

Summary of the Checklist for Monitoring Community Needs Assessments for State CSBG Offices

County/Tripartite Board: *Campbell County, July 2016*

Did this assessment meet ALL of the requirements as outlined in the Checklist for Monitoring Community Needs Assessments for State CSBG Offices?

Yes

No

If 'no', indicate which areas were insufficiently completed and/or neglected.

Standard 3.1: The organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years

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 **A. Quantitative data is contained in the report**

Standard 3.3: The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment **B. Qualitative data is contained in the report**
This standard was included in the Community Needs Assessment, and was done so through the use of surveys. Surveys were provided to both provider and agencies, as well as clients. However, no surveys were provided to the general public. While the overarching goal of conducting a Community Needs Assessment for CSBG is to understand how low-income individuals can get their needs met within the community, it is also helpful to understand how the general public views the strength and health of their community in helping the low-income residents. While a community event was held (Dialogue on Poverty), it was held on the day that survey submission closed. This would have been an opportune time to invite the general public to not only discuss priorities for the Community Needs Assessment, but also have them complete the surveys as well in order to determine the needs of Campbell County from representatives from all resident demographics, and not just those of low-income and agency providers.

Standard 3.3: The organization collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment **C. The data has been analyzed**

Standard 3.4: The community assessment includes key findings on the cause and conditions of poverty and the needs of the community assessed

Standard 3.5: The governing board formally accepts the completed community assessment

Board Meeting Minutes dated July 12th, 2016 state "CBI finished the Needs Assessment" It should be explicitly stated that the Community Needs Assessment was accepted by the governing Tripartite Board. Meeting Minutes should reflect this with a similar statement to such: "X made a motion to accept the Community Needs Assessment from Community Builders, Inc."

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

_____ Additional Elements: Resources are identified, as well as the process used to conduct the assessment

Were there any significant trends reported or otherwise recognized throughout this Community Needs Assessment?

One of the biggest, and thus reoccurring, needs identified throughout the Community Needs Assessment was the unemployment rate and its collateral damage, as affordability of services and goods were noted to be driving most of the needs within the community. For example, two of the most needed services ranked by the client population were “help paying rent or mortgage” and “help paying utility bills or deposits” (pg. 4). The other three were all related to health insurance and medical services, all of which could be positively impacted by greater income or the affordability of such. Campbell County plays such a vital role in Wyoming’s energy industry, and this Community Needs Assessment did a nice job of reflecting how the raw decline in energy has really impacted Campbell County’s residents.

What were the strengths of this Community Needs Assessment?

This Community Needs Assessment did a nice job of utilizing both the quantitative and qualitative data to understand what the true needs of the community were. As mentioned previously, the impact that the decline in the energy industry had on Campbell County was genuinely showcased in this Community Needs Assessment, and the data were reflective of such. The data analysis showed that while the unemployment rate has increased, this is impacting a multitude of areas, including the cost of living, accessing medical services, and affording and attaining health insurance coverage.

In what ways can this Community Needs Assessment be improved?

Overall, this Community Needs Assessment met most all of the required standards, and the methodology to conducting the Community Needs Assessment was legitimate and effective. However, it is recommended that planning for the next Community Needs Assessment begin sooner than several months before it is due. There were several instances within the Community Needs Assessment that mentioned the flaws or otherwise weaknesses of a dataset due to the limited time constraints on completing the project. For example, page 11 highlights the geographic breakdown of the Campbell County zip codes. It was explained that there was not much representation from some of the smaller communities in Campbell County outside of Gillette. It was also mentioned that any special effort made to gain this representation was not made due to the limited time available to complete the Community Needs Assessment. Garnering equal representation from all areas within Campbell County is essential to understanding the true needs of that community.

Due to the makeup of smaller towns, especially those already in a rural and frontier state, limited resources are available for residents. Providing more time with which to collect data from these isolated communities would be useful, as they may have their own unique needs. On page 6, it was stated that “lack of an affordable transportation service in Campbell County prohibits people from accessing employment and child care” was a factor that exacerbated the impact of poverty. With that, it is apparent that transportation, whether that be the affordability or availability of such, is needed within Campbell County. If the voices from the smaller communities within the county are silenced, and these are areas that CSBG funds and service provision could capitalize on, the true needs of Campbell County are not served. In order to identify and understand the true needs of Campbell County, it is recommended that more time is allotted for the completion of the next Community Needs Assessment.