough food. This challenge is even more significant for families who depend on agriculture jobs, as they cannot work during rain or fire seasons.

To sum up, the high cost of rent, inflation, and shortage of jobs that pay a living wage result in significant income inequality. On one side, there is a county with a lot of wealth, while on the other, there is extreme poverty. People who have to spend much of their income on rent cannot save for emergencies, pay off debts, buy a house, take care of their health, or afford medical expenses. The lack of affordable housing options is a significant obstacle to reducing homelessness and helping people move out of poverty.

10. "Conditions of poverty" are the negative environmental, safety, health and/or economic conditions that may reduce investment or growth in communities where low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of the data, describe the conditions of poverty in your agency's service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

We serve a diverse community that includes children, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, youth, families, and individuals. Poverty affects everyone, as evidenced by the lack of good-paying jobs near low-income neighborhoods and throughout the county. Additionally, limited transportation makes it difficult for people to get around their neighborhoods. Many feel forgotten and lack access to resources like stable housing, healthy food, and medical care (including dental, vision, and mental health). Limited employment and educational opportunities also contribute to income inequality and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

Poverty has a detrimental impact on individuals and families, especially when combined with other factors. It's important to note that even wealthy areas like Thousand Oaks and Ojai have families struggling to afford basic necessities like food, clothing, utility assistance, and transportation. As a result, the community's overall health declines. Primary healthcare services like vision and dental care, help with medical bills, and access to mental wellness resources are necessary to improve health outcomes and address disparities. It's worth noting that more than 8% of Ventura County's population lacks insurance, so additional interventions are required to handle the effects of poverty. Across the lifespan, residents of impoverished communities are at increased risk for mental illness, chronic disease, and higher mortality rates.

11. Describe your agency's approach or system for collecting, analyzing, and reporting customer satisfaction data to the governing board. (Organizational Standard 1.3)

We use a satisfaction survey form to gather feedback from our customers. The form is conveniently located in our lobby and clients are encouraged to fill it out and return it to our front desk team. Our coordinators also offer the survey form to clients and it's available online. The data from the surveys is analyzed in October and a report is compiled for the board of directors at the end of the year.

Community Needs Assessment Results

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

State Plan 14.1a

Table 1: Needs Table

Complete the table below. Insert row(s) if additional space is needed.

Needs Identified	Level	Agency Mission (Y/N)	Currently Addressing (Y/N)	Agency Priority (Y/N)
Community lacks access to affordable housing	Community	Yes	No	Indirectly
Community lacks living wage jobs	Community	Yes	No	Indirectly
Families lack mental wellness resources	Family	Yes	Yes	Directly
Community lack access to home ownership opportunities	Community	Yes	No	Indirectly
Families lack access to food (Food insecurity)	Family	Yes	Yes	Directly
Families lack access to no cost dental and vision services	Family	Yes	Yes	Directly
Unsheltered individuals lack support services to become housed or find temporary shelter	Family	Yes	Yes	Indirectly
Families lack utility assistance	Family	Yes	Yes	Directly
Families lack day care and before and after school programs	Community	Yes	No	Indirectly
Families lack assistance to pay medications	Family	Yes	No	Indirectly
Families lack resources for transportation (money for gas or dependable public transportation)	Family	Yes	Yes	Directly

Needs Identified: List the needs identified in your most recent CNA.

Level: List the need level, i.e., community or family. Community Level: Does the issue impact the community, not just clients or potential clients of the agency? For example, a community level employment need is: There is a lack of good paying jobs in our community. Family Level: Does the need concern individuals/families who have identified things in their own life that are lacking? An example of a family level employment need would be: Individuals do not have good paying jobs.

Essential to Agency Mission: Indicate if the identified need aligns with your agency's mission.

Currently Addressing: Indicate if your agency is already addressing the identified need.

Agency Priority: Indicate if the identified need will be addressed either directly or indirectly.

Table 2: Priority Ranking Table

List all needs identified as an agency priority in Table 1. Insert row(s) if additional space is needed.

Agency Priorities	Description of programs, services, activities	Indicator(s) or Service(s) Category	Why is the need a priority?
1.Utility Assistance	Weatherize homes and provide electric, gas and water utility assistance	FNPI 4h. SRV 4i.	Data analysis indicated this was a priority in both the survey and focus groups.
2. Food Assistance	Provide food Assistance through Community Market and Food Hub	SRV 5JJ	Focus group analysis indicated food insecurity as a pressing need due to inflation and high rent prices. Many survey and focus group participants depend on food pantries
3.Support Services for unsheltered individuals	Referrals and collaboration to help individuals get housing or temporary shelter. Basic Needs (hygiene) services	FNPI 4a, FNPI b SRV 4m, SRV 4n SRV 5nn, SRV 5oo	There were 2,441 adults and children who were counted as homeless during the point-in-time count. This number represents an increase of 203 persons or 9.1% when compared to the 2,238 persons who were counted as homeless in 2022
4.Mental Health Resources	Workshops for individuals around mental wellness. Referrals to partners (Behavioral Health, NAMI, etc). Provide a space for partners to meet clients at our facility.	FNPI 5b, SRV 5p SRV 5u, SRVP 5hh	More than half of the participants in the survey reported that the pandemic has affected their mental well-being. Mental wellness was also identified as a significant topic during the focus group discussions.
5.Dental and Vision Care access	Partner with free clinics, providers of these services to help make them accessible to more clients. Host free clinic and make referrals	FNPI 5c, SRV 5d SRV 5bb, SRV 5dd	This was the top need within healthcare needs
6. Transportation	Continue providing bus passes, gas gift cards. Work with	SRV 7d	Our analysis of data from focus groups and surveys revealed that our low-

	public transportation companies to advocate for better access to routes,		income population is unable to access resources due to transportation issues. Whether they need money for gas or more bus routes to reach their destinations, lack of transportation is a major barrier.
7. Rent/Own a home	Collaborate with agencies such as VCCD to connect individuals seeking to own a home with appropriate resources. Offer guidance on obtaining credit checks, enhancing credit scores, and acquiring necessary documents. Host financial wellness seminars to assist them in achieving their aspirations.	FNPI 4d, FNP 3e.1 FNPI 3f SRV 4b, SRV 4p SRV 2f	Lack of homeownership opportunities was a top need identified in our focus group interviews.
Affordable Housing	Advocacy	FNPI 6a, FNPI z SRV 6b	78% of survey respondent and 100% of focus group participants indicated affordable housing as the top need
Living wage Jobs	Advocating for creation of living wage jobs and access.	FNPI 6a, FNPI z SRV 6b,	Lack of living wage was the 2 nd top need in our focus group conversations and lack of job opportunities was 2 nd in our survey.

Agency Priorities: Rank your agency's planned programs, services and activities to address the needs identified in Table 1 as agency priorities.

Description of programs, services, activities: Briefly describe the program, services or activities that your agency will provide to address the need. Identify the number of clients to be served or the number of units offered, including timeframes for each.

Indicator/Service Category: List the indicator(s) (CNPI, FNPI) or service(s) (SRV) that will be reported in CSBG Annual Report.

Why is this need a priority: Provide a brief explanation about why this need has been identified as a priority. Connect the need with the data. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A))

Part II: Community Action Plan

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Sections 12745(e), 12747(a)

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 11, Chapter 1, Sections 100651 and 100655

Vision and Mission Statement

1. Provide your agency's Vision Statement.

We envision a community successfully lifting people out of poverty.

2. Provide your agency's Mission Statement.

Helping our community establish pathways out of poverty through advocacy, partnerships and services that promote dignity and self-sufficiency.

Tripartite Board of Directors

CSBG Act Sections 676B(a) and (b); 676(b)(10)

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 11, Chapter 1, Section 100605

1. Describe your agency's procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization or low-income individuals to be inadequately represented on your agency's board to petition for adequate representation. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(10))

Per CAVC's Bylaws; Article I V, Section B

1. Low Income Sector members shall be selected using a democratic selection procedure. Such procedures may include, either alone or in combination:
 - a. Election by ballots cast by the corporation's clients and/or by other low- income people in CAVC's service area
 - b. Election at a community meeting in a low-income neighborhood in the corporation's service area and/or on a topic of interest to low-income people and publicized to low-income people in the corporation's service area; and/or.
 - c. Recommendation by organizations in CAVC'S service area that primarily serve the low-income population. Example: Gold Coast Transportation, Head Start, Gold Coast Health Plan, Workforce Development which all serve primarily low-income families.

Service Delivery System

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A)

State Plan 14.3

1. Describe your agency's service delivery system. Include a description of your client intake process or system and specify whether services are delivered via direct services or subcontractors, or a combination of both. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A), State Plan 14.3)

We provide a wide range of delivery services, such as direct services, information, referral, collaboration, linkages, service centers, job and career centers, outreach, phone and virtual presentations, in-person presentations, walk-ins, workshops, and conferences. Our bilingual staff or interpreters are available to deliver these services in our clients' preferred language. To help low-income individuals overcome transportation barriers, we offer online program applications and can also accept documents through digital submission or drop-off. For added convenience, our clients can also visit our satellite offices in Simi Valley and Santa Paula to speak with a team member or for document drop-off. Our outreach employees play an important role in providing countywide services and coordination. We collaborate with other providers to ensure effective service delivery systems that meet our customers' needs. HEAP, weatherization, community workshops and homeless services participants complete our general intake form.

2. Describe how the poverty data related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity referenced in Part I, Question 1 informs your service delivery and strategies in your service area?

(discuss doing outreach in areas with pockets of poverty levels)

Linkages and Funding Coordination

CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(B) and (C); (3)(B), (C) and (D); 676(b)(4), (5), (6), and (9)

California Government Code Sections 12747, 12760

Organizational Standards 2.1, 2.4

State Plan 9.3a, 9.3b, 9.4b, 9.6, 9.7, 14.1b, 14.1c, 14.3d, 14.4

1. Describe how your agency coordinates funding with other providers in your service area. If there is a formalized coalition of social service providers in your service area, list the coalition(s) by name and methods used to coordinate services/funding. (CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(C), 676(b)(3)(C); Organizational Standard 2.1; State Plan 14.1c, 9.6, 9.7)

Our local food bank partnership has been instrumental in enabling us to sustain and increase food donations as well as volunteer capacity. We have also applied for available grants provided by No kid Hungry. To ensure that those in need are not left behind, we work with other service providers such as 211 to connect with DoorDash Drivers and deliver food boxes to those without transportation. Food Forward provides us with pallets of produce to distribute to our clients, and we also serve as a hub for over 25 food pantries who require produce. Our active outreach has helped us increase our partnerships and collaborations with other agencies. We now have satellite offices in Simi Valley and Santa Paula, where we assist several clients who lack transportation. Our board members have played an instrumental role in creating linkages to inform more communities about all our services. Our Homeless Services program coordinated the 2nd Annual Wellness Day for our unhoused community with the help of other agencies providing services.

2. Provide information on any memorandums of understanding and/or service agreements your agency has with other entities regarding coordination of services/funding. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9), Organizational Standard 2.1; State Plan 14.1c, 9.6, 9.7)

CAVC has formed partnerships with agencies in the county to offer Weatherization, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Outreach, and Community Workshops. We have MOUs with 211, HELP of Ojai, Promotoras & Project Access. Additionally, CAVC works with Food Forward and local pantries to distribute food to those in need and prevent food waste. These agencies include Senior Centers, Community Centers, Advocacy Centers, and Resource Centers. By signing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with these partners, CAVC is able to use their facilities to meet with clients and provide services. CAVC also has an MOU for a satellite office in Santa Paula and Simi Valley, where they share a building with other non-profit agencies.

3. Describe how your agency ensures delivery of services to low-income individuals while avoiding duplication of services in the service area(s). (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(5), State Plan 9.3a, California Government Code 12760)

CAVC programs currently offered include:

- Weatherization of the home, including water heater and appliance repair replacement)
- Home Energy Assistance (Gas or electric bill)
- Water bill assistance
- Community Market (Fresh produce, canned goods)
- Homeless services (focusing on hygiene support, mail service and referrals)
- Community Workshops (Financial wellness and mental wellness and nutrition)

CAVC departments work together with local partners who serve low-income individuals and families. The staff attends community meetings to collaborate with other agencies and provide information on the services available. By working together and forming partnerships, CAVC ensures that services are not duplicated, but rather that gaps are filled

4. Describe how your agency will leverage other funding sources and increase programmatic and/or organizational capacity. (California Government Code Section 12747)

Our current plan at CAVC involves expanding our staff capacity to secure external funding through private donations and foundation partnerships. This will better prepare us for any potential reductions in funding and reduce our reliance on state and federal grants. To achieve this, we have enlisted the help of a consulting firm to boost our marketing and fundraising initiatives. Additionally, we are leveraging funds from LIHEAP programs that include outreach funding, which will benefit all our outreach programs.

5. Describe your agency's contingency plan for potential funding reductions. (California Government Code Section 12747)

We have been ramping up our donor base, a development coordinator position has been created this last year to help with this. The position is looking for additional funding while also increasing the number of private donors and planning any marketing, outreach opportunities as well.

6. Describe how your agency documents the number of volunteers and hours mobilized to support your activities. (Organizational Standard 2.4)

Our Community Market and Homeless Services department relies heavily on volunteers. We also offer internships to college students or individuals who need to complete community service hours. The department heads document the volunteer hours, and the volunteers sign in. The managers keep track of their hours, and the Manager of Community Services records

the hours for the agency.

7. Describe how your agency will address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(1)(B), State Plan 14.1b)

Due to COVID-19, our Los Compadres Program, which supports youth at the county's juvenile detention center, was put on hold in 2020 and 2021. However, we have plans to coordinate a program by partnering with local teachers to facilitate civic engagement discussions and workshops to high school students. Our goal is to engage and empower youth from low-income backgrounds to find solutions to the challenges our communities face.

8. Describe how your agency will promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs such as the establishment of violence-free zones, youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, entrepreneurship programs, after after-school childcare. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(1)(B), State Plan 14.1b)

In addition to our collaboration with local teachers to offer civic engagement discussions and workshops for youth, we also aim to provide financial and mental wellness workshops for young people. Our goal is to increase civic engagement and overall well-being among low income youth.

9. Describe the coordination of employment and training activities as defined in Section 3 of the Workforce and Innovation and Opportunity Act [29 U.S.C. 3102]. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(5); State Plan 9.4b)

CAVC has established connections with the American Job Center in Oxnard and participates in WOIA quarterly meetings. We are able to provide referrals to individuals who are both unhoused and unemployed. Additionally, we have partnered with Remployability, an agency that assists individuals using workers' compensation to find volunteer opportunities while they recover. Furthermore, we have an MOU with Integration Works, a nonprofit that helps individuals with special needs to secure paid internships with agencies. In the near future, our Resource Center will host job readiness workshops in English and Spanish, in conjunction with partner agencies such as the Ventura County Office of Education and the American Job Center. These workshops, which will be available in both virtual and in-person formats, will cover topics such as Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, and other job readiness skills. These services are open to anyone in our community.

10. Describe how your agency will provide emergency supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary, to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(4), State Plan 14.4)

Our food program has grown significantly. In 2022, we provided food assistance to 5,247 households, which translates to 18306 individuals based on Food Share data. Every week, we hold a community market (pantry) where over 350 households participate. We are proud to partner with organizations like 211 and DoorDash to deliver food boxes to 80 disabled individuals who lack transportation and cannot come to our weekly market. Additionally, we collaborate with Food Forward to distribute pallets of food to local pantries in Ventura County. Although our weekly food program operates as a drive-thru, we have a system in place to cater to individuals who walk to our pantry. We also offer food share bags to unhoused individuals who cannot cook. Aside from the weekly food pantry, our Homeless Services program provides coffee, water and small breads or snacks every morning but will also respond to any food need that clients may come in during the week. We have also distributed emergency PPE through our Community Market .

11. Describe how your agency coordinates with other antipoverty programs in your area, including the emergency energy crisis intervention programs under Title XXVI, relating to low-income home energy assistance (LIHEAP) that are conducted in the community. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(6))

The Emergency Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are managed by Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC). CAVC collaborates with other local anti-poverty programs to ensure energy assistance is available to vulnerable families in Ventura County. CAVC aims to coordinate programs and avoid duplication of services to low-income individuals.

1. Other social services, education, training, and employment programs authorized by federal law;
2. When appropriate, joint programs in which activities supported with assistance under CSBG are coordinated with activities of other agencies funded under CSBG;
3. Local welfare agencies, community-based organizations, volunteer groups, business and labor organizations, and other training, education, employment, and social service programs interact with the potential target population.

12. Describe how your agency coordinates services with your local LIHEAP service provider?

We offer LIHEAP services in the county and our team works with other programs to reach out to clients and refer them to other inhouse programs they may be eligible for.

13. Describe how your agency will use funds to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives, which may include fatherhood and other initiatives, with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(D), State Plan 14.3d)

At Community Action, we are always ready to support community and neighborhood initiatives. We are honored to be community partners with the Isabella Project, a pilot program which aims to provide quality early childhood education to all 3- to 4-year-olds in Santa Paula. This is particularly important in Santa Paula, where poverty levels are high. The Isabella Project involves over 70 community partners from diverse sectors, including higher education, childcare, and mental healthcare. The project provides a model for creating a network of wrap-around care through pre-existing and new providers across the city, and it has the potential to be replicated in other counties.

Our workshops focus on financial and mental wellness tools, and we collaborate with credit unions and community-based agencies to deliver them. We cover topics such as budgeting, credit building and repair, saving and goal setting, mental wellness, and tools for maintaining overall wellbeing. Whenever the community expresses a need for a new workshop, we are happy to provide it, as we strive to support the community in every possible way.

14. Describe how your agency will develop linkages to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(B), State Plan 9.3b)

We aim to improve our service quality by identifying gaps through our annual customer satisfaction survey and making necessary changes. Additionally, we collaborate with our partners to address gaps. Based on findings from our previous and current annual reports, we have noticed a high demand for dental and vision care. As a result, we have decided to host a mobile clinic in our facility in partnership with Healing California and United Way. We will continue to refer and inform the community about available resources in the county, as we did in 2022, by making over 2841 referrals, including rental assistance and support for victims of domestic violence. Another gap we found is that undocumented community members only qualify for a few types of service. To assist, we plan to raise funds and help fill that gap.

Monitoring

CSBG Act Section 678D(a)(1)(A) and (B)

1. Describe how your agency's monitoring activities are related to establishing and maintaining the integrity of the CSBG program. Include your process for maintaining high standards of program and fiscal performance.

CAVC maintains high standard in the following areas:

- Program Effectiveness and Efficiency: Examine planning and budgetary process; examine services provided; and examine performance.
- Program Administration: Examine policies and procedures; examine work and communication flow; staff meetings and reports; examine fiscal data and staff reaction to administrative directives and decisions; and community response to programs.
- Staff Effectiveness: Examine and review job descriptions and the degree of variance between duties specified in job description and actual performance, reason of variance. Examine service training programs and staff development.
- Examination of Internal Monitoring System: Examine monthly reports, statistical data. Examine processes and identify problems.
- Analyzing Deficiencies: Examine deficiencies and take corrective action.
- Client Feedback: Clients will be encouraged to provide feedback on the quality and suitability of agency programs. Comment cards will be given to clients during the assessment process.
- Agency Self-Sufficiency: Agency self-sufficiency progress is evaluated every six months by staff.

2. If your agency utilizes subcontractors, please describe your process for monitoring the subcontractors. Include the frequency, type of monitoring, i.e., onsite, desk review, or both, follow-up on corrective action, and issuance of formal monitoring reports.

To establish and effectively support the needs of the subcontractors.

- Effective channels of communications will be clearly defined and established.
- A Statement of Work will be developed jointly by the team with each subcontractor taking responsibility for the deliverables and services outlined in its areas of responsibility.

- Each subcontractor will have its responsibilities and authorities clearly defined in the Statement of Work.
- Each subcontractor will have its deliverables identified and required content clearly specified in the Statement of Work.
- Each subcontractor will have the services it is responsible for providing clearly identified and described in the Statement of Work.
- All constraints imposed on the subcontractor will be clearly identified in the Statement of Work, including schedule and budget constraints.
- Each subcontractor will have requirements for quality clearly identified to it in the Statement of Work, including the requirement to allow independent quality inspections of materials and processes.
- All products and services provided by the subcontractor will be subject to the acceptance of the State of California CSD Department, CAVC, Building Code Compliance and Building Materials Compliance Code.
- CAVC will support subcontractors in processing invoices and payments, subject to the invoices being delivered to CAVC in an acceptable format for consolidation and remittance. To this end, CAVC will establish format requirements for invoices.
- As far as monitoring: The only subcontractors currently being used are under our Weatherization Department. Subcontractors are monitored after each work is completed, an inspection takes place of the work done in a home and paperwork is reviewed by staff as well. Onsite and desk reviews are both completed. If a corrective action is needed, we return the file to the subcontractor to make the correction. Once it's done our staff conducts another inspection to verify the correction has taken place.

A new "Statement of Work" is established with each new sub depending on the work they will be performing (work specific- plumbing vs installation of measures).

Data Analysis, Evaluation, and ROMA Application

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12)

Organizational Standards 4.2, 4.3

1. Describe your agency's method for evaluating the effectiveness of programs and services. Include information about the types of measurement tools, the data sources and collection procedures, and the frequency of data collection and reporting. (Organizational Standard 4.3)

Community Action of Ventura County's executive director, director of finance, and board members will monitor and evaluate the agency's management, administrative, and programmatic activities relative to the stated goals and objectives. CAVC also has a Nationally Certified ROMA Implementor on staff.

To ensure that reports are prepared and submitted to the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) in accordance with contract requirements, CAVC compiles fiscal and program reports monthly. It presents them to the board for review and approval. The fiscal and programmatic reporting systems enable staff to produce the program reports immediately upon request. These monthly reports are then compiled into the annual report and submitted to CSD.

Community Action of Ventura County uses

centralized databases to collect and report unduplicated client data across all programs.

2. Applying the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation, describe one change your agency made to improve low-income individuals' and families' capacity for self-sufficiency. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.2)

We currently have one ROMA implementor and included concrete plans in our strategic plan to get 3-5 more staff certified as ROMA implementers. In the meantime, this year, our implementor is also working with Homeless Services, Community Workshops and our Food Program (to begin) to introduce the team to ROMA, work on logic models together and help make concrete improvements in the programs.

After collaborating with our staff and taking into account client feedback, we developed a new survey to measure Customer Satisfaction. Our team also established a streamlined process for administering, promoting, analyzing, and reporting on the results of the survey each year to the board in November.

3. Applying the full ROMA cycle, describe one change your agency facilitated to help revitalize the low-income communities in your agency's service area(s). (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.2)

Each week, approximately 400 households rely on our Community Market for food, highlighting the ongoing issue of food insecurity for low-income families. With the CSBG CARES funding no longer available, we face the challenge of sustaining the program and retaining the necessary staff to provide quality service. Unfortunately, many other pantries in the county have closed, exacerbating the need for food assistance. After careful consideration, we have applied for the No Kid Hungry grant to secure funding for the program's expenses and ensure that we can continue to provide quality service.

Response and Community Awareness

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Does your agency have Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs in place that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals, including people of different ages, races and ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, genders, religions, cultures, and sexual orientations?

Yes

No

2. If yes, please describe.

3. Does your agency have Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies in place that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals, including people of different ages, races and ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientations?

Yes

No

4. If yes, please describe.

We do not have any policies regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. However, one of our team members has received certification from Cornell's Diversity Equity and Inclusion program in early 2023. She will meet with our Executive Director and Human Resources team to discuss ways our agency can begin fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Disaster Preparedness

1. Does your agency have a disaster plan in place that includes strategies on how to remain operational and continue providing services to low-income individuals and families during and following a disaster? The term disaster is used in broad terms including, but not limited to, a natural disaster, pandemic, etc.

Yes

No

2. If yes, when was the disaster plan last updated?

2022

3. Briefly describe your agency's main strategies to remain operational during and after a disaster.

We are now able to have staff work remotely, they have the supplies to do so. We have updated equipment in our warehouse- such as a generator and purchasing an additional walk-in cooler to be installed to be able to hold additional food. A communication plan was set-up internally with staff and phone messages and calls can be forward to mobile devices as needed if they are not able to be taken from the office. Multiple people can open/close facilities and have access in a secure manner.

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification

CSBG Act 676(b)

Use of CSBG Funds Supporting Local Activities

676(b)(1)(A): The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (A) to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals receiving assistance under title IV of the Social Security Act, homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and elderly low-income individuals and families, and a description of how such activities will enable the families and individuals--

- i. to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency (particularly for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out underpart A of title IV of the Social Security Act);
 - ii. to secure and retain meaningful employment;
 - iii. to attain an adequate education with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families in the community, which may include family literacy initiatives;
 - iv. to make better use of available income;
 - v. to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
 - vi. to obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs;
 - vii. to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots
 - viii. partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to
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- I. document best practices based on successful grassroots intervention in urban areas, to develop methodologies for wide-spread replication; and
 - II. strengthen and improve relationships with local law enforcement agencies, which may include participation in activities such as neighborhood or community policing efforts;

Needs of Youth

676(b)(1)(B) The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (B) to address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, give priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime, and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs that have demonstrated success in preventing or reducing youth crime, such as--

- I. programs for the establishment of violence-free zones that would involve youth development and intervention models (such as models involving youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, and entrepreneurship programs); and
- II. after-school childcare programs.

Coordination of Other Programs

676(b)(1)(C) The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (C) to make more effective use of, and to coordinate with, other programs related to the purposes of this subtitle (including state welfare reform efforts)

Eligible Entity Service Delivery System

676(b)(3)(A) Eligible entities will describe “the service delivery system, for services provided or coordinated with funds made available through grants made under 675C(a), targeted to low-income individuals and families in communities within the state;

Eligible Entity Linkages – Approach to Filling Service Gaps

676(b)(3)(B) Eligible entities will describe “how linkages will be developed to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations.”

Coordination of Eligible Entity Allocation 90 Percent Funds with Public/Private Resources

676(b)(3)(C) Eligible entities will describe how funds made available through grants made under 675C(a) will be coordinated with other public and private resources.”

Eligible Entity Innovative Community and Neighborhood Initiatives, Including Fatherhood/Parental Responsibility

676(b)(3)(D) Eligible entities will describe “how the local entity will use the funds [made available under 675C(a)] to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of this subtitle, which may include fatherhood initiatives and other initiatives with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging parenting.”

Eligible Entity Emergency Food and Nutrition Services

676(b)(4) An assurance “that eligible entities in the state will provide, on an emergency basis, for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals.”

State and Eligible Entity Coordination/linkages and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Employment and Training Activities

676(b)(5) An assurance “that the State and eligible entities in the State will coordinate, and establish linkages between, governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services, and [describe] how the State and the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce development systems under such Act.”

State Coordination/Linkages and Low-income Home Energy Assistance

676(b)(6) “[A]n assurance that the State will ensure coordination between antipoverty programs in each community in the State, and ensure, where appropriate, that emergency energy crisis intervention programs under title XXVI (relating to low-income home energy assistance) are conducted in such community.”

Community Organizations

676(b)(9) An assurance “that the State and eligible entities in the state will, to the maximum extent possible, coordinate programs with and form partnerships with other organizations serving low-income residents of the communities and members of the groups served by the State, including religious organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations.”

Eligible Entity Tripartite Board Representation

676(b)(10) “[T]he State will require each eligible entity in the State to establish procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, or religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization, or low-income individuals, to be inadequately represented on the board (or other mechanism) of the eligible entity to petition for adequate representation.”

Eligible Entity Community Action Plans and Community Needs Assessments

676(b)(11) “[A]n assurance that the State will secure from each eligible entity in the State, as a condition to receipt of funding by the entity through a community service block grant made under this subtitle for a program, a community action plan (which shall be submitted to the Secretary, at the request of the Secretary, with the State Plan) that includes a community needs assessment for the community serviced, which may be coordinated with the community needs assessment conducted for other programs.”

State and Eligible Entity Performance Measurement: ROMA or Alternate System

676(b)(12) “[A]n assurance that the State and all eligible entities in the State will, not later than fiscal year 2001, participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability System, another performance measure system for which the Secretary facilitated development pursuant to section 678E(b), or an alternative system for measuring performance and results that meets the requirements of that section, and [describe] outcome measures to be used to measure eligible entity performance in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization.”

Fiscal Controls, Audits, and Withholding

678D(a)(1)(B) An assurance that cost and accounting standards of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are maintained.

- By checking this box and signing the Cover Page and Certification, the agency’s Executive Director and Board Chair are certifying that the agency meets the assurances set out above.**

State Assurances and Certification

California Government Code Sections 12747(a), 12760, 12768

For CAA, MSFW, NAI, and LPA Agencies

[California Government Code § 12747\(a\)](#): Community action plans shall provide for the contingency of reduced federal funding.

[California Government Code § 12760](#): CSBG agencies funded under this article shall coordinate their plans and activities with other agencies funded under Articles 7 (commencing with Section 12765) and 8 (commencing with Section 12770) that serve any part of their communities, so that funds are not used to duplicate particular services to the same beneficiaries and plans and policies affecting all grantees under this chapter are shaped, to the extent possible, so as to be equitable and beneficial to all community agencies and the populations they serve.

- By checking this box and signing the Cover Page and Certification, the agency's Executive Director and Board Chair are certifying the agency meets assurances set out above.**

For MSFW Agencies Only

[California Government Code § 12768](#): Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) entities funded by the department shall coordinate their plans and activities with other agencies funded by the department to avoid duplication of services and to maximize services for all eligible beneficiaries.

- By checking this box and signing the Cover Page and Certification, the agency's Executive Director and Board Chair are certifying the agency meets assurances set out above.**

Organizational Standards

Category One: Consumer Input and Involvement

Standard 1.1 The organization/department demonstrates low-income individuals' participation in its activities.

Standard 1.2 The organization/department analyzes information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment.

Standard 1.3 (Private) The organization has a systematic approach for collecting, analyzing, and reporting customer satisfaction data to the governing board.

Standard 1.3 (Public) The department has a systematic approach for collecting, analyzing, and reporting customer satisfaction data to the tripartite board/advisory body, which may be met through broader local government processes.

Category Two: Community Engagement

Standard 2.1 The organization/department has documented or demonstrated partnerships across the community, for specifically identified purposes; partnerships include other anti-poverty organizations in the area.

Standard 2.2 The organization/department utilizes information gathered from key sectors of the community in assessing needs and resources, during the community assessment process or other times. These sectors would include at minimum: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions.

Standard 2.4 The organization/department documents the number of volunteers and hours mobilized in support of its activities.

Category Three: Community Assessment

Standard 3.1 (Private) Organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.

Standard 3.1 (Public) The department conducted or was engaged in a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3-year period, if no other report exists.

Standard 3.2 As part of the community assessment, the organization/department collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s).

Standard 3.3 The organization/department collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.

Standard 3.4 The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.

Standard 3.5 The governing board or tripartite board/advisory body formally accepts the completed community assessment.

Category Four: Organizational Leadership

Standard 4.1 (Private) The governing board has reviewed the organization's mission statement within the past 5 years and assured that:

1. The mission addresses poverty; and
2. The organization's programs and services are in alignment with the mission.

Standard 4.1 (Public) The tripartite board/advisory body has reviewed the department's mission statement within the past 5 years and assured that:

1. The mission addresses poverty; and
2. The CSBG programs and services are in alignment with the mission.

Standard 4.2 The organization's/department's Community Action Plan is outcome-based, anti-poverty focused, and ties directly to the community assessment.

Standard 4.3 The organization's/department's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the full Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). In addition, the organization documents having used the services of a ROMA-certified trainer (or equivalent) to assist in implementation.

Appendices

Please complete the table below by entering the title of the document and its assigned appendix letter. Agencies must provide a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing and the Low-Income Testimony and the Agency's Response document as appendices A and B, respectively. Other appendices such as the community need assessment, surveys, maps, graphs, executive summaries, analytical summaries are encouraged. All appendices should be labeled as an appendix (e.g., Appendix A: Copy of the Notice of Public Hearing) and submitted with the CAP.

Document Title	Appendix Location
Copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing (to be inserted)	A
Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response (to be inserted)	B
Copy of Survey Questions	C
Focus Group Conversations (notes)	D



2023 Community Needs Assessment / Encuesta De Evaluación De Las Necesidades De La Comunidad 2023

To better serve our community and address unmet needs in Ventura County, we are interested in hearing from you. At Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC), we want to know what resources, programs and services may be working for you and how we can identify gap areas and improve them for the future.

Your opinions are important to us, so we sincerely hope you will take some time to complete this "Community Needs Survey." It is entirely anonymous and your responses will be kept confidential. This survey asks questions regarding education, employment, housing, healthcare, and other basic needs.

CAVC is part of a nationwide network to address poverty at the local level. In Ventura County, 6.2 percent of our residents live in poverty - and we can help through advocacy, partnerships with social service agencies, and providing direct services, but we need your feedback to ensure we are working within the community's needs.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact CAVC's Claudia Lozano, Community Services Manager, at (805) 436-4000 or clozano@ca-vc.org.

Our Mission

Helping our community establish pathways out of poverty through advocacy, partnerships, and services that promote dignity and self-sufficiency.

//

Para servir mejor a nuestra comunidad y afrontar las necesidades en el condado de Ventura, estamos interesados en escuchar de usted. En Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC), queremos saber qué recursos, programas y servicios pueden estar funcionando para usted y cómo podemos identificar áreas de brecha y mejorarlas para el futuro.

Sus opiniones son importantes para nosotros, por lo que esperamos sinceramente que se tome un tiempo para completar esta "Encuesta de necesidades de la comunidad". Es completamente anónimo y sus respuestas se mantendrán confidenciales. Esta encuesta hace preguntas sobre educación, empleo, vivienda, atención médica y otras necesidades básicas.

CAVC es parte de una red nacional para afrontar la pobreza a nivel local. En el condado de Ventura, el 6.2 por ciento de nuestros residentes vive en la pobreza, y podemos ayudar a través de abogacía, creación de asociaciones con agencias de servicios sociales y la prestación de servicios directos, pero necesitamos sus respuestas para asegurarnos de que estamos trabajando dentro de las necesidades de la comunidad.

Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, comuníquese con Claudia Lozano, Gerente de Servicios Comunitarios de CAVC, al (805) 436-4000 o clozano@ca-vc.org.

Nuestra misión

Ayudar a nuestra comunidad a establecer caminos para salir de la pobreza a través de la abogacía, asociaciones y servicios que promuevan la dignidad y la autosuficiencia.

1. I identify as a: / Me identifico como:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current CAVC client / Cliente CAVC actual | <input type="checkbox"/> Community leader/elected official / Líder comunitario/funcionario electo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past CAVC client / Cliente anterior de CAVC | <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector business / Negocios del sector privado |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start/Early Head Start Parent / Padres de Head Start/Early Head Start | <input type="checkbox"/> Employee of CAVC / Empleado de CAVC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee/Board Member of Community Partner Agency / Empleado/miembro de la junta de a agencia de socios comunitarios | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member of CAVC / Miembro de la Junta Directiva de CAVC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad | |

2. In what ZIP code do you reside? (Enter 5-digit ZIP code) / ¿En qué código postal reside? (Ingrese el código postal de 5 dígitos)

3. What is your age? / ¿Cuál es su edad?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 16-25 | <input type="radio"/> 56-65 |
| <input type="radio"/> 26-35 | <input type="radio"/> 66-75 |
| <input type="radio"/> 36-45 | <input type="radio"/> 76-85 |
| <input type="radio"/> 46-55 | <input type="radio"/> 86 and up / 86 y más |

4. What is your gender identity? / ¿Cuál es su identidad de género?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Male / Masculino | <input type="radio"/> Trans Female / mujer transexual |
| <input type="radio"/> Female / Femenino | <input type="radio"/> Gender Queer/Gender Nonconforming / Género queer/género no conforme |
| <input type="radio"/> Non-Binary / no binario | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say / Prefiero no decirlo |
| <input type="radio"/> Trans Male / hombre transexual | |

5. Which of the following represents your racial or ethnic heritage? (Select all that apply) / ¿Cuál de los siguientes representa su herencia racial o étnica? (Seleccione todas las que correspondan)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American or Alaska Native / Nativo Americano o Nativo de Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic White or European American / Blanco no hispano o americano europeo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian / Asiático | <input type="checkbox"/> Latino or Hispanic American / Latino o Hispanoamericano |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American / Negro o afroamericano | <input type="checkbox"/> White / Blanco |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander / Nativo de Hawái u otra isla del Pacífico | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Multiple race combinations greater than one percent (please specify) / Otras combinaciones de carreras múltiples superiores al uno por ciento (por favor especifique) |

>

If other, please specify / Otras, por favor especifique

6. What is your marital status? / ¿Cuál es su estado civil?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Single / Soltero | <input type="radio"/> Divorced / Divorciado |
| <input type="radio"/> Married / Casado | <input type="radio"/> Separated / Separado |
| <input type="radio"/> Widowed / Viudo | <input type="radio"/> Living with partner / Viviendo con pareja |

7. What is the highest level of education you completed? / ¿Cuál es el nivel más alto de educación que completó?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> I didn't attend school / No asistí a la escuela | <input type="radio"/> Associate's Degree / Título de Asociado |
| <input type="radio"/> 8th grade or less / 8vo grado o menos | <input type="radio"/> Trade School / Escuela de oficios |
| <input type="radio"/> Some high school / Algo de Secundaria | <input type="radio"/> Bachelor's Degree / Licenciatura |
| <input type="radio"/> GED | <input type="radio"/> Master's Degree / Maestría |
| <input type="radio"/> High school diploma / Diploma de escuela secundaria | <input type="radio"/> Professional Certification / Certificado Profesional |
| <input type="radio"/> Some college / Alguna educación superior | <input type="radio"/> Doctoral Degree / Doctorado |

>

Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

8. What language do you speak most at home? / ¿Qué idioma habla más en casa?

- English / Inglés
- Spanish / Español

>

Other (please specify) / Otro (por favor de especifique)

9. What was your total household income last year? (Before taxes) / ¿Cuál fue el ingreso total de su hogar el año pasado? (Antes de los impuestos)

- Below \$10,000 / Menos de \$ 10,000
- \$10,001 -\$25,000
- \$25,001-50,000
- \$50,001 -\$100,000
- \$100,001- 150,000
- More than \$150,000 / Más de \$150,000
- Prefer not to say / Prefiero no decirlo

10. What types of income do you have? (Check all that apply) / ¿Qué tipos de ingresos tiene? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- Employment wages / Salarios de empleo
- Child Support / Manutención de los hijos
- Self-Employment / Trabajador independiente
- Family/Friends / Amigos/Familia
- Kindness of strangers / Amabilidad de los extraños
- Retirement/pension / Pensión de retiro
- Social Security / Seguro Social
- Social Security Disability Insurance /Supplemental Security Income / Seguro de Incapacidad del Seguro Social/Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario
- Student grants/loans / Becas/préstamos para estudiantes
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) / Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas (TANF)
- Unemployment benefits / Beneficios de desempleado
- No Income / Sin ingresos

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (Por favor especifique)

11. How many people live where you stay (including yourself)? / ¿Cuántas personas viven donde te hospedas (incluyéndote a ti)?

12. What is your current employment status? (Check all that apply) / ¿Cuál es su situación laboral actual? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- Full time / Tiempo completo
- Part time / Tiempo parcial
- Seasonal / Estacional
- Unemployed / Desempleado
- Disabled / Incapacitado
- Active Military / Militar Activo
- Veteran / Veterano
- Retired / Jubilado

13. If you are unemployed, please select the reason(s) below: / Si está desempleado, seleccione los motivos a continuación:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> COVID Pandemic related employment issues / Problemas de empleo relacionados con la pandemia de COVID | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack US documents / Carecen de documentos estadounidenses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal background / Antecedentes criminales | <input type="checkbox"/> Language barrier / Barrera del idioma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence/sexual assault victim / Víctima de violencia doméstica/agresión sexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Layoff or downsizing / Despido o reducción |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug/alcohol problem / Problema de drogas/alcohol | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning/developmental disability / Discapacidad de aprendizaje/desarrollo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of childcare / Falta de cuidado de niños | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health / Salud mental |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of elder care / Falta de cuidado de los mayores | <input type="checkbox"/> Other health issues / Otros problemas de salud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack permanent address / Carecen de dirección permanente | <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent physical disability / Invalidez física permanente |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack proper clothing / Carecer de ropa adecuada | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation or gender identity / Orientación sexual o identidad de género |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack skills/education / Falta de habilidades/educación | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary physical disability / Incapacidad física temporal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack transportation / Falta de transporte | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied youth / Jóvenes no acompañados |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

14. If unemployed, are you currently looking for work? / Si está desempleado, ¿está buscando trabajo actualmente?

- Yes / Sí
- No

15. Would you like help with these job-related activities? (Check all that apply) / ¿Le gustaría recibir ayuda con estas actividades relacionadas con el trabajo? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career assessment / Evaluación de carrera | <input type="checkbox"/> Resume writing / Preparación de currículum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career/job training / Formación profesional/laboral | <input type="checkbox"/> Career information options / Opciones de información de carrera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job search strategies / Estrategias de búsqueda de empleo | <input type="checkbox"/> Work clothes / Ropa de trabajo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job Interviewing skills / Habilidades para entrevistas de trabajo | <input type="checkbox"/> None / Ninguno |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

16. What is your housing status? / ¿Cuál es su estado de vivienda?

- Own / Dueño /a
- Rent / Alquilar
- Staying with friends or family / Quedarse con amigos o familiares
- Unhoused - streets/car / Sin vivienda - calles/coche
- Unhoused - shelter / Sin vivienda - refugio
- Unhoused - transitional housing (HUD temporary) / Vivienda transitoria sin vivienda (HUD temporal)
- Hotel/motel
- Nursing/long-term care / Centro de enfermería/cuidados de largo plazo
- Assisted living / Vida asistida
- Group home / Casa de grupo
- Halfway house / Centro de rehabilitación

>

- Other (please specify) / Otro (por favor especifique)

17. If unhoused, what services do you need? /Si no tiene vivienda, ¿qué servicios necesita?

18. Where are you getting services or assistance? / ¿Dónde está recibiendo servicios o asistencia?

19. How much do you pay for rent/mortgage on a monthly basis (including utilities)? / ¿Cuánto paga de alquiler/hipoteca mensualmente (incluidos los servicios públicos)?

20. Do you have any of the following housing-related needs? (Check all that apply) / ¿Tiene alguna de las siguientes necesidades relacionadas con la vivienda? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home not a safe structure / El hogar no es una estructura segura | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet-friendly environment / Vivienda que admite mascotas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing not affordable / Vivienda no asequible | <input type="checkbox"/> Repairs / Reparaciones en el hogar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture or household goods / Muebles o enseres domésticos | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility assistance / Asistencia de servicios públicos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handicap access or modification / Acceso para minusválidos o modificación para acceso | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficient appliances / Electrodomésticos que ahorran energía |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage or rent assistance / Asistencia hipotecaria o de alquiler | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe neighborhood / Vecindario inseguro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other medical-related accommodations / Otras necesidades médicas | |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

21. How many miles do you travel to work? (One way) / ¿Cuántas millas viaja al trabajo? (De un camino)

22. How long is your commute to work? (One way) / ¿Cuánto dura su viaje al trabajo? (De un camino)

23. Do you need any of the following transportation-related help? (Check all that apply) / ¿Necesita alguna de las siguientes ayudas relacionadas con el transporte? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car/truck / Coche/camión | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance / Aseguranza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus tickets (\$ for bus) / Boletos de autobús (\$ por autobús) | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto repairs / Reparación de automóviles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child safety seat(s) / Asiento(s) de seguridad para niños | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle registration / Registro de Vehículo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's license / Licencia de conducir | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle inspection / Inspección de vehiculó |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gasoline / Gasolina | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation for someone with a disability / Transporte para una persona con discapacidad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information about bus routes/services / Información sobre rutas/servicios de autobús | <input type="checkbox"/> None / Ninguno |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

24. Has the COVID Pandemic impacted: / ¿Ha impactado la pandemia de COVID:

Your physical health / Su salud física

Your mental health / Su salud mental

>

Other (please specify) / Otro (por favor especifique)

25. In the past 12 months, did you or the people in your household ever reduce portions, skip meals or attend a food pantry due to financial insecurity? / En los últimos 12 meses, ¿usted o las personas de su hogar alguna vez redujeron las porciones, se saltaron comidas o asistieron a una despensa de alimentos debido a la inseguridad financiera?

26. Do you or a household member have any of these healthcare needs? (Check all that apply) / ¿Usted o un miembro de su hogar tiene alguna de estas necesidades de atención médica? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

Adult diagnosed with disability / Adulto diagnosticado con discapacidad

AIDS/HIV risk / Riesgo de SIDA/VIH

Child diagnosed with disability / Niño diagnosticado con discapacidad

Dental care / Cuidado dental

Diabetes

Eye/vision care / Cuidado de los ojos/visión

General medical care / Atención médica general

Hearing care / Cuidado de la audición

Heart Disease / Enfermedad del corazón

Hypertension / Hipertensión

Medical equipment / Equipo medico

Mental health care / Cuidado de la salud mental

Money for prescription medications / Dinero para medicamentos recetados

Prosthesis / Prótesis

Pulmonary Disease (COPD, Emphysema, Asthma) / Enfermedad Pulmonar (EPOC, Enfisema, Asma)

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) / Enfermedades de transmisión sexual (ETS)

Substance abuse treatment / Tratamiento de abuso de sustancias

Teen pregnancy / Embarazo adolescente

Transportation to medical appointments / Transporte a citas médicas

Sleep problems / Problemas para dormir

None / Ninguno

>

Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

27. Are you your child(ren)'s primary caretaker? / ¿Es usted el cuidador principal de su(s) hijo(s)?

Yes / Sí

No

28. If you answered yes to the above question, what is your family situation? / Si respondió afirmativamente a la pregunta anterior, ¿cuál es su situación familiar?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single mom / Madre soltera | <input type="checkbox"/> Raising someone else's children, not family / Criando a los hijos de otra persona, no a la familia. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single dad / Papá soltero | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster parents / Padres de crianza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two-parent household / Hogar con dos padres | <input type="checkbox"/> Shared custody / Custodia compartida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raising own children and children of others / Criando hijos propios e hijos ajenos | <input type="checkbox"/> No children, other dependents / Sin hijos, otros dependientes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raising children of other family members (I am a grandparent, aunt, etc.) / Criando hijos de otros miembros de la familia (soy abuelo, tía, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Multigenerational household / Hogar multigeneracional |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

29. Who provides your childcare? (Check all that apply) / ¿Quién le proporciona el cuidado de sus hijos? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self / Yo | <input type="checkbox"/> Daycare / Guardería |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends / Amigos | <input type="checkbox"/> Leave children alone / Dejo a los niños solos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family / Familia | <input type="checkbox"/> Before and/or after school on campus / Programa de antes y/o después de la escuela |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church / Iglesia | |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

30. Is your childcare provider dependable? / ¿Es confiable su proveedor de cuidado infantil?

- Yes / Sí
- No

31. What kind of childcare help do you need? / ¿Qué tipo de ayuda para el cuidado de los niños necesita?

- Daycare center / Centro de cuidado
- Before/after school care / Cuidado antes/después de la escuela
- Care for child with special needs / Atención al niño con necesidades especiales
- Evening hours due to work schedule / Cuidado en la tarde por mi horario de trabajo

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

32. Do you have a child(ren) enrolled in Early Childhood Education (3-4 years of age)? /
¿Tiene(n) hijo(s) matriculado(s) en Educación Infantil (3-4 años)?

- Yes / Sí
 No

33. Do you have children waitlisted for Early Childhood Education (3-4 years of age)? /
¿Tiene hijos en la lista de espera para la educación infantil temprana (3-4 años)?

- Yes / Sí
 No

34. Do you or another adult member in your household have special needs? (Check all that apply) / ¿Usted u otro miembro adulto de su hogar tiene necesidades especiales? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- Yes, me / Si yo
 Yes, a household member / Sí, un miembro del hogar
 No

35. Who provides care for your household's special needs adult children or seniors? (Check all that apply) / ¿Quién brinda atención a los niños adultos o personas mayores con necesidades especiales de su hogar? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self / Yo | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult/elder daycare / Guardería para adultos/ancianos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family / Familia | <input type="checkbox"/> Leave elder/senior alone / Dejo a la persona mayor sola/o en casa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends / Amigos | <input type="checkbox"/> Able to stay home alone / La persona tiene capacidad de quedarse solo en casa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church / Iglesia | |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

36. Do you or any adult members of your house have any of the following needs? (Check all that apply) / ¿Usted o algún miembro adulto de su hogar tiene alguna de las siguientes necesidades? (Marque todo lo que corresponda)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult/elder daycare / Centro de día para adultos/ancianos | <input type="checkbox"/> Proper nutrition and exercise / Nutrición adecuada y ejercicio. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home healthcare / Cuidado de la salud en el hogar | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility equipment, such as walkers, wheelchairs, canes / Equipos de movilidad, como andadores, sillas de ruedas, bastones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation to medical appointments / Transporte a citas médicas | <input type="checkbox"/> Medication / Medicamento |

37. What makes life difficult for you/or your family? (check all that apply) / ¿Qué le dificulta la vida a usted o a su familia? (marque todo lo que corresponda)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High rent prices (home /apartments) / Altos precios de alquiler (casa/apartamentos) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of availability to fresh food / Falta de disponibilidad de alimentos frescos. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of Childcare / Costo del cuidado de niños | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of job opportunities / Falta de oportunidades de trabajo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of childcare / Disponibilidad de guardería | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of addiction and recovery services / Falta de servicios de adicción y recuperación. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expensive healthcare or medicine / Atención médica o medicamentos costosos | <input type="checkbox"/> Feel unsafe in your own neighborhood / Sentirse inseguro en su propio vecindario |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of home ownership opportunities / Falta de oportunidades de propiedad de la vivienda. | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of transportation options / Falta de opciones de transporte |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of behavioral/mental health services / Falta de servicios de salud conductual/mental | <input type="checkbox"/> Still recovering from COVID Pandemic / Aún recuperándose de la pandemia de COVID |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

38. When you are/were "struggling to make ends meet," what kept you afloat or helped you get through the tough times? Were there people, organizations, programs or places you went for help? / Cuando está/estaba "batallando para llegar a fin de mes," ¿qué lo mantuvo a flote o lo ayudó a superar los momentos difíciles? ¿Hubo personas, organizaciones, programas o lugares a los que acudió en busca de ayuda?

39. In the past 12 months, did you ever experience homelessness (temporary or permanent)? / En los últimos 12 meses, ¿alguna vez estuvo sin hogar (temporal o permanente)?

- Yes, temporarily / Sí, temporalmente
- Yes, permanently / Sí, permanentemente
- No

40. In the last 12 months, were you late or behind on any of your utility bills? (Gas, water, electricity) / En los últimos 12 meses, ¿se retrasó o se atrasó en alguna de sus facturas de servicios públicos? (Gas, agua, electricidad)

- Yes / Sí
- No

41. Do you use or have access to the internet? / ¿Utiliza o tiene acceso a Internet?

- Yes / Sí
- No

42. If you answered no, what is the reason? / Si respondió que no, ¿cuál es el motivo?

- Lack of internet access in my area / Falta de acceso a internet en mi área
- Lack ability to pay internet bill / Falta de capacidad para pagar la factura de Internet
- Lack of digital literacy / Falta de capacitación digital
- Lack of technical equipment (computer, modem, etc.) / Falta de equipo técnico (computadora, módem, etc.)

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor especifique)

43. Please select any of the below agencies providing you and your family with help. /
Seleccione cualquiera de las siguientes agencias que le brindan ayuda a usted y a su familia.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Redeemer Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Concilio | <input type="checkbox"/> Goodwill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabrillo Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Coalition for Family Harmony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CRLA | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids and Families Together |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help of Ojai | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse for Women and Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Meals on Wheels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Social Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvation Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Access | <input type="checkbox"/> Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Many Mansions | <input type="checkbox"/> First Methodist Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ventura Avenue Adult Center | <input type="checkbox"/> United Way |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moorpark Adult Center | <input type="checkbox"/> 805 Undocufund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simi Valley senior Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Lideres Campesinas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Prevention Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Poder Polular (Santa Paula) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ventura Behavioral Health | <input type="checkbox"/> First 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Saints Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Many meals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Vincent De Paul | <input type="checkbox"/> Interface Children and Family Services 211 |

>

- Other (please specify) / Otros (por favor de especificar)

44. Has anyone in your household contacted CAVC in the last 12 months? / ¿Alguien en su hogar se ha comunicado con CAVC en los últimos 12 meses?

- Yes / Sí
- No

45. What type of sector represents your agency? (For Community Partner Agencies Only) /
¿Qué tipo de sector representa su agencia? (Solo para agencias de socios comunitarios)

- Educational Institution / Institución educativa Financial Institution / Institución financiera
- Faith Based / Organización basada en fe (por ejemplo, Iglesia) Social Services / Servicios sociales
- Government / Gobierno

>

- Other (please specify) / Otro (por favor de especificar)

46. Have you heard of CAVC? / ¿Has oído hablar de CAVC?

- Yes / Sí
- No

CAVC Focus Groups/Community Conversations

Date : March 16, 2023

City: Simi Valley/Many Mansions

Participants: 9 people

Language: English

Question:	Comments	Observations or quotes
<p>1. What are the most pressing issues for low income and unhoused individuals and families in our community?</p>	<p>Having money left over at the end of the month. Difficult to make needs meet. Decrease in benefits and increase in the cost of living. Food insecurity /Raising costs High gas prices No emergency Funds/Difficult to save Transportation/riding the bus takes longer than walking. You need to plan your day around riding the bus/ not easy to travel on the bus.</p>	
<p>2. Are there any issues the Pandemic created that were not previously there? Or how has the Pandemic exacerbated existing issues?</p>	<p>Changed social events- Pandemic disconnected people Loss of loved ones and unable to say goodbye Loss of communication with agencies that provide assistance. Medical system became overwhelmed, and people had to postpone medical care. This created long term health issues and system continue to be overwhelmed. In some places we lost food pantries, or the schedule changed from 4X a month to 1 X per month.</p>	

<p>3. Have community organizations been meeting these needs? How so?</p>	<p>Food Share, Dial a Ride, Many Mansions, Mercy House, 211, Behavioral Health, Turning Point, One Stop, CAVC</p>	<p>“No matter what the problems is (Many Mansions) is here for me in every way.”</p> <p>“I feel overwhelmed we need more mental health resources and rehab beds”</p>
<p>4. What is important for local leaders to understand about your life and the well-being of your family, friends, and community. here? What else can be done to improve your quality of life.</p>	<p>We need housing to be more affordable. Need people to be housed. The price of housing is very high. Multiple families under one roof is not healthy. Lower medical insurance/we pay too much Step outside/everything has increased, and the cost of living is high/gas, food, rent We have loss a sense of community and that has impacted the quality of life. We do not have the same social connections. The stress level in society has increased.</p>	<p>“ It is important to have a community that gets along”</p> <p>“Our voice matters”</p>
<p>5. Are you familiar with CAVC? How would you describe CAVC to other people?</p>	<p>CAVC helps many people by providing, showers , mail and one stop services for homeless adults. You also have with HEAP and workshops.</p>	<p>“Organization that helps with utility resources and wellbeing.”</p>

CAVC Focus Groups/Community Conversations

Date : March 27, 2023

City: Santa Paula / Poder Popular

Participants: 11 people

Language: Spanish

Question:	Comments	Observations or quotes
<p>1. What are the most pressing issues for low income and unhoused individuals and families in our community?</p>	<p>Rents prices are very high Gas, utility bills, water everything is high. All the food and even clothing in a secondhand store is expensive. Getting an oil change or maintenance for your car is difficult when you are low income. Many people work in the fields and when it rains there is no work, and the harvest gets damaged. High medical bills, especially for people who do not have medical insurance. There are many people who only have emergency medical. Current wages are not enough, we need a living wage. There's a lack of parks with different functional spaces for the entire family to spend time and exercise. We need learning centers where we can learn how to use computers and also learn about other hobbies and skills. Entertainment for families is expensive for low income families, we need days when families can pay affordable prices for the movies, etc..</p>	<p>“Sometimes it feels like they forget about Santa Paula” . The rent, the gas the electric bill, everything is high, sometimes we do not have enough to eat”</p>

<p>2. Are there any issues the Pandemic created that were not previously there? Or how has the Pandemic exacerbated existing issues?</p>	<p>Pandemic created more debt for low-income families. Many businesses closed and did not re-open, for example restaurants and clothing stores. Physical problems due to COVID More anxiety in the community Higher rates of divorces and domestic violence More depression in the community Loss of social connections Loneliness among the elderly in the community Higher prices /cost of living and stress Loss of trust, covid was traumatic There are people who have to pay for the vaccines, its not free for everyone. Virus among young children Children addicted to video games/phones Adults addicted to the phone</p>	<p>“Feelings of anxiety because people did not know what was going to happen, so we experienced a rise in divorces and witnessed how the community has been impacted physically and mentally.”</p> <p>“ I personally started suffering from anxiety due to the pandemic”</p>
<p>3. Have community organizations been meeting these needs? How so?</p>	<p>Poder Popular, Kate Wilson, Community Action of Ventura County, Housing is Key and Foundation of UFW Yes, but service providers are burned out Need to create more collaborations</p>	<p>“There is a lot of help but people who are undocumented cannot access the help.”</p>
<p>4. What is important for local leaders to understand about your life and the well-being of your family, friends, and community. here? What else can be done to improve your quality of life.</p>	<p>We need higher wages. Places with healthier food Create housing for people from various incomes Help to purchase a home. Help for undocumented community members to purchase a home.</p>	

	<p>We urgently need amnesty for undocumented community.</p> <p>Unemployment for those who do not have documents.</p> <p>Police officers that treat humble people with respect, sometimes we feel discriminated, and we lose trust.</p> <p>The homeless population is growing, we need help.</p> <p>Helps pay bills, provide financial wellness workshops, mental wellness workshops.</p> <p>They provide many workshops- financial and mental wellness</p>	<p>“We also need mental wellness workshops for men and youth” .</p> <p>It is an agency that brings a lot of resources to the community and they are very friendly.”</p>
<p>5. Are you familiar with CAVC? How would you describe CAVC to other people?</p>		

CAVC Focus Groups/Community Conversations

Date : April 11, 2023

City: Oxnard FG #1

Participants: 5

Language: English/Spanish

Question:	Comments	Observations or quotes
<p>1. What are the most pressing issues for low income and unhoused individuals and families in our community?</p>	<p>Inflation</p> <p>Limited resources</p> <p>People do not know about all the resources available.</p> <p>Lack of access to healthy food</p> <p>Families need diapers and formula</p> <p>Not enough jobs</p> <p>Lack of jobs that pay a living wage</p> <p>Many people became unemployed due to the pandemic and struggle to transition back.</p>	<p>“Everyone needs help until everyone can make a living wage” .</p>

	<p>Lack of trusted and affordable childcare. Lack of spaces for unsheltered individuals. Lack of affordable housing The housing opportunities for the unhoused are only for those with severe mental health issues. Lack of affordable housing for all incomes. More shelters for unhoused individuals. All cities need to take accountability for unhoused population. Everyone needs help until everyone can make a living wage.</p>	
<p>2. Are there any issues the Pandemic created that were not previously there? Or how has the Pandemic exacerbated existing issues?</p>	<p>Depression, stress, and anxiety increased. People still feel trapped. Socializing became difficult and people lost connections. We gave up things we loved to do because we couldn't do them. We stopped moving More divorces and more domestic violence Some business failed and some thrived during the pandemic. Benefit programs were created and then dissolved. CAVC helped the community by growing their Community Market (Food Program) CET Asking for help can be overwhelming and organizations need to do more outreach to make it for feasible for people in need to ask for help.</p>	<p>"We gave up things we loved to do because we couldn't do them and event if things have changed, it's been hard to get back to doing them".</p>
<p>3. Have community organizations been meeting these needs? How so?</p>		<p>"Yes, by providing food to the ones in needs and helping them with their bill" They are meeting the need but not 100%, they offer partial solutions or lack resources"</p>

<p>4. What is important for local leaders to understand about your life and the well-being of your family, friends, and community. here? What else can be done to improve your quality of life.</p>	<p>Change Medi-Cal laws so people are allowed to save more. Accessibility to employment resources. Bilingual employment services- language accessible. Create more jobs with livable wage. Rent control More accountability for slum landlords. Address overcrowding People shouldn't be punished for their rest of their life for past mistakes like bad credit or evection penalties. Why did prices go up during the pandemic but did not come down. Potholes Pandemic affected community and generations mentally and now they need resources. Need for culturally appropriate services. Mental impact is more than we can see Rent control</p>	<p>“People don’t like to live overcrowded. More housing opportunities are needed for those with past struggles like eviction penalties” “We need workshops that offer skills and tools to help people find a job or a better job” “We all have family and kids who depend on us in our lives. Making sure we can take care of ourselves and improve the community is important” “People’s mental health was affected in more ways that you can’t imagine” .</p>
<p>5. Are you familiar with CAVC? How would you describe CAVC to other people?</p>	<p>CAVC was in the frontline assisting the community with their food program.</p>	

CAVC Focus Groups/Community Conversations

Date : April 11, 2023

City: Oxnard FG #2

Participants: 6 **Language:** English

Question:	Comments	Observations or quotes
<p>1. What are the most pressing issues for low income and unhoused individuals and families in our community?</p>	<p>Prices of food are high We cannot find affordable housing There is a lack of housing inventory rooms, apt, houses, hotels. Help for mental health issues. There are families unhoused living in cars We need more vouchers for the unhoused Shelters do not have beds available Increase in gas, electric bills, and rent Those with affordable housing can lose their housing due to a shut off. Mental health has deeply impacted the unhoused. Evictions can negatively affect people's record. Now that COVID eviction protections are being lifted, what will those who are behind do. Undocumented pay taxes and they are not eligible for benefits like ebt, rent relief, unemployment benefits City is fining people who have multiple families living with them instead of helping they are being targeted. Help for clients who struggle but are not eligible due to income limits. Those above income limits still need assistance. There are multiple jobs and people who are overqualified take them because they need them to survive. Lack of well-paid jobs. Housing penalizes people who are working that needs to change because it stops people from bettering themselves. Food insecurity</p>	<p>"Different challenges and situations cause on individual to get stuck in a cycle of poverty". "Low-income individuals can snowball to unhoused" "Many other families still struggle because they do not qualify for benefits, sometimes the income limits are too low and exclude other people in need".</p>

	Energy burden	
<p>2. Are there any issues the Pandemic created that were not previously there? Or how has the Pandemic exacerbated existing issues?</p>	<p>Increase in poverty People's health deteriorated Depression in the community increased Certain disenfranchised groups do not know about mental health awareness. Lingering health effects Doctor appointments take longer to make. Healthcare assistance and quality decreased. Technology barriers excluded many members of the community. Everything went online – medical- school and other resources. Different needs increased and people who need assistance also struggle with asking for help, they are not comfortable, and it can be overwhelming. Social anxiety increased Social skills /people have been isolated and lack social skills Not everyone has access to internet services and misses out on resources. Tech access and literacy became a huge issue</p>	<p>“Everything went online from medical appointments, school, and access to many resources. The community was not ready, and it created a huge gap where people who don't have access to the internet “or know how to navigate it, miss out on resources”</p> <p>“The need for services increased, (the pandemic) exacerbated essentially any and every existing issue” .</p>
<p>3. Have community organizations been meeting these needs? How so?</p>	<p>Agencies that have stepped up CAVC, Food Share, Salvation Army, the Mission, Cal Fresh, Help of Ojai, Project Access, Meals on Wheels, Area on Aging and Poder Popular</p>	

<p>4. What is important for local leaders to understand about your life and the well-being of your family, friends, and community. here? What else can be done to improve your quality of life.</p>	<p>People who have Medi-Cal should not be able to have more than 2k on their savings. People who work should make a living wage We need to do something about overcrowding/multiple families in one home. Parks need maintenance and security We need better paying jobs with benefits Fix potholes, more lighting so business can open at night and police presence Mental Health Ambassadors and more community outreach so people know about the resources. More bilingual help people who do not speak English need help in their native language whether it is Spanish or another.</p>	<p>We love our city, beaches, the art, the culture, agriculture, the food, but there are many people work hard every single day and cannot make ends meet”.</p> <p>“We are just as important and part of this community. I am trying to do better and be better for myself and for my family and just need some more help to get where I would like to be, such as a career and housing”</p>
<p>5. Are you familiar with CAVC? How would you describe CAVC to other people?</p>	<p>Assist people with bills, homeless services, weatherization community workshops, huge Food Program and friendly service</p>	
<p>Conversation with faith-based member Conversation with college professor</p>	<p>Undocumented community needs help too - Youth is disconnected, they want to do everything online and do not participate in in person events or celebrations.</p>	
<p>Conversation with Community liaison in local school district</p>	<p>There are many children living in overcrowded households, they may have a roof over the heads but the living conditions are not adequate</p>	

CAVC Focus Groups/Community Conversations

Date: April 14, 2023

City: Thousand Oaks /Tierra Mia Inc

Participants: 3

Language: English

Question:	Comments	Other key points or observations
<p>1. What are the most pressing issues for low income and unhoused individuals and families in our community?</p>	<p>We need low- income housing and affordable housing Huge gap between people with wealth and low-income families. Only luxury apartments are being constructed and we need affordable housing Cost of living is so high we cannot even get essentials. Jobs are limited we only see openings for retail and food service. Mental health services Transportation is limited. If you do not have a car, you cannot get around. The city does not have a transportation tax so no transportation options will be created, we only have 5 routes. Antisemitism takes place in the city but is not always reported. We need a living wage Lack of affordable goods</p>	<p>“Growing up in Thousand Oaks, I felt there was no cultural space for us, now we are creating a safe space for others, we need more community spaces to celebrate diversity. “Things can get tense in the city during elections, people are unkind or not as friendly, sometimes we do not feel safe” “Housing isn’t very affordable in the local area. New housing developments are at the moderate to high end of low-income housing ranges” .</p>
<p>2. Are there any issues the Pandemic created that were not previously there? Or how has the Pandemic exacerbated existing issues?</p>	<p>More individuals and families now need services. Took away many jobs and places to shop.</p>	

	<p>Most of the clothing stores are high end boutiques and there is place for low-income families to shop for clothes, they need to go far.</p> <p>Not many accessible stores to buy food</p> <p>People refusing to get vaccines for political reasons created a political divide and animosity.</p> <p>Social anxiety</p> <p>In certain communities of color where people rented, those houses were sold during the pandemic and renters were priced out this changed the demographics.</p> <p>Animosity due to the political divide was traumatic for people of color.</p> <p>People in need due to pride sometimes do not ask for help.</p>	
<p>3. Have community organizations been meeting these needs? How so?</p>	<p>Programs like Manna and Many Mansions make great effort and reach out, but they are shorthanded cannot do it alone.</p> <p>Organizations have assisted by helping people stay housed and fight food insecurity</p> <p>There should be more collaboration among non-profits</p>	
<p>4. What is important for local leaders to understand about your life and the well-being of your family, friends, and community. here?</p>	<p>Council needs diversity, inclusion, and equity training.</p> <p>Let's work together to engage more youth to participate to make the city better for all.</p> <p>We need diverse representation in Thousand Oaks with city officials and across the local level.</p>	<p>“We need affordable activities for families at the park”.</p> <p>“We want spaces to celebrate diversity programmed by the people being</p>

<p>What else can be done to improve your quality of life.</p>	<p>Diversity and inclusion are needed in Thousand Oaks. We need our leaders to take a stand against racism in the city. The are present for photo opportunity but do not taker stand when its needed. Community organizers are burned out and need help. Many nonprofits need support but every year after year you see the same nonprofits getting the support of the city. We need the city to put together for diverse families to enjoy.</p>	<p>represented, we need more support as organizers” “Everyone deserves a place to call home” “Not all issues have a one size fits all solution” “Some of us experience an overload from lack of support from the city and from feeling unsafe”</p>
<p>5. Are you familiar with CAVC? How would you describe CAVC to other people?</p>	<p>Yes, they are located in Oxnard, offer workshops, assist with bills. They help people in need</p>	<p>The organization provides various services to the communities in Ventura County. They administer the HEAP Program in the area”</p>

CAVC Focus Groups/Community Conversations

Date : April 19, 2023 **City:** Ojai /Help of Ojai **Participants:** 9 **Language:** English

<p>Question:</p> <p>1 What are the most pressing issues for low income and unhouseed individuals and families in our community?</p>	<p>Comments</p> <p>Lack of affordable housing Housing insecurity Competition in getting housing</p>	<p>Observations and quotes</p> <p>“If a family gets a housing voucher in Ojai they have to move out because there are few vacancies in Ojai, this means they lose connections and if</p>
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Difficult process to get housing and not everyone accepts vouchers.
Lack of advocates for people with disabilities when applying for housing.
Process to qualify for housing can be overwhelming.
Housing insecurity in general, people don't qualify.
In Ojai there are only a few vacancies for section 8 vouchers.
Some people have to wait 10-15 years for housing
For the unhoused- there is only one place that offers shower 2 week in Ojai.
Not enough shelters in Ojai
Lack of access for hygiene support for the unhoused in Ojai
Lack of year-round shelters
Only 1 or two places in Ventura where is legal to sleep in your car.
Do not criminalize overnight parking
We need an agency to put together an appeal to the police department to allow decimated areas for unsheltered
High concentration of drugs for the unsheltered
Unhoused need a place to get their mail
Need a livable wage
No job options in Ojai
Most jobs are in hospitality
Teachers and nonprofits do not make a living wage
California has high housing prices
Inflation is out of hand- food is expensive

they don't have a car, they will not see their friends."
"Ojai is turning into a plan to house the wealthy"
"We need a safe sleep program for the unhoused"
"People who work in Ojai in the service industry cannot afford to live in Ojai"
"Its difficult for non-profits to succeed and there is not light at the end of the tunnel"

<p>2. Are there any issues the Pandemic created that were not previously there? Or how has the Pandemic exacerbated existing issues?</p>	<p>Loss of connections Hazing of people who wear masks Healthcare system is slower in meeting the needs of the community Due to the pandemic some medical offices have less staff Limited transportation and it is hard to get around. There is a high number of Seniors in Ojai who are lonely and need assistance. We need an "Adopt a Senior Program." Seniors and other folks need social interactions and support. How do we engage.</p>	<p>"Transportation need is being met by Help of Ojai but only runs until 3:30pm" "Access to food was an issue but Help of Ojai came thru" Our food pantry has become a social event, it helps seniors get out of the house and make connections"</p>
<p>3. Have community organizations been meeting these needs? How so?</p>	<p>Yes, help of Ojai with food assistance. Yes, in some ways Community orgs have at least been able to advocate for people in need. Help with food via pantries has been huge They have been helpful in supplementing w/ food/utility assistance, rental assistance but have not been able to create housing. Help of Ojai meets many needs of the low-income community, but some people are hesitant to come to the office because they do not think they qualify for services.</p>	<p>"I think they have been trying to do as much as possible but it is a serious challenge that requires serious stable funding." "More outreach targeting low-income individuals, so they feel comfortable asking for help"</p>

	<p>Yes, Food pantries, Chef's Plate Program and Help of Ojai transportation services. Difficult to hire or keep employees due to inflation and pay we can offer.</p>	
<p>4. What is important for local leaders to understand about your life and the well-being of your family, friends, and community. here? What else can be done to improve your quality of life.</p>	<p>Ojai has real needs Needs need to be discussed and prioritized Poverty is real and people are going hungry Ojai has the most seniors in the county/the silver tsunami, major demographic shift. Ojai has many seniors, and they need help preparing for death. Many of the senior are alone. We only have one Public School District, why is that? We need cheaper groceries, more access to food, dining out is out (price) Living in Ventura County is stressful for households of various incomes. Housing/rent is increasing, individuals are stressed about being able to afford to live in Ventura County Local leaders need to understand the diversity in our community as the perception can often be that Ojai is affluent and we do not need much support. Service providers are burned out after working through pandemic and inflation, There is so much need in the community. They are an amazing organization w/great and helpful programs. They help me with utility assistance, and I always recommend unhouseed individuals to their services (showers, laundry and mail)</p>	<p>“Some people in need don’t ask for help because they feel shame” “Ojai is a small, sweet community but there is real need here, specifically surrounding income inequality and cost of living” “There is a huge income inequality in Ojai, and this causes displacement” “Is important for local leaders to be trained in trauma informed principles and understand where the limitations are in the help that is offered. Things are not black and white not all applications are equitable.”</p>
<p>5. Are you familiar with CAVC? How would you describe CAVC to other people?</p>		

	<p>Yes, an organization to assist with basic living necessities /open to everyone Incredible group that does great with food recovery, utility assistance. We always refer folks to CAVC</p>	
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