2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan

Community Action of Ventura County





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Introduction

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has developed the 2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP) template for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Service Providers network. CSD requests agencies submit a completed CAP, including a CNA, to CSD on or before **June 30, 2025**. Changes from the previous template are detailed below in the "What's New for 2026/2027?" section. Provide all narrative responses in 12-point Arial font with 1.15 spacing. A completed CAP template 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 confirm that they are in compliance. Signature of the board chair and executive director on the Cover Page certify compliance with the Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances.

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 is provided in this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and confirm that they are in compliance. Signature of the board chair and executive director on the Cover Page certify compliance with the State Assurances.

Compliance with CSBG Organizational Standards

As described in the Office of Community Services (OCS) <u>Information Memorandum (IM) #138</u> dated January 26, 2015, CSBG agencies will comply with the Organizational Standards. A list of Organizational Standards that are met by an accepted CAP, including a CNA, are 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 2026/2027?

<u>Due Date</u>. The due date for your agency's 2026/2027 CAP is June 30, 2025. However, earlier submission of the CSBG Network's CAPs will allow CSD more time to review and incorporate agency information in the CSBG State Plan and Application. CSD, therefore, requests that agencies submit their CAPs on or before May 31, 2025.

ROMA Certification Requirement. CSD requires that agencies have the capacity to provide their own ROMA, or comparable system, certification for your agency's 2026/2027 CAP. Certification can be provided by agency staff who have the required training or in partnership with a consultant or another agency.

Federal CSBG Programmatic and State Assurances Certification. In previous templates, the federal and state assurances were certified by signature on the Cover Page and by checking the box(es) in both federal and state assurances sections. In the 2026/2027 template, CSD has clarified the language above the signature block on the Cover Page and done away with the check boxes. Board chairs and executive directors will certify compliance with the assurances by signature only. However, the Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and the State Assurances language remain part of the 2026/2027 template.

<u>Other Modifications</u>. The title page of the template has been modified to include your agency's name and logo. Please use this space to brand your agency's CAP accordingly. CSD has also added references to the phases of the ROMA Cycle i.e. assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation throughout the 2026/2027 template. Additionally, there are a few new questions, minor changes to old questions, and a reordering of some questions.

Checklist

| | Cover Page |
|------|--|
| | Public Hearing Report |
| Part | t I: Community Needs Assessment Summary |
| | Narrative |
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| | Vision and Mission Statements |
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| Part | t III: Appendices |
| | Notice of Public Hearing |
| | Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response |
| | Community Needs Assessment |

Cover Page

| Agency Name: | Community Action of Ventura County | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Name of CAP Contact: | Susy Lopez - Garcia | |
| Title: | Executive Director | 3 |
| Phone: | 805-436-4028 | |
| Email: | slopez@ca-vc.org | |

| Date Most Recent CNA was Completed: | 5/2/25 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| (Organizational Standard 3.1) | |

Board and Agency Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency will comply with the Federal CSBG Programmatic

Assurances (CSBG Act Section 676(b)) and California State Assurances (Government Code Sections 12747(a),

12760, and 12768) for services and programs provided under the 2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan. The undersigned governing body accepts the completed Community Needs

Assessment. (Organizational Standard 3.5)

| Name: | Susana Lopez. Garcia | Name: | Anson Mar | |
|--------|----------------------|--------|-------------|--|
| Title: | Executive Director | Title: | Board Chair | |
| Date: | 0 18 25 | Date: | 6/18/25 | |

ROMA Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). (CSBG Act 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.3)

Name: Claudia Lozano

| ROMA Title: | NCRI |
|-------------|---------|
| Date: | 6/25/24 |

CSD Use Only

| Dates CAP | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Received | Accepted | Accepted By |
| | | |

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. Testimony presented by low-income individuals and families during the public hearing shall be identified in the final CAP.

Guidelines

Notice of Public Hearing

- 1. Notice of the public hearing should be published at least 10 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 should 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 10 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 should be made available for public review and inspection approximately 30 days prior to the public hearing. The draft CAP may 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 in Part III: Appendices as Appendix A.

Public Hearing

- 1. Agencies must conduct at least one public hearing on the draft CAP.
- 2. Public hearing(s) must be held in the designated CSBG service area(s).
- 3. Low-income testimony presented at the hearing or received during the comment period should be memorialized verbatim in the Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document and appended to the final CAP as Appendix B in Part III: Appendices.
- 4. The Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document should include the name of low-income individual, his/her 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

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 based on community need at the time of the hearing.

Public Hearing Report

| Date(s) the Notice(s) of Public Hearing(s) was/were published | May 19 th |
|--|--|
| Date Public Comment Period opened | May 5 th , 2025 |
| Date Public Comment Period closed | June 5 th 2025 |
| Date(s) of Public Hearing(s) | June 5 th 2025 |
| Location(s) of Public Hearing(s) | Community Action of Ventura County/ Resource Center |
| Where was the Notice of Public Hearing published? (agency website, newspaper, social media channels) | Social media and agency website |
| Number of attendees at the Public Hearing(s) | 7 attendees (no comments) |

Part I: Community Needs Assessment Summary

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

Helpful Resources

A community needs assessment provides a comprehensive "picture" of the needs in your service area(s). Resources are available to guide agencies through this process.

- CSD-lead training "Community Needs Assessment: Common Pitfalls and Best Practices" on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 1:00 pm. <u>Registration is required</u>. The training will be recorded and posted on the Local Agencies Portal after the event.
- Examples of CNAs, timelines, and other resources are on the Local Agencies Portal.
- Community Action Guide to Comprehensive Community Needs Assessments published by the National Association for State Community Service Programs (NASCSP).
- <u>Community Needs Assessment Tool</u> designed by the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP).
- National and state quantitative data sets. See links below.

| | 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 |
| California Department of Education School Data via DataQuest | California Employment Development Department Ul Data by County | California Department of Public Health Various Data Sets |
| California Department of Finance Demographics | California Attorney General Open Justice | California Health and Human Services <u>Data Portal</u> |
| CSD Census Tableau Data by County | | Population Reference Bureau <u>KidsData</u> |
| Data USA National Public Data | National Equity Atlas Racial and Economic Data | Census Reporter Census Data |

| Sample Data Sets | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Urban Institute SNAP Benefit Gap | Race Counts California Racial Disparity Data | Rent Data Fair Market Rent by ZIP | |
| UC Davis Center for Poverty & Inequality Poverty Statistics | University of Washington Center for Women's Welfare California Self-Sufficiency Standard | University of Wisconsin Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings | |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator | Nonprofit Leadership Center Volunteer Time Calculator | Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator | |

Narrative

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9)
Organizational Standards 2.2, 3.3
ROMA – Assessment

Based on your agency's most recent CNA, please respond to the questions below.

1. 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—a region marked by deep income disparities and a high cost of living. While affluent communities such as Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, and Bell Canyon represent the upper end of the economic scale, cities like Oxnard and Santa Paula experience some of the county's highest rates of poverty and economic hardship.

Median Household Income: \$107,327 – This is the midpoint of household incomes, with half of households earning more and half earning less.

Per Capita Income: \$48,416 – The average income earned per individual in the county.

Poverty Rate: 9.8% of Ventura County residents live below the federal poverty line. Rates are especially high in Oxnard and Santa Paula.

Cost of Living: The cost of living in Ventura County exceeds the national average, particularly due to the high cost of housing.

Income Inequality: The top 1% of earners in Ventura County are estimated to make an average of approximately \$1.3 million annually, based on state and regional income distribution trends. In contrast, the remaining 99% earn an average of approximately \$62,000—highlighting a significant wealth gap.

While poverty is most concentrated in Oxnard and Santa Paula, there are also pockets of poverty throughout other cities in Ventura County, including Ventura, Fillmore, Port Hueneme, Camarillo, Moorpark, and Simi Valley—particularly in select ZIP codes such as 93001, 93003, 91360, 93012, 93041, 93015, 93022, 93023, 93063, 93065, and 93021.

These disparities highlight the importance of our work in ensuring equitable access to essential services across all communities—especially those historically underserved or economically vulnerable.

2. Indicate from which sources your agency collected and analyzed quantitative data for its most

recent CNA. (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3) Federal Government/National Data Sets **Local Data Sets** ⊠Census Bureau □Local crime statistics ☐Bureau of Labor Statistics ⊠High school graduation rate ☑Department of Housing & Urban ☐ School district school readiness Development □Local employers ☐ Department of Health & Human ⊠Local labor market Services ☐ Childcare providers ⊠National Low-Income Housing Coalition ⊠Public benefits usage ☐ National Equity Atlas ⊠County Public Health Department □ National Center for Education Statistics ⊠Other ⊠Academic data resources ⊠Other online data resources □ Other

| California State Data Sets | Agency Data Sets |
|--|---|
| ☐ Employment Development Department | ⊠Client demographics |
| □ Department of Education | ⊠Service data |
| ☑Department of Education ☑Department of Public Health | ⊠CSBG Annual Report |
| • | □Client satisfaction data |
| ☐ Attorney General | □Other |
| ☐Department of Finance | |
| □Other | |
| Surveys ⊠Clients | |
| | |
| | |
| ⊠General public ⊠Staff | |
| | |
| ⊠Board members ⊠Private sector | |
| ⊠Public sector | |
| ☐ Educational Institutions | |
| ☑ Educational institutions ☑ Other | |
| MOther | |
| | o gather qualitative data for its most recent CNA. |
| (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Stan | |
| | |
| | dard 3.3) |
| Surveys | dard 3.3) Focus Groups |
| Surveys ⊠ Clients ⊠ Partners and other service providers ⊠ General public | dard 3.3) Focus Groups ⊠Local leaders |
| Surveys ⊠ Clients ⊠ Partners and other service providers | dard 3.3) Focus Groups ⊠Local leaders ⊠Elected officials |
| Surveys | dard 3.3) Focus Groups |
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| Surveys | Focus Groups |
| Surveys | Focus Groups |

4. Confirm that your agency collected and analyzed information from each of the five community sectors below as part of the assessment of needs and resources in your service area(s). Your agency must demonstrate that all sectors were included in the needs assessment by checking each box below; a response for each sector is required. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9), Organizational Standard 2.2)

Community Sectors

- ⊠Community-based organizations
- ⊠Faith-based organizations
- ⊠Private sector (local utility companies, charitable organizations, local food banks)
- ⊠Public sector (social services departments, state agencies)
- ⊠Educational institutions (local school districts, colleges)

Results

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)
California Government Code Section 12747(a)
Organizational Standards 4.2
State Plan Summary and Section 14.1a
ROMA – Planning

Based on your agency's most recent CNA, please complete Table 1: Needs Table and Table 2: Priority Ranking Table.

| Table 1: Needs Table | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Needs Identified | Level (C/F) | Agency Mission (Y/N) | Currently Addressing (Y/N) | If not currently addressing, why? | Agency Priority (Y/N) |
| Community lacks access to affordable | | | | Need met by local | Indirectl |
| housing. | С | Yes | N | partner. | У |
| Families lack access to culturally and linguistically competent mental health services. | F | Yes | Y | Choose an item. | Directly |
| Families lack consistent access to nutritious food | F | Yes | Y | Choose an item. | Directly |
| Families lack assistance to pay utility bills | F | Yes | Y | Choose an item. | Directly |
| Community lacks employment opportunities and access to job training resources. | С | Yes | N | Need met by local partner. | Indirectl y |
| Community lacks access affordable healthcare | С | Yes | Y | | Indirectly |
| Families lack access to affordable childcare and before and after school programs | F | Yes | N | Need met by local partner. | Indirectly |
| Community lacks supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness | С | Yes | Y | | Directly |
| Community lacks accessible transportation services | С | Yes | N | Need met by local partner. | Indirectly |
| Community lacks employment that pays a living wage | С | Yes | N | Need met by local partner | Indirectly |
| Community lacks supportive services for older adults and seniors | С | Yes | N | Need met by local partner | Indirectly |
| Families lack consistent access to diapers for children | F | Yes | Υ | | Directly |
| Community lacks access to broadband and | | | | Need met by local partner | |
| digital literacy. | С | Υ | N | | Indirectly |

<u>Needs Identified</u>: Enter each need identified in your agency's most recent CNA. Ideally, agencies should use ROMA needs statement language in Table 1. ROMA needs statements are complete sentences that identify the need. For example, "Individuals lack living wage jobs" or "Families lack access to affordable housing" are needs statements. Whereas "Employment" or "Housing" are not. Add row(s) if additional space is needed.

<u>Level (C/F)</u>: Identify whether the need is a community level (C) or a family level (F) need. If the need is a community level need, the need impacts the geographical region directly. If the need is a family level need, it

will impact individuals/families directly.

Agency Mission (Y/N): Indicate if the identified need aligns with your agency's mission.

Currently Addressing (Y/N): Indicate if your agency is addressing the identified need.

<u>If not currently addressing, why?</u>: If your agency is not addressing the identified need, please select a response from the dropdown menu.

Agency Priority: Indicate if the identified need is an agency priority.

| Table 2: Priority Ranking Table | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | Agency Priorities | Description of programs, services, activities | Indicator(s) or Service(s) Category |
| 1. | Utility Assistance | Weatherize homes and provide electric, gas, and utility bill assistance through the LIHEAP program. Estimated over 2,000 households are served annually. | FNPI 4h. SRV 4i 4t |
| 2. | Food Assistance | Provide food through the Community Market, Food Hub, and Senior Delivery Program in collaboration with Interface. Estimated 5,000 households supported annually. | |
| | | | FNPI 4a, FNPI b |
| 3. | Support services for individuals experiencing homelessness | Provide referrals, mail, and hydiene support: | SRV 4m, SRV 4n SRV 5nn, SRV 5oo |
| 4. | Culturally and linguistically competent mental health resources | Obtain funding to offer wellness workshops for adults and youth; collaborate with partners like Ventura Behavioral Health/Gold Coast and NAMI. Serve 150+ individuals annually. | SRV 5p |
| 5. | Diaper for children | Biweekly diaper distribution in collaboration with Food Share for children under 5. Reach 700+ children each year. | SRV5oo |
| | Affordable Health Care Access | Refer and advocate for health services; organize Vision and Dental Clinics with partners like Healing California. | SRV 5d and 5bb |
| | Affordable childcare and before and after school programs | Advocate for childcare accessibility in collaboration with Isabella Project and partners. | SRV 7C |
| 8. | Employment opportunities and | Partner with Workforce Development Board and others to support job seekers; provide referrals and work clothing. | SRV 7C 1B |
| | Affordable Housing | Advocacy with local housing organizations and partners to increase affordable housing efforts and | SRV 7C |
| | | Partner with digital inclusion groups to provide digital literacy workshops and device access. | SRV2x |
| | - | | SRV 7C |

<u>Agency Priorities</u>: Rank the needs identified as a priority in Table 1: Needs Table according to your agency's planned priorities. Ideally, agencies should use ROMA needs statement language. Insert row(s) if additional space is needed.

<u>Description of programs, services, activities</u>: Briefly describe the program, services, or activities that your agency will provide to address the need. Including the number of clients who are expected to achieve the indicator in a specified timeframe.

<u>Indicator/Service Category</u>: List the indicator(s) (CNPI, FNPI) or service(s) (SRV) that will be reported on in Modules 3 and 4 of the CSBG Annual Report.

Part II: Community Action Plan

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

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

California Code of Regulations Sections 100651 and 100655

Vision and Mission Statements

ROMA - Planning

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.

Causes and Conditions of Poverty

Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.2, 3.4 ROMA – Planning

1. Describe the key findings of your analysis of information collected directly from low-income individuals to better understand their needs. (Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2)

As part of the 2026–2027 Community Needs Assessment, Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) gathered input from over 200 community members through surveys, focus groups in Oxnard and Santa Paula, and interviews with low-income residents, nonprofit partners, faith-based leaders, and elected officials who work closely with underserved populations.

Affordable housing emerged as the most urgent concern. Residents cited unsustainable rent increases, overcrowded conditions, and displacement risks. This was closely linked to broader cost-of-living challenges, including rising expenses for food, utilities, healthcare, and transportation. For many, income or legal status barriers prevent access to public assistance.

Through our partnership with Food Share, we learned that diapers were the second most requested item after food—underscoring the need for basic hygiene support. Our diaper distribution program remains a critical resource for families with young children.

We also conducted focus groups to assess broadband access. Participants emphasized the need for affordable internet and digital literacy training, particularly for families with school-aged children and those navigating online systems for employment or services.

Mental health care access remains limited, particularly for Medi-Cal recipients, undocumented residents, and youth. Participants reported long wait times, stigma, and a shortage of culturally competent services. Unhoused residents also face challenges accessing case management and shelter options.

Transportation, language barriers, and lack of trust in institutions continue to prevent residents— especially seniors, Indigenous-language speakers, and undocumented individuals—from accessing available services.

Additional service gaps include affordable childcare, youth programs, job training, financial literacy, and mobile health services. Respondents also emphasized the need for more culturally relevant outreach—both in Spanish and Indigenous languages—through trusted community partners.

Despite these challenges, the community expressed confidence in the strength of local nonprofits, grassroots groups, schools, and faith-based organizations, calling for increased investment in these

trusted networks.

- Recent data reinforces these findings. Santa Paula's poverty rate is 15.3%, and Oxnard's is 10.8%, Santa Paula's poverty rate is above state and national averages. Oxnard is the largest city in Ventura County with a population exceeding 200,000 residents.
- The ZIP codes with some of the highest poverty concentrations in Ventura County are:
- 93060 (Santa Paula)
- 93023 (Ojai)
- 93033 (South Oxnard)
- 93001 (Ventura Westside)
- 93036 (North Oxnard)

According to Health Matters in Ventura County and recent U.S. Census data, 16.9% of children under the age of 18 in Oxnard live below the federal poverty level. The situation is even more concerning for younger children- approximately 24.6% of children under age 5.

These child poverty rates are consistent with trends observed in other cities with high concentrations of poverty across Ventura County, including Santa Paula, where families with young children face particularly acute challenges. For example, approximately 900 children are born in Santa Paula each year, yet only around 300 of them later enroll in higher education—highlighting a clear need for early intervention and sustained support through childhood.

It is important to note that every city in Ventura County has neighborhoods where families are living in poverty, underscoring the importance of countywide strategies and targeted outreach to ensure that no community is left behind.

2. Describe your agency's assessment findings specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for your service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.2)

We conducted a thorough assessment of poverty trends in our service area using internal program data from our annual report, community engagement, and public sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau and Health Matters in Ventura County.

Gender:

According to the U.S. Census, females in Ventura County have a higher poverty rate (13.5%) than males (10.9%). This is reflected in CAVC's internal data, where more 59% of clients served in 2024 were women.

Many of whom, aside from working maybe also be caregivers responsible for managing household needs. Field staff also noted that female-headed households often seek multi-service support, including diapers, food, and utility assistance.

Age:

Children and seniors are the most impacted by poverty in Ventura County. Census data shows that 15.3% of children under 18 live in poverty. In contrast, 10.2% of seniors (65+) live in poverty countywide. Based on focus group and community engagement: both groups face heightened vulnerability due to limited income, reliance on caregivers or fixed benefits, and high living costs.

Ethnicity:

Poverty in Ventura County disproportionately affects Latino. Latino residents make up 43% of the county population but represent nearly 70% (4,392 individuals) of those served by CAVC Note this number is higher because we were not able to capture demographics on every individual we serve. The number is only for individuals served by LIHEAP. According to recent Census and ACS data, 16.5% of Latino residents live in poverty, compared to 8.4% of non-Hispanic white residents. Through our diaper and food programs we frequently serve clients who speak Indigenous languages (e.g., Mixteco, Zapotec) and face additional barriers such as language exclusion, and limited access to culturally competent services.

3. "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 your needs assessment data, describe the causes of poverty in your agency's service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

Our assessment revealed that poverty in our service area is primarily driven by systemic, economic, and social barriers that restrict access to resources and prevent families from achieving self-sufficiency.

The lack of affordable housing is the most pressing issue, as confirmed across all assessment tools. Soaring rents, limited affordable units, and high overcrowding have led to housing insecurity and rising homelessness. This is especially acute in high-poverty ZIP codes such as 93060 (Santa Paula)

and 93033 (South Oxnard), where housing costs outpace wages.

Second, low-wage employment and lack of job mobility are major contributing factors. Many residents are working but still cannot meet basic needs due to stagnant wages, seasonal jobs, and limited access to job training—especially among undocumented workers and Indigenous-language speakers.

Other causes include inaccessible childcare, which prevents many—especially single mothers—from joining or remaining in the workforce. Additionally, limited access to healthcare and mental health services, particularly for Medi-Cal recipients and undocumented residents, prevents families from maintaining stability.

Transportation barriers, digital exclusion, and language and legal status limitations further isolate lowincome individuals. Immigrant and Indigenous communities face institutional mistrust, documentation hurdles, and limited culturally competent services.

Survey data also point to rising youth mental health needs, limited financial literacy education, and a need for broadband access and digital training. The focus groups reinforced that while families are resourceful, they are constrained by service gaps and rigid eligibility criteria.

4. "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 your needs assessment data, describe the conditions of poverty in your agency's service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

Our Community Needs Assessment identified a range of adverse economic, health, safety, and environmental conditions that contribute to and sustain poverty in Ventura County. These conditions limit community development, strain families, and reduce opportunities for upward mobility.

Economically, many communities across the county —particularly in Santa Paula, South Oxnard, and West Ventura and Ojai to name some—face high housing costs, limited access to high-wage jobs, and unaffordable childcare. These financial stressors are compounded by rising food, transportation, and utility prices, making daily survival difficult even for working families. Over 60% of survey respondents identified housing and basic needs as their top concerns.

From a health standpoint, low-income residents often report limited access to affordable, culturally competent medical and mental health care, particularly among Medi-Cal recipients and undocumented individuals. Focus group participants expressed that stress, anxiety, and depression are widespread, yet often untreated due to long waitlists, language barriers, and fear of seeking help.

The lack of stable housing and rise in homelessness are among the most visible outcomes of these

conditions. According to the 2024 Ventura County Homeless Count, 1,990 individuals were experiencing homelessness, including families with children and individuals facing mental health and substance use challenges. Participants emphasized that unsheltered individuals often lack access to hygiene services, case management, and safe spaces—conditions that exacerbate health risks and social isolation.

Environmental and infrastructural inequities further shape poverty conditions. A lack of broadband access or digital literacy limits participation in education, employment, and telehealth. In rural and semi-urban areas such as Fillmore and Santa Paula, inadequate public transportation isolates residents from essential services and job opportunities.

In additional social conditions—such as overcrowded housing, under-resourced schools, and linguistic exclusion—contribute to cycles of disinvestment. Indigenous-language speakers and undocumented families often experience fear, misinformation, and systemic exclusion, which deters them from accessing available services and benefits.

5. Describe your agency's data and findings obtained through the collecting, analyzing, and reporting of customer satisfaction data.

We collect customer feedback through satisfaction surveys available in our lobby, provided by coordinators during services, and online. Clients are encouraged to complete the surveys anonymously to ensure honest input.

Customer satisfaction data is collected year-round and formally analyzed in October. Key findings are compiled into a Customer Satisfaction Report, which is presented to the Board of Directors at the end of each year. This process helps us identify strengths, improve service delivery, and ensure programs remain responsive to community needs. We get the most feedback from our food program participants who depend on our bimonthly Community Market and our Diaper program, Homeless Services Community Workshops.

Some of the key findings include:

Clients report high satisfaction with our delivery service and describe us as a trusted agency in the community.

Many clients express the need for more services (legal, medi-cal navigator programs)

There is a strong demand for dental and vision care services.

Unsheltered clients have requested that Homeless Services be available more than twice per week.

LIHEAP clients would like to see expanded income eligibility guidelines so more households can qualify.

Overall, customers need more services, as they often turn to us for needs beyond what we provide.

Tripartite Board of Directors

CSBG Act Sections 676B(a) and (b), 676(b)(10) Organizational Standards 1.1. 3.5 ROMA – Evaluation

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), Organizational Standard 1.1)

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.

We have a time at each board meeting where the general public can address our board of directors and staff "Public comment" on items outside of the agenda as well as items on the agenda. This would be a time where public comments can be made in person or submitted in writing. CAVC will look at including wording where it's easier for individuals or groups to understand a petition process for adequate representation.

2. Describe your process for communicating with and receiving formal approval from your agency board of the Community Needs Assessment (Organizational Standard 3.5).

The timeline and process of the Community Needs Assessment is presented to the board at a regular board meeting before beginning. They are invited to be part of the process, from data collection to the public hearing to review the draft plan. The final approval of the Community Needs Assessment and CAP Plan is scheduled to be presented at the June regular board meeting as a business item for approval.

Service Delivery System

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A) State Plan 14.3a ROMA - Implementation

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 14.3a)

Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) delivers services through a combination of direct services, partnerships, and coordinated referrals. Our programs include energy assistance (HEAP), weatherization, homeless services, food and diaper distribution, community workshops, and outreach activities. Services are offered at our main office and through satellite locations in Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Santa Paula to enhance access and transportation-limited clients.

CAVC's intake process includes a general intake form completed by clients participating in core programs such as HEAP, homeless services, and community workshops. Intake is offered in person, virtually, or via digital document submission and drop-off. Our bilingual staff and interpreters ensure services are accessible in the client's preferred language.

Services are provided through multiple modes, including walk-ins, phone consultations, virtual and inperson presentations, outreach events, and workshops. Our outreach staff play a key role in expanding access countywide and linking clients to additional resources through collaboration with local nonprofits, public agencies, and subcontractors as needed.

This multi-access, client-centered approach allows CAVC to deliver services efficiently while addressing barriers related to language, transportation, and digital access. We utilize subcontractors exclusively for our Weatherization program. All other services are provided directly by CAVC staff.

2. Describe how the poverty data related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity referenced in Part II: Causes and Conditions of Poverty, Question 2 will inform your service delivery and strategies in the coming two years?

Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) will use gender, age, and race/ethnicity data to guide service delivery over the next two years, ensuring resources are directed to the most vulnerable populations.

Our data shows that women, especially single mothers, face heightened challenges related to

housing, childcare, and employment. Children under 5 have the highest poverty rates, and seniors make up nearly one-fifth of our clients. Latino communities, who represent a majority of those we serve, experience additional barriers tied to language access, immigration status, and digital exclusion.

In response, CAVC will continue providing direct assistance with basic needs (LIHEAP, Food Program, Homeless Services and Diaper program and expand outreach in high-need areas. We will also advocate for affordable housing, early childhood development, and accessible childcare, while working closely with partners to refer and collaborate on digital literacy, financial literacy, and mental wellness workshops that connect families to the broader network of services available across the county.

While our Medi-Cal Navigator Program successfully helped hard-to-reach families access healthcare in 2024, the program ended due to lack of funding. However, the need remains. We will explore ways to restore or replicate this support model through partnerships or new funding sources.

Linkages and Funding Coordination

CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(B) and (C); 676(b)(3)(B), (C) and (D); 676(b)(4), (5), (6), and (9) California Government Code Sections 12747(a), 12760 Organizational Standards 2.1 State Plan 9.3b, 9.4b, 9.5, 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)(9); Organizational Standard 2.1; State Plan 14.1c)

Three key groups CAVC is currently working with is the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County, the Isabella Project, and the Ventura County Community Information Exchange. The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County has established a single platform for referrals this year, in the established MOU services and funding amounts by each organization were identified. Some agencies provided the services, others the space and others specific funding for the different programs. The Isabella Project has coordinated meetings every month with established milestones and goals, the Ventura County Community Foundation is currently the agency who is providing the funding to push this pilot program thru completion but active participation from all service providers is what is helping to move the project forward. The Ventura County Community Information Exchange is also establishing a referral platform, funding is being provided for a 3 month pilot program for agencies to begin using this platform, CAVC is one of those agencies receiving funding.

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)(3)(C), Organizational Standard 2.1, State Plan 9.7)

CAVC has standing MOUs with other CBOs to complete initial intake process for Weatherization and HEAP programs. These MOUs include the following organizations: 211 due to it's wide reach across the county and being a trusted source for information in the community. HELP of Ojai which provides services to low-income families and seniors.

In becoming a food hub location for Food Forward, we established MOUs with over 20 local pantries to help provide produce for their food distributions. CAVC lends its facility to receive the pallets of produce, unload, organize and then coordinate pickup of produce with each pantry. These pantries include community colleges, senior centers, faith based organizations and other local partners.

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), California Government Code 12760)

CAVC programs currently offered include:

- **Weatherization Services:** Includes home improvements such as water heater and appliance repair or replacement to improve energy efficiency.
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP): Assistance with gas or electric bill payments.
- Diaper Distribution: In partnership with Food Share, we provide diapers and baby wipes once a month to families in need.
- Community Market: Access to fresh produce, canned goods, and other essential food items.
- Homeless Services: Focused on hygiene support, mail services, and referrals to additional resources.
- **Community Workshops:** Offering educational sessions on financial wellness, mental wellness, and nutrition.

CAVC departments collaborate strategically with local partners that serve low-income individuals and families. Staff members actively participate in community meetings, coalitions, and planning groups to share information about available programs, identify emerging needs, and coordinate service delivery.

By maintaining strong partnerships, CAVC helps ensure that services are not duplicated, but rather that gaps are identified and addressed. This collaborative approach strengthens the overall service network and enhances our ability to deliver comprehensive, client-centered support to the community.

4. Describe how your agency will leverage other funding sources and increase programmatic and/or organizational capacity. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(C))

CAVC has established strong partnerships and presence in Ventura County. By establishing satellite offices in other key areas of the county where poverty levels are high or access to services is limited, we are in a position to tap into additional funding sources. Our now 3 satellite offices have all been established in spaces, buildings, where multi-services are already being delivered. We support initiatives and partner in submitting grant requests in conjunction with other agencies to provide programming together versus in silos. We are also strategic about the programming, making sure it aligns with our overall mission but also with existing programs in the agency. We are looking at a grant with the County of Ventura that will complement some of the work already being done in Weatherization. In 2025 we are working with fellows from the local community college who are being paid a stipend for their hours and CAVC also receives a stipend to oversee their work. This helps with our capacity to serve more while also helping support local students in the community.

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

The staff and board of directors are looking to identify the core and key services CAVC is currently providing. Partnerships are key when looking at potential funding reductions, as we understand we will not be able to continue functioning the same way if there are funding reductions. Partnerships not only include other CBOs but the private sector as well. We continue looking for sponsorships, private donations to allow for more flexibility in delivering program and shifting as funding changes. Our goal is to continue providing services around the key needs in our community knowing that our model of service delivery may need to change. Looking at the offices spaces we're currently working under and if there are ways to reduce costs physically redistributing office spaces into our satellite offices and what key spaces we cannot do without to delivery direct services. Our overall plan is to continue growing our private donations and sponsorships to allow for flexibility, and this is supported by an active fund development committee under the board of directors. Our finance committee is also active in reviewing the budget to make changes as needed through out the year quickly making recommendations to the board of directors.

6. 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)

Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) recognizes the importance of supporting youth in low-income communities through development programs that prioritize their mental, emotional, and social well-being. In 2024, while offering financial literacy and mental wellness workshops for adults, CAVC invited parents to bring their children so that learning could be inclusive and family centered. This is usually the case in Santa Paula as parents sometimes don't have anyone to care for their children

while they attend a workshop.

Building on that experience and community feedback, CAVC expanded its approach by offering mental wellness workshops specifically for youth—ensuring their voices were not only included but elevated. These workshops, held in low-income housing complexes, provided youth with tools to feel grounded, express their feelings and explore self-expression through art, and practice mindfulness through breathing and meditation exercises. These spaces created opportunities for dialogue, and empowerment, tailored to the unique experiences of young people living in low-resource environments

Moving forward, CAVC will continue to collaborate with schools, community centers, housing providers, and youth-serving organizations to expand youth-centered programming. This includes seeking funding to continue and grow these workshops, while also connecting youth and families to additional resources with Ventura County Behavioral Health and other wellness services offered across Ventura County

7. 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)

Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) is committed to increasing collaboration and expanding innovative youth development programs that address the emotional, social, and developmental needs of young people in our service area.

In 2024, CAVC piloted youth-focused mental wellness workshops, which included meditation and breathing exercises, art activities, and guided self-expression for young children. These workshops created a safe and supportive space where youth could explore their emotions, reduce stress, and build coping skills—laying a foundation for healthier relationships, and improved emotional resilience. Feedback from participants and families highlighted a clear demand for more youth-centered wellness programming.

As a result, CAVC is actively seeking additional funding opportunities to expand these workshops and offer them more broadly across the county. We are also working to build new partnerships with local schools (wellness programs), youth-serving organizations, and community-based groups to integrate

these activities into after-school programs, mentoring initiatives, and family-centered events.

To further support youth development, CAVC will collaborate with partners to promote programs that encourage violence-free environments, peer mediation, life skills training, workforce readiness, and accessible after-school childcare—especially in high-need areas like Santa Paula, South Oxnard, and Ventura's Westside.

By continuing to engage youth directly and integrating their voices into our service planning, CAVC remains committed to building positive, community-based opportunities that nurture the potential of Ventura County's youth.

- 8. Describe your agency's 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 a standing MOU under the Workforce and Innovation and Opportunity Act. Under this MOU, a referral platform has been established which will make referral tracking clearer. Referrals to include: employment resources being offered by the Workforce Development, whether that is help with resume writing, upskilling, serving youth looking for employment or referrals to other services needed while seeking employment. We have established a clothing closet for career clothing, which we are coordinating with the American Job Center under this MOU to also refer clients who are in need of clothing for interviews or a new job. Another piece we've taken, is being open to take on work placement for individuals identified who are working on building skills in between jobs. Additionally, we have continued our partnership with Remployability, an agency that assists individuals using workers' compensation to find volunteer opportunities while they recover
- 9. 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)
- CAVC continues to run a food distribution program with different components. Twice a month, we hold a community market (pantry) where over 350 households participate. We are proud to partner with organizations like 211 and Amazon to deliver food boxes to 70 disabled or senior individuals who lack transportation and cannot come to our weekly market. Additionally, we collaborate with Food Forward to distribute pallets of produce to local pantries in Ventura County. We also offer food bags to unhoused individuals who may not have a cooking device. 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. Our facility includes offices spaces and a warehouse where we can taken on deliveries of other emergency or basic needs supplies. We have distributed

| | distribution site with our local food bank. |
|-----|--|
| 10. | Is your agency a dual (CSBG and LIHEAP) service provider? |
| | ⊠ Yes |
| | □ No |
| 11. | For dual agencies: |
| | 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), State Plan 9.5) |
| | For all other agencies: |
| | Describe how your agency coordinates services with your local LIHEAP service provider? |
| CA | AVC is a dual service provider, a universal demographics intake form has been created. On that form, clients are identified and asked about additional programs available at the agency. They are then referred to all programs within in the agency which include CSBG or LIHEAP. Staff is trained in understanding the basics of each program so they can asses and refer someone who may be in need of those services. When outreach efforts are conducted, information on both CSBG and LIHEAP programs are distributed to community |
| CA | (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(6), State Plan 9.5) For all other agencies: Describe how your agency coordinates services with your local LIHEAP service provider? AVC is a dual service provider, a universal demographics intake form has been created. On that form, clients are identified and asked about additional programs available at the agency. They are then referred to all programs within in the agency which include CSBG or LIHEAP. Staff is trained in understanding the basics of each program so they can asses and refer someone who may be in need of those services. When outreach efforts are |

12. 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)

that handle those calls or requests and can be quickly connected to them and then

assessed for other services and needs.

At Community Action, we continue 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. This project is a multi-year initiative, it 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. The goal is early childhood education but understanding that there are different components and needs from the community. Some to include parenting resources, before and after school care, transportation, etc. Our current role is to continue providing our existing programs to these families but also serving as a voice to these families for their needs.

13. 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)

CAVC continues to use data to identify gaps in service. Data includes our satisfaction survey, reviewing our annual report, current and past community needs assessments in our county as well as our own. Access to dental and vision services was a need identified at our last needs assessment, we were able to host a mobile dental and health clinic at the end of 2024 in partnership with Healing California where we served over 90 community members in one day. Access to broadband services was another need identified by staff as it was a recurring ask for our existing clients coming in for assistance with their utility bills. There was the need for assistance with the cost of paying their internet bill but also areas in Ventura County where broadband was still not as easily accessible. CAVC then hosted an enrollment day for low income individuals to enroll in an existing discounted program with internet providers. From there we became involved in a broadband initiative at the county level to understand the needs in different cities, including Oxnard and Santa Paula which are listed with the highest poverty levels. CAVC has worked with partners to establish a better referral system. An example being shared platforms for referrals to partner services. Being aware of other programs and services in the community is key. Having shared platforms with partners such as in the Workforce Development, where a platform called "ATLAS" has been established to provide the referrals directly is key.

Monitoring

ROMA - Planning, Evaluation

1. 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, issuance of formal monitoring reports, and emergency monitoring procedures.

Currently, the only subcontractors CAVC is utilizing is under the Weatherization program. The subcontractors are going into the home to replace, repair or install items identified by CAVC staff during a home assessment.

Every job completed by a subcontractor is inspected by a CAVC staff. This includes the work done in the home as well as forms and documentation submitted. Any corrective actions are communicated verbally and email by management.

Quarterly meetings occur between staff and subcontractors. At these meetings, new information is presented, and any ongoing corrective actions that have been identified will also be discussed and if additional training is required it is also presented.

Since the Weatherization program falls under the LIHEAP program, this program has it's own monitoring procedures by the state where work by subcontractors is monitored every 6 months by Counsel. When their monitoring is complete, a report is given to the manager of the department and the Executive Director. Any findings or issues found during this monitoring are shared with staff and subcontractors, and changes are put in place for corrections. If any findings which require immediate attention are identified, there is a meeting called with the subcontractors to correct them.

ROMA Application

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12) Organizational Standards 4.2, 4.3 ROMA – Planning, Evaluation



1. Describe how your agency will evaluate the effectiveness of its 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)

We evaluate the effectiveness of its programs and services through a combination of performance measurement tools, ongoing data collection, client feedback, and board-level oversight. This approach ensures our services are responsive to community needs and continuously improved for impact.

Each program—such as HEAP, Weatherization, Food and Diaper distribution, Homeless services, and Community Workshops—establishes annual service goals aligned with agency priorities, community needs and capacity. These goals are tracked using monthly program reports, which document the number of individuals served, service types delivered, and outcomes achieved. Managers submit data and report a summary to the Board of Directors and include all data in the annual report to the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD).

To measure effectiveness and ensure outcomes align with community priorities, CAVC is working toward full adoption of the ROMA (Results-Oriented Management and Accountability) framework across all programs. This includes clearly linking identified needs to inputs, outputs, and measurable outcomes. A Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer on staff supports this integration and will be guiding and checking departments in setting and evaluating performance indicators.

Customer feedback is another essential component of evaluation. CAVC administers a customer satisfaction survey both in paper form and online. Survey results are reviewed annually and summarized in a report for the board. In addition, staff regularly engage clients during service delivery—such as during diaper distributions and mental wellness workshops—to gather informal feedback on service quality and barriers to access. These touchpoints offer valuable, real-time

insights that supplement formal data collection.

CAVC also evaluates performance through its fiscal and administrative review process, which includes monthly reviews by the Executive Director, Director of Finance, and board members. These internal controls ensure that both service delivery and resource management align with contractual requirements and organizational goals.

Through this multi-layered evaluation process, CAVC ensures that programs remain efficient, equitable, and outcome-driven—responding to the changing needs of Ventura County's most vulnerable populations.

2. Select one need from Table 2: Priority Ranking Table and describe how your agency plans to implement, monitor progress, and evaluate the program designed to address the need. Organizational Standard 4.2)

Selected Need: Community lacks supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) addresses this critical need through its Homeless Services Program, which provides essential support to unsheltered individuals throughout Ventura County. Services include sack lunches, id vouchers, emergency, clothing, bus passes, mail access, hygiene supply distribution, and referrals to shelter, housing programs, and supportive resources such as behavioral health and substance use treatment. These referrals are made only when the client is ready as we have clients who have mental health conditions or have a drug addiction.

Implementation of the program is led by 2 trained staff who engage directly with individuals experiencing homelessness at our Oxnard location. While CAVC does not employ case managers, staff are trained to provide referrals and warm handoffs to trusted community partners who specialize in housing navigation, case management, and wraparound services.

Due to limited funding, CAVC operates this program with reduced staffing capacity and depends on the support of volunteers and community donations to sustain services such as hygiene kit preparation ect. Volunteers play a vital role in helping staff manage the growing demand for these basic services.

Progress Monitoring is conducted through internal logs that track the number of clients served, types of referrals made, and basic demographic and service information. We conduct monthly reviews to assess service trends, identify resource gaps, and ensure consistent client support. We also submit

a monthly report on services provided to the Executive Director and Board.

Evaluation focuses on measurable outputs, such as the number of individuals served, referrals issued, and mail services, ID vouchers our bus passes provided. Although CAVC does not offer formal case management, outcomes such as clients obtaining shelter or housing placements through referral partners are tracked when available. Client interactions and feedback further inform program adjustments.

CAVC's Manager of Community Services and Executive Director monitor the program quarterly, and key performance data are presented to the Board of Directors on a monthly basis. As the community's need for these services continues to grow, CAVC is actively exploring opportunities to expand partnerships and seek funding that could support dedicated case management in the future.

Optional

3 . Select one community level need from Table 2: Priority Ranking Table or your agency's most recent Community Needs Assessment and describe how your agency plans to implement, monitor progress, and evaluate the program designed to address the need. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.2)

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances

CSBG Act Section 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--

- a. 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);
- b. to secure and retain meaningful employment;
- c. 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;
- d. to make better use of available income;
- e. to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
- f. to obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs;
- g. to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots
- h. partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to
 - 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.

State Assurances

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

For CAA, MSFW, NAI, and LPA Agencies

<u>California Government Code § 12747(a)</u>: 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.

For MSFW Agencies Only

<u>California Government Code § 12768</u>: 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.

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.

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.

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 4.2 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.

Part III: 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, the Low-Income Testimony and the Agency's Response document, and a copy of the most recent community needs assessment as appendices A, B, and C, respectively. Other appendices as necessary are encouraged. All appendices should be labeled as an appendix (e.g., Appendix A: Notice of Public Hearing) or separated by divider sheets and submitted with the CAP.

| Document Title | Appendix Location |
|--|----------------------|
| Notice of Public Hearing | Α |
| List of public Hearing Attendees/Low Income Testimony and Agency Response blank (no testimony or comments made) | В |
| Additional notices for surveys, and focus groups | С |
| Public Hearing Presentation | D |
| Community Needs Assessment Focus Group Comments | E |
| Notice of Public Hearing ist of public Hearing Attendees/Low Income Testimony and Agency Response blank (no testimony or comments hade) Additional notices for surveys, and focus groups Public Hearing Presentation Community Needs Assessment Focus Group Commen Community Needs Assessment Key Interview Commen | F |
| Community Needs Assessment English /Spanish | G |
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| | |

Appendix A









Español

Who We Are Our Work Get Help Make a Difference CAVC in the Community Contact Us



Learn more about our Strategic Plan 2023-2027

The draft for the Community Action Plan for 2026-2027 is currently open for public review and comments

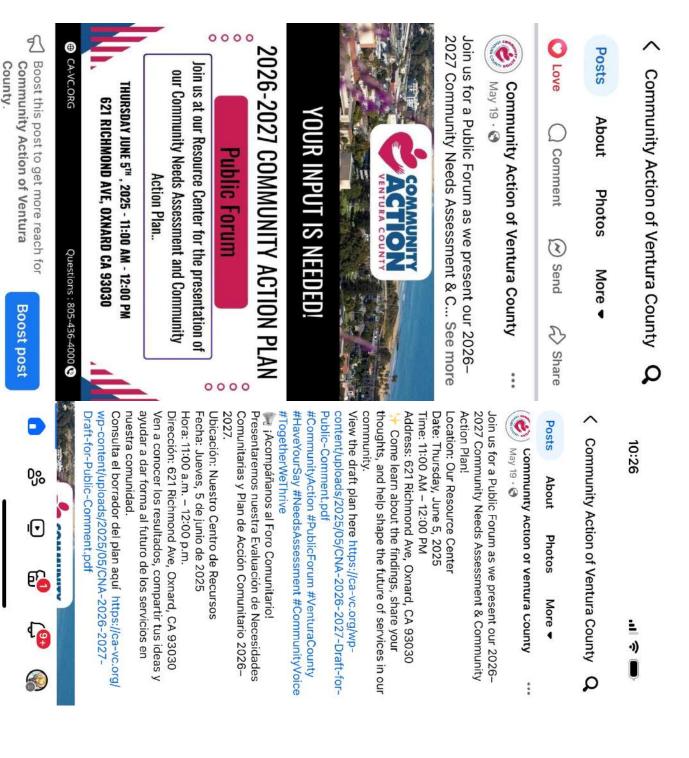
If you would like to provide feedback or request a copy, please contact clozano@ca-vc.org before June 5, 2025

gather input from the community. We will be holding a Public Forum on June 5th, 11am-12pm in our Resource Center where we will share our findings and

621 Richmond Ave. Oxnard CA 93030

CAP 2026-2027 DRAFT public review and comment from May 5, 2025, until June 5, 20253

Appendix A



Appendix B

| Last Name Mobile Phone Email Zip code Wazquaz & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| Last Name Mobile Phone Email Zip code Va2quaz 805290-6548 Quazquaz Q CA-vc.org 93033 Navailo 809/499-3765 Prendeza 9300/ Mendeza 8312908 mendealexazs1020/5agmaila 9303C Jalencia 820-453-2335 4303C 9303C | | 93036 | Acamper @ CA-VC. ORG | 805 263-88-59 805-877-5906 805-436-4029 | 105 | Andhorn C. |
| Name Last Name Mobile Phone Email Zip code L Va2quaz \$9000000000000000000000000000000000000 | | 4303C | mendealexa23102015agmaila | 83129258 620-453-2335 | | Alexandra Elitania V |
| Last Name Mobile Phone Email Zip code | | 93033 | enazarozo ca-uc.org | 6905290-6548 | Varquer | Ed. t |
| The same of the sa | Comentarios/Notes | Zip code | Email | Mobile Phone | Last Name | First Name |

Appendix C

Apr 17 · 🚱 Community Action of Ventura County

As part of our 2025 Community Needs As... See more Community Conversations in Santa Paula!



County. Community Action of Ventura

002

Comment

Like

(3) Send

Share

2 shares

Community Action of Ventura County

Apr 17 · 🚱

YOU. Share what matters most to you and help shape the future of services in Ventura County. we're hosting a bilingual session to hear directly from Community Conversations in Santa Paula! As part of our 2025 Community Needs Assessment,

Tuesday, April 22, 10:00 AM - 11:00 11:00 AM

113 N. Mill St., Santa Paula (Satellite Office)
 Coffee & pastries will be provided!
 RSVP with Maria Jimenez: 805-625-1212

Your voice matters. Be part of the conversation!

servicios en el Condado de Ventura.

Martes, 22 de abril de 2025

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

113 N. Mill St., Santa Paula (Officia) para escuchar lo que más te importa y así mejorar los Como parte de nuestra Evaluación de Necesidades Comunitarias 2025, te invitamos a una sesión bilingüe 🔊 ¡Conversaciones Comunitarias en Santa Paula!

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM 113 N. Mill St., Santa Paula (Oficina Satélite)

¡Habrá café y pan dulce! Confirma tu asistencia con María Jiménez:

Tu voz importa. ¡Sé parte de la conversación!



Apr 16 . 3 **Community Action of Ventura County**

Your Voice Matters – Take Our Community

across Ventura County by taking a quick, anonymous survey. community. Help us improve programs and services We want to know what matters most to YOU and your

Scan the QR code or use the link below to

#HaveYourSay #YourVoiceMatters #CAVC #CommunitySurvey #VenturaCounty #CommunityAction Thank you for being part of the change! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MGKJY2C

Comunitaria! Tu Voz Importa – Participa en Nuestra Encuesta

servicios en el Condado de Ventura respondiendo tu comunidad. una breve encuesta anónima. Queremos saber qué es lo más importante para TI y Ayúdanos a mejorar los programas

🎤 Escanea el código QR o usa el enlace abajo para

#TuVozImporta #CAVC #EncuestaComunitaria #Participa #CondadoDeVentura #AcciónComunitaria ¡Gracias por ser parte del cambio! 💬 https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MGKJY2C

Apr 16 . 3 Community Action of Ventura County

Survey!... See more Your Voice Matters – Take Our Community



Boost this post to get more reach for County. Community Action of Ventura

Boost post

Appendix C

Community Action of Ventura County Apr 26 · 🚱

Last day to take our survey us 4/28/25 → Your Voice Matters – Take Our Community Survey!... See more





Boost this post to get more reach for County. Community Action of Ventura

Boost post

Comment (3)

Send

1 share

← Share

Community Action of Ventura County

Thank you, Ventura County! 💬

We are deeply grateful to everyone who p... See more

THE DRAFT FOR THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR 2026 - 2027 IS CURRENTLY OPEN FOR PUBLIC REVIEW ON OUR WEBSITE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK OR REQUEST A COPY, PLEASE CONTACT CLOZANO@CA-VC.ORG BEFORE JUNE 5, 2023

WE WILL BE HOLDING A PUBLIC FORUM ON JUNE 5TH WHERE WE WILL SHARE OUR FINDINGS AND GATHER INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS





Boost this post to get more reach for Community Action of Ventura

Boost post

0 2

() Comment

3

Share

1 share

Community Action of Ventura County

across Ventura County by taking a quick, anonymous community. Help us improve programs and services We want to know what matters most to YOU and your Last day to take our survey us 4/28/25 🫶 Your Voice Take Our Community Survey!

participate. Scan the QR code or use the link below to

#YourVoiceMatters #CAVC #CommunitySurvey Thank you for being part of the change! — #VenturaCounty #CommunityAction https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MGKJY2C

Comunitaria! #HaveYourSay 🐂 ¡Tu Voz Importa – Participa en Nuestra Encuesta

una breve encuesta anónima. servicios en el Condado de Ventura respondiendo tu comunidad. Ayúdanos a mejorar los programas y Queremos saber qué es lo más importante para TI y

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MGKJY2C participar. Escanea el código QR o usa el enlace abajo para

#Participa #CondadoDeVentura #AcciónComunitaria #TuVozImporta #CAVC #EncuestaComunitaria ¡Gracias por ser parte del cambio! 💬

11:25

Community Action of Ventura County

Q

Community Action of Ventura County

Photos

Posts

We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated in our Community Needs Assessment—through surveys, focus groups, and interviews. Your voices are helping shape the future of local services. The draft of our 2026–2027 Community Action Plan is now open for public review and comment. (view here) https://carv.corg/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/CNA-2026-2027-Draft-for-Public-Comment and CNA-2026-2027-Draft-for-Public-Comment.pdf If you'd like to request a copy or share feedback, please email clozano@ca-vc.org by June 5, 2025 Public Forum coming June 5th!

#CommunityAction #VenturaCounty #HaveYourSay #CommunityVoice #CAVCPlan #PublicForum Stay tuned for details! #CommunityAction #V

Agradecemos profundamente a todas las personas Agradecemos profundamente a todas las personas que participaron en nuestra Evaluación de Necesidades Comunitarias a través de encuestas, grupos focales y entrevistas. Sus voces están ayudando a dar forma al futuro de los servicios

El borrador de nuestro Plan de Acción Comunitario 2026–2027 ya está disponible para revisión pública y comentarios. (vea a aqui) https://ca-vc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/CNA-2026-2027-Draft-for-Public-Comment.pdf
Si desea una copia o compartir su opinión, por favor

o compartir su opinión, por favor ca-vc.org antes del 5 de junio de











Appendix E

Focus Groups/ CAVC Community Conversations

Date: April 3rd 2025

City: Oxnard /CAVC Resource Center

Participants: 7 people Language: Bilingual/Eng/Span

| Question | Comments | Observations or quotes |
|---|--|--|
| What do you feel are the most | Lack of affordable housing for low- | "Everyone needs help or can benefit |
| pressing needs or challenges | income individuals and middle-income | from housing prices coming down." |
| currently facing our | families. | "We work all day and live pay check to |
| community? | Affordable healthcare | pay check" |
| | Lack of jobs that pay enough to make | |
| | ends meet. | |
| | Cost of living is too expensive even | |
| | when both parents work. | |
| | Cost of living is high for everyone. | |
| | Prices if eggs, milk, gas clothing, rent | |
| | have gone up and salaries have not. | |
| | There is a lot of discrimination against | |
| | Latinos. | |
| | Food insecurity | |
| | We need more shelters to get | |
| | unsheltered off the streets. | |
| | There are more unsheltered people in | |
| | the county | |
| 2. What resources or services do | Affordable healthcare access | "People don't go to the doctor because |
| you feel are currently lacking | Affordable childcare. | of cost and out their life in danger" |
| or insufficient in our | Services to make insurance (car, and | |
| community? | healthcare) affordable. | "We need workshops, orientation for |
| | Services to help people with food and | undocumented people who are afraid |
| | housing. | to come outside." |
| | Jobs that pay well | |

| 4. What types of programs or services would you like to see | | encountered? | When seeking assistance or resources, what barriers or difficulties have you | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Program that helps people complete paperwork to get assistance. | The people are not being heard by our political leaders. There are not enough resources. Knowledge of available resources. It's hard for people to qualify for services for example (healthcare services) Lack of childcare prevents us from getting services. Lack of medical assistance is a barrier | Unable to complete paperwork for assistance because I don't understand, and also other people don't know how to read or write English. | High prices when seeking medical assistance. Lack of ID or birth certificate. | Transportation Job training More healthcare services. Services to help people find affordable housing. Drug rehabilitation programs. Services that help migrant communities against unfair immigration policies. |
| "Everything is so expensive, food programs are a big help" | | "You have to be very low income to qualify for assistance" | "People who are homeless have a hard time accessing services." | "We need to Unite and do more for our migrant community" |

| | 6. Looking ahead, what changes or improvements would you like to see in our community over the next 3 to 5 years? | 5. How can our agency improve communication and outreach to ensure all community members are aware of available resources and services? | agency to better meet community needs? |
|--|---|---|--|
| Safe parks Activities in parks for different ages More security in parks and beaches Affordable gyms or places to do recreational activities for all | Access to affordable housing Clean streets Walkable streets Increase in salaries- living wage jobs. More security and law enforcement | Implement a TikTok channel to reach more people. More social media, advertising and flyer. More outreach Pass out more flyers Promote more in social media and conduct more surveys related to needs. | Dental and Vision clinics like the one we had last year. More food programs. Services to help people apply for medical. Affordable housing and food Dental and Vision no – cost or low-cost care More programs to assist with housing, healthcare and homelessness. |
| "Cleaner city" "Better affordable housing and public transportation in every city" "Improved quality of life for families" | "More access to affordable housing and less people living in the streets" "More help for those in need" | "Do outreach during CAVC community market because that is when people who need help the most come." | "We need programs that help with housing, health, food and everything we are talking about". "Families, especially families with children and seniors depend on CAVC pantry that it is an essential program" "I like all of the services community action offers" |

| Bicycles in parks Safe crosswalks More resources and referrals to housing Affordable housing and increase in minimum wage. |
|--|
| |

Focus Groups/ CAVC Community Conversations

Date : April 22rd 2025 City: Santa Paula - Satellite office Poder Popular Participants: 9 people Language: Spanish

| Question | Comments | Observations or quotes |
|---|--|---|
| What do you feel are the most | Affordable housing | "Too many smokers in the park" |
| pressing needs or challenges | High cost of living | (11 year old female) |
| currently facing our | Rent costs are out of control. | |
| community? | Cleaner parks | "Someone bringing more homeless to |
| | The number of people living in the | Santa Paula, they are not locals." |
| | street has increased. | |
| | Drug use and mental health has | "Homelessness is out of control." |
| | increased among homeless | "We are scared." |
| | community. | |
| | Dange of fires makes us feel vulnerable. | "We had a dangerous kidnapping |
| | Violence in the neighborhood hurst | incident near one of our schools." |
| | business. | |
| | Need rent control. | |
| | Need help for those who get kicked out | "Students are leaving local schools and |
| | of their home because of rent. | attending schools in other cities." |
| | We need mor elementary schools. | |
| | Need goals and strategies to increase. | We need affordable housing |
| | attendance in our local schools. | desperately – they are asking for \$3000 |
| | Increase safety in schools. | for a two bedroom and only allow 4 |
| | We have too many lock downs at our | adults". |
| | schools. | "Sometimes you need \$10 thousand to |
| | The way Latinos are treated and | find a place to rent because they ask for |
| | especially undocumented id unfair. | a deposit and two months in advance- |
| | Depression and anxiety in the | that's a crime." |
| | community. | Lack of Jobs |

| 2. What resources or services do | Good jobs There are a lot of resources for mental | "You need to be almost in the street to |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| | health but if you are undocumented, you can't access them. | qualify for any help." |
| community? | Undocumented people do not qualify | "We need programs to prevent fights |
| | for many services needed. | among students at schools." |
| | We need services for individuals from | |
| | different economic levels not just very | More resources for undocumented |
| | low income. | community" |
| | More security in the schools- in the high | |
| | schools there is always a fight in the | |
| | restroom. | |
| | Telephone /cable companies charge | |
| | too much. | |
| | Potholes in streets need to be fixed. | |
| | Assistance for individuals that need | |
| | help completing paperwork to get | |
| | services. | |
| | Healthcare assistance – lack of access | |
| | to healthcare. | |
| | Programs to help folks learn English. | |
| | More programs to help use digital | |
| | technology. | |
| | Vision and Dental clinics | |
| 3. When seeking assistance or | Eligibility requirements are very strict. | "We need Navigators (people the |
| resources, what barriers or | Language barriers | community can trust) to help the |
| difficulties have you | Lack of good transportation | community complete paper work." |
| encountered? | We need smaller buses to get people | |
| | around that come by more frequently. | |

| 4. What types of programs or services would you like to see offered or expanded by our agency to better meet community needs? | |
|---|--|
| Affordable housing access for different economic levels not just very low income. Programs that help pay for water, electricity for everyone. Undocumented people do not qualify for tis assistance. Programs that help people complete paperwork. Program that helps eliminate homelessness. Some workers are racist and mistreat us, we need works that are educated and professional. Workers able to help people from different cultures. Culturally competent. | People need assistance in completing paperwork to get assistance. We need navigators from the community. Immigration status Transportation Access to internet is difficult in our communities. Lack of tech and internet skills There are people in our community that do not know how to read or write. Too much bureaucracy |
| "Undocumented people work and pay taxes and do not get services people with documents get." "We need Medi-Cal Navigators like the program CAVC had." "The majority of us need assistance with the high cost of living to pay for the basic needs like water, gas, and electricity, but we do not all qualify because of our legal status. | "Everything is now online- community needs help navigating systems- we want to talk to a real person. "Bad customer service and consideration with the person asking for help. Sometimes workers are rude to the person asking for help" "Long wait periods on the phone to not get anything resolved". |

| 5. How can our agency improve communication and outreach to ensure all community members are aware of available resources and services? 6. Looking ahead, what changes or improvements would you like to see in our community over the next 3 to 5 years? | Promote your services more and conduct more outreach. More workshops and events to inform community about resources. Clean and safe parks More activities for children in areas that are safe. Better local transportation | "I did not know you offered so many services" "The lack of transportation makes people ask for rides and they need to pay the person who gives the ride." "Fix the voucher system so other families can apply and qualify- |
|--|---|--|
| | Home ownership access and workshops | same family" |
| | Rent control. More financial wellness workshops | "Sometimes special needs do not go to school (they go later in age" due to lack |
| | More mental wellness activities and workshops I the community | of services." |
| | Affordable and flexible childcare | "We need activities and exercise |
| | More classes related to health for | |
| | mental wellness like yoga, meditation | "More events like this one so |
| | ect. | community can share and learn about |
| | More digital literary classes | resources" |
| | More outreach and talks to find | "Workshops that influence your daily |
| | solutions. | life and change your life for the better". |
| | Mores services to alleviate | |
| | | |

| More educators with the education and capacity to work with special needs population. |
|---|
| |

Appendix F

sector, educational institution staff, and clients. Key Community Leader interview questions and answers. Stakeholders including faith-based leaders, public sector, private

| | | | | | | Questions From your perspective, what are the most urgent needs in the community right now? | • |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Affordable housing, access to healthcare services, high paying jobs, and lower cost for basic needs such as food, gas and utilities | Permanent housing and jobs | Housing, housing, housing. Affordable and workforce housing. | Access to affordable and safe housing (housing insecurity) Food insecurity Affordable childcare | People need financial assistance; the cost of living is very high, and it is difficult for people to find a job. We also need help for unsheltered clients, so they can get back on their feet, help them find a job, prep for job interview and rehab support. | Housing (high rents), legal status, assistance with bills and food, and permanent jobs. | Answers from stakeholders Lack of affordable housing, rents are extremely high. Utility and food prices are high. Health and wellness in the community in general. If you are not pregnant and are undocumented you are not getting healthcare. Childcare is also a problem right no; it is very expensive. We also need workshops or talks to inform undocumented community about their rights so they are not taken advantage of and so they are not scared with everything going on with the political attack against them. Undocumented parents are even afraid to let their children apply for college even though they are citizens. Assistance for senior all across the county, especially those with disabilities or with other health conditions. Many lack transportation and can't get around to apply for services like utility assistance. They are not tech savvy so like to come in person, but it is very difficult for them. Also need more parent and children's classes or workshops where both parent and child can participate. There are a lot of issues with teens and mental health wellness. | |

in the past 1-2 years? new or growing issues Have you seen any trained to create trust in the community. Especially for people who are asking for help for the first time, and do not treat the community with good manners. People who work in the community need to be offensive to the person asking for help. supportive services such as healthcare, mental health care, and assistance with obtaining employment. availability of affordable and permanent supportive housing units but also ensuring access to essential addressing homelessness and having safe spaces for families to gather in public spaces too; affordable security, job security. the workers need to understand that the person might be shy and should not say anything that might be People that need help deserve respect and sometimes the workers that are helping at agencies are rude Housing, food, utility assistance and transportation Addressing the root causes of homelessness through prevention programs and rapid re-housing immediate pathways to safe and dignified living situations. This includes not only increasing the homelessness in 2025 is a positive sign, the 1,990 individuals still experiencing homelessness require revolve around securing stable and permanent housing solutions. While the recent 15.6% reduction in From my perspective, the most urgent needs for the unhoused community in Ventura County right now Being poor and not having enough money for bare necessities Housing, food security, and financial assistance income is low housing and safe housing for low-income families; help with utilities or other basic bills when the farm Funding for program sustainability From my perspective, the most urgent needs in the community right now. Are housing security, food Affordable housing, access to affordable care and health resources initiatives remains critical to making a lasting impact in the community.

parents can participate Drug prevention workshops or classes related to Narcan kit use any topic where both children and

now because of everything that is happening with the new administration. weather, rain, and fires, and that has led to a greater need to ask for public aid such as bills and food, and Well, it has become difficult for the community because work has become scarce due to changes in the

We need more programs for homeless individuals; we need case managers to help those homeless individuals who want to change. Families need shelter, financial assistance to make ends meet. More and more people are using drugs, and we are seeing new faces in our homeless services program.

community. Housing insecurity has continued to develop as an urgent need, along with a rise in homelessness in our

I think most of the "new" issues stem from unstable housing.

Growing in homelessness

California Edison that disrupt daily lives and pose dangers to health and safety. Limited housing opportunities and negative impacts of Public Safety Power Shutoffs by Southern

Yes, I have seen new and growing issues. In the past 1-2 years. I have seen food security, job insecurity, mental health issues, drug abuse. Lacking Healthcare due to high cost of health insurance

need The political environment is creating uncertainty in the future as it relates to our ability to serve folks in

children do not have parks to take their kids to safely except in the more affluent areas of Oxnard some accommodations for them there are not enough shelter beds. At the same time families with small the unhoused community continues to camp in the downtown and other areas -- even though there are

Lack of affordable housing, free/affordable legal support, increased price in gas, utilities, and groceries.

Executive Branch Housing and food costs outpace wages; fear, posturing, and intimidation on the part of the Federal

Homelessness, food insecurity

that some individuals find difficult to adhere to, leading them to prefer unsheltered living despite the accessible or sufficiently funded. The existing housing options often come with rules and regulations complexity of needs within the unhoused population appears to be an ongoing concern. Many fundamental issue of housing availability and affordability needs more attention. Furthermore, the in unsheltered homelessness and an increase in sheltered homelessness between 2023 and 2025, the secure and maintain housing even when they have some form of income. Although there was a decrease or growing issues continue to impact the unhoused community. The persistent lack of affordable housing While Ventura County has seen a positive reduction in overall homelessness in the past year, several new inherent risks. physical disabilities, requiring integrated and specialized support services that are not always readily individuals face significant barriers such as mental health disorders, substance use challenges, and remains a critical challenge, exacerbated by rising rents and inflation, making it difficult for individuals to

Homelessness has been a growing problem.

Additional support for seniors

What populations or groups seem to be struggling the most? Why?

People that only speak an Indigenous language have a harder time. People coming from Oaxaca and Guerrero feel intimidated and feel very scared. The people that do not have documents, the people that do not speak the language Spanish and English.

The elderly are very vulnerable, and teens have a difficult time because of all the bullying at schools

is cut, and people are left without work and have to cut staff. In these circumstances, I think everyone is good, especially the Latinos. This is because aid to agencies

the housing, they had while they worked. People without documents cannot collect unemployment and many times what they pay for housing is too much- they are getting exploited I see an increase of undocumented individuals becoming homeless, when there is no work and they lose

region that offer a living wage, therefore they are forced to move out of the area. Working class families and households in the Ojai Valley are struggling. There are few professions in the

families as the current federal administration has made clear its intentions. income. Rising costs put seniors in an extremely precarious position. Also, immigrants/mixed-status Seniors, Ojai has the oldest median age in the county, which results in most folks living on a fixed

Low-income groups on jobs and housing

high cost of living Both low-income and middle-class individuals and families, including K-12 and college students, due to

The populations struggling the most. Are the youth, the elderly the far working community.

Low income.

the unhoused and low-income families -they are the most vulnerable.

| Single parent with multiple children households seems to be struggling most, as there are more |
|---|
| expenses for their needs and the parent is unable to qualify for housing because all locations require 2.5 |
| or 3x's rental income that is difficult to obtain on a single person income. Multiple children require that |
| larger apartments are needed, which are more expensive as well. |
| Low to median income earners and families; immigrant populations; unhoused individuals; other |
| marginalized groups |
| |
| People of Color (no one is safe) |
| Several populations and groups in Ventura County appear to be facing significant struggles within the |
| unhoused community: * Individuals with Mental Health Disorders and Substance Use Challenges: A |
| significant portion of the unhoused population experiences co-occurring mental health disorders and |

substance use issues. These conditions can act as significant barriers to obtaining and maintaining

housing, as they may complicate adherence to housing rules and treatment requirements. Access to

integrated mental health and substance use services alongside housing is crucial for this population.

Low income and non- English-speaking groups and newly migrated people

What resources or services do you feel are lacking in the community?

school programs, mental wellness workshops, many in the community have a lot of anxiety and stress overcrowded places because it's hard for them to apply for an apartment. There is also a need for after Programs for children during the summer, enrichment activities. need help with the application process just to rent a house or an apartment. That is why people live in complete forms to rent an apartment or house. Right now, they ask for so much paperwork and people Resource to help people find affordable housing. Programs to help people build the credit or help them

or assistance because they are slightly over the income guidelines but still needs assistance. More assistance, affordable housing. Also, there are many people that need help but do not qualify for benefits More parent and child classes that deal with mental wellness, transportation for the elderly, rental

activities so the children and parent so children can bond with parents and work on their wellness. Many children fill lost with social media ect.

be able to reach the community more. important thing is for organizations, agencies, and people who serve the community to work as a team to them how to manage their money but also how to be consistent with these resources. I think the most I think about mental health support groups since people are very anxious these days. I also want to teach

blood pressure and diabetes care. Also, mobile clinics for our homeless population because they do not are individuals the community can trust. More agency outreach teams. Mobile clinics for vision, dental, community and more community navigators to help community navigate the healthcare system. These We need more programs to help train and help people find jobs. More workshops to inform the feel welcomed in a regular clinic.

Mental health resources for people on Med-iCal (specifically psychiatrists)

homelessness. Immigrant services given the current federal landscape. Affordable and workforce housing. Rental assistance programs (if funded) to stem the tide of

Housing health insurance jobs job training

May/June 2025), and language services and programs for workforce development. Access to a major hospital, mental health services (the County is providing mental health services in

assistance without so many restrictions the youth. More support for the elderly in terms of assistance with document reading. Rent, utility assist with new applications, Renewals, or assistance with reading notice of actions. More support for Resources and services that I feel are lacking in the community are more Medi-Cal navigators that can

Low-income housing

spaces for families. the Westminster free clinic, your great food pantry, and other great resources such as HEAP. Again, safe even more utility or other basic needs assistance; promotion of the programs that are happening such as

abuse their power. an offender who had a personal relationship with the victim, but by corporations and organizations that Affordable housing and legal services to protect those being abused and taken advantage of, not just by

to median income earners and families; immigrant populations; unhoused individuals; other culturally responsive and accessible mental and behavioral health services for all populations from low Robust safety nets for those struggling to meet the costs of basic needs (housing, food, utilities);

Where to rest, eat, use the restroom.

marginalized groups.

options or assistance programs could improve access to essential resources. individuals trying to access services, attend appointments, or get to work. More robust transportation Transportation Assistance: Lack of reliable transportation can be a significant barrier for unhoused

Shelters, financial literacy, affordable health care and housing

Transportation

etc.)? accessing help Question: What language, awareness, (transportation, people from barriers prevent course, transportation, language barriers and awareness of services that may be available to them. Barriers that prevent people from accessing help are of major services in the City of Moorpark due to distance from west Ventura County and other services 20 miles away from Ventura. It puts even more pressure on local groups like Help of Ojai. from getting services because they are not treated with respect treated well and some health care agencies do not provide the best customer care it prevents individuals don't return. Currently, it's because of legal status that many people are stopping using the services. Sometimes it's because the staff providing the services lacks the ability to understand people, and they located in Simi Valley and/or Thousand Oaks Transportation, language services, lack of awareness of programs, high cost of some services, missing Transportation language education opportunity Transportation, jobs that allow people to take time off so they can access resources Transportation, language, legal status, lack of health insurance. People without insurance do not get Transportation, legal status, and language I think transportation is a massive challenge. Access to county services is a major challenge when Ojai is language- not speaking English is a barrier for many.

Fear.

transportation is tough for some who are dependent on the bus system. Language is a particular barrier for many indigenous Mexicans; lack of promotion of resources may also be a challenge.

daytime. trying to retain their job, for the limited income they bring in, cannot afford to sacrifice time in the work/business hours is a major barrier preventing people from accessing help because those that are Awareness and ability to apply for programs or receive support/guidance outside of typical

services, vs services being implemented within the target community); healthcare coverage. Bandwidth of culturally and linguistically responsive services and service providers; transportation; inadequate public transportation infrastructure; structure of service access (needing to travel to

with rent program, not) transportation, language, referrals that are no good (example; Interface keeps saying CAVC has a help

aware of services, they may not meet the specific eligibility criteria, or the needed service may simply not accessing information, applying for benefits, or connecting with services. Unhoused individuals often difficult for unhoused individuals to reach, this can create a significant barrier. * Lack of Technology of Services: If services are only available during limited daytime hours or are located in areas that are be available in the county. Addressing these multifaceted barriers requires a multi-pronged approach lack these resources. * Service Gaps and Eligibility Requirements: Sometimes, even when individuals are Access: In an increasingly digital world, access to phones, internet, and computers can be essential for There are 3 main points I would like to highlight in this section: * Limited Operating Hours and Locations

| Oja dis phi | Fou | The | l do the | The tog bec | What strengths do Jusyou see in the community that could go be built upon? | Тга | Lar | tha pro the |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|--|--|
| Ojai is a very connected community, and is able to be organized quite quickly, typically around natural disasters. I would be interested to see if the wealthy and capital in Ojai can be leverage through philanthropic campaigns. | Foundational organizations such as nonprofits and churches are significantly carrying the load when it comes to supporting individuals. | There are agencies committed to helping and getting people the help they need by direct assistance or referrals. | I don't ' know this moment in history is very challenging Unfortunately, right now people are so afraid that they don't participate in anything, they are afraid to leave their homes. | The community will come together to help those in need. I am part of mom groups, and we came together to help out a pregnant woman who was physically attacked in simi valley by another woman because she was selling food in the street. The community can organize and come together. | There's a lot of wisdom and talent in the community. We have many people who can do many things not just in art. cooking and other trades. They want to start there on business, but they need help on how to go about it. The talent and knowledge are there. | Transportation and awareness | Language, transportation, location of where resources as located. Also, awareness and trust. Folks don't know if they can trust the help that is out there. | that includes proactive outreach, culturally and linguistically appropriate services, simplified access processes, transportation solutions, efforts to reduce stigma, and a commitment to building trust within the unhoused community. |

Coming together in unity with ideas and solutions

services or educate the community. Kiwanis, Ruben Castro Charities, churches, etc.) that can be used for strong partnerships to deliver Moorpark is a safe and close-knit community with strong civic and religious organizations (Rotary,

had the necessary funding to run all the services needed. have the heart for the community and their willingness to educate, outreach and assist. If those agencies The strengths that I see in the community that could be built up on are, the unity and those agencies that

Good hearted people.

we have a vital community that really tries to show mutual support and a strong culture of supporting families and small businesses and local organizations.

allows for more possible errors or misunderstandings with the case-file they work on. There is far too much turn overs, causing confusion, frustration, and to prequalify people for everything they would be eligible for. We also need more caseworkers that stay qualify for. Instead of having to reapply for each program requested. Seemingly like a one stop hub-base member/clients applying for assistance), this would streamline the process of what people are able to l believe if organizations or programs could share information (with the permission of the community

only adequate funding was there); collaborative leaders in positions of power who can make these things happen - given the proper tools and support. Many talented and innovative professionals who can develop and implement needed programming (if

align. (sort of a real time barter system but in social capital). Then build programs around those ideas. Super comadres and compadres (ones that others look up to - respect) that get where we all should

| | Despite the significant challenges, Ventura County possesses several strengths within its community that can be leveraged to better address homelessness: * A Network of Dedicated Non-Profit Organizations: Ventura County has a strong and established network of non-profit organizations that are deeply committed to serving the unhoused population. These organizations often have years of experience, dedicated staff, and established relationships within the community. Building upon their expertise and capacity is crucial. * Collaborative Efforts and Partnerships: There appears to be a growing recognition of the need for collaboration across different sectors, including government agencies, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and even the business community. Strengthening these partnerships and fostering better communication and coordination can lead to more effective and holistic solutions. People trust community institutions such as our schools. I think organizations that provide resources should partner with them to build trust and increase awareness. |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Are there local | MICOP, Poder Popular, Community Action, Lideres Campesinas |
| organizations or leaders who are | |
| making a big impact right now? | Community Action does great work. |
| | Well, there are organizations that are working on strategies to help with this immigration process, but unfortunately, I repeat, there's no communication, or everyone wants to stand out, and consequently, people are out of control and no longer know who to believe. [I don't know if I'm making myself clear.] |
| | CAVC offers many programs and goes out of their way to help the community. |
| | yes! HELP of Ojai, and the City of Ojai Mayor Andy Gilman. |

impressive to me lately. transitional age youth aging out of the foster care system. These two organizations have been the most Help of Ojai is extremely impressive. MESA is brand new and is genuinely changing the narrative of

Few

etc.) that are making impacts on the community. There are strong civic and religious organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, Ruben Castro Charities, churches,

admire is united parents because they have Opened up their office to be anything that the community coverage, diaper distribution all while they've had to reduce in staff tremendously. Another agency that all that they could to continue to serve those in need. Providing Assistance With food distribution, utility In my opinion, one organization that I admire is community action for their strength and resilience to do

Paul and others trying to help. We also try to do our part at All Santos. I see Community Action, United Parents, Salvation Army, Oxnard Housing Department, St Vincent de needs it to be.

effort and shows need making positive influential change to improve their situation. assistance will go to waste where it could be best utilized to support someone that makes a conscious amazing assistance. Organizations must be careful to not enable members of the community where areas that need improvement to be more effective. I also believe that many local churches provide experience within the community and workforce. CAVC is also a wonderful program, but there are some The California Youth Leadership Corp organization is a wonderful organization that offers students

Oxnard Recreation; BRITE; CAVC; MICOP; 805Undocufund; El Concilio; Boys and Girls Club; Future Leaders of America; City of

CFROG. CAVC! CEDC. Many Mansions, Casa Pacifica, United Parents

| | Yes, there are several local organizations and leaders in Ventura County who are making a significant impact on addressing homelessness right now: Key Organizations: * Ventura County Human Services Agency (HSA): The HSA plays a central role in coordinating homeless services, providing outreach, administering housing programs (like rapid re-housing and prevention), and connecting individuals to resources. They also manage the 2-1-1 helpline, a crucial point of access for those in need. Along with CAVC I believe MICOP and OPAC are making a big impact in the community. |
|---|---|
| | Food share, interface |
| If you could change or improve one thing in the community over the next 3 years, what | Affordable housing, more interpreters to help people who speak and Indigenous Language like Mixteco, Zapoteco, Triqui and Purépecha. Workshops that support parents to help their kids go to college. Assistance to help undocumented families not live in fear of deportation. Classes that teach them about their rights. |
| | We need a trolly for free transportation ADA assessable with stops within the city at key locations that low-income community and especially seniors go. |
| | Improve communication with people who help the community, do something to control rents, create jobs in our area, provide more access to new merchants, and provide assistance for people without legal status. |
| | Affordable housing and programs that help individuals with the high cost of living. People need help with everyday needs. |
| | More housing |
| | Build actually affordable/workforce housing! |

job training health care most importantly housing,

current economic climate. the private landowner or developer is opting not to develop soon or facing financial challenges under the developer. The City of Moorpark is already expediting or offering to expedite many housing projects, but Get housing projects off the ground or built faster but that largely depends on private landowner or

would probably implement an organization of Medi-Cal navigators specifically to navigate anything education to the community need to ask to inform of all the services that they may be able to utilize and i related to HSA services to included CalFresh assistance. If I could improve one thing in the community over the next three years it would probably be more

Open more lines of communication.

can be enjoyed by all; and more protected bike lanes with garden boxes to beautify the city and create a more bike and pedestrian friendly atmosphere. consideration of more dedicated and safe sleeping spaces for the unhoused so that the public spaces

hopeful homeowners an opportunity to purchase. are self-sufficient. I believe investors should be restricted from purchasing for some time to allow have no interest in upkeeping and makes others feel defeated. People must learn to be responsible and respect their own property, while learning the benefits and find ways to contribute to others once they to grow their own crops. NOT COMMUNITY GARDENS, as those end up being destroyed by others who More affordable housing with the option to rent-to-buy. These properties must have a small area of land

access; rent assistance and renter protections) safety net for families struggling to make ends meet (utility assistance; food banks; no-cost toiletries This is such a complex question. Larger investment in diverse youth programming; strengthening the

| | Erase stigma(s) re: mental health, homelessness, caste and race |
|--|---|
| | If I could change or improve one thing in the Ventura County community over the next three years, it would be to significantly increase the availability of deeply affordable and permanent supportive housing units. While addressing the multifaceted nature of homelessness requires a comprehensive approach, the lack of stable and affordable housing underpins so many of the challenges faced by the unhoused |
| | population. Increasing the supply of PSH, in particular, would have a cascading positive impact: * Directly reduce homelessness: Providing individuals with a safe and stable place to live is the most fundamental step in ending their homelessness. * Improve health outcomes: Stable housing provides a foundation for better physical and mental health, making it easier to access and adhere to treatment. |
| | Access to preventative care and homelessness prevention. |
| | Transportation |
| What advice would you give to local | What advice would you give to local agencies, elected officials or funders trying to make meaningful change? |
| officials or funders trying to make meaningful change? | Don't ask for so many documents when people need assistance. If they do not have an ID, help them get the ID for example. |
| | Come and sit with me so you can see firsthand what the needs are, and you can see what people go through to get here and to get assistance. |
| | that everyone is on the same page and work together to have a healthy and united community. |

first-hand what the situation is like. To focus more on what the community needs and get involved in community programs so they can see

greatest need, so really get close with groups to offer support. Talk to your communities and listen to what they need. It's not often the loudest voices that have the

periphery. change, neglects the current dynamic situation which is pushing more working-class people to the Ojai has already been in a period of change with housing costs skyrocketing. Doing nothing, in fear of

people day to day go through and maybe then you'll see for yourself. Come to the low income in poverty areas and see for yourself. The struggles and the difficult barriers that

most meaningful impact to those in need. Continue to build partnerships and find creative ways to deliver programs and services that make the

greed. Always have your own auditor to verify your money is being used sole for what you are told it be agency you fund... make sure the money is being used for its purpose and not going into the pockets of go above and beyond to assist. To elected officials, select a leadership that knows the struggle, has used for. To all of the above, we need to be part of a change for the better... may know that their heart is for the community, because when their heart is for the community, they will My advice. To local agencies, would be to screen the people that come into the agencies. So that you remained humble, and will advocate for the less fortunate. To the funders be more involved with the

Be good.

Ventura County! keep up the good work and don't get discouraged. there are people of good will here in Oxnard and in

same field. Leaders must be pro-active and as this can prove to be tiring, it would not harm the the desk should not be making life decisions for other when there has been no experience within the administrators push the paper with direction from the leaders who lead by acting. People always behind community to have co-chair positions so that they could act in each other's stead when necessary. confidence that our leaders empathize to feel moved to make an optimal change where it's needed. Let without consistent effort and action within the field themselves does not provide the community the Attending banquet dinners, taking photos, and seldom speaking with some community members

solve the issue and is far more costly. We need to prevent these challenges from happening in the first place, but it is a long term an ongoing investment. Focus on and address the root causes as much as possible. Addressing only the symptoms does not

Support for Staff: Interns can provide valuable support to existing staff, freeing up their time to focus on significant benefits: * Fresh Perspectives and Innovative Ideas: Graduate students are often immersed in Sharing: Break down silos between agencies, non-profits, healthcare providers, and government entities treatment, case management, job training, and healthcare. Recognize that housing stability is the program development, evaluate effectiveness, and identify gaps in services. * Increased Capacity and data analysis skills. An intern can assist with collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data to inform Research and Data Analysis Capacity: Many graduate programs emphasize research methodologies and health. They can bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to address complex challenges. * the latest research and best practices in fields like social work, public policy, urban planning, and public Intern from my experience at CAVC. Integrating a graduate student intern into your efforts can bring collaborative meetings to ensure a coordinated and efficient response. Understand the full scope of the Establish clear communication channels, shared data systems (while respecting privacy), and regular foundation upon which individuals can address other challenges. 2. Foster Deep Collaboration and Data comprehensive and integrated supportive services, including mental health care, substance use possible, without preconditions like sobriety or employment. Simultaneously, invest heavily in Approach with Robust Supportive Services: Prioritize getting people into stable housing as quickly as homelessness in Ventura County, I would offer the following advice: 1. Embrace a "Housing First" issue and avoid duplication of efforts. Secondly, I would like to the benefit of Having a Graduate Student To local agencies, elected officials, and funders striving to make meaningful change in addressing

and administrative tasks. * Specialized Skills and Knowledge: Depending on their program of study, community organizing, or policy analysis. Thank you. interns may possess specialized skills in areas such as mental health assessment, grant writing, more complex tasks. They can assist with outreach, case management support, program development,

community and the community will come through. No fear (we know fear is a pry bar trying to undo all courage), move forward and communicate. Count on

alone. We should work as a team to help our community. To partner with local organizations and build up those relationships. No one should be doing this work

Focus on the needs by asking.

Appendix G



Community Needs Assessment Survey (2025)/ Encuesta de Necesidades Comunitarias (2025)

Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) is committed to understanding and addressing community needs. Your feedback helps us improve resources, programs, and services. This survey is anonymous, and your responses will be kept confidential. CAVC works to support individuals and families through advocacy, partnerships, and direct services. Your input ensures we align our efforts with community needs. If you have any questions, please contact 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. Thank you for participating in our survey. Your feedback is important.

La Agencia de Acción Comunitaria del Condado de Ventura (CAVC) está comprometida a comprender y abordar las necesidades de la comunidad. Sus comentarios nos ayudan a mejorar los recursos, programas y servicios. Esta encuesta es anónima y sus respuestas se mantendrán confidenciales.

CAVC trabaja para apoyar a las personas y familias a través de la defensa, asociaciones y servicios directos. Sus comentarios aseguran que alineemos nuestros esfuerzos con las necesidades de la comunidad.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con Claudia Lozano, Gerente de Servicios Comunitarios, 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 defensa, asociaciones y servicios que promueven la dignidad y la autosuficiencia

Gracias por participar en nuestra encuesta. Tu opinión es importante.



Community Needs Assessment Survey (2025)/ Encuesta de Necesidades Comunitarias (2025)

| 1. Please identify yourself and indicate what sector you work in / Por favor, identifiquese e indique en qué sector trabaja. (Check all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) |
|--|
| Current CAVC client / Cliente actual de CAVC |
| Past CAVC client / Cliente anterior de CAVC |
| Community Partner Agency / Agencia Socia Comunitaria |
| Community Member / Miembro de la Comunidad |
| Community Leader/Elected Official / Líder Comunitario/Funcionario Electo |
| Faith-Based Organization / Organización Basada en la Fe |
| Private Sector Business / Negocio del Sector Privado |
| Employee of CAVC / Empleado de CAVC |
| Board Member of CAVC / Miembro de la Junta de CAVC |
| Other (please specify) |
| * |
| 2. What is your age? / ¿Cuál es su edad? Under 18 / Menor de 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 or older / 65 o más |
| 3. What is your gender? / ¿Cuál es su género? |
| Male / Masculino |
| Female / Femenino |
| Other / Otro |
| Prefer not to say / Prefiero no decir |

| | hich of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? / ¿Cuál de los siguientes ribe mejor su raza o etnia? |
|------------|---|
| \bigcirc | White / Blanco |
| 0 | Hispanic or Latino / Hispano o Latino |
| 0 | Black or African American / Negro o Afroamericano |
| \bigcirc | Asian / Asiático |
| 0 | Native American or Alaska Native / Indígena Americano o Nativo de Alaska |
| \bigcirc | Pacific Islander / Isleño del Pacífico |
| \bigcirc | Mixed Race / Raza Mixta |
| \bigcirc | Other (please specify) |
| T | |
| enti | hat city in Ventura County do you currently live in? / ¿En qué ciudad del Condado de ura vive actualmente? Camarillo |
| enti | |
| enti | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo Fillmore |
| enti | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo |
| Venti | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo Fillmore |
| Vento | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark |
| Vento | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark Ojai |
| Centro | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark Ojai Oxnard |
| (entr | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark Ojai Oxnard Port Hueneme |
| (ent) | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark Ojai Oxnard Port Hueneme Santa Paula |
| (entr | ura vive actualmente? Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark Ojai Oxnard Port Hueneme Santa Paula Simi Valley |
| | Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark Ojai Oxnard Port Hueneme Santa Paula Simi Valley Thousand Oaks |
| | Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark Ojai Oxnard Port Hueneme Santa Paula Simi Valley Thousand Oaks City of San Buena Ventura/ Ciudad de San Buena Ventura |
| | Camarillo Fillmore Moorpark Ojai Oxnard Port Hueneme Santa Paula Simi Valley Thousand Oaks City of San Buena Ventura/ Ciudad de San Buena Ventura |

| | los desafíos más importantes que enfrenta su comunidad? (Check all that apply/ as las que correspondan) |
|--|--|
| Access to | affordable housing / Acceso a vivienda asequible |
| Employm | nent opportunities / Oportunidades de empleo |
| Healthca | re services / Servicios de salud |
| Mental h | ealth support / Apoyo para la salud mental |
| Childcare | e services / Servicios de cuidado infantil |
| Тгалзрог | tation / Transporte |
| Food sec | urity / Seguridad alimentaria |
| Financial | assistance / Asistencia financiera |
| Legal ass | sistance / Asistencia legal |
| Education | n and training opportunities / Oportunidades de educación y capacitación |
| Other (pl | ease specify) |
| | |
| • | ommunity, which services do you believe are most needed? / ¿Qué servicios cree s necesarios en su comunidad? (Check all that apply/ Marque todas las que |
| ue son más orresponda | necesarios en su comunidad? (Check all that apply/ Marque todas las que |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h | necesarios en su comunidad? (Check all that apply/ Marque todas las que in) |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h | necesarios en su comunidad? (Check all that apply/ Marque todas las que in) ealth services / Servicios de salud mental |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h Affordabl | e necesarios en su comunidad? (Check all that apply/ Marque todas las que in) ealth services / Servicios de salud mental le housing programs / Programas de vivienda asequible |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h Affordabl Job traini Healthca | ealth services / Servicios de salud mental le housing programs / Programas de vivienda asequible ing and employment resources / Recursos de capacitación laboral y empleo |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h Affordabl Job traini Healthca | ealth services / Servicios de salud mental le housing programs / Programas de vivienda asequible ing and employment resources / Recursos de capacitación laboral y empleo re and wellness services / Servicios de salud y bienestar |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h Affordabl Job traini Healthca Food dist | ealth services / Servicios de salud mental le housing programs / Programas de vivienda asequible ing and employment resources / Recursos de capacitación laboral y empleo re and wellness services / Servicios de salud y bienestar cribution programs / Programas de distribución de alimentos |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h Affordabl Job traini Healthca Food dist Childcare | ealth services / Servicios de salud mental le housing programs / Programas de vivienda asequible ing and employment resources / Recursos de capacitación laboral y empleo are and wellness services / Servicios de salud y bienestar cribution programs / Programas de distribución de alimentos e and early childhood education / Cuidado infantil y educación temprana |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h Affordabl Job traini Healthca Food dist Childcare Transpor | ealth services / Servicios de salud mental le housing programs / Programas de vivienda asequible ing and employment resources / Recursos de capacitación laboral y empleo are and wellness services / Servicios de salud y bienestar cribution programs / Programas de distribución de alimentos e and early childhood education / Cuidado infantil y educación temprana tation services / Servicios de transporte |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h Affordabl Job traini Healthca Food dist Childcare Transpor Legal ass | ealth services / Servicios de salud mental le housing programs / Programas de vivienda asequible ing and employment resources / Recursos de capacitación laboral y empleo are and wellness services / Servicios de salud y bienestar cribution programs / Programas de distribución de alimentos e and early childhood education / Cuidado infantil y educación temprana tation services / Servicios de transporte sistance / Asistencia legal |
| ue son más orresponda Mental h Affordabl Job train Healthca Food dist Childcare Transpor Legal ass Support | ealth services / Servicios de salud mental le housing programs / Programas de vivienda asequible ing and employment resources / Recursos de capacitación laboral y empleo are and wellness services / Servicios de salud y bienestar cribution programs / Programas de distribución de alimentos e and early childhood education / Cuidado infantil y educación temprana tation services / Servicios de transporte sistance / Asistencia legal for seniors and people with disabilities / Apoyo para personas mayores y con discapacidades |

| إللته | es?. (List all agencies, organizations, or resources used: / Enumere todas las agencias, raciones o recursos utilizados:) |
|--------------|--|
| | |
| о ар | hat resources or support do residents rely on during challenging times? / ¿Qué recursos byos utilizan los residentes en tiempos difíciles? (Check all that apply/ Marque todas las correspondan) |
| ; ; | Family support / Apoyo familiar |
| | Friends or social networks / Amigos o redes sociales |
| | Community resources or programs / Recursos o programas comunitarios |
| | Employment or steady income / Empleo o ingresos estables |
| | Financial assistance (government or non-profit programs) / Asistencia financiera (gubernamental o sin fines de lucro) |
| | Personal resilience or coping skills / Resiliencia personal o habilidades de afrontamiento |
| | Access to healthcare / Acceso a servicios de salud |
| | Other (please specify) |
| | |
| | |
| impi mier | What are the biggest barriers community members face to becoming self-sufficient or oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? ck all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) |
| impi mier | oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? |
| impi mier | oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? ck all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) |
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| impi mier | oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? ck all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) Lack of stable employment / Falta de empleo estable Insufficient income / Ingresos insuficientes |
| impi mier | oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? ck all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) Lack of stable employment / Falta de empleo estable Insufficient income / Ingresos insuficientes Limited access to affordable housing / Acceso limitado a vivienda asequible |
| impi mier | oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? ck all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) Lack of stable employment / Falta de empleo estable Insufficient income / Ingresos insuficientes Limited access to affordable housing / Acceso limitado a vivienda asequible Lack of childcare options / Falta de opciones de cuidado infantil |
| impi mier | oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? ck all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) Lack of stable employment / Falta de empleo estable Insufficient income / Ingresos insuficientes Limited access to affordable housing / Acceso limitado a vivienda asequible Lack of childrare options / Falta de opciones de cuidado infantil Limited transportation / Transporte limitado |
| impi mier | oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? ck all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) Lack of stable employment / Falta de empleo estable Insufficient income / Ingresos insuficientes Limited access to affordable housing / Acceso limitado a vivienda asequible Lack of childcare options / Falta de opciones de cuidado infantil Limited transportation / Transporte limitado Limited education or training opportunities / Oportunidades limitadas de educación o capacitación |
| impi mier | oving their financial situation? / ¿Cuáles son las mayores barreras que enfrentan los abros de su comunidad para ser autosuficientes o mejorar su situación financiera? ck all that apply/ Marque todas las que correspondan) Lack of stable employment / Falta de empleo estable Insufficient income / Ingresos insuficientes Limited access to affordable housing / Acceso limitado a vivienda asequible Lack of childcare options / Falta de opciones de cuidado infantil Limited transportation / Transporte limitado Limited education or training opportunities / Oportunidades limitadas de educación o capacitación Health issues or disabilities / Problemas de salud o discapacidades |

| | that apply/ Marque todas las que housing options / Más opciones de v | <u>-</u> | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| *** | ntal health services / Servicios de saluc | | |
| 100 | training and employment opportunities | | l y oportunidades d |
| Better access | to healthcare / Mejor acceso a servicio | os de salud | |
| Enhanced trai | asportation services / Mejores servicio | s de transporte | |
| Increased chil | dcare availability / Mayor disponibilida | ad de cuidado infantil | |
| More program | s for seniors and people with disabilit s | ies / Más programas para person | as mayores y con |
| Greater acces | s to technology and internet services / | Mayor acceso a tecnología y ser | vicios de internet |
| Safer neighbo crimen | rhoods and crime prevention efforts / \frac{1}{2} | Vecindarios más seguros y esfuer | zos de prevención (|
| More commun | ity events and cultural activities / Más | eventos comunitarios y activida | des culturales |
| Other (please | specify) | | |
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Appendix D

Changing Lives.





EEDBACK AND PUBLIC HEARING June 5th 2025 COMMUNITY PRESENTATION,



The National Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. better place to live. We

CAVC Mission

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

CAVC Vision

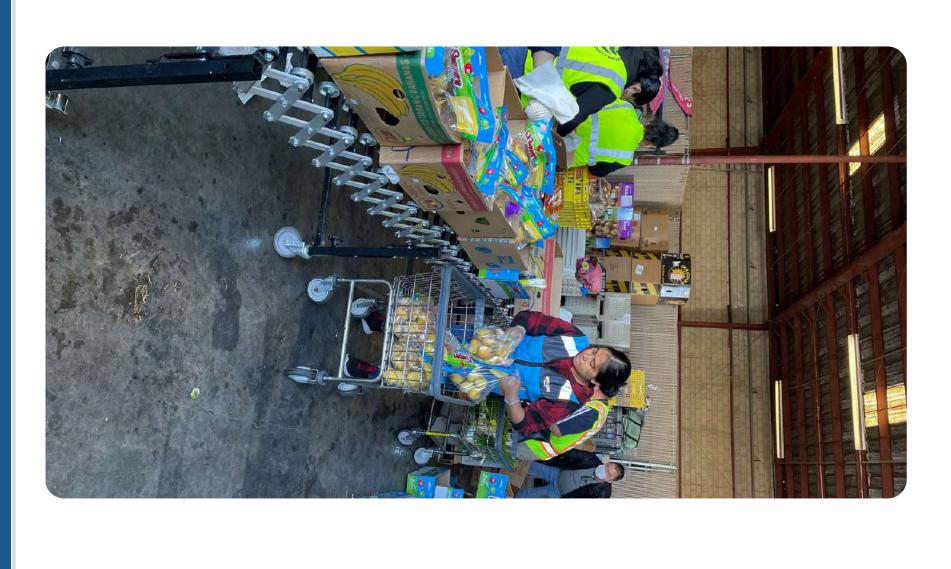
We envision a community successfully lifting people out of poverty.



Background

programs and services within the Ventura County community. establish priorities for the future development of CAVC facilities, households throughout Ventura The community input period was designed to obtain results from The purpose of the CAVC Community Needs Assessment is to County that would:

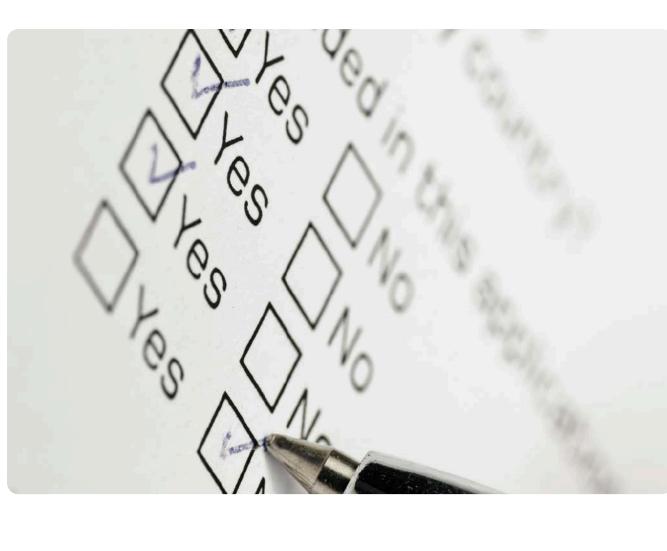
- Illuminate the unmet needs of Ventura County residents
- Identify available community assets
- Engage the community in identifying solutions to address unmet needs.



CAVC'S PROGRAMS

Programs currently offered include:

- Weatherization of the home, including water heater and appliance repair replacement)
- Home Energy Assistance (Gas or electric bill)
- Community Market (Fresh produce, canned goods)
- Homeless services (focusing on hygiene support, mail service and referrals)
- Diaper Program (Children ages 1 4 years old 1x per month)
- Community Workshops (Financial wellness and mental wellness and nutrition)



Our Process

- Needs Assessment (CNA) effort. Established a specialized internal team to lead the Community
- Survey campaign conducted from April 15 to April 26, 2025, resulting in 200 online responses in both English and Spanish.
- Facilitated two in-person focus groups in Santa Paula and Oxnard, engaging over 20 community participants to help identify key local needs
- Conducted 17 interviews—both online and in person—with key sector, educational institutio staff, and clients. stakeholders including faith-based leaders, public sector, private
- out entirely in-house by the team. collection, analysis, research, and final presentation—were carried All aspects of the CNA—including survey distribution, data

Overview of Ventura County's Population and Poverty

MOST POPULATED ZIP Codes in Ventura County

The most populated ZIP codes in Ventura County are:



| 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | ω | 2 | 1 | Rank |
|----------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|------------|
| 93021 | 91360 | 91326 | 93010 | 93003 | 93063 | 93030 | 93065 | 93033 | ZIP Code |
| Moorpark | Thousand Oaks | Newbury Park | Camarillo | Ventura | Simi Valley | Oxnard | Simi Valley | Oxnard | City |
| 37.980 | 44.138 | 46.959 | 47.656 | 53.283 | 57.075 | 58.511 | 72.086 | 82.517 | Population |

^{*}Note: These figures are based on the most recent available data.

localistica.com + worldpopulationreview.com

slight decrease of 0.4% from the previous year. estimated population of 823,028, reflecting a As of 2025, Ventura County, California, has an



📊 Top 5 Areas with Highest Poverty Rates in Ventura County

| Rank | City/Community | Poverty Rate (%) | Notes |
|------|------------------|------------------|---|
| | El Rio (CDP) | 19.8 | Unincorporated area near Oxnard |
| 2 | Mira Monte (CDP) | 19.3 | Census-designated place near Ojai |
| ω | Santa Paula | 15.3 | Agricultural and working-class community |
| 4 | Oxnard | 12.9 | Largest city in the county, diverse economy |
| 5 | Ojai | 11.0 | Small city with rural surrounding areas |

Top 5 cities and communities in Ventura County with the highest poverty rates, based on the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data (2019–2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates):



Key Takeaways from Survey **Jemographics**

- The largest age group of respondents was 35–44 years old, making up over 30%.
- The 25–34 and 45–54 age groups also had strong representation.
- Very few respondents were under 18 or 18–24, indicating limited youth participation.
- Seniors (ages 55+) made up a small but present portion of the respondents.

Gender

- A clear majority of respondents identified as female (over 70%).
- Male respondents made up just under 30%.
- Less than 2% identified as Other or Preferred not to say.



Key Takeaways from Survey vemographics

The overwhelming majority (about 75%) identified as Hispanic or Latino.
The next largest group was White, followed by small percentages identifying as: Mixed Race Race/Ethnicity

Asian

Black or African American Native American or Alaska Native Pacific Islander

Other

A significant portion of respondents are from Oxnard, followed by Ventura, Santa City Paula and Camarillo





What are the Community Needs?

Top Difficulties faced by individuals Identified:

- Access to affordable housing / Acceso a vivienda asequible (74.27%)
- 2. Job training and employment resources / Recursos de capacitación laboral y
- empleo (37.69%)
- 3. Mental health services / Servicios de salud mental 37.19%)
- 4. Food distribution programs / Programas de distri ibución de alimento
- 36.18%)
- 5. Healthcare and wellness services / Servicios de salud y bienestar (34.17%)

What are the Community Needs?

Top Difficulties faced by individuals Identified:

6. Support for seniors and people with disabilities / Apoyo para personas mayores y con

discapacidades

(31.16)

7. Childcare and early childhood education / Cuidado infantil y educación temprana

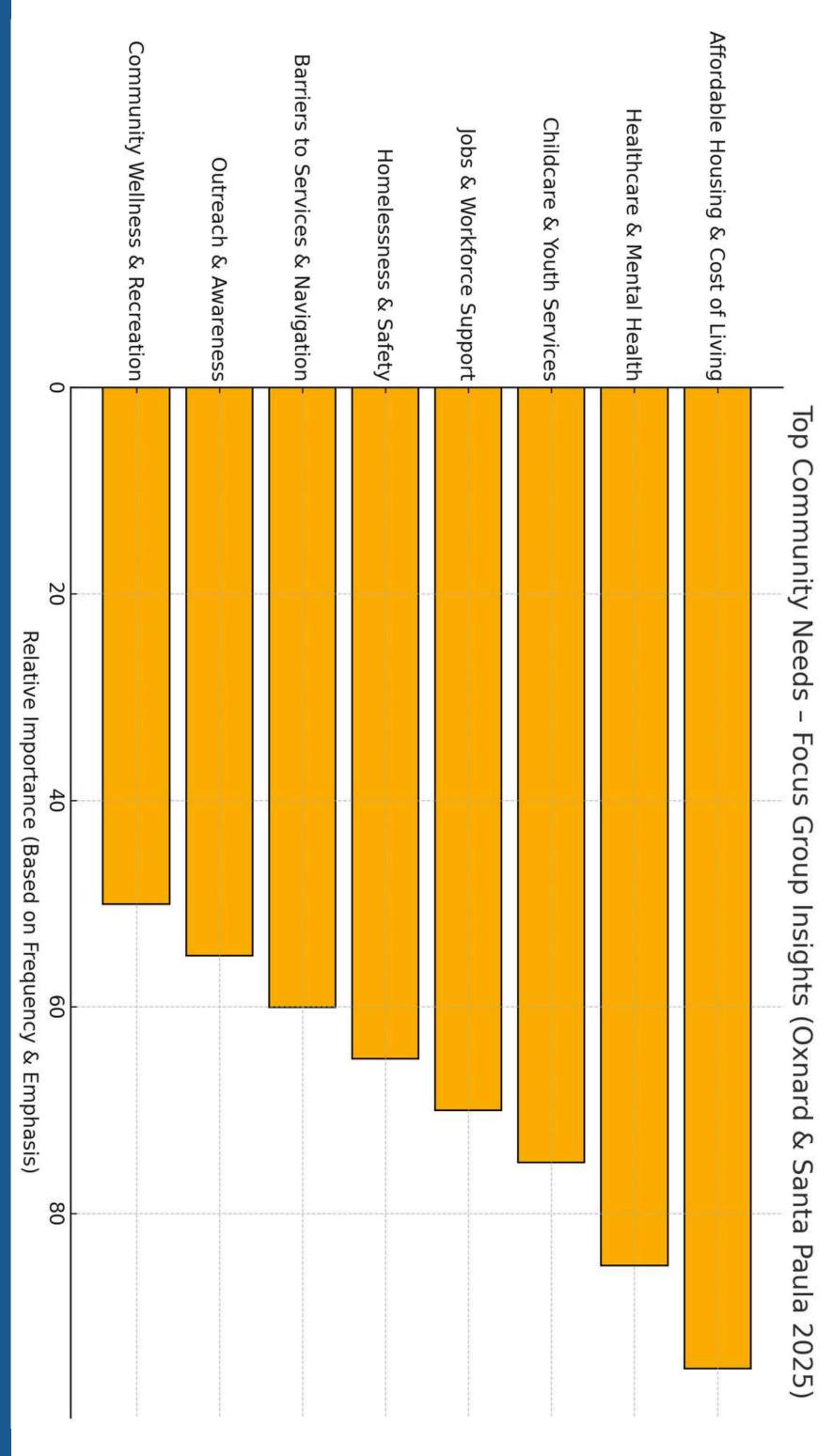
(28.64%)

8. Financial literacy programs / Programas de educación finan ciera (25.13%)

9. Technology access and training / Acceso y capacitación en tecnología (25.13%)

10 Transportation services / Servicios de transporte (22.11%)

11. Legal assistance / Asistencia legal (16.58%)



Community Leader Interviews Key Findings

Summary Table of Urgent Community Needs

| Theme | Description |
|--|--|
| Affordable Housing & Security | Most urgent and widely cited concern |
| Food, Utilities, and Cost of Living | Rising prices straining household budgets |
| Access to Healthcare (Undocumented) | Limited options for uninsured, especially immigrants |
| Childcare & Family Support | High costs and lack of accessible programming |
| Employment & Economic Stability | Lack of stable, permanent, and well-paying jobs |
| Support for Seniors/Disabled | In-person services and transportation needed |
| Legal Rights & Immigrant Education | Fear and misinformation limiting access to services |
| Financial & Emergency Assistance | Direct support with bills, food, and emergencies |
| Program Sustainability | Long-term funding for local services |

Community Leader Interviews Key Findings

| Struggl | Struggling Populations |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Group | Key Challenges |
| Undocumented & Immigrant Communities | Lack of legal protections, language barriers, housing/job exclusion |
| Seniors/ Elderly | Rising costs, fixed incomes, healthcare access |
| Unhoused Individuals | Mental health, addiction, lack of stable housing or support |
| Youth (K-12, College) | Bullying, mental health, cost of education and living |
| Single-Parent Families | Ineligibility for housing, economic burden |
| Low-Income & Working-Class Families | Priced out of services despite employment |
| Non-English Speakers & Migrants | Service inaccessibility, isolation, employment challenges |
| People of Color/N | People of Color/Marginalized Groups |

Lack of Affordable Housing High Cost of Living

VENTURA COUNTY 2024 Affordable Housing Needs Report

KEY FINDINGS

home.

- 23,937 low-income renter households in Ventura County do not have access to an affordable
- State and federal funding for housing production and preservation in Ventura County is \$123 million, an 80% decrease from the year prior.
- 72% of extremely low-income (ELI) households in Ventura County are paying more than half of their income on housing costs compared to 1% of moderateincome households.

Lack of Affordable Housing High Cost of Living

KEY FINDINGS Cont.

In 2023 in Ventura County, there were only 1,717 beds available in the interim and permanent housing supply for persons experiencing homelessness.

Renters in Ventura County need to earn \$49.31 per ho minimum wage - to afford the average monthly asking ur - 3.1 times the state rent of \$2,564.

Financial Constraints and Im plications

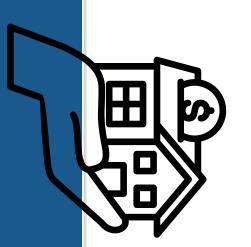
- When a significant portion of income goes toward rent, individuals and families face financial strain that limits their ability to:
- Build emergency savings
- Pay down existing debt
- Afford healthcare and other critical expenses
- Work toward homeownership or financial stability
- These rent burdens often leave little room for long-term planning or economic mobility.
- The ongoing shortage of affordable housing:
- Increases the risk of homelessness
- Makes it harder for low-income households to improve their living conditions
- Acts as a major obstacle to breaking the cycle of poverty

Top Themes & Gaps in Resources Community

Affordable Housing & Rental Support Services

Most frequently mentioned resource gap

- Respondents repeatedly mentioned the lack of affordable and workforce housing, as well as barriers to accessing existing rental support programs (e.g., complex application processes, income eligibility restrictions).
- Families are struggling with overcrowding an apartments due to credit, income verification, or nd inability to qualify for lack of application support.



Top Themes & Gaps in Resources Community

Key needs:

- Credit-building and housing application assistance

Rental assistance for those just above income

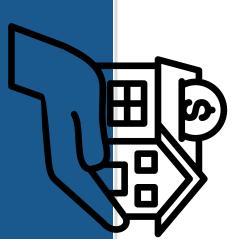
thresholds

Tenant advocacy and legal protections

Quotes:

apply." "That's why people live in overcrowded places... it's hard for them to

"Rental assistance programs (if funded) to stem the tide of homelessness"



Top Themes & Gaps in Resources Community

Mental Health & Emotional Wellness Support

One of the most commonly cited gaps across all ages

- There is a strong demand for community-based mental health services, especially for people on Medi-Cal and those care. who cannot access private
- Emphasis on family-focused mental health, including parent/child and stress. workshops and support groups for teens and adults dealing with anxiety

Key needs:

- Free or Medi-Cal-covered psychiatric and counseling services
- Culturally responsive group wellness progran nming
- Programs in schools and community centers

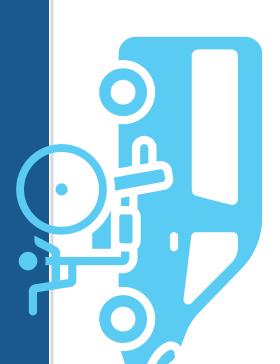
- "People are very anxious these days."
- "We need mental wellness services the com munity is scared, depressed
- ...its a crisis"



Transportation Access

individuals Frequently mentioned, especially for seniors and unhoused

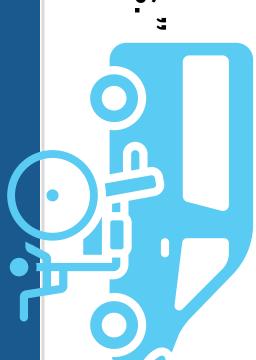
- Lack of reliable, accessible, or affordable transportation is a barrier to services, employment, and appointments.
- Seniors and unhoused individuals struggle the most with this issue.



Key needs:

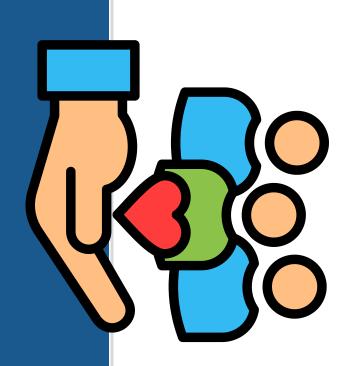
- Transportation assistance programs
- Shuttle options for clinics, food pantries, and job centers

- "Transportation for the elderly."
- "Lack of reliable transportation for unhoused individuals trying to access services.
- "Transportation is a massive challenge."
- "Ojai is 20 miles from Ventura... puts pressure o n local groups."



Family and Youth Services

- There's a clear need for after-school, sum programs that support emotional wellness, enrichment, and family mer, and intergenerational
- face of social media pressures and school bonding. Families want structured, healthy spaces for youth—especially in the stress.



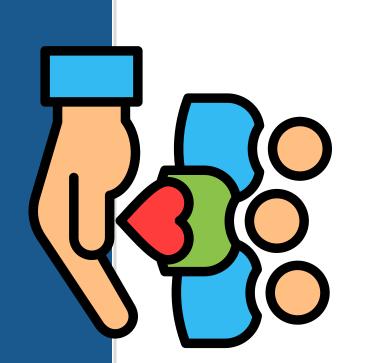
Key needs:

- Enrichment programs for children and teens

Parent-child wellness classes and joint activities

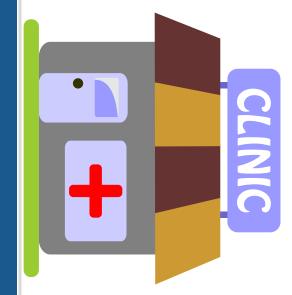
Mental health support for youth

- "More parent and child classes that deal w ith mental wellness."
- "Children feel lost with social media."



Mobile Clinics & Healthcare Access

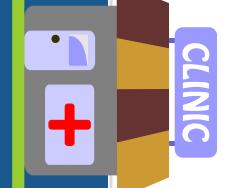
- Many residents cannot or do not feel comfortable accessing
- traditional clinics.
- There is growing interest in mobile services for dental, vision, unhoused population. diabetes, blood pressure, and mental health—especially for the



Key needs:

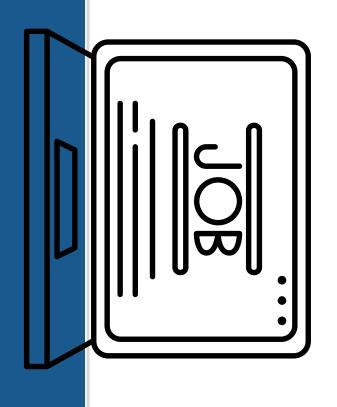
- Mobile clinics that meet people where they are
- Navigators to help residents understand and acces ss Medi-Cal and health notices
- Affordable or sliding-scale healthcare

- "Mobile clinics for our homeless population... they do not feel welcomed in regular clinic." മ
- "More Medi-Cal navigators... to assist with new applications and renewals."



Job Training & Economic Mobility Programs

- People want access to workforce development, financial literacy, and employment
- assistance programs.
- A desire for consistent, community-based education in budgeting, job-readiness, and economic self-sufficiency.



Key needs:

- Financial literacy and budgeting classes
- Job placement, resume, and interview preparation
- Outreach to communities with high underemploym ent

Quotes:

- "More programs to help train and help people find jobs."
- "Well-paying Jobs are not likely located near low-income neighborhoods and areas throughout the county, making it difficult for individuals to access public

transportation"



Key Findings on Unempl loyment

Reasons for unemployment were due to a variety of life altering

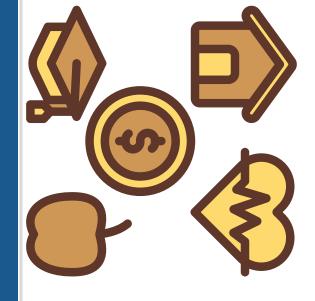
causes.

The top causes consisted of:

- Layoff or Downsizing
- Health related issues
- Lack of Childcare
- Lack of Transportation
- Lack of US Documents

Basic Needs & Safety Nets

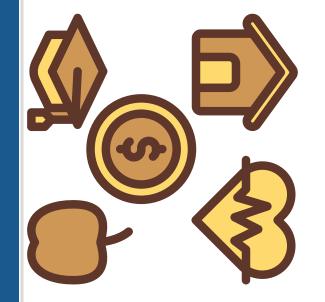
- Some responses reflect the need for more visible promotion of existing resources
- and expansion of food, utility, and shelter services.
- There is also a call for low-barrier places to rest, eat, and use the restroom.



Key needs:

- HEAP and utility assistance with fewer restrictions
- Shelter beds and safe spaces for unhoused individuals
- Outreach and promotion of available services

- "Even more utility or other basic needs assistance."
- "Where to rest, eat, use the restroom."



Homelessness Needs

decrease of 15.6% compared to 2024. This count, conducted on January 22, 2025, indicates a reduction of 368 people from the previous year. In 2025, Ventura County identified 1,990 individuals experiencing homelessness, a

housing The community has a need for more cases workers to assist unsheltered individuals with

Identified unsheltered individual needs :

- Safe Home Structure / Safe area to sleep
- Lack of availability to fresh food
- Transportation
- Funds for Bus Tickets & Gas
- Medicine

Accessible Resources: Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, VCMR, CAVC, One Stop, Food Share, Churches, Mercy House

Summary of Barriers to get se rvices

| Barrier Theme | Description |
|--|---|
| Transportation | Lack of public transit; rural access gaps |
| Language & Cultural Barriers | Non-English and Indigenous speakers face access limitations |
| Lack of Awareness & Misinformation | Residents don't know services exist or hear inaccurate info |
| Legal Status, Fear, and Trust Issues | Undocumented individuals and others fear discrimination or exposure |
| Inconvenient Hours & Service Structure | Programs unavailable outside business hours |
| Digital Divide & Technology Access | Lack of phones/internet blocks access to applications and info |
| Eligibility Restrictions & Service Gaps | Programs are too rigid or absent in parts of the county |



| Families lack consistent access to diapers for children |
|--|
| Community lacks supportive services for older adults and seniors |
| Community lacks employment that pays a living wage |
| Community lacks accessible trasnportation service |
| Community lacks supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness |
| Families lacks access to affordable childcare and before and afterschool programs |
| Community lacks access to affordable healthcare |
| Community lacks employment opportunities and access to job training resources |
| Families lack of assistance with utility bills |
| Families lack access to culturally and linguistically competent mental health services |
| Community lacks access to affordable housing |
| Needs Identified |

Community lacks access to broadband and digital literacy



| Provide referrals, mail, and hygiene support; connect individuals to housing and temporary shelter. Serve over 400 individuals annually. | 3.Support Services for unsheltered individuals |
|--|--|
| Provide food through the Community Market, Food Hub, and Senior Delivery Program in collaboration with Interface. Estimated 5,000 households supported annually. | 2. Food Assistance |
| Weatherize homes and provide electric, gas utility bill assistance through the LIHEAP program. Estimated over 2000 households served annually | 1.Utility Assistance |
| Description of programs, services, activities | Agency Priorities |
| | |

| Biweekly diaper distribution in collaboration with Food Share for children under 5. Reach 700+ children each year. | 5. Diapers for children |
|---|--|
| Obtain funding to offer wellness workshops for adults and youth; collaborate with partners like Ventura Behavioral Health/Gold Coast and NAMI. Serve 150+ individuals annually. | 4.Culturally and linguistically competent mental health resources |
| Description of programs, services, activities | Agency Priorities |

| Agency Priorities | Description of programs, services, activities |
|--|--|
| 6. Affordable Health Care Access | Refer and advocate for health services; organize Vision and Dental Clinics with partners like Healing California. |
| 7. Affordable childcare and before and after school programs | Advocate for childcare accessibility in collaboration with Isabella Project and partners. |
| 8.Employment opportunities and access to job training resources. | Partner with Workforce Development Board and others to support job seekers; provide referrals and work clothing. |
| 9, Affordable Housing | Advocacy with local housing organizations and partners to increase affordable housing efforts and awareness. |

| Agency Priorities 10. Access to broadband and digital | Description of programs, services, activities Partner with digital inclusion groups to provide digital literacy workshops |
|--|--|
| 10. Access to broadband and digital literacy | Partner with digital inclusion groups to provide digital literacy workshops and device access. |
| 11. Supportive services for older adults and seniors | Provide advocacy and connect older adults with partner agencies for transportation, and healthcare support. |



2024 BY REVIEW HE NUMBERS:



and other basic needs received hygiene support Unhoused individuals

necesidades básicas apoyo de higiene y otras Personas sin hogar recibieron



asistencia para servicios

públicos (HEAP)

Hogares recibieror

Households received

Utility Assistance (HEAP)

translates to 24,858

Alimentos, lo que

our Weatherization program

Se beneficiaron de nuestro

programa de climatización

Households benefited from

en 24,858 personas beneficiadas

in our Food Program which Households participated en nuestro Programa de Hogares participaron se traduce individuals

UNDUPLICATED NUMBERS/ PERSONAS ÚNICAS (NO DUPLICADAS)



COMMUNITY 2024 BY THE NUMBERS: A YEAR IN REVIEW



544

Households participated in our diaper program

Hogares participaron en nuestro Programa de Pañales.



182

Participated in our Mental Wellness and Financial Wellness workshops

Participaron en nuestros talleres de Bienestar Mental y Bienestar Financiero.

15

Individuals participated in our digital literacy cohort

Personas participaron en nuestra cohorte de alfabetización digital



1,366

Households received assistance to enroll and navigate Medi-Cal system

Hogares recibieron asistencia para inscribirse y navegar el sistema de Medi-Cal



181

Individuals received dental or vision care

Personas recibieron servicios de atención dental o visual



UNDUPLICATED NUMBERS/ PERSONAS ÚNICAS (NO DUPLICADAS)



A Colling Records Changing Lives.

Colling Records Changing Lives.





QUESTIONS WELCOME