South Central Iowa Community Action Program

Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment

 Executive Summary – March 2023

The purpose of this document is to provide current and accurate information to the SCICAP Board of Directors, Management Team, and Planning and Evaluation Committee. This allows the agency to make the most informed strategic decisions possible regarding CSBG (Community Service Block Grant) funding as well as other agency resources. CSBG funds must contribute to the achievement of one or more of the three Community Action goals:

* Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security
* Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunity
* People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities

This report is intended to act as a “blueprint” that demonstrates the linkages between community needs and the programs and services that are offered in our five-county service area.

**Service Area**

Five counties in South Central Iowa: Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Monroe, and Wayne counties.

SCICAP also provides the Parents as Teacher’s Program and NEST in Appanoose and Davis counties.

The FaDSS Program also covers Madison, Adair, Taylor, Union, Ringgold, and Adams counties.

**Approach**

As part of the South Central Iowa Community Action Program’s overall Community Needs Assessment, we incorporated data from a 2020 Client Needs Assessment (which included customer satisfaction data), a 2022 Community Stakeholders Assessment, The Community Action Partnership’s Community Assessment Tool (completed April 2022), and the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (data from 2014-2019). The information we obtained assists SCICAP in identifying:

* Program design and options
* Areas of need
* Priorities
* Gaps in service
* Emerging trends that may affect programming

SCICAP uses the Community Needs Assessment results, along with our Mission to design all programs and services to meet the needs of low-income families and individuals.

**Mission**

SCICAP empowers individuals and families with services to become self-sufficient and contribute positively to their communities. *(4-28-2021)*

**Iowa Community Action Agencies Client Needs Assessment Results (2020)**

The client needs assessment was distributed throughout the five-county service area online using a SurveyMonkey link, a Survey Monkey QR code or a paper copy. The survey focused on collecting information regarding the needs of low-income individuals and families in SCICAP’s service area.

**Survey Respondent Demographics**

253 SCICAP clients participated in the survey. The most common characteristics among the survey respondents were:

* Female (73.6%)
* Under the age of 55 (40.48%)
* Physically Disabled (27.2%)
* Mental Health issues (34.4%)
* Receiving Food Stamps (49%)
* One- or two-person household (46.24%)
* Receiving Medicaid (75.79%)
* White (92.8%)
* Ethnicity (Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin) (95.6%)

**Conditions of Poverty**

The significant client needs that were identified in the data reviewed were issues concerning housing conditions, food, and nutrition, being able to meet basic needs, utility costs and transportation. Sixty-five percent of families stated they needed assistance with making their home more efficient. Forty-eight percent stated they needed help making necessary home or property repairs, while twenty-nine percent of those answering stated they could use assistance with obtaining a loan to buy a house.

**Causes of Poverty**

The main obstacles preventing self-sufficiency for individuals or families are 1) Safe/affordable housing/rent assistance 2) Utility bills/energy efficient housing 3) Food insecurity/nutrition conditions 4) Basic needs 5) Dependable transportation 6) Lack of living wage jobs 7) Lack of education/skills.

**Customer Satisfaction**

Clients were asked to rate their overall satisfaction of SCICAP programs and employees

* 99.5% stated they had a positive experience when receiving services (20% of the survey respondents did not answer the question)
* 99% stated they were helped in a timely manner (20% of the survey respondents did not answer the question)
* 99.5% stated that staff were friendly and helpful (20% of the survey respondents did not answer the question)
* 90% of clients said they received information about other agency or community services that could help them with their needs (20% of the survey respondents did not answer the question)

Results from the Customer Satisfaction Survey shows the programs that were utilized the most through SCICAP were food and utility assistance programs. Most people completing the survey stated the biggest barrier to not receiving services was from not wanting to ask for help. A large number also stated they were not aware of all the services SCICAP offers. The data indicates there is a gap in services around transportation, housing, affordable healthcare, and dental care.

Those completing the survey indicated they would like more daycare spots available for kids, centers open more hours, increased funding for programs, occasional weekend hours, increasing income guidelines for services, increase awareness of available services and rent assistance.

Areas that people surveyed would like to see improved in their communities include transportation assistance, housing, employment opportunities, city government, junk cleaned up, legal aid assistance, adequate daycare and adequate child/youth activities, road maintenance, affordable groceries, speed limits, less drugs, taxes, crime, recreation centers for youth, homeless shelters, animal control, sidewalks, better wheelchair access at businesses, eliminate cop harassment, life skills classes, more street lights and signs, walking/bike trails, police patrolling, and more doctors.

**Iowa Community Action Agencies Needs Assessment-Community Stakeholders Results (2022)**

Respondents were from a variety of stakeholder groups including community-based organizations, private business or corporation, educational institutions, local government, health care providers and faith-based groups in our five-county area. The survey focused on collecting information regarding the needs in our neighborhoods and communities, and their relationship and interactions with SCICAP.

**Survey Respondent Demographics**

180 Community Stakeholders participated in the survey; 44 responses were employees, 22 community-based organizations, 3 private business, 8 education, 10 local government, 11 faith-based groups, 22 health care providers, 6 financial institutions, and 18 from other organizations. Thirty-six respondents did not answer this question. 94.97% of respondents considered themselves white, 1.12% black or African American, .56% multi-race, 1.12% other, .56% unsure, and 1.68% preferred not to respond.

**Conditions of Poverty**

Survey respondents indicated there are insufficient opportunities to obtain a living wage, jobs are not available, people lack educational requirements/technical skills, substance abuse, lack of childcare programs during weekends and evenings, lack of affordable child and youth activities, lack of affordable housing, and lack of transportation.

**Causes of Poverty**

Stakeholders felt lack of affordable and available housing was one of the greatest challenges facing low-income families or individuals which in turn is a main reason they are not achieving self-sufficiency. Stakeholders stated there was not enough public transportation available. Other areas of concern in the Stakeholder Survey were substance abuse as well as lack of daycare services in the area. One of the greatest challenges facing low-income families and individuals is inflation and awareness of available resources. When stakeholders were asked what they believe to be the causes of economic hardship, an overwhelming majority stated there was a lack of employment opportunities, lack of job skills, laziness, housing, inflation, and lack of education.

Stakeholders were also asked which categories of need they thought their community should focus on addressing. Over half of the people surveyed stated that the communities needed childcare and housing. The next highest category was infrastructure (transportation systems, communication networks, energy, water, sewer, public facilities/spaces/parks). Many stakeholders also included employment and health services. When asked why their community should focus on addressing the need they selected, they replied that more people are coming to the community and that leaves little housing for those in need, low income, and the elderly. The economy doesn’t allow for affordable housing that is way beyond what people can afford. They also thought having affordable housing available for all income brackets to rent or own would help contribute to personal safety and stability. Other respondents said without adequate reliable childcare, people cannot find decent employment or attend school.

**Community Satisfaction**

Community Stakeholders were asked to rate SCICAP on several factors on a scale of 1-5, 1 being poor, 2 being fine, adequate, okay, 3 being good, 4 being very good, and 5 being excellent.

1.Relationship or partnership with SCICAP within the community

* 88.13% of the Stakeholders rated between a three and a five
1. How familiar they were with SCICAP’s programs and services
* 68% of the Stakeholders rated between a three and a five
1. How well SCICAP is valued in the community
* 86.15% of the Stakeholders rated between a three and a five
1. How well is SCICAP meeting the needs of low-income people in the community
* 77.42% of the Stakeholders rated between a three and a five
1. Our staff were friendly and helpful
* 100% of Stakeholders who connected with SCICAP within the past 12 months rated us between a three and a five
1. SCICAP conducted business in a professional manner
* 96.66% of Stakeholders who connected with SCICAP within the past 12 months rated us between a three and a five
1. SCICAP staff had a thorough knowledge of our agency programs and services
* 96.66% of Stakeholders who connected with SCICAP within the past 12 months rated us between a three and a five

What can SCICAP do to improve our programs and services?

* Do more public service announcements to keep the community aware of outreach opportunities
* Advertise more within the community
* Internal communication amongst different sites
* More programs for rent assistance
* Marketing and community knowledge
* Attend group meetings to help with the transportation barrier
* You guys do a great job of taking on community need projects

## Community Demographics:

(Community Action Partnership Community Needs Assessment and US Census data 2022)

**Population Change:**

Overall, the SCICAP service area has seen a -2.23% change in population from 2010-2020 according to the US Census Bureau/Decennial Census. The total population decreased in Decatur, Lucas, and Monroe counties. Clarke County had the largest growth with 4.98%. Decatur County had the largest decline of

-9.6%.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Population, 2010 Census** | **Total Population, 2020 Census** | **Population Change** **2010‐ 2020** | **Population Change, 2010‐2020, Percent** |
| Report Location | 41,014 | 40,101 | ‐913 | **‐2.23%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 9,286 | 9,748 | 462 | 4.98% |
| Decatur County, IA | 8,457 | 7,645 | ‐812 | ‐9.60% |
| Lucas County, IA | 8,898 | 8,634 | ‐264 | ‐2.97% |
| Monroe County, IA | 7,970 | 7,577 | ‐393 | ‐4.93% |
| Wayne County, IA | 6,403 | 6,497 | 94 | 1.47% |
| Iowa | 3,046,357 | 3,190,369 | 144,012 | 4.73% |
| United States | 312,471,161 | 334,735,155 | 22,263,994 | 7.13% |

**Age and Gender Demographics: (US Census/ACS-American Community Survey)**

Population by gender within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2015-2019 5-year population estimates for the report area, the female population comprised 50.74% of the report area, while the male population represented 49.26%.



**Race Demographics**

According to ACS 2015-2019 5-year population estimates, the white population comprised 96.73% of the report area, black population represented 0.44%, and other races combined were 1.64%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 1.2% of the population.

**Poverty**

2020 poverty estimates show a total of 5,052 persons (all ages) living below the poverty level (100% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines) in SCICAP’s service area. The report area poverty rate of 13.06% is above the state average of 10.2%. Decatur had the highest poverty rate of 16.9% while Clarke had the lowest of 11.1%.

| **Report Area** | **All AgesNo of Persons** | **All AgesPoverty Rate** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Report Location | 5,052 | **13.06%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 1,021 | 11.1% |
| Decatur County, IA | 1,201 | 16.9% |
| Lucas County, IA | 1,140 | 13.5% |
| Monroe County, IA | 868 | 11.4% |
| Wayne County, IA | 822 | 13.0% |
| Iowa | 313,752 | 10.2% |
| United States | 38,371,394 | 11.90% |

**Poverty Rate Change**

Poverty rate change for Iowa from 2010 to 2020 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the SCICAP service area decreased by -2.53%, compared to a national change of-3.4%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Persons in Poverty 2010** | **Poverty Rate 2010** | **Persons in Poverty 2020** | **Poverty Rate 2020** | **Change in Poverty Rate 2010‐2020** |
| Report Location | 6,199 | 15.59% | 5,052 | 13.06% | **‐2.53%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 1,137 | 12.4% | 1,021 | 11.1% | ‐1.3% |
| Decatur County, IA | 1,482 | 19.1% | 1,201 | 16.9% | ‐2.2% |
| Lucas County, IA | 1,534 | 17.5% | 1,140 | 13.5% | ‐4.0% |
| Monroe County, IA | 989 | 12.7% | 868 | 11.4% | ‐1.3% |
| Wayne County, IA | 1,057 | 16.8% | 822 | 13.0% | ‐3.8% |
| Iowa | 368,965 | 12.5% | 313,752 | 10.2% | ‐2.3% |
| United States | 46,215,956 | 15.3% | 38,371,394 | 11.9% | ‐3.4% |

**Households in Poverty**

The number and percentage of households in poverty are shown below. In 2019, it is estimated that there were 2,370 households, or 14.1%, living in poverty within the SCICAP service area. Decatur (20.3%) and Wayne (13.5%) Counties have the largest percentage of households in poverty. Lucas County has the lowest percentage at 11.9%. The state average is 11.4%.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Households** | **Households in Poverty** | **Percent Households in Poverty** |
| Report Location | 16,779 | 2,370 | **14.12%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 3,895 | 510 | 13.1% |
| Decatur County, IA | 3,200 | 651 | 20.3% |
| Lucas County, IA | 3,701 | 441 | 11.9% |
| Monroe County, IA | 3,294 | 405 | 12.3% |
| Wayne County, IA | 2,689 | 363 | 13.5% |
| Iowa | 1,265,473 | 144,025 | 11.4% |
| United States | 120,756,048 | 15,610,142 | 12.9% |

**Population in Poverty by Gender**

14.52% of females live in poverty in SCICAP’s service area compared to 13.33% of males. For the state of Iowa, 12.62% of females and 10.26% of males live in poverty. In the United States, 14.61% of females and 12.19% of males live in poverty.





**Child Poverty Rate Ages 0-4 (American Community Survey)**

The child poverty rates for ages 0-4 average 16% for Iowa, 20.3% for the United States, and 24.5% for SCICAP’s service area. Wayne (41.3%) and Decatur (30.6%) Counties have the highest rate, while Lucas County has the lowest at 9.4%.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Ages 0‐4 Total Population** | **Ages 0‐4 In Poverty** | **Ages 0‐4 Poverty Rate** |
| Report Location | 2,500 | 613 | **24.5%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 629 | 168 | 26.7% |
| Decatur County, IA | 497 | 152 | 30.6% |
| Lucas County, IA | 478 | 45 | 9.4% |
| Monroe County, IA | 438 | 59 | 13.5% |
| Wayne County, IA | 458 | 189 | 41.3% |
| Iowa | 193,219 | 30,945 | 16.0% |
| United States | 19,430,702 | 3,948,405 | 20.3% |

**Poverty Rate Change (Age 5-17)**

Child poverty rates for ages 5-17 average 13.0% for Iowa, 17.9% for the United States, and 16.6% for SCICAP’s service area. Wayne County has the highest rate of 25.2%, while Monroe County has the lowest at 8%.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Ages 5‐17 Total Population** | **Ages 5‐17 In Poverty** | **Ages 5‐17 Poverty Rate** |
| Report Location | 6,776 | 1,124 | **16.6%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 1,589 | 233 | 14.7% |
| Decatur County, IA | 1,232 | 229 | 18.6% |
| Lucas County, IA | 1,416 | 263 | 18.6% |
| Monroe County, IA | 1,400 | 112 | 8.0% |
| Wayne County, IA | 1,139 | 287 | 25.2% |
| Iowa | 522,051 | 67,705 | 13.0% |
| United States | 52,804,998 | 9,429,373 | 17.9% |

**Seniors in Poverty (Age 65 and Up)**

698 Seniors are living in poverty or 9.2% of SCICAP’s service area. All counties are above the state average of 7.1% except for Lucas County at 6%. The U.S. average is 9.3%

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Ages 65 and Up Total Population** | **Ages 65 and Up In Poverty** | **Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate** |
| Report Location | 7,553 | 698 | **9.2%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 1,566 | 142 | 9.1% |
| Decatur County, IA | 1,463 | 118 | 8.1% |
| Lucas County, IA | 1,774 | 106 | 6.0% |
| Monroe County, IA | 1,433 | 202 | 14.1% |
| Wayne County, IA | 1,317 | 130 | 9.9% |
| Iowa | 502,677 | 35,900 | 7.1% |
| United States | 49,488,799 | 4,587,432 | 9.3% |

**Employment**

The current unemployment rate (February 2022) for SCICAP’s service area is 3.2%, the state average is 3.5% and the United States average is 4.2%. All counties except have Clarke, have an unemployment rate lower than the national average. Lucas County has the lowest at 2.5% and Clarke has the highest at 4.2%.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Labor Force** | **Number Employed** | **Number Unemployed** | **Unemployment Rate** |
| Report Location | 21,133 | 20,455 | 678 | **3.2%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 4,976 | 4,769 | 207 | 4.2% |
| Decatur County, IA | 4,515 | 4,387 | 128 | 2.8% |
| Lucas County, IA | 4,740 | 4,623 | 117 | 2.5% |
| Monroe County, IA | 3,967 | 3,836 | 131 | 3.3% |
| Wayne County, IA | 2,935 | 2,840 | 95 | 3.2% |
| Iowa | 1,708,648 | 1,648,094 | 60,554 | 3.5% |
| United States | 164,945,684 | 158,090,007 | 6,855,678 | 4.2% |

*US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022-February*

**Household Income**

Median annual household incomes in the report area for 2020 are shown in the table below. Decatur County household income is the lowest at $46,373.



*US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. 2020*

**Nutrition**

51.29% of students in SCICAP’s service area were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches during the 2020-2021 school year, which is more than the state average of 41.25% and the national average of 42.16%. Decatur County had the highest at 61.59%, while Monroe County had the lowest with 37.92%.

13.4% of households in SCICAP’s service area received SNAP payments during 2019. The state average is 10.2% and the United States average is 11.74%. During the same period there were 1,210 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments.

*American Community Survey*

**Food Insecurity**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Population** | **Food Insecure Population, Total** | **Food Insecurity Rate** |
| Report Location | 40,324 | 4,650 | **11.53%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 9,266 | 1,010 | 10.90% |
| Decatur County, IA | 8,088 | 1,100 | 13.60% |
| Lucas County, IA | 8,571 | 900 | 10.50% |
| Monroe County, IA | 7,982 | 870 | 10.90% |
| Wayne County, IA | 6,417 | 770 | 12.00% |
| Iowa | 3,136,606 | 341,890 | 10.90% |
| United States | 325,717,422 | 41,133,950 | 12.63% |

**Transportation** This chart shows the method of transportation workers used to travel to work for the report area. Of the 18,638 workers in the report area, 77.7% drove to work alone while 11.1% carpooled. 0.2% of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 4.0% walking or riding bicycles, and 1.1% used taxicabs to travel to work.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Workers 16 and Up** | **Percent Drive Alone** | **Percent Carpool** | **Percent Public****Transportation** | **Percent Bicycle or Walk** | **Percent Taxi or Other** | **Percent Work at Home** |
| Report Location | 18,638 | **77.7%** | 11.1% | 0.2% | 4.0% | 1.1% | 5.9% |
| Clarke County, IA | 4,512 | 79.4% | 12.6% | 0.3% | 3.2% | 1.3% | 3.2% |
| Decatur County, IA | 3,597 | 68.6% | 12.3% | 0.1% | 9.4% | 0.5% | 9.2% |
| Lucas County, IA | 4,044 | 82.0% | 9.0% | 0.0% | 2.1% | 1.3% | 5.6% |
| Monroe County, IA | 3,735 | 81.1% | 10.1% | 0.1% | 2.5% | 0.0% | 6.2% |
| Wayne County, IA | 2,750 | 75.8% | 11.6% | 0.7% | 3.2% | 2.5% | 6.2% |
| Iowa | 1,587,322 | 81.1% | 8.3% | 1.1% | 3.7% | 0.9% | 4.9% |
| United States | 152,735,781 | 76.3% | 9.0% | 5.0% | 3.2% | 1.3% | 5.2% |

 *US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/)*. 2015‐19.*

**Education**

Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an estimated average for the period from 2014 to 2019. For SCICAP’s service area, 11% have no high school diploma compared to the state average of 7.91%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **No High School Diploma** | **High School Only** | **Some College** | **Associates Degree** | **Bachelor’s Degree** | **Graduate or Professional Degree** |
| Report Location | **11.0%** | 40.1% | 21.7% | 9.6% | 12.6% | 4.9% |
| Clarke County, IA | 12.24% | 38.9% | 22.7% | 10.3% | 11.3% | 4.7% |
| Decatur County, IA | 10.93% | 37.5% | 19.2% | 7.4% | 14.4% | 10.6% |
| Lucas County, IA | 7.92% | 41.3% | 23.3% | 10.5% | 13.5% | 3.5% |
| Monroe County, IA | 12.27% | 39.1% | 23.1% | 8.1% | 14.8% | 2.6% |
| Wayne County, IA | 12.10% | 44.4% | 19.1% | 11.8% | 8.8% | 3.9% |
| Iowa | 7.91% | 31.0% | 21.0% | 11.6% | 19.3% | 9.3% |
| United States | 12.00% | 27.0% | 20.4% | 8.5% | 19.8% | 12.4% |

*American Community Survey*

**Adult Literacy Skills**

Literacy data published by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies breaks adult literacy into three different levels. Those reported as the lower end of level 1 may struggle with basic vocabulary or even be functionally illiterate. The percentage at or below level 1 in SCICAP’s service area is 13.3% with the state average at 11.1%.

*National Center for Education Statistics*

**Housing**

**Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes**

U.S. Census data shows 147 housing units in the SCICAP service area were without plumbing in 2000 (state average .39%) and ACS 5-year estimates show 196 housing units in the service area were without plumbing in 2019 (state average 0.29%).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Occupied Housing Units 2000** | **Housing Units without Plumbing 2000** | **Percent without Plumbing 2000** | **Occupied Housing Units 2019** | **Housing Units without Plumbing 2019** | **Percent without Plumbing 2019** |
| Report Location | 16,781 | 147 | 0.88% | 16,779 | 196 | **1.17%** |
| Clarke County, IA | 3,584 | 20 | 0.51% | 3,895 | 9 | 0.23% |
| Decatur County, IA | 3,337 | 46 | 1.20% | 3,200 | 127 | 3.97% |
| Lucas County, IA | 3,811 | 47 | 1.11% | 3,701 | 36 | 0.97% |
| Monroe County, IA | 3,228 | 4 | 0.11% | 3,294 | 7 | 0.21% |
| Wayne County, IA | 2,821 | 30 | 0.89% | 2,689 | 17 | 0.63% |
| Iowa | 1,149,276 | 4,832 | 0.39% | 1,265,473 | 3,643 | 0.29% |
| United States | 106,741,426 | 736,626 | 0.69% | 121,948,702 | 486,413 | 0.40% |

**Evictions**

Clarke County has the highest eviction rate at 1.8% and Wayne County has the lowest rate at 0.51%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report****Area** | **Renter Occupied****Households** | **Eviction****Filings** | **Evictions** | **Eviction****Filing Rate** | **Eviction****Rate** |
| ReportLocation | 4,365 | 72 | 42 | 1.65% | 0.96% |
| ClarkeCounty, IA | 1,111 | 37 | 20 | 3.33% | 1.8% |
| DecaturCounty, IA | 1,028 | 12 | 7 | 1.17% | 0.68% |
| Lucas County, IA | 859 | 7 | 6 | 0.81% | 0.7% |
| MonroeCounty, IA | 782 | 11 | 6 | 1.41% | 0.77% |
| WayneCounty, IA | 585 | 5 | 3 | 0.85% | 0.51% |
| Iowa | 365,324 | 14,520 | 7,358 | 3.97% | 2.01% |
| UnitedStates | 38,372,860 | 2,350,042 | 898,479 | 6.12% | 2.34% |

## *Eviction Lab 2016*

## Vacancy Rates

The U.S. Postal Service provided information quarterly to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on addresses identified as vacant in the previous quarter. Residential and business vacancy rates for the report area in the second quarter of 2019 are reported.

For this reporting period, a total of 842 residential addresses were identified as vacant in SCICAP’s service area, a vacancy rate of 4.1%, and 159 business addresses were also reported as vacant, a rate of 9.9%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Residential Addresses** | **Vacant Residential Addresses** | **Residential Vacancy Rate** | **Business Addresses** | **Vacant Business Addresses** | **Business Vacancy Rate** |
| Report Location | 20,671 | 842 | **4.1%** | 1,613 | 159 | 9.9% |
| Clarke County, IA | 4,652 | 132 | 2.8% | 344 | 26 | 7.6% |
| Decatur County, IA | 4,156 | 309 | 7.4% | 314 | 35 | 11.1% |
| Lucas County, IA | 4,516 | 140 | 3.1% | 309 | 28 | 9.1% |
| Monroe County, IA | 3,959 | 128 | 3.2% | 356 | 30 | 8.4% |
| Wayne County, IA | 3,388 | 133 | 3.9% | 290 | 40 | 13.8% |
| Iowa | 1,526,041 | 41,755 | 2.7% | 130,152 | 13,100 | 10.1% |
| United States | 149,623,509 | 3,747,598 | 2.5% | 13,904,730 | 1,270,600 | 9.1% |

## SCICAP Client Demographics (2022)

**Gender**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Male | 45% |
| Female | 55% |

**Age Demographics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 0-5 | 10% |
|  6-13 | 15% |
| 14-17 | 8% |
| 18-24 | 5% |
| 25-44 | 23% |
| 45-54 | 9% |
| 55-59 | 6% |
| 60-64 | 7% |
| 65-74 | 9% |
| 75+ | 8% |

**Race Demographics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 0.3% |
| Asian | 0.2% |
| Black or African American | 0.8% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0.1% |
| White | 95.6% |
| Other | 2% |
| Multi-Race | 1% |

**Ethnicity Demographics**

95% of SCICAP’s clients are not Hispanic or Latino.

**Education**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 0-8th grade | 8% |
| 9-12th grade/non-Graduate | 15% |
| High School Grad/HiSET | 56% |
| 12th + some post-Secondary | 13% |
| 2- or 4-year College Graduate | 7% |
| Graduate or other post-secondary school | 1% |

**Housing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Own | 53.68% |
| Rent | 45.18% |
| Homeless | 0.49% |
| Other | 0.65% |

**Poverty Level**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Up to 50% | 19.98% |
| 51% to 75% | 17.12% |
| 76% to 100% | 17.87% |
| 101% to 125% | 17.87% |
| 126% to 150% | 12.51% |
| 151% to 175% | 8.44% |
| 176% to 200% | 4.17% |
| 201% to 250% | 1.39% |
| 250% or over | 0.65% |

Information gathered from the CSBG FY2022 annual report specific to the agency client information states fifty-five percent of the clients served last year were at 100% of poverty or less. Fifty- five percent were female and forty-five males.  The families that were served and reported on constitute all the SCICAP programs except some clients of Parents as Teachers and FaDSS.

Of the people served by SCICAP, thirty-four percent were ages 0-17, thirty-six percent were ages 18-54 and thirty percent were over age 55. The Hispanic population constitutes four percent of the population with ninety-six percent reported being non-Hispanic or Latino. Almost ninety-six percent of the client population indicated White as their race; thirty-four people, or less than one percent, indicated Black or African American as their race; seventeen people indicated American Indian or Alaskan Native; twelve people indicated Asian, and one person indicated Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. One percent of the people indicated multi-race or other as their race.

Other characteristics worth noting are:

* 4,131 people or 95% had health insurance
* 884 people or 20.24% reported having a disabling condition
* 157 people or 5.3% were veterans
* 11.56% of the households served were from single parent households
* 15.24% of households were 2 parent households
* 920 households served were single person
* 15.83% of the households served were two adults with no children
* 53.67% of the people served owned their home, 45.08% were renters, and .49% were homeless

Other data relevant to determining needs of the SCICAP service were indicated in the Community Action Partnership’s Community Needs Assessment Tool.

## Summary of Findings

This Comprehensive Needs Assessment contains an assortment of data. The Community Needs Assessment should go beyond just collecting information and analyzing data; it can be the foundation for creating change. This assessment provides a glimpse of the communities and families that SCICAP serves, which includes their economic well-being, educational status, health, and welfare. This assessment will be a tool to assist SCICAP with its planning process to help govern what programs and services to offer and the influence it is having on families as well as the community. Developing partnerships in the community is the most effective tool in the fight against poverty. Outreach efforts and communication with residents and other community service providers is necessary to warrant that everyone has up-to-date information and access to programs and services. This report validates how important social services and community assistance are to low-income families in helping them deal with poverty.

**Main Conditions of Poverty**

Basic needs are not being met

* Housing conditions/utility costs
* Food insecurity/household supplies
* Healthcare

**Basic Needs**

* Housing conditions/utility costs: There is an insufficient number of affordable, quality housing units accessible for low-income families. Families with low incomes also need help paying deposits, rent, utility bills and making their homes more energy efficient. Several stated they needed help making necessary home or property repairs. Rent prices are unreasonable for minimum wage earners. Low-income families need assistance with obtaining a loan to buy a house.
* Food insecurity/household supplies: Families stated they could use help getting food from food pantries, meal sites, or food shelves. Survey participants specified that having enough food and household supplies is a barrier for low-income families and individuals. Populations receiving food assistance represent vulnerable populations which are more likely to have multiple health and social support needs. Food insecurity is a problem that requires various approaches to address, from emergency assistance to ongoing food support. Effective programs include WIC, SNAP, school lunch programs, and food pantries. Acquiring basic household supplies such as personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, laundry soap, clothing, furniture, and appliances is also a strain.
* Healthcare: Families and individuals do not have access to affordable healthcare. The lack of financial resources is a barrier to basic health services.

**Causes of Poverty (why the need exists)**

* Lack of affordable housing/rent assistance
* Lack of education/skills
* Lack of living wage jobs
* Lack of affordable childcare
* Lack of dependable transportation
* Substance abuse

**Housing**

There is an insufficient number of affordable, quality housing units accessible for low-income families. Families with low incomes cannot afford rent/house payments and utilities. Data indicates that a large percentage of owner and renter occupied housing units have conditions that identify the homes as being substandard. Conditions that contribute to being deemed substandard include lacking complete plumbing fixtures, lacking complete kitchen facilities, selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than thirty percent.

**Education**

The lack of a high school diploma/HiSet or further education will influence the future earning potential and financial stability of individuals and families for generations. Early education programs play a substantial part in providing children with the necessary skills, training, and early interventions they need. Educational achievement is fundamental to the economic health of the communities we serve.

**Living Wage Jobs**

The surveys indicate there is a gap between available jobs and the community resident’s skill level. Based upon the data, people do not have the skills required to qualify for jobs in today’s market. Additional skill training and education are needed to obtain a living wage job.

**Childcare**

There are not enough adequate childcare programs as well as childcare financial assistance. Survey respondents indicated there are an insufficient number of evening and weekend options available for childcare. There is also a lack of child and youth activities or after school programs available. Childcare is an essential workforce support that reduces absenteeism and turnover for working parents.

**Transportation**

Transportation appears to be a need with a large percentage of people identifying a need for help with getting financial assistance to purchase a car, repair a vehicle, getting to and from appointments, and getting vehicle insurance.

**Substance Abuse**

Substance abuse is a complicated issue that prevents many people from obtaining and retaining employment, stable home environments, housing, and in general self-sufficiency. Many times, people choose to fund their addiction rather than providing the essentials for their families. Substance abuse has a direct impact on the communities in which people live.

**Summary of Customer Satisfaction**

Overall customer satisfaction results are exceptionally positive. SCICAP appears to be doing an outstanding job providing essential services and programs to low-income clients in a helpful and friendly manner. 99.5% of survey participants stated they had a positive experience when receiving services. Most people completing the survey stated the biggest barrier to not receiving services was from not wanting to ask for help. Over 95% of Stakeholders gave SCICAP high ratings for value, professionalism, and relationships with community partners.

**Summary of Community/Client Demographics**

The assessment of the client and community demographics reaffirms what we already know about the population and counties we serve.

* Population is decreasing
* Decatur County has the highest poverty rate in the state
* The SCICAP service area has a higher poverty rate than the state average
* Median household income is much lower than the state average
* We have clients that lack higher education
* We have many children receiving free or reduced-price lunches
* We have clients living in unsafe and unsanitary homes
* The percent lacking adult literacy skills for Iowa is 11.1%, and 13.3% for SCICAP’s service area

A noteworthy barrier to self-sufficiency is the gap between wages and the cost of living. The high cost of housing, shortage of childcare options, and lack of transportation make access to employment, childcare, and social services costly and challenging. South Central Iowa Community Action Program provides quality programs and collaborates with other organizations in order to pledge the best possible support and outcomes for the families we serve. We collaborate with state agencies, local governments, schools, non-profits, medical and mental health providers, utilities, local businesses, and faith-based organizations. Our greatest advantage in meeting the challenges we face and developing opportunities for our clients is the resilience of our community members, staff, and partners. While SCICAP is not able to meet every need identified in the surveys, the Agency has services and referral options in place to tackle many of the issues that clients are facing in our communities.

Amended July 13, 2016

Amended February 20, 2020

Amended January 31, 2021

Amended April 28, 2021 (New Mission)

Amended April 27, 2022

Amended March 2, 2023