



Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)
Department of Housing and Human Services
4800 Highway 311
Houma, LA 70360

January 2022

Date of Current CNA: January 2022
Date of Previous CNA: August 2018



Section 1

Mission Statement

Our mission is to *Eliminate Poverty - Empower Our Families and Engage Our Community* by being visible leaders that helps to encourage our low-income families with their efforts to become self-sufficient by providing programs and services to improve the quality of lives and the opportunity to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty.

Vision Statement

It is our vision to be leaders by providing innovative and creative solutions in response to our ever-changing community needs. We are committed to work on counteracting and whenever possible eliminate the societal conditions that cause and perpetuate poverty that will help embody our community to achieve economic independence.

Core Principles

- We see people as the experts on their own lives, as individuals and families who have strengths and dreams, and who also experience barriers to their success.
- We honor everyone's right to live with dignity and to be treated with respect and appreciation for diversity.
- We partner with individuals and families to develop the resources, skills, social connection, and resilience to be economically secure and successful according to their own values and hopes.
- We partner with families and communities to raise strong and healthy children and youth.
- We value workplace practices based on mutual respect, inclusion, transparency, and leadership development for all staff.
- We believe that engaging people with low incomes in decision-making and the overall direction of the agency is essential to our integrity and success.
- We are committed to participating in community development that assures that all people are housed, well-fed, warm, safe, and stable.
- We value building collaborative partnerships to find community-based solutions to meet community needs.

Summary of Organization History

One of the most southern of all Louisiana parishes, Terrebonne Parish was established March 22, 1822, from the southern part of Lafourche Interior, bordering upon the Gulf of Mexico. Covering an area of 2100 square miles, it is the 2nd largest parish in the state. The early French settlers who christened this parish must have been impressed with the fertility of the soil and marshes because the words "terre bonne" mean "good earth." In 1834, Terrebonne Parish founded the city of Houma to establish a centrally located and more easily accessible parish seat. Prior to this, the county seat had been set at



Williamsburg (now Bayou Cane) approximately 4 miles northwest of present-day downtown Houma. While Williamsburg sat at the junction of two bayous, Bayou Cane and Bayou Terrebonne, government officials felt that Houma, which sat at the convergence of six bayous, would provide better access for commerce and development in Terrebonne Parish.

Richard H. Grinage and Hubert M. Belanger donated one arpent of frontage along Bayou Terrebonne on March 18, 1834, for the new government seat. This land became the foundation around which Houma was developed. Because of this significant donation, Grinage and Belanger are considered the “Fathers of Houma.”

Houma was named after the Houmas Indian. The native word "houma" means red, and the tribe's war emblem was the crawfish. Historians say the Houmas Indians originally came from Mississippi and Alabama and settled near Baton Rouge. After many conflicts with other Indian tribes, losing a war to the Tunicas in 1706, and to escape the encroachment of the white man, the Houmas Indians continued moving south to more remote areas. They settled in Terrebonne Parish in the mid to late eighteenth century and established a camp known as Ouiski Bayou on the high ground northwest of present-day downtown Houma. They were subsequently pushed from the highlands of the north to the coastal regions of the south by the European settlements in the late 1700's and 1800's. Evidence of the Houma Tribes can still be found in this area today.

Most of the pioneers who came to Terrebonne migrated from the Mississippi River, down Bayou Lafourche to Bayou Terrebonne. There was an influx of the French from New Orleans to the bayou country after the Spanish domination in 1762. The district Spanish commandant granted concessions of title to not more than 630 acres of land to each newcomer to the bayou lands. While many Frenchmen came into the area prior to this, there are recorded claims by Anglo-Saxons and Spanish as well.

Other pioneers in the area in 1760 were the exiled French colonists known as Acadians from Nova Scotia, who roamed the world for 10 years in search of a home before they settled on the banks of the bayous in Terrebonne Parish. They chose this area because of its isolated geographic location, a minimum of government control, fertile land and an abundance of fish and wildlife.

These people lived in seclusion for generations and continued their family traditions of living off the land. Today they celebrate their heritage and joy of life through their festivals and church fairs.

In 1848, Houma was incorporated as a city by an act of legislature. By this time, industry in Houma consisted largely of farming plantations, seafood, fur trading and logging industries. The cultivation of sugar cane was the principal agricultural industry in the parish. The first plantation was established in 1828. By 1851, Terrebonne had 110 plantations with 80 sugar houses. Southdown Plantation was founded in 1858 by the Minor family. Stephen Minor was the Secretary to the Spanish Governor Gayoso. Today, the home serves as the parish museum. The sugar mill itself was sold in 1979, dismantled and shipped to Guatemala where it was reassembled and is still in use today.

Canals were dug between the bayous to decrease travel time within the parish and make trade more efficient. In 1872, a railroad that linked Schriever to Houma became instrumental in increasing trade and travel within and outside the parish. These canals were later abandoned with the construction of the Intracoastal Waterway in 1923. The



Intracoastal was later extended into Lafourche Parish and to Bayou Lafourche which further increased Houma's importance as a portal city.

During World War II, the centrality of Houma along the Gulf Coast made it an ideal area to establish a Lighter Than Air Blimp Naval Station, which was in operation from May, 1943 to September, 1944. The Navy base, which used blimps squadrons to scan the coastline for enemy vessels, was one of only two blimp stations operating on the Gulf Coast.

Terrebonne has always depended on Mother Nature for its livelihood. Oysters, shrimp, crabs and fish contribute their share of wealth to the parish. The oysters from Terrebonne Parish have become internationally known as the finest in the world. In the great stretches of marshland surrounding Terrebonne Parish, trapping of Louisiana muskrat, mink, otter, raccoon, and nutria pelts are another form of local commerce.

Oil and gas made its debut in 1929 and brought a period of economic development and prosperity unparalleled anywhere in the state. The industry grew into enormous dimensions with the discovery of offshore oil. Terrebonne became the gateway to the heaviest concentration of offshore oil service companies in the state. By 1960, the combination of rich oil production backed by Houma's productive waters, fertile soil, and natural mineral resources, Houma became one of the fastest growing cities in America. In 1961, the Houma Navigational Canal was completed to provide a 30-mile link to Terrebonne Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

By the late 1970's, Houma's main focus was the oil industry. Those companies not related to oil and gas depended on this industry for their survival. When the bottom fell out of the oil industry in the early 1980's because of cheaper foreign product and dwindling local resources, Houma fell with it. For nearly two years, the Houma-Terrebonne area experienced an unemployment rate near 25%.

Learning from our mistakes, the Houma community has begun to strive to diversify. While the oil industry is still the primary source of revenue for the Houma-Terrebonne area, alternative industries are emerging to fill in the gaps. Terrebonne Parish still accounts for over 20% of Louisiana's seafood production. In addition, the medical industry is creating a stronghold for itself in the parish area. Tourism, too, is a popular source of commerce for, in, and around Houma. The addition of Houma's Civic Center promises to bring an influx of entertainment and convention revenue to Houma. The draw of authentic Acadian culture, diverse environment and wildlife, plantation homes, excellent food, and close proximity to New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette make Houma-Terrebonne an excellent central location for the visitor who wishes to see all the sights and sounds of the bayou wonderland of South Louisiana.

Nearby Municipalities or Counties

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government was established on November 14, 1984 as the Community Action Agency serving the following geographical areas which include:

- Area I City of Houma
- Area II Thibodaux/Johnson Ridge, Gray, Schriever
- Area III Gibson and Bayou Black
- Area IV Smithridge and Chauvin
- Area V Grand Caillou, Dulac and Bobtown



Existing Structure

Terrebonne Parish Council Board

The Terrebonne Parish Council was first seated as the governing body of Terrebonne Parish on January 9, 1984 when the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government became effective. The fifteen-member Council replaced the fifteen-member Terrebonne Parish Police Jury and the five-member Houma Board of Aldermen. Each Council Member is elected from a district which divides the Parish into relatively equal areas of population. From its ranks, the Council elects a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and appoints the necessary staff.

The Council is the legislative branch of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and, as such, is designed to serve as the policy-setting body of local government. Aside from the few (currently four) employees under the jurisdiction of the Council Clerk, the Council has no direct supervision of any of the employees of this government.

In response to a vote of the people in 1995, the Council was reduced from fifteen members to nine, with the first nine-member Council taking office in January of 1996.

The five standing committees are Budget & Finance; Policy, Procedure & Legal; Public Services; Community Development & Planning; and Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

The Council must comply with the provisions of the Home Rule Charter, Louisiana Revised Statutes and rules and regulations set forth by the governing body as a whole. Constituents may contact their Council members by calling the Council Office at a general number of (985) 873-6519, or by calling the elected officials at their homes.

CSBG Advisory Board

The Terrebonne Parish Community Service Advisory Board consist of fifteen (15) members.

Composition:

One-third (1/3) of the Community Action Agency Advisory Board consist of elected or appointed public officials from the Governing Authority, one-third (1/3) of the Community Action Agency Advisory Board consist of elected representatives of the poor; and the remaining (1/3) of the Community Action Agency Advisory Board consist of an administrative staff person representing a public agency, business, labor, religion, welfare, education, industry, or other major group of interest in the community from the private sector.

Summarization of Clientele

The clients that we serve have experience some form of emergency need that cause them hardship and rendered them unable to meet a crucial need in their household. Terrebonne Parish Community Services provides a range of services that are designed to help individuals and families to maintain their independence; improve their current life situation; or alleviate emergency situations. These services offer support to families to help in their time of need and achieve self-sufficiency by providing range of financial assistance program.



Existing CAA Programs

1. Crisis Intervention Rental/Mortgage Assistance
2. Crisis Utility Assistance
3. First Month Rent
4. Fire and Storm Victim Assistance
5. Commodities
6. Weatherization
7. LIHEAP
8. Employment Assistance
9. School Tuition Assistance
10. Uniform Assistance
11. Food Voucher Program

Crisis Intervention Rental

Mortgage Assistance This program will assist a family that have experience a family emergency that rendered them unable to pay their rent/Mortgage

Crisis Utility Assistance This program will assist a family that have experienced a family emergency that rendered them unable to pay their utility bill such as electric or gas.

First Month Rent This program provides assistance to the homeless persons or persons what re being evicted and has no permanent dwelling.

Fire and Storm

Victim Assistance This program provides assistance to eligible Low-income families to replace items that may have been destroyed because of fire or flood.

Commodities This program provides food to eligible households on a quarterly basis to help reduce the burden of the high cost of food.

Weatherization The Weatherization Assistance conserve energy by providing home energy saving measures to eligible low-income families.

LIHEAP The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides payment directly to utility vendors on the behalf of low-income households to reduce the burden of high-energy cost.

Employment This program provides assistance to an eligible low-income person that has gained employment but does not have the funds to get the items needed to start a job.



School Tuition This program provides a one-time payment to vendor on the behalf of a student that is interested in obtaining certification to help further their education to help make them more employable.

Uniform Assistance This program provides uniforms to eligible households to help reduce the burden of the high cost of school clothes.

Food Voucher This program provides a one-time food voucher to an eligible household that doesn't receive any other food assistance to help them to offset the high cost of food.

Summarize Community Resources Available

Terrebonne Parish Community Services has partnered with other agencies in our community to help further meet the needs of the community. We coordinate our funds in a cooperative effort to avoid duplication of services and eliminate fraudulent requests of services. These services help clients in our community with housing, utility, food, education, and job skills.

List the names of other agencies and the resources they provide.

Terrebonne Churches United	Food
Bunkhouse	Homeless Assistance
Salvation Army	Rental/Homeless Assistance
Catholic Social Services	Rental Assistance
Option for Independence	Homeless Assistance
Beautiful Beginning	Homeless Assistance
The Learning Bridge	Higher Learning
Fletcher College	Higher learning
Louisiana Workforce	Job Placement
Council on Aging	Food, Transportation
Second Harvest	Food
Louisiana Housing	Utilities, Housing Repair
Terrebonne Adult Education	Higher Learning
Plymouth Rock Church	Food

Part 2: CNA Planning Data

Date of last CNA submitted: August 2018

Describe the CNA Team: List who they are on what roll they all helped to play in the completion of the report

Focus Group Committee

Melanie VanBuren, Human Development Administrator

LaKeisha Ray, LIHEAP Coordinator, Caseworker

Candance Theriot, EF&S Coordinator, Caseworker



Jeanette Curry, WAP Coordinator, Caseworker
Tina Parfait, Board Member
Patricia Mangum, Board Member
Sadie Gutierrez, Caseworker
Dana Use, Caseworker
Angela Brown, Board Member



Section 2

Demographic

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the parish has a total area of 2,082 square miles (5,390 km²), of which 1,232 square miles (3,190 km²) is land and 850 square miles (2,200 km²) (41%) is water. It is the fifth-largest parish in Louisiana by land area and third largest by total area. The Gulf of Mexico is located to the south of the parish. The average height above sea level of the parish is about six feet. The parish is protected by extensive flood protection works.

At the 2020 census, 109,580 people lived in the parish.^[3] The major ancestry among its population was French American, and the median household income was \$48,446.^[2] Of the population, 20% lived at or below the poverty line.

Population per square mile	90.8
Land Area in square miles	1,231.82

According to the U. S. Census Bureau the demographics of Terrebonne Parish reports the following information:

Age

In Terrebonne Parish, according to the U. S. Census Bureau, persons under 5 years is 6.9% Persons under 18 years is 25.1%. Persons 65 years and over is 14.9%.

Income

Median household income (in 2019 dollars)	\$48,747
Per capita income in past 12 months	\$25,925
Persons in poverty	19.0%

Employment Status (According the Louisiana Department if Labor)

Terrebonne Parish Labor force	49,799
Terrebonne Employment	46,657
Unemployment	3,142
Unemployment Rate	6.3%

Health Status

Person with Disability, under 65 years	12.5%
Person without health insurance, under 65 years	12.8%

Family Structure

Households	39,972
Persons per households	2.77
Living in same house, % of person 1 year+	88.1%

Education Level

High School graduate or higher % of person aged 25 years+	79.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher % of persons aged 25 years+	15.6%



Poverty

Of the 107,237 residents of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana who were born citizens of the United States, 21,289 (19.9%) had income levels below the poverty line within the past year.

Conversely, 983 (25.7%) of 3,831 residents of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana who were born citizens of a country other than the US reported income levels below the poverty line within the past year.

Overall Poverty in the Parish

Total Parish Persons in Poverty	20.1%
Bayou Cane	14.5%
Bourg	17.2%
Chauvin	23.2%
Dulac	20.4%
Gray	16.3%
Houma	24.8%
Montegut	35.1%
Schriever	158%

Poverty and Gender

Bayou Cane

Males 1,272 of 10,017 lives below the poverty line

Females 1,749 of 10,754 lives below the poverty line.

Bourg

Males 194 of 1,538 live below the poverty line.

Females 299 of 1,322 live below the poverty line.

Chauvin

Males 292 of 1,400 live below the poverty line.

Females 312 of 1,204 live below the poverty line.

Dulac

Males 80 of 662 live below the poverty line.

Females 184 of 630 live below the poverty line.

Gray



Males 355 of 2,718 live below the poverty line.

Females 573 of 2,974 live below the poverty line.

Houma

Males 3,545 of 16,448 live below the poverty line.

Females 4,711 of 16,870 live below the poverty line.

Montegut

Males 383 of 1,141 live below the poverty line.

Females 307 of 824 live below the poverty line.

Schriever

Males 532 of 3,107 live below the poverty line.

Females 478 of 3,278 live below the poverty line.

Poverty and age

Age	Bayou Cane	Bourg	Chauvin	Dulac	Gray	Houma	Montegut	Schriever
Under 6	19.8%	36.5%	41.0%	42.9%	30.7%	39.9%	41.7%	22.7%
6 to, 11 years	12.2%	19.3%	35.9%	73.3%	20.5%	28.3%	38.5%	24.2%
Adolescents 12 to 17 years old	21.6%	12.0%	17.4%	100.0%	18.1%	32.3%	76.8%	11.0%
Adults 18 to 59%	14.8%	18.0%	21.4%	12.7%	14.7%	23.5%	30.7%	17.2%
Adults 60 to 74 years old	10.1%	0.4%	26.7%	9.1%	6.0%	18.4%	6.6%	4.3%
75 to 84 years old	9.7%	29.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.7%	55.0%	8.6%
Over 85 years old	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	45.5%	48.7%

Bayou Cane

Children under 6 19.8%
 Children 6 to, 11 years old 12.2%
 Adolescents 12 to 17 years old 21.6%
 Adults 18 to 59% 14.8%



Adults 60 to 74 years old	10.1%
75 to 84 years old	9.7%
Over 85 years old	4.0%

Bourg

Children under 6	36.5%
Children 6 to, 11 years old	19.3%
Adolescents 12 to 17 years old	12.0%
Adults 18 to 59 years old	18.0%
Adults 60 to 74 years old	0.4%
75 to 84 years old	29.6%
Over 85 years old	0.0%

Chauvin

Children under 6	41.0%
Children 6 to, 11 years old	35.9%
Adolescents 12 to 17 years old	17.4%
Adults 18 to 59 years old	21.4%
Adults 60 to 74 years old	26.7%
75 to 84 years old	0.0%
Over 85 years old	0.0%

Dulac

Children under 6	42.9%
Children 6 to, 11 years old	73.3%
Adolescents 12 to 17 years old	100.0%
Adults 18 to 59 years old	12.7%
Adults 60 to 74 years old	9.1%
75 to 84 years old	0.0%
Over 85 years old	0.0%

Gray

Children under 6	30.7%
Children 6 to, 11 years old	20.5%
Adolescents 12 to 17 years old	18.1%
Adults 18 to 59 years old	14.7%
Adults 60 to 74 years old	6.0%
75 to 84 years old	0.0%
Over 85 years old	0.0%

Houma

Children under 6	39.9%
Children 6 to, 11 years old	28.3%
Adolescents 12 to 17 years old	32.3%
Adults 18 to 59 years old	23.5%



Adults 60 to 74 years old	18.4%
75 to 84 years old	21.7%
Over 85 years old	2.2%

Montegut

Children under 6	41.7%
Children 6 to, 11 years old	38.5%
Adolescents 12 to 17 years old	76.8%
Adults 18 to 59 years old	30.7%
Adults 60 to 74 years old	6.6%
75 to 84 years old	55.0%
Over 85 years old	45.5%

Schriever

Children under 6	27.7%
Children 6 to, 11 years old	24.2%
Adolescents 12 to 17 years old	11.0%
Adults 18 to 59 years old	17.2%
Adults 60 to 74 years old	4.3%
75 to 84 years old	8.6%
Over 85 years old	48.7%

Poverty by Race

Bayou Cane

25.0% of Black residents of Bayou Cane, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of black residents in Bayou Cane, Louisiana is the same as than the national average. 815 of 3,259 black Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 15.4% of the total population of Bayou Cane, Louisiana are black.

10.9% of White residents of Bayou Cane, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of white residents in Bayou Cane, Louisiana is the same as than the national average. 1,537 of 14,124 white Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 66.7% of the total population of Bayou Cane, Louisiana are white.

17.8% of Hispanic residents of Bayou Cane, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of Hispanic residents in Bayou Cane, Louisiana is the same as than the national average. 309 of 1,737 Hispanic Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 8.2% of the total population of Bayou Cane, Louisiana are Hispanic.



Bayou Cane, Louisiana Poverty Rate by Race

Race	Population	Poverty Rate	National Poverty Rate	Population
Black	3,259	25.0%	25.2%	15.4%
White	14,124	10.9%	10.3%	66.7%
Hispanic	1,737	17.8%	22.2%	8.2%

Bourg

The Poverty Rate of white residents in Bourg, Louisiana is dramatically higher than the national average of 10.3%. 459 of 2,335 white Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 81.5% of the total population of Bourg, Louisiana are white.

Race	Population	Poverty Rate	National Poverty Rate	Population
White	2,335	19.7%	10.3%	81.5%

Dulac

NO DATA

Gray

25.3% of Black residents of Gray, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of black residents in Gray, Louisiana is the same as than the national average. 485 of 1,917 black Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 33.7% of the total population of Gray, Louisiana are black.

7.2% of White residents of Gray, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of white residents in Gray, Louisiana is dramatically lower than the national average of 10.3%. 225 of 3,108 white Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 54.6% of the total population of Gray, Louisiana are white.

Race	Population	Poverty Rate	National Poverty Rate	Population
Black	1,917	25.3%	25.2%	33.7%
White	3,108	7.2%	10.3%	54.6%

Houma

50.4% of Black residents of Houma, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of black residents in Houma, Louisiana is dramatically higher than the national average of 25.2%. 4,288 of 8,507 black Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 25.2% of the total population of Houma, Louisiana are black.

11.9% of White residents of Houma, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of white residents in Houma, Louisiana is the same as than the national average. 2,445 of 20,509 white Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 60.7% of the total population of Houma, Louisiana are white.

54.3% of Hispanic residents of Houma, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of Hispanic residents in Houma, Louisiana is dramatically higher than the national average of 22.2%. 813 of 1,496 Hispanic Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 4.4% of the total population of Houma, Louisiana are Hispanic.

Race	Population	Poverty Rate	National Poverty Rate	Poverty Population
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Black	8,507	50.4%	25.2%	25.2%
American Indian	1,522	30.6%	26.8%	4.5%
Two Or More Races	1,068	25.6%	18.4%	3.2%
White	20,509	11.9%	10.3%	60.7%
Hispanic	1,496	54.3%	22.2%	4.4%

Montegut

31.7% of White residents of Montegut, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of white residents in Montegut, Louisiana is dramatically higher than the national average of 10.3%. 544 of 1,715 white Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 86.1% of the total population of Montegut, Louisiana are white.

Race	Population	Poverty Rate	National Poverty Rate	Population
White	1,715	31.7%	10.3%	86.1%

Schriever

7.5% of Black residents of Schriever, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of black residents in Schriever, Louisiana is dramatically lower than the national average of 25.2%. 123 of 1,646 black Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 25.8% of the total population of Schriever, Louisiana are black.

19.5% of White residents of Schriever, Louisiana live below the poverty line.

The Poverty Rate of white residents in Schriever, Louisiana is dramatically higher than the national average of 10.3%. 775 of 3,972 white Louisianians live below the poverty line. Approximately 62.2% of the total population of Schriever, Louisiana are white.

Race	Population	Poverty Rate	National Poverty Rate	Population
Black	1,646	7.5%	25.2%	25.8%
White	3,972	19.5%	10.3%	62.2%

School District High School Graduation

Graduation Rate	District	State Average
	63.4%	63.5%

School District School Readiness

Fall – (October) – 170 based on 166 3–4-year-old children

Winter – (January) – 169 based on 147 3–4-year-old children



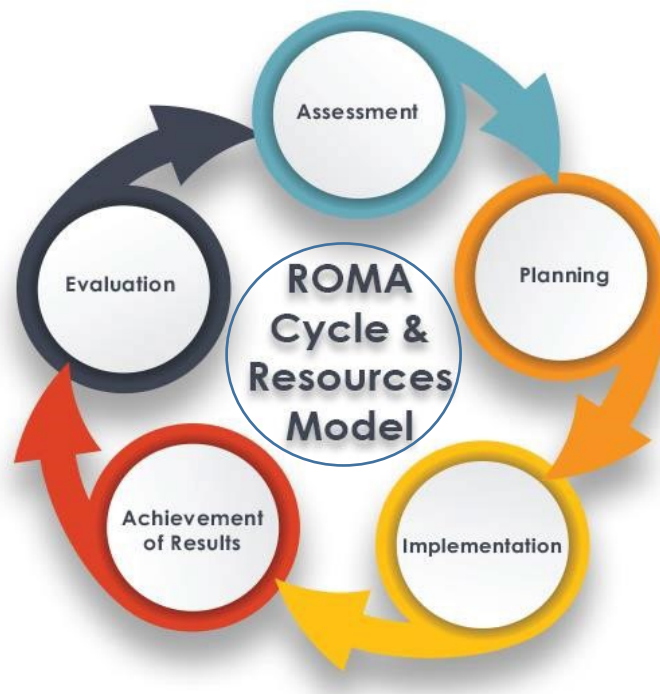
Section 3

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

A. CSBG ROMA AND THE ROMA PLANNING CYCLE

All Community Action Agencies (CAAs) use the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) performance management system. It is a continuous cycle (illustrated below) that incorporates the core principles of Community Action nationwide. One of these core principles is that CAAs build local solutions to address local needs. In other words, CAAs are expected to base their strategies and priorities for services and advocacy on the needs and strengths in their communities. This is one of the essential and very special characteristics of the national Community Action network; we do not take a cookie cutter, one-size-fits-all approach. We are deeply embedded in and responsive to the communities we serve. Aligned with that, we all receive funding from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) that is very flexible and can be used to respond to emergent needs, support administrative infrastructure, or fill in gaps in funding in state or federal contracts.

Maximizing the involvement of people with low income in the governance and development of the organization and soliciting input from a variety of sectors in the broader community are two other fundamentals of Community Action. ROMA is about promoting change for individuals and families, as well as communities, in a way that is directed by them. This is why all Community Action Agencies have Boards that are at least one-third people who have direct experience living with low income.



To assist CAAs with using the ROMA cycle, the Office of Community Services within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has developed Organizational Standards that spell out how the core principles described earlier should be put into



action. In Louisiana, each CAA must conduct a local needs assessment and develop a strategic plan every three years. The needs assessment contained in this document will be the foundation for a two-year plan for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023. It was conducted in adherence with the following Organizational Standards:

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

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

Standard 3.2 As part of the community assessment, the organization 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 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.

The strategic plan that will grow out of the needs assessment, to be published in the summer of 2021, will follow the following CSBG Organizational Standards.

Standard 6.2 The approved strategic plan addresses reduction of poverty, revitalization of low-income communities, and/or empowerment of people with low incomes to become more self-sufficient.

Standard 6.3 The approved strategic plan contains family, agency, and/or community goals. **Standard 6.4** Customer satisfaction data and customer input, collected as part of the community assessment, is included in the strategic planning process.

Overview of Data Collection Process

ROMA and the Organizational Standards provide a methodological framework for assessing both community and internal needs and strengths, and then for developing plans to guide the agency in fulfilling its mission. Each agency may decide within these broad parameters how to conduct their assessment and planning process. To develop our own methodology, Terrebonne Community Action drew on past years' experience in managing the process as well as guidance from volunteers within the community, partner agency, staff and focus groups to collect data. We distributed the survey by going out to different outreach sites throughout the community. While also doing a mass emailing providing an online link to Survey Monkey. A copy of the survey instruments are provided in the attachments of this report. This data was used for to identify the needs of the community.

Participant Survey: The survey was for people who were or could be a participant in our program that were at least 18 years of age and had income under the 200% of the federal poverty level. This survey could be filled out on paper or online through Survey Monkey.



Partner Agency Survey: This survey was for the staff from organizations that provide social, medical, or mental health services in the community Action Service area **AND** who interface with our direct services or supervisory staff on the behalf of individuals enrolled in our programs. It included questions about community needs, respondent's priority for improvement, and quality of customer services. This survey could be filled out on paper or online through Survey Monkey.

Community Survey: This survey was for people who work in organizations and businesses in our service area who comes into contact with people with low incomes **AND** who do **NOT** have regular contact with the staff of Community Action Pioneer Valley on behalf of individuals enrolled in its programs. This survey could be filled out on paper or online through Survey Monkey.

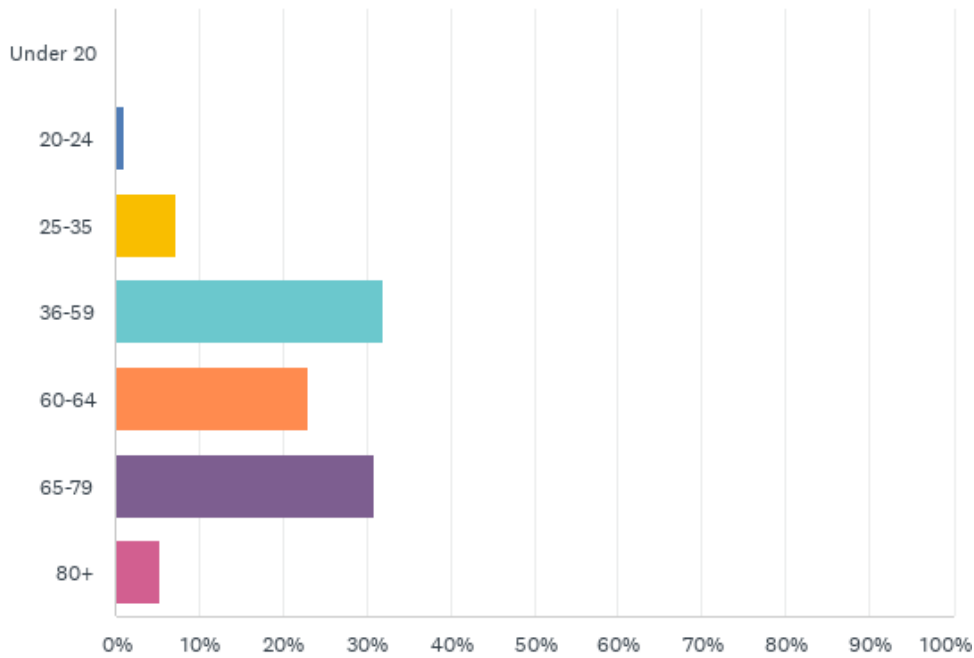
Staff Survey: All staff were asked to complete an online survey through Survey Monkey. We did ask staff some questions about their perspective on community needs, and this information is incorporated in this needs assessment.

Focus group: We conducted a focus group to address issues to gain a perspective on key issues. The group fully engage and gave their perceptions, opinions, and views regarding many different services and programs that we have now and some that we need to look into providing in the future. They also took the survey that could be filled out on paper or online through Survey Monkey.



Age

Out of the 368 participants surveyed, the ages 36-59 were ranked the highest 32.07% with the age group 65-79 a close 2nd.

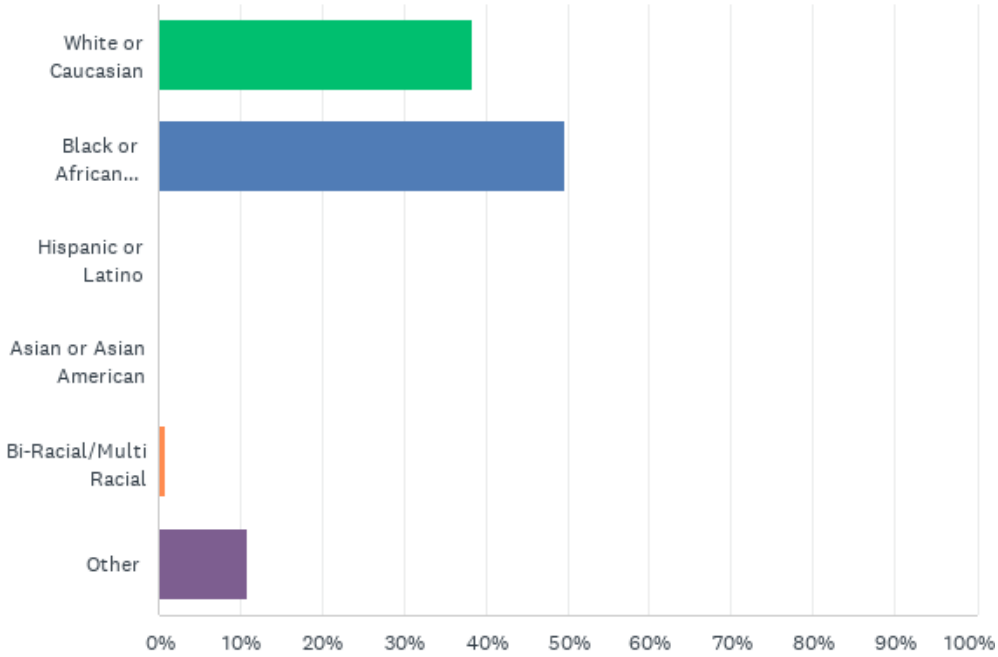


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 20	0.00%	0
20-24	1.09%	4
25-35	7.34%	27
36-59	32.07%	118
60-64	23.10%	85
65-79	30.98%	114
80+	5.43%	20
TOTAL		368



Race

Out of the 368 participants surveyed, the Black or African American ranked the highest at 49.73%.

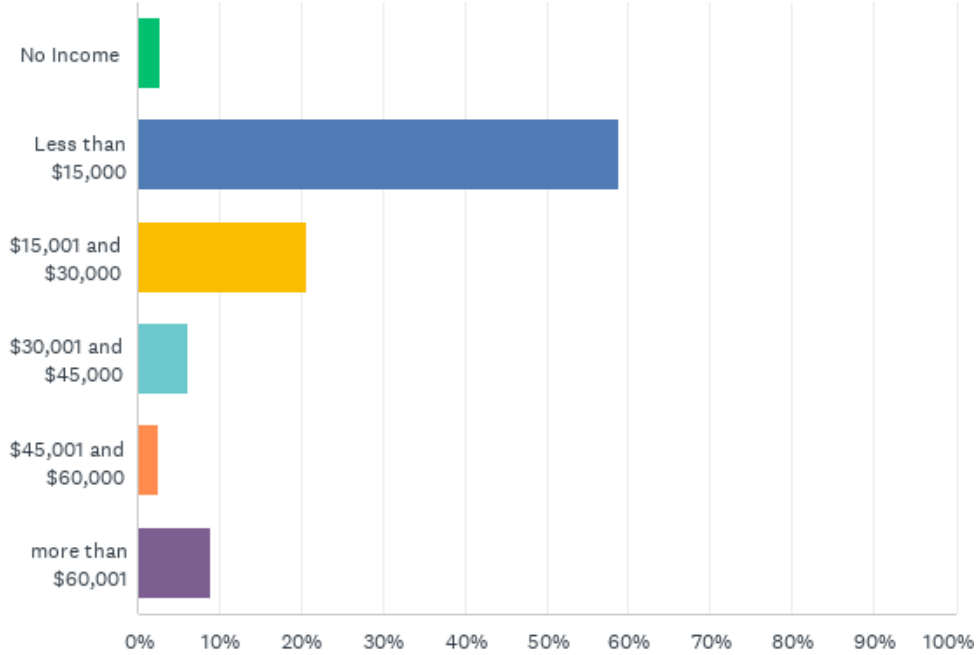


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White or Caucasian	38.32%	141
Black or African American	49.73%	183
Hispanic or Latino	0.27%	1
Asian or Asian American	0.00%	0
Bi-Racial/Multi Racial	0.82%	3
Other	10.87%	40
TOTAL		368



Income

Out of the 366 participants surveyed, the participants with income less than 15,000 ranked the highest at 58.74%.

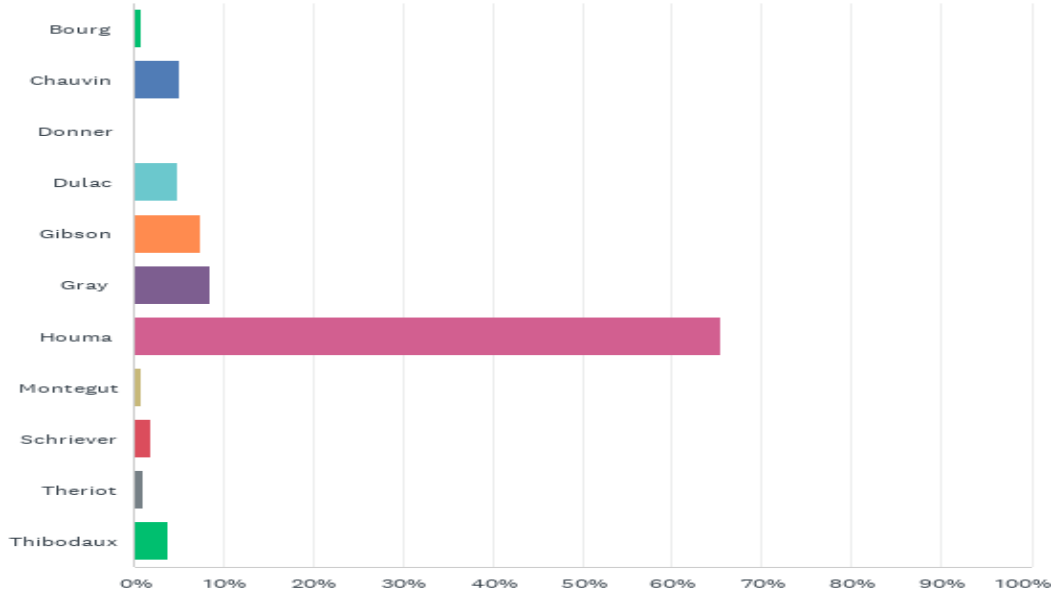


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Income	2.73%	10
Less than \$15,000	58.74%	215
\$15,001 and \$30,000	20.77%	76
\$30,001 and \$45,000	6.28%	23
\$45,001 and \$60,000	2.46%	9
more than \$60,001	9.02%	33
TOTAL		366



Location

Out of the 364 participants surveyed, participants that lived in the Houma area ranked the highest at 65.38%.

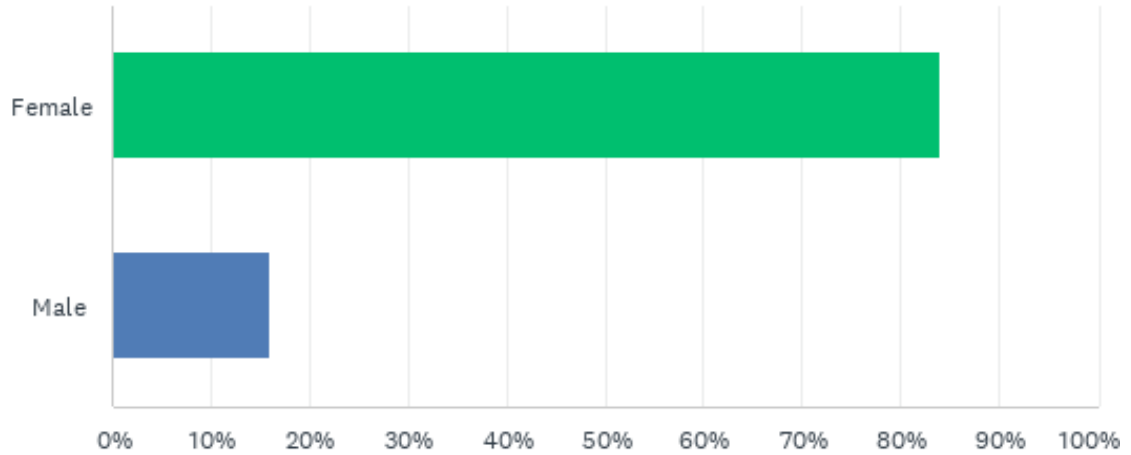


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bourg	0.82%	3
Chauvin	5.22%	19
Donner	0.00%	0
Dulac	4.95%	18
Gibson	7.42%	27
Gray	8.52%	31
Houma	65.38%	238
Montegut	0.82%	3
Schriever	1.92%	7
Theriot	1.10%	4
Thibodaux	3.85%	14
TOTAL		364



Gender

This survey is very overbalanced toward female respondents. Out of the 367 participants surveyed, females ranked the highest at 83.92%



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	83.92%	308
Male	16.08%	59
TOTAL		367

Statement here

Of the 3 areas surveyed below families that receives SNAP (food stamps) ranked the highest by surveyed participants at 45.11%. While families presently receiving food from WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) ranked the least at 2.17%.

	YES	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Does your family use any food pantry or commodity program?	36.59% 135	63.41% 234	369	0.37
Does your family presently receive SNAP (food stamps)?	45.11% 166	54.89% 202	368	0.45
Does your family presently receive food from WIC (Women, Infants and Children)?	2.17% 8	97.83% 361	369	0.02



Section 4

The results of the community survey are provided in this chapter.

Assistance

Of the 5 areas surveyed for assistance needed, prescription assistance and Food assistance ranked the highest as being needed or greatly needed by the survey participants. Food assistance received a rating of 81.8%, while prescription assistance received a rating of 81.57%.

	DONT KNOW	NO NEEDED	RARELY NEEDED	NEEDED	GREATLY NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Help with applying for Social Security, SSDI	2.98% 11	15.72% 58	2.44% 9	20.60% 76	58.27% 215	369	3.15
Prescription assistance	1.63% 6	15.18% 56	1.63% 6	21.95% 81	59.62% 220	369	3.23
Food	1.09% 4	13.04% 48	4.08% 15	19.84% 73	61.96% 228	368	3.29
Public transportation vouchers	2.99% 11	16.03% 59	3.53% 13	23.91% 88	53.53% 197	368	3.09
Free/affordable legal services	2.99% 11	12.50% 46	4.35% 16	22.55% 83	57.61% 212	368	3.19

Community

Of the 4 areas survey for assistance needed, crime awareness or crime reduction ranked the highest as being needed or greatly needed at 89.43% by the survey participants.

	DON'T KNOW	NOT NEEDED	RARELY NEEDED	NEEDED	GREATLY NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Neighborhood clean-up projects	1.63% 6	5.43% 20	9.24% 34	32.88% 121	50.82% 187	368	3.26
Crime awareness or crime reduction	1.63% 6	3.52% 13	5.42% 20	33.06% 122	56.37% 208	369	3.39
Public parks and facilities	2.44% 9	6.23% 23	5.42% 20	33.60% 124	52.30% 193	369	3.27
Recreational opportunities	2.45% 9	4.89% 18	4.89% 18	33.42% 123	54.35% 200	368	3.32



Education

Of the 4 areas surveyed for assistance needed, financial assistance to attend career tech, or college ranked highest as being needed or greatly needed at 86.38% by the surveyed participants.

	DON'T KNOW	NOT NEEDED	RARELY NEEDED	NEEDED	GREATLY NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
GED classes	3.26% 12	8.97% 33	5.16% 19	31.25% 115	51.36% 189	368	3.18
English as a Second Language Classes	4.34% 16	11.65% 43	6.50% 24	29.54% 109	47.97% 177	369	3.05
Computer Skills Training for Adults	2.17% 8	7.32% 27	5.15% 19	30.08% 111	55.28% 204	369	3.29
Financial assistance to attend career tech, or college	2.18% 8	8.17% 30	3.27% 12	30.79% 113	55.59% 204	367	3.29

Employment

Of the 3 areas surveyed for assistance needed, higher paying jobs ranked highest as being needed or greatly needed at 93.17% by the surveyed participants.

	DON'T KNOW	NOT NEEDED	RARELY NEEDED	NEEDED	GREATLY NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Help to improve job skills, training	1.36% 5	6.78% 25	2.44% 9	34.42% 127	55.01% 203	369	3.35
Job search assistance	1.36% 5	8.15% 30	3.80% 14	35.33% 130	51.36% 189	368	3.27
Higher paying jobs	1.09% 4	4.64% 17	1.09% 4	20.49% 75	72.68% 266	366	3.59



Family Support

Of the 9 areas surveyed for assistance needed, programs and activities for youth (12-18) ranked highest as being needed or greatly needed at 92.12% by the surveyed participants.

	DON'T KNOW	NOT NEEDED	RARELY NEEDED	NEEDED	GREATLY NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Financial Education/Budgeting	1.36% 5	7.90% 29	4.63% 17	32.97% 121	53.13% 195	367	3.29
Parenting Information	2.18% 8	7.90% 29	5.18% 19	32.15% 118	52.59% 193	367	3.25
Finding Affordable Child Care	2.18% 8	8.17% 30	2.72% 10	29.16% 107	57.77% 212	367	3.32
Nutrition Education/Healthy Eating	0.82% 3	6.79% 25	7.34% 27	31.52% 116	53.53% 197	368	3.30
Classes on relationships, resolving conflicts	3.26% 12	8.70% 32	7.07% 26	30.43% 112	50.54% 186	368	3.16
Programs for young children (0-11)	1.63% 6	5.71% 21	2.72% 10	20.11% 74	69.84% 257	368	3.51
Programs and Activities for Youth (12-18)	1.09% 4	5.16% 19	1.63% 6	19.29% 71	72.83% 268	368	3.58
Programs and Activities for Seniors (65+)	1.63% 6	4.89% 18	4.08% 15	17.66% 65	71.74% 264	368	3.53

Housing

Of the 4 areas surveyed for assistance needed, making homes more energy efficient ranked highest as being needed or greatly needed at 90.25 and finding affordable housing ranking a close 2nd at 90.24% by the surveyed participants.

	DON'T KNOW	NOT NEEDED	RARELY NEEDED	NEEDED	GREATLY NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Finding affordable housing	0.54% 2	6.50% 24	2.71% 10	22.49% 83	67.75% 250	369	3.50
Help paying rent or utility bills	1.63% 6	7.59% 28	2.44% 9	17.34% 64	71.00% 262	369	3.49
Homeless shelter/transitional housing	2.17% 8	6.50% 24	3.52% 13	21.14% 78	66.67% 246	369	3.44
Making homes more energy efficient	1.36% 5	4.61% 17	3.79% 14	26.56% 98	63.69% 235	369	3.47



Health

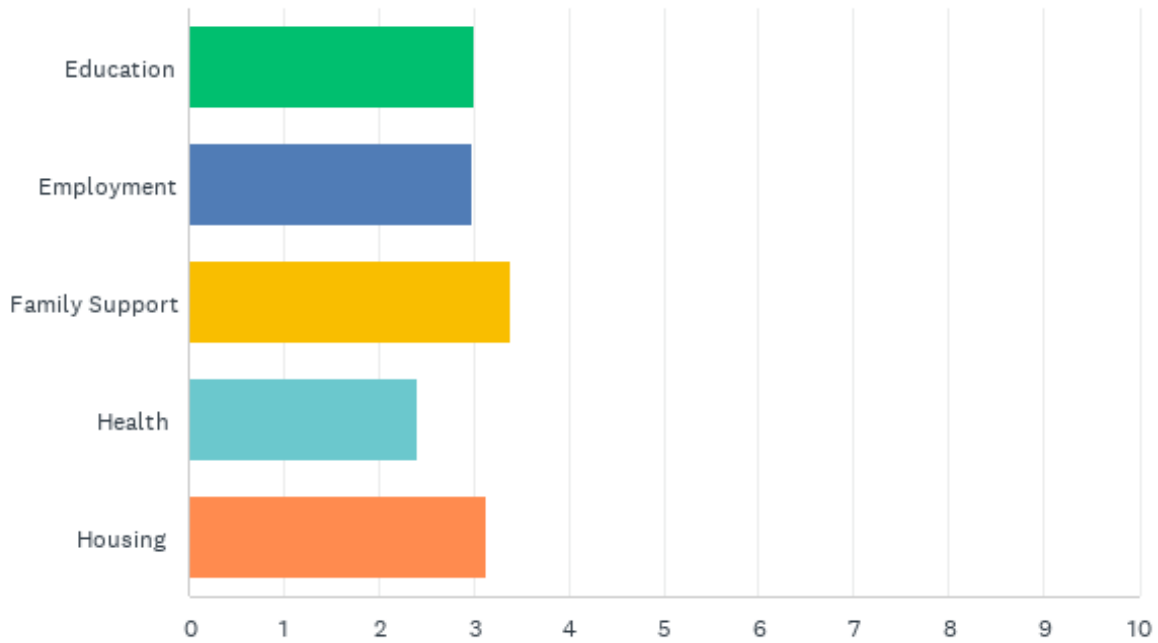
Of the 4 areas surveyed for assistance needed, mental health counseling services ranked highest as being needed or greatly needed at 91.32% by the surveyed participants.

	DON'T KNOW	NOT NEEDED	RARELY NEEDED	NEEDED	GREATLY NEEDED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Health Insurance/ Affordable Medical Care	1.36% 5	6.50% 24	2.17% 8	17.07% 63	72.90% 269	369	3.54
Health Education Services	1.63% 6	7.32% 27	4.34% 16	19.51% 72	67.21% 248	369	3.43
Mental health counseling services	1.08% 4	5.96% 22	1.63% 6	17.07% 63	74.25% 274	369	3.57
Substance abuse counseling/treatment	0.81% 3	8.40% 31	1.08% 4	13.28% 49	76.42% 282	369	3.56



Overall Ranking

Of the 5 overall ranking areas surveyed for assistance needed, health ranked highest at 61.71% as being needed or greatly needed and employment ranked 2nd at 40.72% by the surveyed participants.



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Education	19.55% 70	17.32% 62	25.14% 90	19.55% 70	18.44% 66	358	3.00
Employment	16.34% 59	23.55% 85	19.39% 70	24.65% 89	16.07% 58	361	2.99
Family Support	29.36% 106	19.67% 71	24.38% 88	13.30% 48	13.30% 48	361	3.39
Health	14.05% 51	11.02% 40	13.22% 48	26.17% 95	35.54% 129	363	2.42
Housing	19.95% 73	27.05% 99	18.31% 67	16.39% 60	18.31% 67	366	3.14



Focus Group Summary

As a Community Action Agency, our role is to incorporate many voices into identifying needs in our community; to assess the strengths, resources, and challenges in our local area; and to the fullest extent possible, match our services, collaborations, and advocacy to those needs

The community needs assessment survey was used to identify the needs of low-income individuals and families in our community, Terrebonne Community Action conducted a survey and a focus group from members throughout the area to gain their input and gain insightful understanding of the need in our community.

On June 7th, 2021, a focus group was conducted and a total of 9 individuals were represented, the group addressed complex issues and situations and was able to fully engage and give their perceptions, opinions, and views regarding many different services and programs that we have now and some that we need to investigate providing in the future. This allowed for creative problem solving and collectively develop resolutions to problems in the community.

There were many topics that were addressed by the focus group. It was determined that there is a need for more programs and resources for childcare, affordable housing, education, food, Jobs, family support, and homeless assistance. Each topic was discussed in detail.

Childcare: Childcare is a critical support for parents in the workforce, yet the high cost and scarcity of childcare limits access, particularly for families with lower incomes, and therefore, negatively impacts their job prospects and financial stability. there is a great need for affordable childcare due to families not being able to afford it due to such low wages and not making enough to take care of their families and bring home a decent wage. Clearly, the people that Community Action serves are not able to pay the full cost of childcare. Sadly, subsidies from the federal and state governments are inadequate, and waiting lists can be long. Many parents have told us they do not bother to get on the waiting list because they will never reach the top. Subsidy reimbursements from the state to childcare providers are very low, and the paperwork necessary for billing the state is burdensome. More and more family childcare providers have opted not to accept children with subsidies because of this.

Food: Access to nutritious food is essential for everyone's health and wellness. The COVID-19 pandemic caused various challenges in access to food, including loss of income which led to greater reliance on SNAP benefits; difficulties for people especially vulnerable to the pandemic (e.g. the elderly, those with underlying health conditions) to access food, including food pantries; and various disruptions in the food supply and increasing food prices. Individuals and families, particularly those with low income



and/or other vulnerabilities, need reliable access to nutritious, affordable food and food preparation resources.

Employment

Higher paying jobs in our community is needed due to the ever increasing of other expenses.

There is a lack of training and availability locally for living wage jobs. Due to this fact, more people are sometimes steered toward lower wage work in jobs with hours that are not transportation- and childcare-friendly. Young adults trying to break into the world of work in this context can suffer lifelong reductions in earnings. Lack of care for children outside the home will be a major roadblock to work; about half of childcare providers will go out of business, and schools are fully or partially remote. Women are leaving the workforce altogether because of the lack of job opportunities and/or the need to care for children or other dependents at home.

Family Support

The need for continued family support and services will continue to rise due to the rate of poverty in our community. Services needed are not met due to a lack of funding. More individuals and families than in the past will need help meeting basic needs, connecting with support and benefits, and managing their finances. Many of them will never have needed or sought help before and will need clear information delivered through new outreach channels, as well as help navigating complex benefit and social services systems.

Health

More young children are experiencing mental health issues, and with deeper levels of involvement. Increasing numbers of youth are also reporting depressive symptoms/suicidal thoughts/self-harm; low-income youth, LGBTQ youth, girls/young women, and people of color report these issues to a greater extent than other groups. The COVID-19 crisis has negatively impacted the mental health of most people, but low-income and other marginalized populations are disproportionately affected. Medical care, mental health treatment, and social service support are often not coordinated in a patient-centered way, which reduces effectiveness as well as trust in providers, and increases risk.

The misuse of opioids and other substances is a major problem that is on the increase in the state. Substance misuse not only affects the health of the individual, but it also impacts family functioning, the health of infants born to those using substances, and community safety. Indications are that the pandemic, in increasing stress and other triggers, has worsened this problem.



Housing

The high cost of local housing is a major driver of economic instability and a root cause of homelessness. There are simply not enough affordable housing units available, nor enough government housing subsidies to meet the need. Because of supply constraints due to COVID-19 (landlords withdrawing from rental market, funding for housing construction stalled), we could see further reductions in rental housing available and increasingly unaffordable housing costs. With eviction moratoriums and relief aid ending, we anticipate a wave of evictions and increased homelessness in our region.

Education

Education assistance is needed due to funding not being unavailable for short term classes that would allow clients to gain a quick training and prepare them for the workforce. These programs usually require out of pocket funds something that our clients can't afford due to the high cost of attending higher learning institution. While at the same time it is imperative for them to obtain higher education to be able to get a higher paying job or gain a promotion to help improve their



Section 5

Based on the results of the survey and the focus group the top five areas of concern in Terrebonne Parish are listed below from the highest area of concern to the least:

1. Employment (93.17)
2. Family Support (92.12%)
3. Health (91.32 %)
4. Housing (90.25%)
5. Community (89.43%)

Specifically, within the Employment category respondents cited “Higher Paying Jobs” (93.17%) and “Family Support” (92.12%) as the highest areas of concern.

1. Root Cause – Why is this a problem
2. Need by Level
 - a. Community
 - b. Agency
 - c. Individual
 - Summary of identified community needs as supported by assessment. Major outcomes and key findings.

Employment

Root Cause: There is a lack of training and availability locally for living wage jobs.

- ▶ **Individual- and Family-Level Need Statement:** Adults will continue to need assistance identifying and qualifying for jobs, and youth will continue to need assistance with job readiness and job placement.
- ▶ **Individual- and Family-Level Need Statement:** Parents need access to high quality, affordable out-of-home care for their children so they can go to work.
- ▶ **Community-Level Need Statement #5:** The community needs to have stronger, more accessible training and supported pathways to living wage jobs in sectors that are in high demand locally.

Summary: More people are sometimes steered toward lower wage work in jobs with hours that are not transportation- and childcare-friendly. Young adults trying to break into the world of work in this context can suffer lifelong reductions in earnings. Lack of care for children outside the home will be a major roadblock to work; about half of childcare providers will go out of business, and schools are fully or partially remote. Women are leaving the workforce altogether because of the lack of job opportunities and/or the need to care for children or other dependents at home.



Family Support

Root Cause: The need for continued family support and services will continue to rise due to the rate of poverty in our community.

- ▶ **Community-Level Need Statement:** As need and demand for services increase, the community needs to develop better systems so that social, education, workforce development, medical, and mental health systems work together efficiently and effectively, preventing people from falling through cracks.

Summary: Services needed are not met due to a lack of funding. More individuals and families than in the past will need help meeting basic needs, connecting with support and benefits, and managing their finances. Many of them will never have needed or sought help before and will need clear information delivered through new outreach channels, as well as help navigating complex benefit and social services systems.

Health

Root Cause: More families are experiencing mental health issues, and with deeper levels of involvement such as depressive symptoms, suicidal thoughts, self-harm especially during the Covid 19 pandemic

- ▶ **Community-Level Need Statement:** The medical, mental health, and social service sectors in our community need to continue to align and coordinate services and train personnel in culturally appropriate, trauma-informed practice to ensure that people receive the best possible care; services must be designed to support health goals.

Root Cause: The misuse of opioids and other substances is a major problem that is on the increase in the state.

- ▶ **Community-Level Need Statement:** The community needs effective programs and systems to support substance misuse prevention, screening, and recovery through compassionate, trauma informed, medically based approaches, coupled with family support.

Summary: Substance misuse not only affects the health of the individual, but it also impacts family functioning, the health of infants born to those using substances, and community safety. Indications are that the pandemic, in increasing stress and other triggers, has worsened this problem.

Housing/Homeless

Root Cause: The high cost of local housing is a major driver of economic instability and a root cause of homelessness.

- ▶ **Community-Level Need Statement:** The community needs to preserve existing affordable and/or subsidized housing units and produce more affordable housing.



- ▶ **Community-Level Need Statement:** The community needs more options for sheltering those who are homeless, including shelter beds, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing units, and more robust resources for helping people move quickly from homelessness to stable housing.

Root Cause: There is a large gap between area incomes and housing costs, so households experience excessive and unsustainable housing cost burdens that can lead to homelessness. Loss of income due to COVID-19 has made it more difficult for households to afford their housing, and this has disproportionately affected renters.

- ▶ **Family- and Individual-Level Need Statement:** Families and individuals with low incomes need financial resources to maintain stable and safe housing and to prevent eviction; services and outreach must be designed to support housing goals.
- ▶ **Family- and Individual-Level Need Statement:** The many families and individuals experiencing homelessness need support and clear, effective routes to permanent housing; services must be designed to support housing goals.
- ▶ **Agency Level Need Statement:** We have been able to provide assistance with housing for the homeless but due to the COVID pandemic and IDA Hurricane destroying our community there is a need for additional resources.

Summary: There are simply not enough affordable housing units available, nor enough government housing subsidies to meet the need. Because of supply constraints due to COVID-19 (landlords withdrawing from rental market, funding for housing construction stalled), we could see further reductions in rental housing available and increasingly unaffordable housing costs. With eviction moratoriums and relief aid ending, we anticipate a wave of evictions and increased homelessness in our region.

Community

Root Cause: There is a lack of engagement to bring awareness to help combat crime and drugs within the community.

- ▶ **Family- and Individual-Level Need Statement:** the community need opportunities, information, and support to participate effectively in and take on leadership positions within community organizations and institutions.
- ▶ **Community-Level Need Statement:** Community institutions and organizations need to be transformed so that they operate in more inclusive, equitable, and accessible ways.

Summary: For communities to thrive, its members need to be informed and engaged in meeting the challenges that affect us all, and the voices and needs of all need to be heard and considered in decision-making in our local institutions. The community face challenges and barriers to participating and gaining leadership in community organizations, local institutions, and the political process.



Root Cause: Not enough people are getting involved within the community by volunteering their time.

- ▶ **Family- and Individual-Level Need Statement:** People need volunteer service opportunities and supportive services that is meaningful to them to help improve their community.

Summary: People develop a sense of belonging and self-worth through participating in or providing service to groups and organizations they care about, which at the same time benefits the community. Volunteering is also a great way to develop skills and professional contacts.

Education

Root Cause: College affordability is a complicated and multi-faceted challenge. The price students and families are asked to pay has steadily increased over the past several decades, despite the existence of federal, state, and institutional grant programs, which are often not sufficient to fill the gap in need.

- ▶ **Individual and Family-Level Need:** Families need additional educational support and resources to increase their chances of successful outcomes.

Summary: Education assistance is needed to create a clear path to open doors for better paying jobs to the low-income families. Many jobs require higher education or training beyond high school diploma. We need funding sources that will allow families to receive the financial assistance to be trained and immediately put to work and/or obtain higher paying jobs to improve their lives.

The Community Needs assessment will be available for review on www.TPCG.org website

Community Needs Assessment was approved on January 28th, 2022, by the Terrebonne Parish Community Action Advisory Board.