

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM



2014 Share Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program

2014 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



2014 CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1: Tom Mielke, Chair

District 2: David Madore

District 3: Jeanne Stewart

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD (CAAB)

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Joyce Lindsay, District 2

Anne McEnery-Ogle, District 3

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Lydia Sanders, District 1

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Citizen Representatives

Melodie Pazolt, District 1

Armando Herrera, District 2

Kelly Adams, District 3

CLARK COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mark McCauley

CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Vanessa R. Gaston, Director

Pete Munroe, Manager

Kate Budd, Program Coordinator

Rebecca Royce, Program Coordinator

Samantha Whitley, Program Coordinator

Rich Walters, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist

Janet Snook, Office Assistant

Clark County Department of Community Services

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www.clark.wa.gov/community-action

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COMMUNITY ACTION

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

Source: Community Action Partnership

Objectives of the Clark County Community Action Program:

- To promote institutional and community changes which address the causes of poverty, and to remove barriers to self-sufficiency faced by low-income communities, families, and individuals;
- To reduce the impact of poverty on communities, families, and individuals by providing resources for services which are responsive to their needs;
- To promote innovative approaches to addressing the causes and impacts of poverty in the community;
- To serve as a catalyst for community efforts to leverage additional resources which address the causes and impacts of poverty; and
- To make recommendations or take other action on any other subject as referred by the Commissioners or jointly by the Commissioners and one or more city governments.

Source: Clark County Community Action Advisory Board By-laws



ADVISORY BOARD

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD

The [Community Action Advisory Board](#) (CAAB) is comprised of nine members representing a cross-section of the community. Board members include citizens who are low-income or have experienced poverty, elected public officials, and representatives from the private sector.

The Advisory Board conducts a Needs Assessment and Survey of Needs to provide direction for making recommendations for funding programs sponsored by community-based organizations. All services funded through the CAAB must address essential human needs and assist in moving people towards self-sufficiency.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

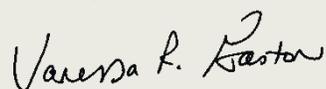
Dear Friends of Community Action:

Clark County has nearly 55,000 individuals in poverty. The Department of Community Services is a member of the SWWA Regional Health Alliance working to better coordinate and integrate health and human services to improve people's overall circumstances. The Department is partnering with several nonprofit organizations to provide programs that help families out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. The following are two examples of the extensive programs that serve those most in need:

- The YouthFirst program through Partners in Careers works directly with high school juniors and seniors at risk of not graduating on time. Students receive one-on-one academic support and employment training through weekly workshops and local internships. In 2014, over 240 at-risk youth remained in school, 44 seniors graduated on time, and 69 students obtained employment; and,
- Eighteen households were able to increase their assets through Individual Development Accounts, or IDAs. The program matches funds saved by households who are low-income to purchase homes, start their own businesses or pay for post-secondary education.

Thanks to the volunteers and staff of the many organizations that collaborate with Community Action, we continue to provide innovative services to improve the lives of those in our community that need a helping hand.

Sincerely,



Vanessa R. Gaston, Director
Clark County Department of Community Services



FROM THE COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends of Community Action:

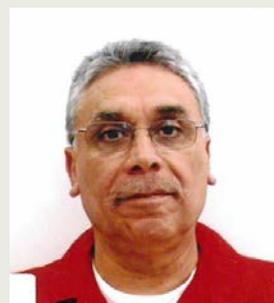
As the chair of the Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB), I am proud of the collaborative effort put forth by Clark County staff to provide assistance to individuals and families in our community. Approximately \$6 million has been used to serve 33,000 individuals and families. Services provided include food, dental, housing stability, employment, emergency services and youth services. These efforts are all priority areas for the CAAB.

I trust this report will increase public awareness of the services provided throughout the County. I want to thank County staff for their hard work serving our community and their dedicated effort to ensure the continuing success of the CAAB. With the information provided by staff, the CAAB has proven to be good stewards of public funds; ensuring agencies use best practices so every dollar is maximized for the best possible service to the residents of Clark County.

Sincerely,



Armando Herrera, Chair
2014 Community Action Advisory Board



FUNDING

Clark County's Community Action Program is comprised of many funding sources focused on providing services to households with moderate, low, and very low incomes.

Local

Clark County receives local funding from property taxes and document recording fees. Local funding is dedicated for specific types of programs that aim to end homelessness and support domestic violence survivors.

- House Bill (HB) 2060 Document Recording Fee
- House Bill (HB) 2163 Document Recording Fee
- House Bill (HB) 1359 Document Recording Fee
- Human Services Fund
- Marriage License Fee

State

The Washington State Department of Commerce provides funding to the County for programs that help end homelessness and meet community members' basic needs.

- Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG)
- Community Services Block Grant-State (CSBG-State)

Federal

Clark County receives grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Services include rental assistance, development of affordable housing, energy assistance, home weatherization, and self-sufficiency programs.

- Community Services Block Grant-Federal (CSBG-Federal)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization (WX)

The Value of Volunteers

The Clark County Community Action Program had 22 individuals who are low-income participate in formal community boards or provide input on decision-making and policy-setting through Community Action efforts.

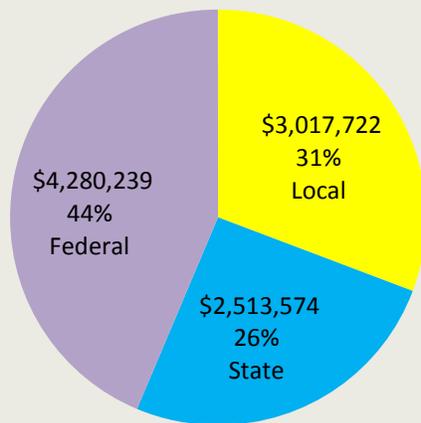
In 2014, various programs funded through Community Action utilized nearly 44,000 volunteer hours to help operate their programs. This is equivalent to 21 full-time positions at a value of nearly \$1 million.

FUNDING (continued)

2014 Community Action Funding



2014 Community Action Funding Sources



ACCESS

Navigating complex systems can be challenging. The following programs provide guidance to households seeking services.

Community Education

- Community Housing Resource Center, Foreclosure Assistance Program
- Rent Well Tenant Education

Information and Referral

- 211info

Homeless Services

- Council for the Homeless, Housing Solution Center (HSC)
- Janus Youth Programs, The Perch
- Janus Youth Programs, Yellow Brick Road
- Share, Bridging the Gap

Targeted Populations

- Community Services Northwest, PATH program
- Community Services Northwest, SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)

Success Story

“Matt” had been living on the streets for 10 years with PTSD and TBI. He had been denied Social Security benefits several times in the past. A SOAR Coordinator filed a new application for him and regularly contacted the Social Security offices to get updates, ensure all paperwork was turned in, and coordinate two consultative exams requested by Disability Determination Services. The coordinator also helped secure the needed representative payee after benefits were awarded. This allowed Matt to receive \$4,807 in back payments, and a monthly SSI benefit of \$733. He was able to afford an apartment and pay the required move-in fees and deposits.

In 2014, the Washington State minimum wage was

\$9.32 per hour.

However, the living wage for a single adult with one child

was **\$22.09**.

Sources:
Washington State Department of Labor & Industries
The Alliance for a Just Society, 2014 Job Gap Study,
<http://thejobgap.org/washington-low-wage-nation-2015/>,

ACCESS (continued)

21 Info Contacts

Clark County social services' information and referral source



Success Story

Over the course of 2014, the Housing Solutions Center screened 4,828 households for eligibility and placement in 40 different housing and shelter programs. They were able to place 1,272 households in emergency shelter, 158 in motels, and 367 in housing programs. They also served 1,065 households through the navigation program, which helps people connect to other services in the community; 85 households were stably housed as a result of the work of the navigation program.

HEALTH

Clark County's Community Action Program supports programs promoting good health. The 2013 Community Action Survey of Needs indicated that food and dental services were the top two community needs.

Food Assistance

- Clark County Food Pantries
- Clark County Food Bank, Fresh Alliance
- Share, Backpack Program
- Share, Hot Meals
- Share, Summer SLAM

Dental Services

- New Day Dental, First Impressions

In 2013, the Clark County Food Bank distributed

5 million meals to **33,000** families

through a network of **36** partner agencies.

Of those receiving food, **38%** were

children and **16%** were seniors.

Success Story

The Clark County Food Bank's Fresh Alliance program uses an innovative approach to collecting donated food. The Food Bank works with 18 local grocery stores to pick up perishable food items with refrigerated trucks five days a week. Items donated include milk, cheese, meat, and produce that are nearing their expiration dates. Once the food is unloaded at the Food Bank, volunteers sort through the items and prepare them for distribution to local food pantries. In 2014, the Fresh Alliance program collected over 1.2 million pounds of food that would otherwise have been discarded.

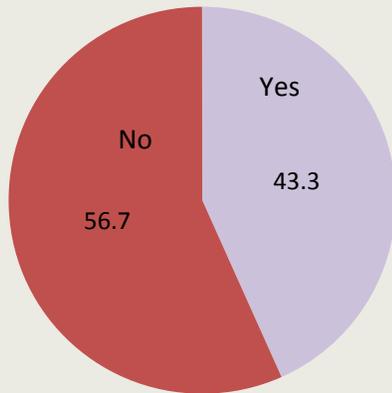
Source:
Clark County Food Bank

HEALTH (continued)

The Clark County Food Bank conducted a survey of participants requesting food assistance in 2013 at their 36 partnering food pantries.

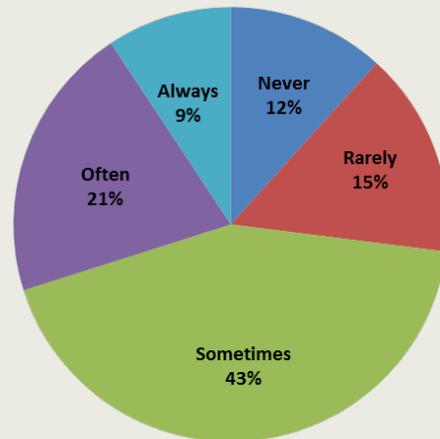
In the last 12 months, did you ever cut the size of your children's meals or did they ever skip meals because there was not enough money for food?

407 Responses



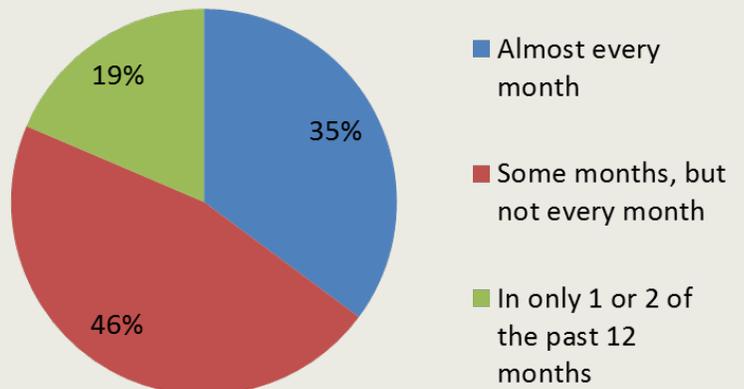
How often do you worry where your next meal will come from?

685 Responses



How often did your children have their meal size cut or skipped?

210 Responses



HOUSING

Housing assistance is provided through several types of programs: emergency shelter/motel vouchers, transitional housing, prevention, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. Each program targets a specific demographic of those in need, but all must meet strict income and housing status guidelines.

Emergency Shelter/Motel Vouchers

Emergency shelters provide congregate living facilities where households may reside for up to 90 days. Motel vouchers provide up to 30 nights of shelter in a local motel for highly vulnerable households.

- Council for the Homeless Housing Solutions Center, Coordinated Motel Vouchers Program
- Janus Youth, The Oaks Shelters
- Share, Emergency Shelters (Share Orchards Inn, Share Homestead, Share House)
- YWCA, SafeChoice Domestic Violence Shelter

Transitional Housing

Transitional housing provides a congregate or single unit living facility where households may reside for up to 24 months.

- Second Step Housing, Resident Self-Sufficiency Program
- Second Step Housing, Transitional Housing for Households with Children Program
- Share, Veterans House

Prevention

Prevention programs provide rent assistance and supportive services to households who are at-risk of homelessness to prevent them from becoming homeless. Households assisted include those who have three-day pay or vacate notices or those who are couch-surfing with family or friends. Assistance is provided for up to 24 months.

- Impact Northwest, Homelessness Prevention & Stabilization Program
- Janus Youth, Bridges Program
- The Salvation Army, Moving Forward Together Program
- The Salvation Army, Dislocated Families Fund
- Share, Prevention Re-Housing Options for Self-Sufficiency (PROS) Program
- Share, Fresh Approach to Stable Transitions (FAST) Program
- Share, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Program

In September 2014, the Clark County rental vacancy rate

was **2.2%**. This

compares to

Washington State's vacancy rate of

3.6%.

The Fair Market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Clark

County was **\$924**.

Sources:

Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington, WA Apartment Market, Fall 2014

U.S. Census Bureau News, <http://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/files/currenthvspress.pdf>, page 1

HOUSING (continued)

Rapid Re-housing (RRH)

Rapid re-housing (RRH) programs provide rent assistance and supportive services to households who are homeless. The programs move households into stable housing and assist them for up to 24 months. Households assisted include those who are living in cars, on the street, in places not meant for habitation, or in emergency shelters.

- Community Services NW, ESG Program
- Community Services NW, Re-Entry Housing Program
- Janus Youth, The Alliance Project
- Janus Youth, The Nest Program
- The Salvation Army, Ending Family Homelessness (EFH) Program
- Share, Prevention Re-Housing Options for Self-Sufficiency (PROS) Program
- Share, Ending Family Homelessness (EFH) Program
- Share, Ending Family Homelessness (EFH) Match Program
- Share, Fresh Approach to Stable Transitions (FAST) Program
- Share, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Program

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs provide long-term (no time limit), scattered-site or site-based housing with ongoing supportive services for households with the highest barriers to stable housing. Those barriers may include serious mental health symptoms, co-occurring disorders, and chronic health challenges. Many people served through PSH are chronically homeless.

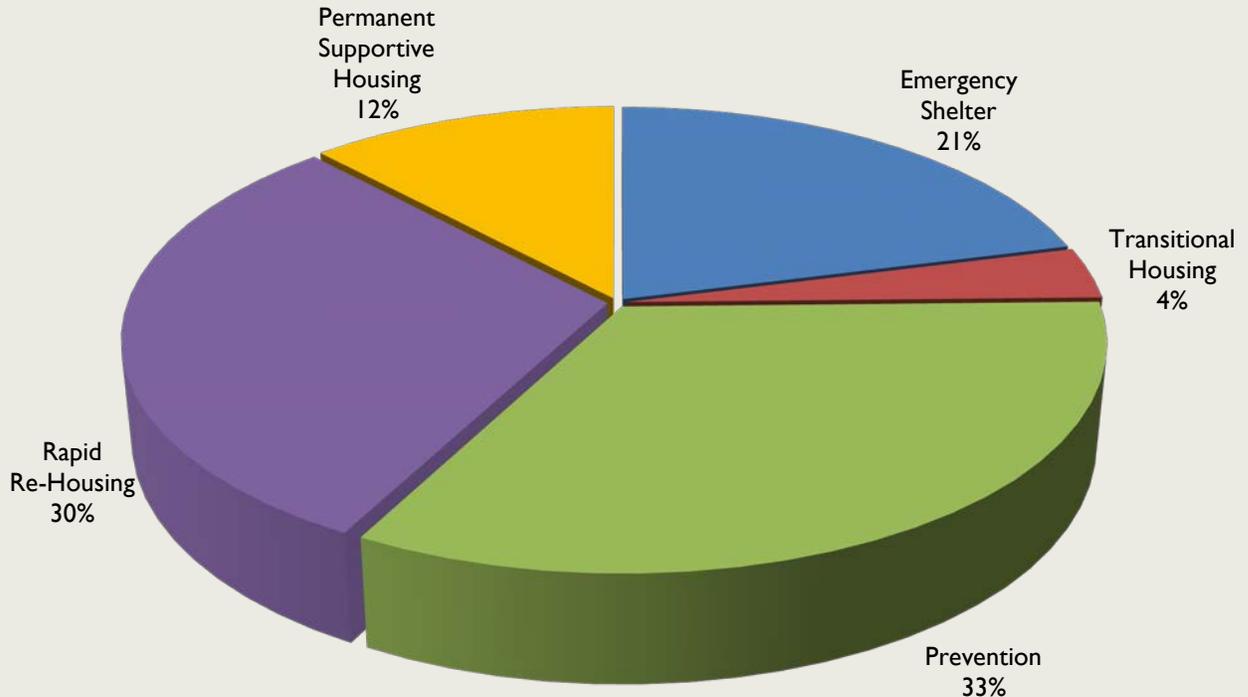
- Community Services NW, Re-Entry Permanent Supportive Housing Program
- Community Services NW, Welcome Home Program
- Share, ASPIRE Program
- Share, Bridging the Gap Program

Landlord Risk Mitigation Funds

A Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund has been provided to each agency that provides County-funded Prevention, RRH, and/or PSH programs to households who are at-risk of homelessness or are homeless. Landlord Risk Mitigation Funds must be used as a tool to increase or sustain the number of housing options for program-eligible households with multiple barriers to obtain stable housing.

HOUSING (continued)

2014 Housing Type Funding Allocation



Success Story

“Joanna,” a single mother, entered Janus Youth’s Alliance Project upon fleeing a domestic violence situation. At the time, she was living out of her car with her child. Joanna did not have health insurance and her only source of income was TANF. She was also experiencing severe mental health difficulties and physical complications that prevented her from engaging in employment readiness activities. Through working with the Alliance Project, Joanna was connected with mental health services and is regularly attending therapy to address struggles with PTSD, anxiety, and depression. Additionally, she was connected to the YWCA for domestic violence support and with Partners in Careers, who assisted her in finding employment. After gaining access to secure housing, she reports experiencing less frequent physical ailments, resulting in a decreased need for emergency medical assistance. For every \$1 spent to help Joanna, the return on investment is \$18.91.

SAFETY

Clark County provides increased safety through domestic violence advocacy, homeless outreach and energy assistance programs.

Advocacy

- YWCA, SafeChoice Domestic Violence Advocacy

Energy Assistance

- Clark County, Other Emergency Services (Heating Repair)
- Clark Public Utilities, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization (WX)

In Clark County, **60.3%** of homes use electricity as their main source of heat. **34.6%** use gas and **5.1%** use other sources such as oil, kerosene, or wood.

Success Story

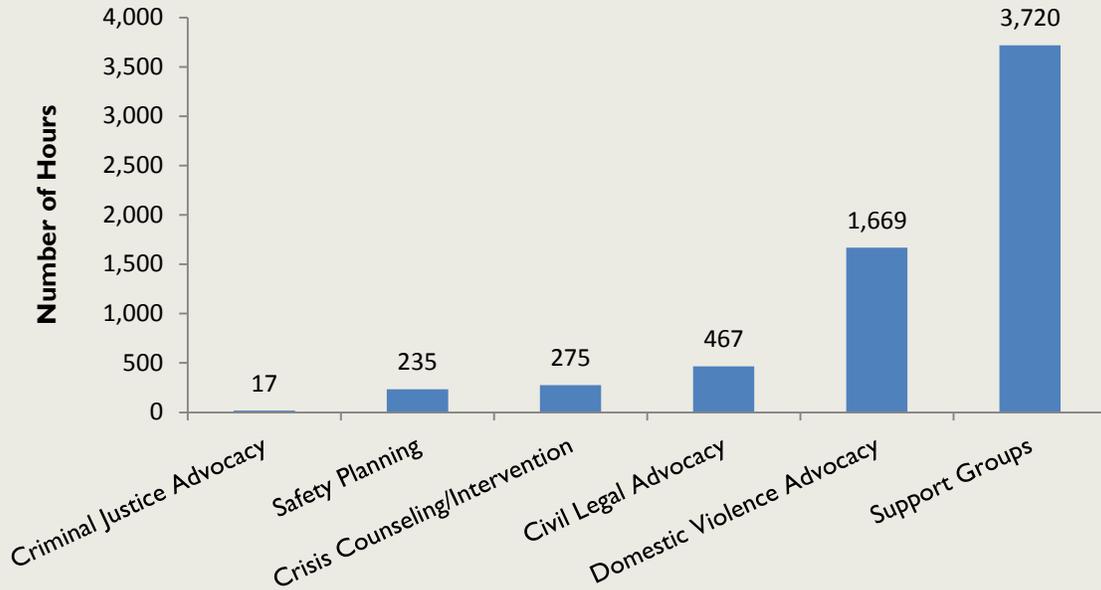
“Teresa” and her three children came to SafeChoice after fleeing domestic violence. Teresa experienced many forms of abuse during the relationship and had been trying to flee for some time. She was highly motivated to make a fresh start for herself and her children. At the shelter, her children attended the Child Advocacy Program while she accessed parent support advocacy and safety planning. Teresa and her children received resources and referrals for child care, mental health, housing, community centers, self-care, parenting, food, hygiene items, clothing, and school supplies. With prospective employment in place, Teresa was able to access financial assistance through the YWCA for transportation, for a housing barrier, and for housing move-in costs. Accessing the advocacy services and local resources at the shelter enabled the family to exit into permanent housing at the end of their stay.

For every \$1 spent to help Teresa, the return on investment is \$5.90.

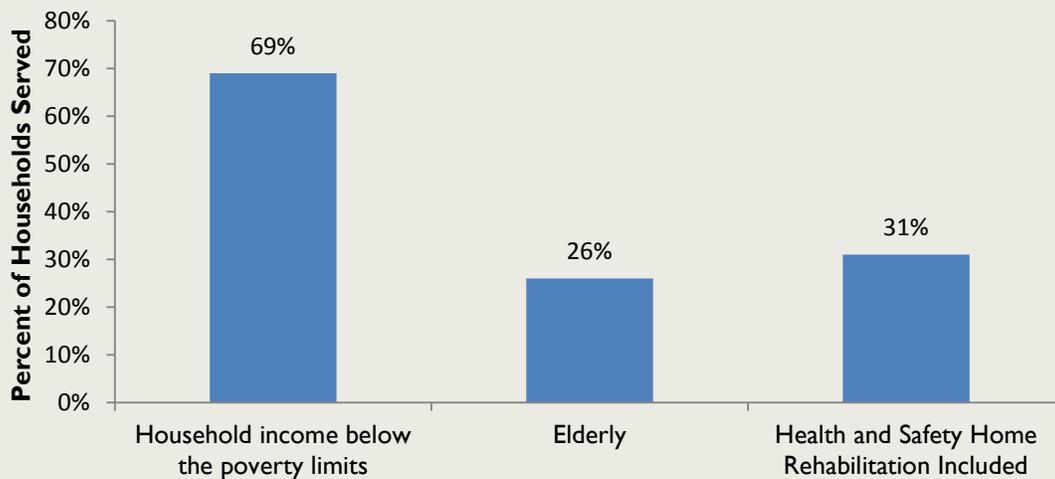
Source:
American Community
Survey, 2013

SAFETY (continued)

YWCA SafeChoice program Advocacy **1,084 Individuals received advocacy services**



2014 Weatherization **121 Households Assisted** **Average weatherization cost per household was \$6,677**



SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Self-Sufficiency programs assist participants and their families make choices that will lead to self-reliance. Programs help people reduce barriers to move towards employment and stable housing.

Education and Employment

- Big Brothers Big Sisters, Finish Strong
- Columbia River Mental Health, Homeless Employment Navigator (HEN)
- Partners in Careers, YouthFirst

Financial

- Share, Individual Development Account (IDA) Program

Legal Assistance

- Volunteer Lawyers, Homeless Court
- Volunteer Lawyers, Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Washington Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Incarcerated Project
- YWCA, SafeChoice Domestic Violence Program

Clark County's
December 2014
unemployment rate
was **7.2%**.

Washington State's
unemployment rate
was **6.2%**, and the
national average was
5.6%.

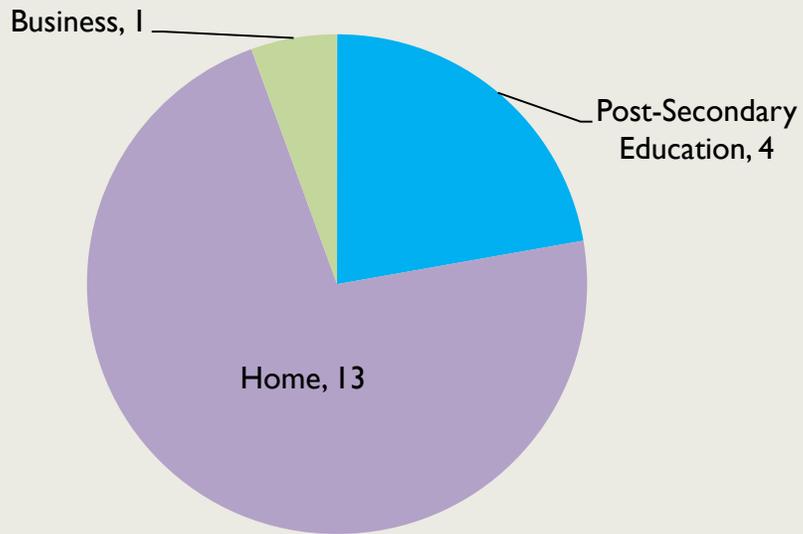
Success Story

“Tom” first met with Mary from the Homeless Employment Navigators (HEN) in late September. He was homeless, unemployed and had lost his driving privilege due to a DWI. Through referrals, Tom became a resident at the Share House and began receiving food stamps. The HEN program helped him obtain a bus pass and his Washington State ID. After completing a Vocational Assessment and an Employment Plan, Tom had help creating two targeted resumes. He accepted a part-time position in Astoria and continued to seek full-time employment with better pay. In late November, Tom accepted a full-time position on a fishing boat. His pay includes bunk and board plus \$11.00 per hour, and he was promised a raise after thirty days. For every \$1.00 spent, the return on investment is \$18.24.

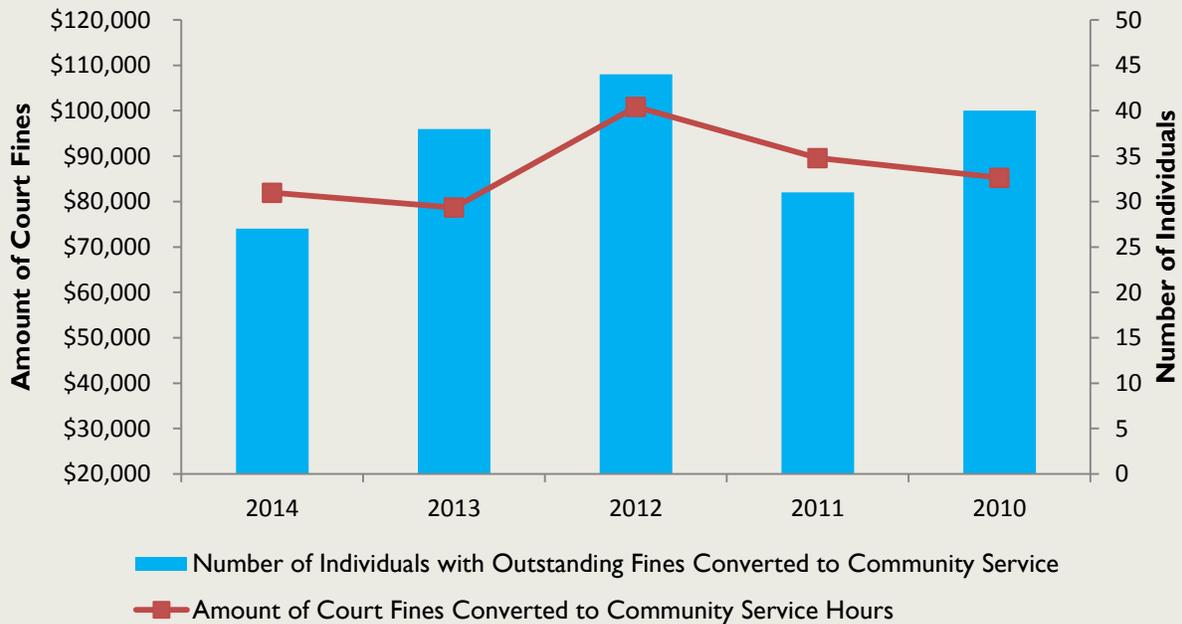
Source:
Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics

SELF-SUFFICIENCY (continued)

Share IDA 2014 Program Purchases 18 Households Completed the Two-year Program



Volunteer Lawyers Program Homeless Court Converted Fines



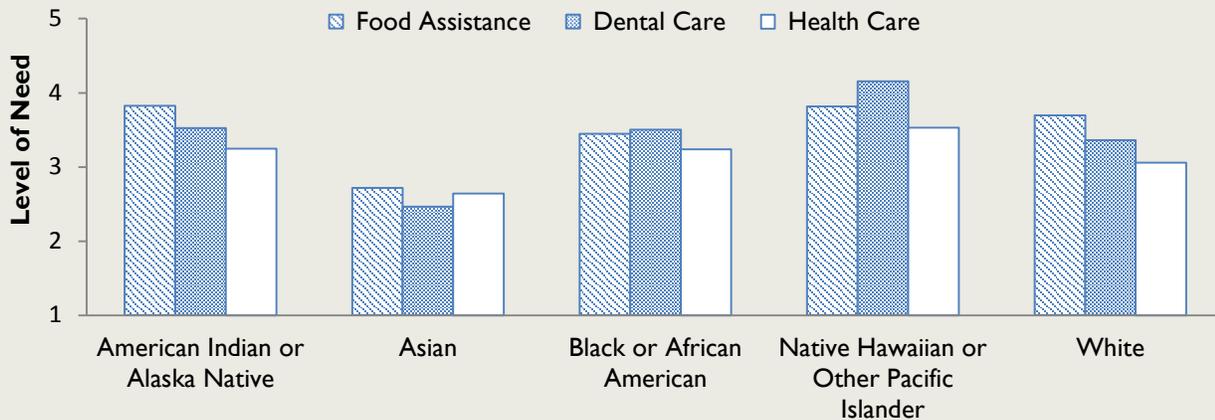
COMMUNITY DATA

Clark County conducts a Survey of Needs assessment every three years. Participation is completely voluntary. Below are the results from the survey completed in summer 2013, with 816 responses. Households were asked to rank their need in 25 categories. Five represents the highest level of need, and zero represents no need. Average income of all respondents equals \$1,220.10 per month.

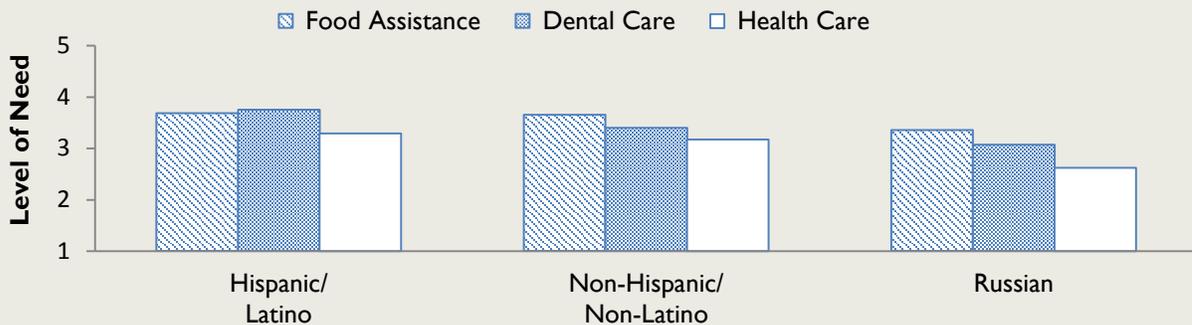
Top Five Household Needs

- Food Assistance
- Dental Care
- Health Care
- Prescription Medication
- Clothing

Top 3 Needs by Race

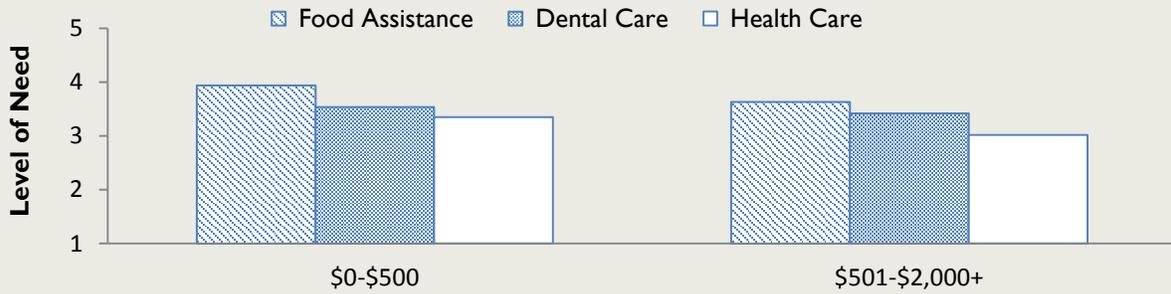


Top 3 Needs by Ethnicity

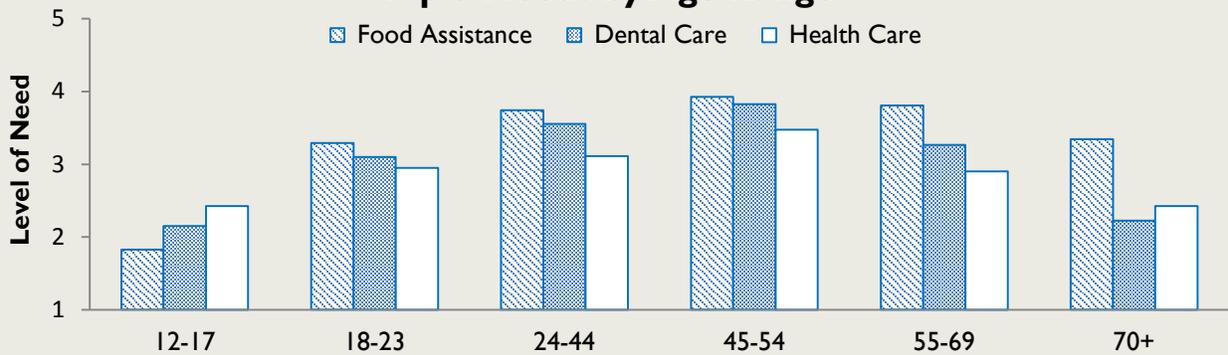


COMMUNITY DATA (continued)

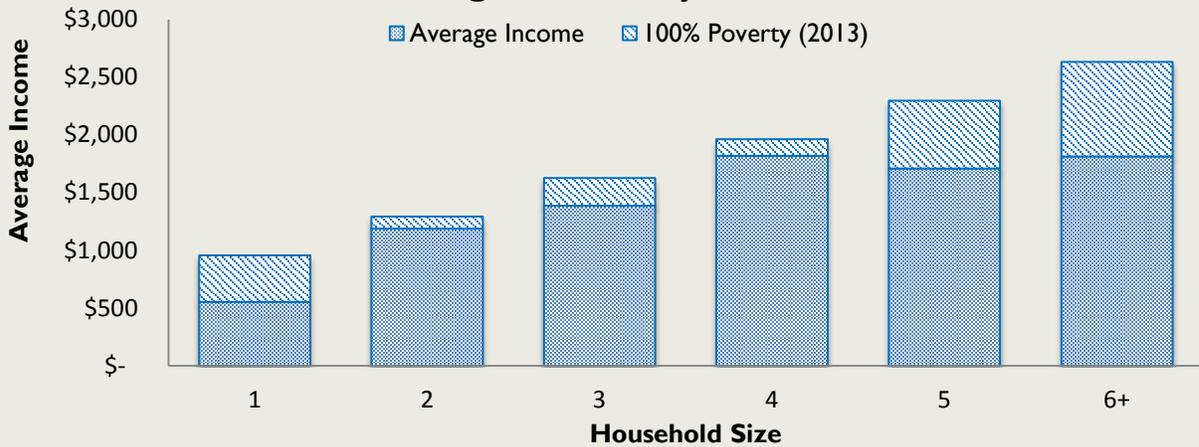
Top 3 Needs by Income Range



Top 3 Needs by Age Range



Average Income by Household Size



PARTNERSHIPS

FAITH BASED

Catholic Community Services
360-567-2211
www.ccsww.org

Friends of the Carpenter
360-750-4752
www.friendsofthecarpenter.org

Living Water Community Church
360-882-4220
www.livingwatercc.org

Lutheran Community Services NW
360-694-5624
www.lcsnw.org/vancouver

Salvation Army
360-892-9050
www.vancouver.salvationarmynw.org

St. Andrew Lutheran
360-892-7160
www.salcvan.org

St. Paul Lutheran
360-693-3531
www.stpaulvancouver.com

St. Vincent DePaul
360-694-5388
www.svdpvancouverusa.com

HEALTH SERVICES

DayBreak Youth Services
360-750-9635
www.daybreakinfo.org

Free Clinic of SW Washington
360-313-1390
www.freeclinics.org

New Day Community Dental Clinic
360-892-7107
www.newdaydental.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Vancouver
360-487-8600
www.cityofvancouver.us

City of Washougal
360-835-8501
www.ci.washougal.wa.us

NON-PROFIT

211 info
2-1-1
www.211info.org

Asset Building Coalition
206-898-3043
www.washingtonabc.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters
360-891-8382
www.bbbsnorthwest.org

Clark County Food Bank
360-693-0939
www.clarkcountyfoodbank.org

Community Housing Resource Center
360-690-4496
www.homecen.org

Community Services NW
360-397-8484
www.communityservicesnw.org

Council for the Homeless
360-993-9561
www.councilforthehomeless.org

ESD 112
360-750-7500
www.esd112.org

Inter-Faith Treasure House
360-834-4181
www.ifth-cw.org

Janus Youth Programs
503-233-6090
www.janusyouth.org

Metropolitan Family Service
503-232-0007
www.metfamily.org

Neighborhood Partnerships
503-226-3001
www.neighborhoodpartnerships.org

Partners in Careers
360-696-8417
www.partnersincareers.org

Second Step Housing
360-993-5301
www.secondstephousing.org

Share
360-448-2121
www.sharevancouver.org

SW Washington Workforce
Development Council
360-567-1070
www.wwdc.org

Volunteer Lawyers Program
360-695-5313
www.ccvlp.org

YWCA Clark County
360-696-0167
www.ywcaclarkcounty.com

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Battle Ground School District
360-885-5300
www.battlegroundps.org

Evergreen School District
360-604-4000
www.evergreenps.org

Vancouver School District
360-313-1000
www.vansd.org

Washougal School District
360-954-3000
www.washougal.k12.wa.us

STATE GOVERNMENT

Department of Commerce
360-725-4000
www.commerce.wa.gov

Department of Veterans Affairs
800-562-0132
www.dva.wa.gov

Department of Social & Health Services
(DSHS)
800-737-0617
www.dshs.wa.gov

CONTACT INFORMATION

More information about the Community Action Program, as well as plans and reports referenced in this document can be found online:

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/community-action>

Staff for these programs work for Clark County's Department of Community Services and can be reached by calling (360) 397-2130.

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Samantha Whitley, Program Coordinator, ext. 7842
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For other formats

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