



Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Executive Summary – March 2024

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 PAT Plus 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 2024 Client Needs Assessment (which included customer satisfaction data), a 2022 Community Stakeholders Assessment, The Community Action Partnership’s Community Assessment Tool (completed March 2024), and the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (data from 2018-2022), Iowa HHS System County Snapshots, and client demographics from the CSBG FY2023 Year-End report . 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 (2024)

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

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

- Female (81.25%)
- Under the age of 55 (61.57%)
- Physically Disabled (29.19%)
- Mental Health issues (33.18%)
- Receiving Food Stamps (46.58%)
- One- or two-person household (40%)
- Receiving Medicaid (65.89%)
- White (94.26%)
- Ethnicity (Not Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin) (93.75%)

Conditions of Poverty

The significant client needs that were identified in the data reviewed were issues concerning housing conditions, unmet food, or nutrition needs, financial management needs, unmet childcare or child development needs, utility costs, legal assistance, and transportation. Forty-six percent of families stated they needed assistance with making their home more efficient. Fifty-six percent stated they needed help making necessary home or property repairs. Thirty-nine percent of families reported unmet food or nutrition needs. While thirty-six percent of those answering stated they could use assistance with financial management. Eleven percent of families with young children had unmet childcare or child development needs. Forty-three percent of households had unmet transportation needs. Nineteen percent of respondents had unmet legal needs.

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

- 96.08% stated they had a positive experience when receiving services (3.92% were undecided/neutral)
- 96.06% stated they were helped in a timely manner (3.94% were undecided/neutral)
- 96.06% stated that staff were friendly and helpful (3.45% were undecided/neutral)
- 86.21% of clients said they received information about other agency or community services that could help them with their needs (10.34% were undecided/neutral)
- 94.33% stated the issue they came in with was resolved
- When asked how likely they would refer someone to our services on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest, the average score was 9.4

Results from the Customer Satisfaction Survey show the programs that were utilized the most through SCICAP were energy assistance and food.

Families were asked to share any challenges to accessing our services.

- Hours of operation make it hard for the working poor to access services
- No internet
- I have children so hauling them to access things is a challenge
- My health makes it hard to get to the office
- Can't afford gas to drive to town
- Hard to reach to get questions answered sometimes
- Need a bell or a light switch to let staff know we are there
- Not aware of services

Families were asked to share ideas on how our agency should improve.

- Increased hours of operation
- Increase awareness of available services
- Offer free recycling for old appliances, electronics, tires, etc
- More resources
- Put drinks on vouchers
- Have more food in pantries and be able to get food more than once a month
- Increase income guidelines
- Community inclusion
- Summer funding for unexpected bills
- Hire more employees
- More weatherization
- More fresh vegetables and personal hygiene supplies
- Add a program to fix vehicles

Areas for Improvement in neighborhood or community

Areas that people surveyed would like to see improved in their neighborhood or community include transportation assistance, housing, employment opportunities, more assistance for the elderly and middle income, no more water shortage, repair streets and sidewalks, more activities for youth, get rid of drug users/dealers, lower food prices, lower energy costs, less discrimination, affordable childcare, vehicles speeding in town, lower taxes, safety, sewer lines, storm shelters for families without a basement, domestic violence resources, more community events, advanced healthcare options, bullies in the school, and mental health awareness.

How has Community Action made a difference in your life?

- We have used the emergency food pantry, energy assistance, and furnace repair and much appreciated
- Help supplement limited income
- Made it easier to understand my child and gave us different ways to play to develop skills
- Assisted in getting energy assistance and Christmas presents for my children
- Easier to connect with my child
- It's nice to have to struggle as much with the heat bill
- Help getting back on my feet
- Helped me understand my child's development and become a more interactive parent when it comes to teaching and learning. Taught me a lot of patience
- Emotional support
- Diapers for my child
- Helped with past due medical bills and utilities
- Stress relief
- Financial help and knowing there is a place to get services
- I can live a much more calmer life
- Always willing to help
- Help during difficult times
- Energy assistance has been a blessing. We are able to use funds we would have spent for heating on food and clothing
- Getting help makes a difference
- I can eat and keep warm
- Helped me feed and teach my precious babies
- Has given me peace of mind
- Definitely God sent
- Made me aware of community needs, helped introduce me to my current job, and helped my children with mental health needs
- Took a load off my back
- Made it easier to access other programs within the community
- **I appreciate having a person in the offices. Only offering online services does not cover all needs. Sometimes you just need to have a person available to listen**

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
2. How familiar they were with SCICAP's programs and services
 - 68% of the Stakeholders rated between a three and a five
3. How well SCICAP is valued in the community
 - 86.15% of the Stakeholders rated between a three and a five
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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
7. 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 2024)

Population in Poverty (Below 100% FPL) by Gender

Poverty is considered a key driver of health status. Within the report area 14.66% or 5,696 individuals for whom poverty status is determined are living in households with income below the FPL. This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status. 15.43% of females live in poverty in SCICAP's service area compared to 13.92% of males. For the state of Iowa, 12.25% of females and 9.97% of males live in poverty. In the United States, 13.7% of females and 11.34% of males live in poverty.

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Report Location	2,757	2,939	13.92%	15.43%
Clarke County, IA	729	882	14.76%	19.24%
Decatur County, IA	484	527	13.70%	15.29%
Lucas County, IA	731	691	16.53%	16.71%
Monroe County, IA	361	444	9.72%	11.93%
Wayne County, IA	452	395	14.12%	12.50%
Iowa	154,223	188,918	9.97%	12.25%
United States	18,109,332	22,412,252	11.34%	13.70%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone

Of all the Hispanic population within the SCICAP service area, the proportion living in households with income below the federal poverty level is 15.88%.

Report Area	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
Report Location	337	5,359	15.88%	14.59%
Clarke County, IA	211	1,400	13.35%	17.63%
Decatur County, IA	13	998	7.07%	14.69%
Lucas County, IA	113	1,309	52.07%	15.70%
Monroe County, IA	0	805	0.00%	10.86%
Wayne County, IA	0	847	0.00%	13.57%
Iowa	35,429	307,712	17.43%	10.66%
United States	10,447,540	30,074,044	17.24%	11.45%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.

Urban and Rural Population

This indicator reports the percentage of population living in urban and rural areas as of 2020. Urban areas are identified using population density, count, and size thresholds. Urban areas also include territory with a high degree of impervious surface (development). Rural areas are all areas that are not urban. Of the report areas 40,101 population, 5,283 or 13.17% of the population is classified urban while 34,818 or 86.83% is rural.

Report Area	Total Population	Urban Population	Rural Population	Urban Population, Percent	Rural Population, Percent
Report Location	40,101	5,283	34,818	13.17%	86.83%
Clarke County, IA	9,748	5,283	4,465	54.20%	45.80%
Decatur County, IA	7,645	0	7,645	0.00%	100.00%
Lucas County, IA	8,634	0	8,634	0.00%	100.00%
Monroe County, IA	7,577	0	7,577	0.00%	100.00%
Wayne County, IA	6,497	0	6,497	0.00%	100.00%
Iowa	3,190,369	2,014,831	1,175,538	63.15%	36.85%
United States	331,449,281	265,149,027	66,300,254	80.00%	20.00%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2020.

Total Population by Age Groups: (US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022)

0-4 age group comprises 6.5% of total population in the service area, 5-17 age group 17.5%, 18-24 age group 9.6%, 25-34 age group 10.2%, 35-44 age group 10.5%, 45-54 age group 11%, 55-64 age group 14.1%, and age 65 plus 20.6%. The service area has a high percentage of elderly people.

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
Report Location	2,615	7,011	3,835	4,113	4,225	4,420	5,665	8,261
Clarke County, IA	737	1,753	938	937	1,061	1,127	1,270	1,914
Decatur County, IA	452	1,233	1,238	772	709	730	956	1,594
Lucas County, IA	516	1,445	639	955	915	963	1,366	1,867
Monroe County, IA	458	1,347	566	775	896	928	1,124	1,480
Wayne County, IA	452	1,233	454	674	644	672	949	1,406
Iowa	189,797	540,521	327,316	395,334	396,297	365,161	414,285	560,125
United States	19,004,925	54,208,780	31,282,896	45,388,153	42,810,359	41,087,357	42,577,475	54,737,648

Race Demographics

According to the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-2022, the white population comprised 92.74% of the report area, black population represented 0.4%, Asian 0.49%, American Indian/Alaska Native 0.12%, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0.02%, Multiple Race 4.17% and Other race combined were 2.06%.

Poverty Rate Change

The poverty rate change for Iowa from 2012 to 2022 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the SCICAP service area decreased by -2.46%, compared to a national change of -3.3%.

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2012	Poverty Rate 2012	Persons in Poverty 2022	Poverty Rate 2022	Change in Poverty Rate 2012-2022
Report Location	6,476	16.34%	5,434	13.88%	-2.46%
Clarke County, IA	1,187	12.8%	1,108	11.6%	-1.2%
Decatur County, IA	1,786	23.7%	1,285	17.9%	-5.8%
Lucas County, IA	1,325	15.3%	1,391	16.1%	0.8%
Monroe County, IA	1,078	13.6%	729	9.8%	-3.8%
Wayne County, IA	1,100	17.6%	921	14.5%	-3.1%
Iowa	377,110	12.7%	340,272	11.0%	-1.7%
United States	46,215,956	15.3%	38,371,394	11.9%	-3.4%

US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. 2022

Households in Poverty

The number and percentage of households in poverty are shown below. In 2022, it is estimated that there were 2,292 households, or 14.22%, living in poverty within the SCICAP service area. Lucas (16.1%) and Clarke (15.7%) Counties have the largest percentage of households in poverty. Wayne County has the lowest percentage at 11.8%. The state average is 11.2%.

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Percent Households in Poverty
Report Location	16,121	2,292	14.22%
Clarke County, IA	3,879	610	15.7%
Decatur County, IA	3,058	429	14.0%
Lucas County, IA	3,621	582	16.1%
Monroe County, IA	3,032	373	12.3%
Wayne County, IA	2,531	298	11.8%
Iowa	1,290,139	144,551	11.2%
United States	125,736,353	15,616,265	12.4%

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022

Child Poverty Rate Ages 0-4 (ACS)

Population and poverty estimate for children aged 0-4 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5-year data, an average of 28.2% of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. Clarke county has the highest rate of 43.2%. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 18.1%.

Report Area	Ages 0-4 Total Population	Ages 0-4 In Poverty	Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate
Report Location	2,568	724	28.2%
Clarke County, IA	697	301	43.2%
Decatur County, IA	448	125	27.9%
Lucas County, IA	516	96	18.6%
Monroe County, IA	458	81	17.7%
Wayne County, IA	449	121	26.9%
Iowa	187,164	26,764	14.3%
United States	18,654,535	3,369,529	18.1%

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022

Poverty Rate Change (Age 5-17)

Child poverty rates for ages 5-17 average 12.6% for Iowa, 16.2% for the United States, and 17.0% for SCICAP's service area. Lucas County has the highest rate of 24.8%, while Monroe County has the lowest at 9.9%.

Report Area	Ages 5-17 Total Population	Ages 5-17 In Poverty	Ages 5-17 Poverty Rate
Report Location	6,875	1,172	17.0%
Clarke County, IA	1,719	339	19.7%
Decatur County, IA	1,169	144	12.3%
Lucas County, IA	1,425	353	24.8%
Monroe County, IA	1,345	133	9.9%
Wayne County, IA	1,217	203	16.7%
Iowa	531,293	66,689	12.6%
United States	53,380,823	8,632,822	16.2%

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022

Seniors in Poverty (Age 65 and Up)

921 Seniors are living in poverty or 11.7% of SCICAP’s service area. All counties are above the state average of 7.7%. Clarke county has the highest rate at 14%. The U.S. average is 10%.

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Report Location	7,864	921	11.7%
Clarke County, IA	1,833	256	14.0%
Decatur County, IA	1,506	165	11.0%
Lucas County, IA	1,813	246	13.6%
Monroe County, IA	1,385	145	10.5%
Wayne County, IA	1,327	109	8.2%
Iowa	534,825	41,251	7.7%
United States	53,352,363	5,309,452	10.0%

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022

Employment

The current unemployment rate (December 2023) for SCICAP’s service area is 2.2%, the state average is 2.7% and the United States average is 3.6%. Decatur County has the lowest at 1.7% while Clarke and Monroe have the highest at 2.6%.

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Report Location	20,988	20,523	465	2.2%
Clarke County, IA	5,010	4,879	131	2.6%
Decatur County, IA	4,375	4,299	76	1.7%
Lucas County, IA	4,561	4,479	82	1.8%
Monroe County, IA	4,033	3,930	103	2.6%
Wayne County, IA	3,009	2,936	73	2.4%
Iowa	1,687,655	1,642,672	44,983	2.7%
United States	167,878,406	161,901,616	5,976,788	3.6%

US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023-December

Household Income

Median annual household incomes in the report area for 2022 are shown in the table below. Decatur County household income is the lowest at \$51,749 and Monroe County is the highest at \$66,176. All counties in SCICAP’s service area are below the state and national averages.

Report Area	Estimated Population	Median Household Income
Clarke County, IA	9,552	\$65,129
Decatur County, IA	7,179	\$51,749
Lucas County, IA	8,640	\$60,245
Monroe County, IA	7,439	\$66,176
Wayne County, IA	6,352	\$58,000
Iowa	3,093,382	\$69,708
United States	325,012,887	\$74,755

US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. 2022

Nutrition

50.4% 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 40.1%. Lucas County had the highest at 56.5%, while Monroe County had the lowest with 34.2%. National Center for Education Statistics, NCES-Common Core of Data. 2020-2021.

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)

The below table shows that according to the American Community Survey (ACS), 2,020 households (or 12.5%) received SNAP payments during 2018-2022. During this same period there were 1,188 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments.

Report Area	Households Receiving SNAP Total	Households Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty	Households Not Receiving SNAP Total	Households Not Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty
Report Location	2,020	12.5%	1,104	916	14,101	87.5%	1,188	12,913
Clarke County, IA	715	18.43%	379	336	3,164	81.57%	231	2,933
Decatur County, IA	333	10.89%	140	193	2,725	89.11%	289	2,436
Lucas County, IA	398	10.99%	274	124	3,223	89.01%	308	2,915
Monroe County, IA	324	10.69%	192	132	2,708	89.31%	181	2,527
Wayne County, IA	250	9.88%	119	131	2,281	90.12%	179	2,102
Iowa	120,912	9.37%	54,412	66,500	1,169,227	90.63%	90,139	1,079,088
United States	14,486,880	11.52%	6,332,769	8,154,111	111,249,473	88.48%	9,283,496	101,965,977

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-2022

Low Income and Low Food Access

Low food access is defined as living more than one mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store. 18.43% of the low-income population in the report area have low food access. Wayne County has the highest low food access rate at 41.35%.

Report Area	Total Population	Low Income Population	Low Income Population with Low Food Access	Percent Low Income Population with Low Food Access
Report Location	41,014	14,671	2,704	18.43%
Clarke County, IA	9,286	3,522	284	8.06%
Decatur County, IA	8,457	3,500	299	8.54%
Lucas County, IA	8,898	2,825	855	30.27%
Monroe County, IA	7,970	2,207	184	8.34%
Wayne County, IA	6,403	2,617	1,082	41.35%
Iowa	3,046,355	884,904	172,826	19.53%
United States	308,745,538	97,055,825	18,834,033	19.41%

US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, USDA-Food Access Research Atlas. 2019.

Transportation

This indicator reports the number and percentage of households with no motor vehicle based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. Of the 16,121 total households in the report area, 1,282 or 7.95% are without a motor vehicle.

Report Area	Total Occupied Households	Households with No Motor Vehicle	Households with No Motor Vehicle, Percent
Report Location	16,121	1,282	7.95%
Clarke County, IA	3,879	375	9.67%
Decatur County, IA	3,058	253	8.27%
Lucas County, IA	3,621	279	7.71%
Monroe County, IA	3,032	186	6.13%
Wayne County, IA	2,531	189	7.47%
Iowa	1,290,139	72,379	5.61%
United States	125,736,353	10,474,870	8.33%

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22.

Education Attainment - Overview

Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 years old and is an estimated average for the period from 2018 to 2022. For SCICAP’s service area, 41.16% have only completed high school, while only 10.17% have completed an associate degree. Clarke County has 10.43% with no high school diploma.

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Report Location	10.43%	41.16%	19.94%	10.17%	12.72%	5.57%
Clarke County, IA	15.5%	42.3%	18.1%	8.8%	9.7%	5.6%
Decatur County, IA	10.9%	37.2%	18.6%	8.4%	14.4%	10.5%
Lucas County, IA	7.6%	44.1%	23.5%	9.9%	10.7%	4.2%
Monroe County, IA	7.0%	39.7%	18.8%	11.8%	18.5%	4.2%
Wayne County, IA	10.6%	41.5%	20.4%	12.6%	11.2%	3.8%
Iowa	7.0%	30.6%	20.1%	12.0%	20.3%	10.0%
United States	10.9%	26.4%	19.7%	8.7%	20.9%	13.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.

Adult Literacy Skills

Literacy data published by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIACC) breaks adult literacy into three different "Levels". Those reported as Level 1 are at risk of being able to understand printed material. Those at the upper end of Level 1 can read and understand the text well enough to be able to perform small tasks but might have difficulty understanding or drawing inferences from multiple forms of text. Those at the lower end may struggle with basic vocabulary or even be functionally illiterate. The percentage at or below Level 1 for literacy in the report area is estimated at 17.7%, with a 95% probability that the actual (true, unknown) percentage is between 13.3% and 22.2%.

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, 2017.

Housing

Cost-Burdened Households

These data show the percentage of households by tenure that are cost burdened. Cost burdened rental households (those that spent more than 30% of the household income on rental costs) represented 37.64% of all the rental households in the report area, according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022 5-year estimates. The data for this indicator is only reported for households where tenure, household housing costs, and income earned was identified in the American Community Survey.

Report Area	Rental Households	Rental Households Cost-Burdened, Percent	Owner-Occupied Households w/ Mortgage	Owner-Occupied Households w/ Mortgage Cost-Burdened, Percent	Owner-Occupied Households w/o Mortgage	Owner-Occupied Households w/o Mortgage Cost-Burdened, Percent
Report Location	3,847	37.64%	6,002	21.59%	6,272	13.89%
Clarke County, IA	1,069	48.74%	1,503	21.89%	1,307	12.17%
Decatur County, IA	1,003	28.81%	963	26.69%	1,092	16.21%
Lucas County, IA	733	24.69%	1,401	20.06%	1,487	13.79%
Monroe County, IA	532	56.58%	1,220	14.51%	1,280	15.23%
Wayne County, IA	510	30.59%	915	27.54%	1,106	12.21%
Iowa	367,455	39.96%	552,272	19.52%	370,412	11.50%
United States	44,238,593	46.45%	50,148,459	27.17%	31,349,301	13.37%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22.

Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes

The number and percentage of occupied housing units without plumbing are shown for the report area. U.S. Census data shows 147 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2000 and ACS 5-year estimates show 159 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2022.

Report Area	Occupied Housing Units 2000	Housing Units without Plumbing 2000	Percent without Plumbing 2000	Occupied Housing Units 2022	Housing Units without Plumbing 2022	Percent without Plumbing 2022
Report Location	16,781	147	0.88%	16,121	159	0.99%
Clarke County, IA	3,584	20	0.51%	3,879	28	0.72%
Decatur County, IA	3,337	46	1.20%	3,058	74	2.42%
Lucas County, IA	3,811	47	1.11%	3,621	47	1.30%
Monroe County, IA	3,228	4	0.11%	3,032	8	0.26%
Wayne County, IA	2,821	30	0.89%	2,531	2	0.08%
Iowa	1,149,276	4,832	0.39%	1,290,139	4,290	0.33%
United States	106,741,426	736,626	0.69%	126,956,011	502,642	0.40%

Poor Mental Health - Mental Health and Substance Use Conditions

This indicator reports the rate of diagnoses for mental health and substance use conditions among the Medicare population. Figures are reported as age-adjusted to year 2000 standard. Rates are summarized for report areas from county level data, only where data is available. This indicator is relevant because mental health and substance use is an indicator of poor health.

Report Area	Medicare Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries with Mental Health and Substance Use Conditions, Percent
Report Location	8,924	29%
Clarke County, IA	2,013	30%
Decatur County, IA	1,715	28%
Lucas County, IA	2,023	29%
Monroe County, IA	1,710	30%
Wayne County, IA	1,463	30%
Iowa	600,549	31%
United States	57,235,207	32%

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, [Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool](#), 2020.

SCICAP Client Demographics (2023)

Gender

Male	44%
Female	56%

Age Demographics

0-5	10%
6-13	14%
14-17	7%
18-24	5%
25-44	21%
45-54	9%
55-59	6%
60-64	7%
65-74	11%
75+	10%

Race Demographics

American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.4%
Asian	0.4%
Black or African American	0.8%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.4%
White	94%
Other	3%
Multi-Race	1%

Ethnicity Demographics

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

Education

0-8 th grade	6%
9-12 th grade/non-Graduate	15%
High School Grad/HiSET	60%
12 th + some post-Secondary	12%
2- or 4-year College Graduate	6.5%
Graduate or other post-secondary school	0.5%

Housing

Own	55%
Rent	44%
Homeless	0.3%
Other	0.7%

Poverty Level

Up to 50%	18%
51% to 75%	15%
76% to 100%	19%
101% to 125%	17%
126% to 150%	14%
151% to 175%	10%
176% to 200%	5%
201% to 250%	1%
250% or over	1%

Information gathered from the CSBG FY2023 annual report specific to the agency client information states fifty-two percent of the clients served last year were at 100% poverty or less. Fifty-six percent were female and forty-four percent male. 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-one percent were ages 0-17, thirty-five percent were ages 18-54 and thirty-four percent were over age 55. The Hispanic population constitutes five percent of the population with ninety-five percent reported being non-Hispanic or Latino. Almost ninety-five percent of the client population indicated White as their race; thirty-six people, or less than one percent, indicated Black or African American as their race; fourteen people indicated American Indian or Alaskan Native; fifteen people indicated Asian, and thirteen people indicated Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. One percent of the people indicated multi-race or other as their race.

Other characteristics worth noting are:

- 3,854 people or 95% had health insurance
- 732 people or 18% reported having a disabling condition
- 170 people or 6% were veterans
- 10.48% of the households served were from single parent households
- 14.69% of households were 2 parent households
- 909 households served were single person
- 15.75% of the households served were two adults with no children
- 55% of the people served owned their home, 44% were renters, and 0.3% 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 Update

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. 96.08% 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 hours of operation and lack of awareness of resources. 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
- High Poverty Rates: Clarke-**16.9%**, Decatur-14.5%, Lucas-16.6%, Monroe-10.8%, & Wayne-13.3%
- The SCICAP service area has a higher poverty rate than the state and national average
- Median household income is much lower than the state and national average
- Service area has clients that lack higher education
- Many children receiving free or reduced-price lunches
- 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 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

Amended March 28, 2024