

the planning group

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TO: Board of Directors  
Washington County Community Action  
FROM: Linda Golaszewski, Marcia Mulvey  
The Planning Group  
RE: Needs Assessment  
DATE: 2/8/88

We are pleased to transmit to you the final needs assessment document for Washington County Community Action. You will find in this final draft the separation of information into national and local categories and the addition of several charts and graphs as appendices.

The compilation of needs survey data and information on demographics and trends should provide WCCAO with a firm base of information on which to base its future strategies.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION  
DEMOGRAPHICS, TRENDS, AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

Prepared by: The Planning Group  
February 8, 1988

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## PURPOSE

As Washington County Community Action Organization enters its twenty-second year, it seeks to develop a strategic direction and plan pro-actively for its future. To be able to plan responsively, and within the context of the community's direction, WCCAO has developed a needs assessment and has acquired and assessed a variety of information and data regarding local and national trends.

The information contained in this needs report identifies current and future demographics, national and local trends, WCCAO service statistics, and community opinions regarding critical needs. The purpose of this information is to:

- document low-income needs in Washington County
- provide an overview of societal directions
- provide a compendium of pertinent information for current and future use
- provide a solid basis for developing a strategic direction
- stimulate responses to potential issues
- create an environment of informed decision-making
- enable WCCAO to ascertain its role in meeting community needs
- assist WCCAO in allocation and development of resources

## METHODOLOGY

WCCAO felt it necessary to have a broad perspective on the problems and needs facing the community. Opportunities to provide input and data were provided in a number of ways:

- A planning management team was established, made up of staff and board, to guide the process.

- Board views were solicited during a portion of a board meeting.

- Staff views were solicited at a variety of staff meetings.

- Surveys of community leaders, social service professionals, WCCAO board members, volunteers, staff, and clients/consitituents were developed and data analyzed.

- A planning team, with representatives of board, staff, volunteers and the community was selected to provide additional, intensive input.

Additional data and trend information both nationally and locally was gleaned from a variety of resources. A readings list of these has been attached. Finally, two workshops specific to planning and trend analysis were attended and information from these incorporated. Secondary data research information is reflected in the "facts" and key information as well as in the **Summary and Implications** sections.

Needs surveys were developed to target to specific groups from whom information was desired. Separate surveys were designed for clients/constituents, board and staff, and community leaders and social service providers. For all the categories except clients/constituents, surveys were distributed to all potential respondents (i.e., all social service providers in Washington County, all board members and advisory council members, etc.). Except for staff and clients, surveys were distributed by mail and returned via mail to the consultants responsible for tabulation and analysis. Staff surveys were distributed internally and returned by mail to the consultants. Four hundred and forty six (446) of these surveys were distributed and 98 returned for a total return rate of 21.9%. Response rates of these four groups ranged from a 7.8% response rate of community leaders to a 41% response rate of staff members.

A slightly different approach was taken to surveying clients/constituents to maximize potential return. Recipients of services were asked to fill out a survey form while they were waiting for assistance. Clients of WCCAO, AFS and Centro Cultural (who had a Spanish version) were surveyed in this fashion. Staff were available to answer questions and provide clarification. Two hundred and fourteen client/constituents were surveyed, 65% were at WCCAO to receive services (but had not necessarily received WCCAO services previously). Although a somewhat self-selecting group, needs information from this sample is consistent with needs information from more random samples such as that detailed in People Worth Knowing. Information from all of the needs surveys should be reviewed in light of other data available for the best overall picture.

SURVEY INFORMATION

Survey Distribution/Response

	Community Leaders	Service Providers	Board/Volunteers	Staff
Number surveyed (N=100%)	266	80	60	80
Number returned	21	27	23	33
Response rate	7.6%	34%	38%	41%

2. Perception of Current Community Needs  
(Percentage response indicating important need)

<u>Current Need</u>	Community	Providers	Board	Staff	Clients*
Housing	28%	48%	12%	45%	34%
Food	28%	51%	25%	15%	>50%
Health Care	28%	44%	<10%	24%	>50%
Mental Health	23%	33%	-	-	<10%
Education	23%	<20%	-	-	<20%
Shelter	23%	60%	50%	-	-
Info/Referral	23%	<20%	<10%	15%	-
Alcohol/drug	23%	<20%	<10%	-	<10%
Employment	23%	<20%	<10%	48%	42%
Domestic Violence	-	23%	<10%	-	<10%
Energy	-	23%	<10%	15%	>50%
Child Care	-	-	18%	42%	26%
Case Management	-	-	<10%	-	-

Other responses (5% or less of sample): disabled care, medical/prenatal care, unemployment, coordination, teaching self-sufficiency, and transportation.

3. Three most important community needs for each group

	Community	Providers	Board	Staff
Food	x		x	
Shelter	x	x	x	
Housing		x		x
Employment	x	x		x
Child Care			x	x

4. Key community need in 5 - 10 years

	Community	Providers	Board	Staff
Housing	x	x	x	x
Employment	x	x	x	x
Child care	x	x	x	x
Health Care		x	x	x
Food		x	x	x
Alcohol/drugs	x			
Mental Health	x			
Transportation				x
Energy				x

\* Other than this question, clients/constituents were not asked

similar questions.

Other needs listed at least once included: AIDS, aging, money management, job search preparation.

5. Trends affecting the community (asked of community leaders and service providers only)

	Community	Service Providers
Fewer funds	x	x
Increase population	x	
Urbanization	x	
Increased drug use	x	
Less welfare funds	x	x
Unemployment	x	x
Need for special training		x
Economics in general		x
Increased housing cost		x
More single heads of household	x	

6. External factors affecting WCCAO (asked of board and staff)

	Board	Staff
Funding	x	x
Lack of visibility	x	x
Reputation	x	
Need to attract \$\$	x	
Size/diversity of county	x	
Community support		x
Job market/economics		x
Misconceptions about low income people		x
City/county reluctance to fund services		x

Information was obtained not only on the "critical" community needs but WCCAO's role in meeting those needs. Community leaders and social service providers in particular saw WCCAO as taking a leadership role in addressing needs and issues. Community leaders also saw WCCAO as a provider of many of the services to meet critical needs. All respondent groups (with the exception of clients/constituents who were not asked) saw funding and visibility as major current and future issues for WCCAO.

## INTRODUCTION TO NEEDS, TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS

Washington County is a county of paradox having a high per capita income but also harboring a 12% poverty rate, a rate basically unchanged over a five year period. The County itself appears to be moving away from a role in providing or supporting human services as indicated in the County 2000 report. Although the report suggests that demand for social services will increase 45% by 2005, how the demand will be addressed is left unanswered. The information contained in this needs report is a starting point for WCCAO in looking at its future in this context.

Please see Appendix 1 for a chart identifying growth trends.

Note: Additional Conclusions listed in the following section(s) contain information elicited at a working session of Board planning committee members and staff, December 11, 1987.

Additionally, numbers that follow informational items in the next section reference resources listed in the Resource Reading List, page 18. A number 3, for instance, would reference to item number 3 on the Resource List, "Citizen Needs Assessment Survey--Washington County".



## NEEDS, TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS

### GENERAL

#### Demographics (Washington County)

- 8% growth since 1981 to 266,500 (1985) anticipated to continue. 11
- 12% of population at or below poverty, In 1985 - 31,980 people.
- 6.2% of the population is minority. 11
- 2.6% of the population is hispanic. 11
- 6.3% of households at or below poverty are non-white. 13
- Unemployment rate disproportionately high for minorities - 8.7% vs. 5.9% for whites. (Business and Employment Outlook, 88-89)
- 35,000 persons receive Social Security; 1,400 of these are receiving SSI.
- 3518 persons received AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) in Oct. 1987 (represents 1,330 households).
- 8424 persons received Food Stamps in Aug. 87 (3,417 households).
- Nearly 11,000 people receive either welfare and/or SSI and/or food stamps in Washington County.
- A 1980 study indicated that in only 6% of the households surveyed (11,174) was no one employed. 3
- Persons receiving public health services, mental health services and assistance to seniors increased 15% in 5 years. 17

#### Needs Surveys

- More income was cited as a critical need by over 50% of client/constituent survey respondents
- Health care was cited as a critical need by clients (over 50%), community leaders (28%), service providers (44%) and staff (24%).
- Employment/job training were cited as critical needs by clients (27%), board members (20%) and staff (33%)

#### People in Poverty Profile

##### National

- Medicaid is available to only 87% of children living in poverty. 21
- In 1986, 41.5% of all low-income persons over age 14 worked. 21
- Poverty level is \$11,200 for a family of four.

##### Oregon

- In a four-county survey (Portland Metropolitan Statistical Area -- PMSA), approximately 30% of households where one or both household heads were employed occupied the lower socio-economic sphere (defined as "an index of the income, vocation and education of the household head"). 13
- An average household in poverty is 3.3 persons.
- Income maintenance is provided through social security programs and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).
- AFDC payment for family with one child - \$352 (1 adult/1 child) or \$412 (2 adults/1 child); with 2 children - \$412 (1 adult/2 children) or \$501 (2 adults/2 children); with 3 children - \$501 (1 adult/3 children) or \$588 (2 adults/3 children).

##### Washington County

- Average AFDC payment is \$306/month. Average family size receiving AFDC is 2.8 persons (all persons receiving AFDC).
- Washington County has one of the highest drop-out rates in

- Oregon, 24% of those who start high school will drop out.
- Health care resources include Washington County Department of Public Health and Department of Mental Health, two non-profit health clinic resources, a mental health clinic, four general purpose hospitals, 11 alcohol/drug treatment programs and thirteen nursing homes.
  - There are two major resources for job training, development and employment services - the Private Industries Council and the State Employment Division.

### **Trends**

- There will be continued growth in the county with an estimated population in 1991 of 287,820 persons.
- The estimated population at or below poverty in 1991 - 34,538 - an increase of 2,558 persons (county).
- The Hispanic population nationally is the fastest growing minority population; bilingualism will become more important.
- AIDS and elderly health care will affect health care costs.
- Alcohol and drug use will increase as will the need for treatment (national).
- Policies of de-institutionalization for the mentally ill, elderly, and others will continue (national).
- Low-paying jobs particularly in the so-called service sector will proliferate while high paying manufacturing jobs are disappearing (national).
- Of the ten largest growth occupations (through 1995) six require less than advanced education. The average weekly pay of these six is \$234 (\$1,014/month). 6
- The "marginal" work-force will grow as full-time jobs are converted to part-time and more employers are relying on temporary services and contract workers (national).
- County position on providing/funding human services as not primarily their role will continue.
- Federal/state funding for human services will be reduced.

### **Summary and Implications**

The poor face major limitations in meeting their most basic needs because of the lack of money. Even with assistance through AFDC, food stamps and other such programs, it is often difficult to meet the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. When cuts in these areas occur, they affect an already diminished ability to access resources. But those families who do not receive such federal assistance are limited. When there are funds just enough to get by, the family is often only a few dollars away from crisis. Health care treatment, for example, is sought only when absolutely necessary. This deferral of treatment often compounds problems that would more easily have been solved earlier.

Employment and job training are pressing needs. But it is interesting to note that many of the jobs that will be coming available are in the low-paid service sector. Although requiring less education, these jobs pay insufficiently to support a family. One person working full-time at minimum wage earns \$7,176. A family of 4 would find itself \$4,024 below the poverty line. Jobs that pay a family wage (a wage to support families above

the poverty level) will be highly competitive and require advanced educational degrees or training.

Finally, stress, depression and low self-esteem can be by-products of poverty. Alcohol and drug abuse may also increase. Domestic violence, although not limited to the low-income, may also be increased by these stressors, especially when family members know no other means of dealing with conflict and stress. It is likely that these psychological and physical manifestation of poverty will become more apparent as more families find themselves, if not in poverty, marginally supported.

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

### Demographics (Washington County)

- An estimated 5.6% of households are low-income and therefore need low income housing (9690 households). 13
- According to one study: 3
  - \* 4% of all the households surveyed spent 50% or more of their monthly income on housing.
  - \* Female heads of household (14% of the sample) spent the most on housing (21.9% of their income vs. median 17.8%).
  - \* Minority groups also spent more than the median, an average of 20.8%.

### Needs Surveys

- Housing/shelter is one of the most critical community needs as indicated by over 50% of respondents of the WCCAO needs survey (community leaders, social service providers, board members volunteers and staff).
- Housing/shelter was cited as a critical need by over 25% of client/constituent group responding to the survey.

### Profile Information

#### National

- Federal funding for low-income housing has declined 78% since 1981 (down from 32 billion to 7.1 billion). 10
- An estimated 28% nationally, of the homeless population are persons in families. Locally, this number is estimated to be closer to 50%. 20/10

#### Washington County

- Housing Authority of Washington County has a waiting list (i.e., of 1 to 2 years for a 1 bedroom apartment) of over several hundred for its programs. Its 250 owned/operated units are always full and its programs serve only 20% of those eligible.
- Housing Authority has approximately 900 - Section 8 certificates which subsidize rental payments in the open market.
- There were 101,387 total housing units (1980), 21% (21,591) in need of major repair, 2.7% (2,884 units) considered substandard. 30% of those units in need of major repair (8,317) are occupied by low/moderate income households. 16
- Washington County Community Development has approximately \$380,000 available annually for its housing program which includes funds for rehabilitation, weatherization, handicapped access and residential historic preservation activities. 16
- Median rent payment in Washington County in 1980 was \$301.34. 16
- There are 3,382 mobile home units in 47 mobile home courts. These are on land zoned for high intensity use. 16
- There are an estimated 2900 homeless, 53% families with children.

#### WCCAO

- The WCCAO weatherization program has weatherized 2,113 homes over the last 11 years - 9.8% of all units in need of major repair.
- The WCCAO shelter program is the only general purpose shelter in Washington County.
- The WCCAO shelter program has consistently assisted over 600

individuals with direct emergency shelter each year over the past six years.

- In 1986-87, 2,886 sought housing services at WCCAO such as rent assistance.
- Three years ago 1 person was turned away for every 1 taken at the shelter. Last year, 4 persons were turned away for every 1 taken.

### **Trends**

- Approximately 500 million in homeless assistance funds will be available nationally this year. These funds will probably be negatively affected by deficit reduction activities.
- Given the historical decline in HUD funding, increases in federally subsidized housing are not indicated.
- Nationally, 25% of available (low income) housing stock will be removed from the rent roles by 2000 while those needing low income housing will increase 44%.
- Local governments have been withdrawing their support from the WCCAO shelter due to declines in federal revenue sharing dollars

### **Summary and Implications**

Data suggests that the housing crisis for low-income households will not dissipate. As federal funds for low-income housing diminish, and subsidies decrease, housing development for low-income households will not keep pace with demand. More households will be forced to spend a greater percentage of their monthly income on housing. Without commensurate increases in wages, entitlement programs or food stamps, there will be less money available to pay other bills and/or buy food, putting additional pressure on emergency intervention for food, fuel and rent assistance. Other results include increasing numbers of families/households living in substandard housing, crowded together with other families or homeless and in need of emergency shelter and other services.

Probably more than any other population, families are made homeless due to a lack of adequate, affordable, low-income housing. As the low-income population grows, the impact of the cuts in federally funded housing will become more apparent as families end up in the streets in even greater numbers. Unless developers are given a financial incentive to provide low-income housing, or governmental jurisdictions provide it, the gap between those who need housing and what is available will continue to widen.

### **Additional Conclusions**

- Housing for families, especially larger families is difficult locate
- Costs for utilities, including heat, in substandard units is high, causing more of a family's income to be spent in these areas and increasing the need for subsidized weatherization and home repair.
- Increases in property taxes make it more difficult to afford housing, especially owner-occupied housing, for anyone on a fixed income.
- Mobile home parks, which house numerous low-income people and seniors, may be eliminated causing significant displacement.

## FOOD AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS - ENERGY

### Demographics (Washington County unless otherwise noted)

- An estimated 12% of the population (5.6% of households) are low income and therefore eligible for low-income food and other assistance programs. 13
- Over 15% of all Oregonians requested emergency food at least once in 1986. 7/10
- In one study regarding emergency food box users (Oregon): 7
  - \* 49% receiving emergency food were 18 or younger
  - \* 3% were 60 or older

### Needs Survey

- Food was considered a critical need by over 50% of service providers responding to the WCCAO survey.
- Food was considered a critical need by over 25% of all other survey respondents (clients/constituents, community leaders, board, volunteers).
- Assistance with utilities was considered a critical need by 25% or more of clients/constituents and service providers.

### Profile Information

#### National

- Nationally, 4.3 million more people are living in poverty (than in 1980) but the Food Stamp Program is serving 2.5 million less, reflecting a reduction \$12.2 billion. 20
- US Energy Information Administration estimates that low-income households spend 14% of their income on fuel. Non-low income households spend 5% of their income on fuel. 20

#### Oregon

- The demand for emergency food increased 20% in 1986 (1,072,000 requests for food from 428,000 individuals). 7
- For over 80% of households, food stamp allotments do not last beyond 3 weeks. 7
- The WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program in Oregon has funds only to reach little more than a third of 89,000 people eligible. 7

#### Washington County

- Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, the FISH programs and various church groups provide food and other emergency services. In addition, seniors are provided hot meals through the senior centers and Meals on Wheels program.

(Information from WCCAO staff)

- Food recipients tend to be less educated in use of food staples such as flour, rice and beans.
- Food is available from sources of prepared foods (deli's etc.) but is unused due to lack of storage facilities.
- It is often easier to solicit donations of food (people will buy a can or two of food to give) than donations of money for energy assistance or utilities.

## WCCAO

- The Tualitan Valley Food Center (TVFC) as a food distribution point, has distributed ever increasing amounts of food, almost doubling its distribution every year since its inception.
- Member agencies of TVFC have also increased nearly 20% (from 46 to 55) last year. These distribute food to over 18,000 households (54,378 individuals) a year, a demand that has steadily been increasing.
- TVFC is the food coordinating point for Washington County.
- Low Income Energy Assistance (LIEAP) has seen moderate increases in households served (5.6% increase in 85-86 compared to 84-85 and 7.4% increased in 86-87 vs. 85-86).
- In 1986-87, 3,943 households were assisted with LIEAP funds accounting for 40% of eligible households.
- Funds available for LIEAP and Weatherization have remained basically steady with minor fluctuations. Any increases in households served reflects only funds available, not demand.
- 5,554 households received other emergency services through WCCAO last year (i.e., rent assistance, fair housing information, advocacy food boxes to the homeless).

## Trends (National)

- Given the historical trend toward declining federal dollars for entitlement, food stamp and child nutrition programs, an increase in funding for these is unlikely.
- Increased computer sophistication and other factors could lead to better predictive capability of the agricultural and food industries thus decreasing the availability of surplus food.
- Decreasing stores of federal surplus food items could lead to a decrease in amounts available for the federal (USDA) food distribution program.
- Fewer dollars would be available for food and energy if housing costs increase.
- LIEAP to begin later this year. Potential exists for decreasing amounts of federal support for LIEAP and weatherization. A 33% decrease in LIEAP funds is expected this year.

## Summary and Implications

Overall, hunger in America has become a critical issue and one which, data suggests, will not diminish. Unless increases are made in federal entitlement programs, Food Stamps, and other supplemental food programs (and perhaps in federal and state minimum wage requirements), low-income individuals will continue to rely on a local emergency food system. Because a percentage of low-income individuals likely to use food box programs are minorities and the elderly, food programs should be sensitive to the eating habits and customs of different groups.

Similar conclusions can be reached regarding energy assistance programs. As long as low-income households are not provided with adequate income, the "sleep, heat, or eat" dilemma will remain. Decreases in the amount of support available for energy assistance and weatherization will shift the burden even more to

local service providers and to utility companies to develop solutions.

To borrow from a Multnomah County report on energy, a household who receives a food box or energy assistance is a household "served". But a household served is not equivalent to solving the energy or food need of that household. Permanent changes in energy consumption or food costs and enhancement of a household's ability to meet fuel or food costs are generally not achieved due to limited funds for weatherization, energy conservation, money management programs, nutritional programs and the like.

#### Additional Conclusions

- Additional sources of food and funds for energy assistance, weatherization, etc. must be developed.
- Self-sufficiency programs and nutrition education are increasingly necessary.
- Energy costs are likely to rise.
- Although there is new technology for dealing with energy consumption and in other areas (health care for instance) low-income persons are often the last to feel the affects of new technology.
- If funds are put into weatherization and changing family's energy and utility consumption, the family will need less money for those costs and have more money available for other items.
- As the population ages, adequate home heating becomes a critical health issue.



## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

### Demographics (Washington County)

- Washington County's annual birth rate is 16.4 per 1,000; neonatal death rate is 5.6 per 1,000. A higher birth rather and lower neonatal death rate than for the state as a whole.
- Largest number of Washington County residents are aged 20-34 (69,967) followed by the group aged 5-19 (60,888). Under five accounts for 21,239 (1985 estimates). 16
- Women represent 64.6% of the heads of household in poverty (includes elderly women and families). 13

### Needs Surveys

- Child care was a critical community need as indicated by 18% of WCCAO board and 42% of WCCAO staff responding to the survey
- Employment/job training were cited as critical needs by clients (27%), board members (20%) and staff (33%)

### Family Profile Information

#### National

- Families in which both parents work and single (female) headed households now make up 56% of the workforce. 5
- Estimates suggest that thousands of children under age 6 may stay at home alone and millions of children over 6 are "latch-key" children. 12
- Every \$1 invested in the Head Start program yields a return of \$4.74 in savings due to lower special education costs and higher productivity. 21
- Less than 20% of those eligible for Head Start participate. 21
- Thirty-four percent (34%) of all births to unmarried women were to women under 20. 21
- 21.2% of all children under 15 in the U.S. are impoverished. 21
- 20% of jobs will not support a worker and 2 children. 21
- Women tend to be employed in the low-paying service sector. 21
- As many 50% of all couples will have experienced at least one incident of physical abuse during the course of their marriage.

#### Oregon

- In the past five years, the numbers of suspected child abuse cases in Oregon has gone from 11,000 to 18,000 per year. 12

#### Washington County

- There are 2 United Way funded, non-profit day-care centers in the urban Washington County area and 21 other centers.
- Unsubsidized day care for one child can eat up more than 16% of a \$ 1,000/month check.
- Services for youth include CSD, the WIC program, and three youth service centers.
- Shelter - Domestic Violence Resource Center, provides services to victims of domestic violence and their families.

#### WCCAO

- The Washington County Head Start Program has consistently served around 160 children every year for the past five years.
- The Head Start program is available half days only.

### **Trends (National)**

- The wage gap between men and women's wages will continue.
- Women will continue to enter the workforce, at an even greater rate than men.
- There will be pressure to develop alternative welfare programs -- "workfare" type programs such as the Family Independence Project being developed in Washington state. This will increase child care demands, especially for low cost care.
- Generally, there will continue to be insufficient day care resources.
- Of the ten largest growth occupations (through 1995) six require less than advanced education. The average weekly pay of these six is \$234 (\$1,014/month).

### **Summary and Implications**

Women are entering the labor force in record numbers and will probably continue to do so. This has and will generate an increased need for adequate child care. Subsidized child care enables low-income parents to work or attend job training. A Washington State study indicates that child care problems are an important "barrier to employment" for single mothers on welfare. Although there are child care resources available in Washington County, the costs are substantial. As there seems to be more of an emphasis on alternative "welfare-workfare" programs nation-wide, adequate day-care for low-income will become a more prominent issue.

The Head Start program provides much more than child care and child related activities to the children it serves. Studies nationally have confirmed the economic benefits of the Head Start program. But these benefits are available to only a small number of children who could use the service. Additional emphasis on these and other programs could positively affect children in poverty. In addition, if the Head Start model is a good one for low-income children, it may be construed that it is a good model for all children.

The impact on our society of these increasing numbers of children left alone without supervision, those growing up in predominantly female households and/or those growing up in poverty is difficult to ascertain at present. Services for youth (other than day care) currently tend to be interventionist rather than preventionist in nature. It is often difficult to secure funding for these kinds of services. Children don't vote and so have less of a voice in matters that affect their lives.

### **Additional Conclusions**

- Domestic violence will continue to be a problem and perhaps even increase as the low-income population increases and the stresses that affect this population increase. At the same time, funding is becoming less available.
- There will be greater need for "family wage" jobs and pay equity.
- Intervention is necessary to deal with problems of teen pregnancy, school drop-outs and alcohol and drug use so that the next generation is capable of supporting themselves and their children.
- Pre-natal care and teen pregnancy programs are greatly needed.

## SENIORS

### Demographics (All Washington County data)

- 9.3% of the population is 65 or older (24,784) up from 8.3% in 1980. 13
- In a 1980 survey, 1 out every 5 households had at least 1 senior living in it. 55% of these were low or moderate income households. 3
- 27.1% of households 125% of poverty are aged 60-96 (2,625 households). 13
- Minority elderly made up 2% of the elderly population. 11

### Needs Survey

- Senior needs as a separately identified category did not emerge from needs assessment data.
- 9% of the client/constituents surveyed were seniors.

### Senior Profile Information

#### National Data

- The elderly have substantially lower cash incomes. Nationally, the 1986 poverty rate for elderly was 12.4%. 20
- Elderly poor are generally women -- 71.8%. 20
- Elderly minorities have a poverty rate of 26.7% as compared to the 10.7% poverty rate of elderly whites. 20
- Sixty-nine percent (69%) of seniors voted in the 1980 election. 2
- About 30% of all noninstitutionalized older persons lived alone in 1985. 2
- Between 2 and 25% of the senior population may be experiencing problems due to alcohol use. (Gomberg, E.L., 1980)

#### Washington County Data

- Widows over age 62 have a median income of just less than \$11,000. 48% could be considered low-income as compared to 33% of single female headed households. 3
- Median percent of income spent on housing amounts to 11.7% for senior households and 14.3% for widows over 62 (median percentage of income spent on housing for all populations is 17.8%). 3
- Seniors are served by seven senior center sites, 2 Loaves and Fishes Centers and the Washington County Area Agency on Aging which is charged to plan and develop services to seniors.

#### WCCAO Information

- RSVP program statistics of those seniors enrolled in the RSVP program have increased an average of 20% a year for the past two years.
- Seniors are served through every WCCAO program with the exception of Head Start.

### Trends

- The elderly population will continue to increase. The increase in ten years will be approximately 20%.
- Part-time work will become increasingly important as seniors need additional income to supplement their social security.
- The elderly tend to incur substantial health care costs which

- medicaid/medicare only partially cover. The incidence of chronic illness and disability increases as one ages.
- Frail elderly over 65 are a fast growing population and the "old-old", those over 85, is the fastest growing population.
  - It will continue to be true that most of the elderly are women.
  - The established delivery systems to meet elderly services will be faced with increasing demands.

### **Summary and Implications**

The elderly, like any low-income population, make use of the services available to them. The elderly, however, are often more difficult to reach due to their isolation and a general decline in their social and economic resources. For the many who do not know where to go for services, sensitive outreach becomes increasingly important.

As the elderly population increases, demands for service will increase. The health care system may be even more taxed. The revenue to support health care and basic living (social security) will become increasingly scarce as there are fewer individuals behind the "baby boom" generation to support these systems. All of this could increase competition between the elderly low-income and the younger low-income for services and resources. Since the percentage of older people who vote is great, priorities may shift in spending on federal, state and local levels to fund more senior services. This could put an additional burden on organizations such as WCCAO to either document their services to seniors and/or develop alternative funding resources.

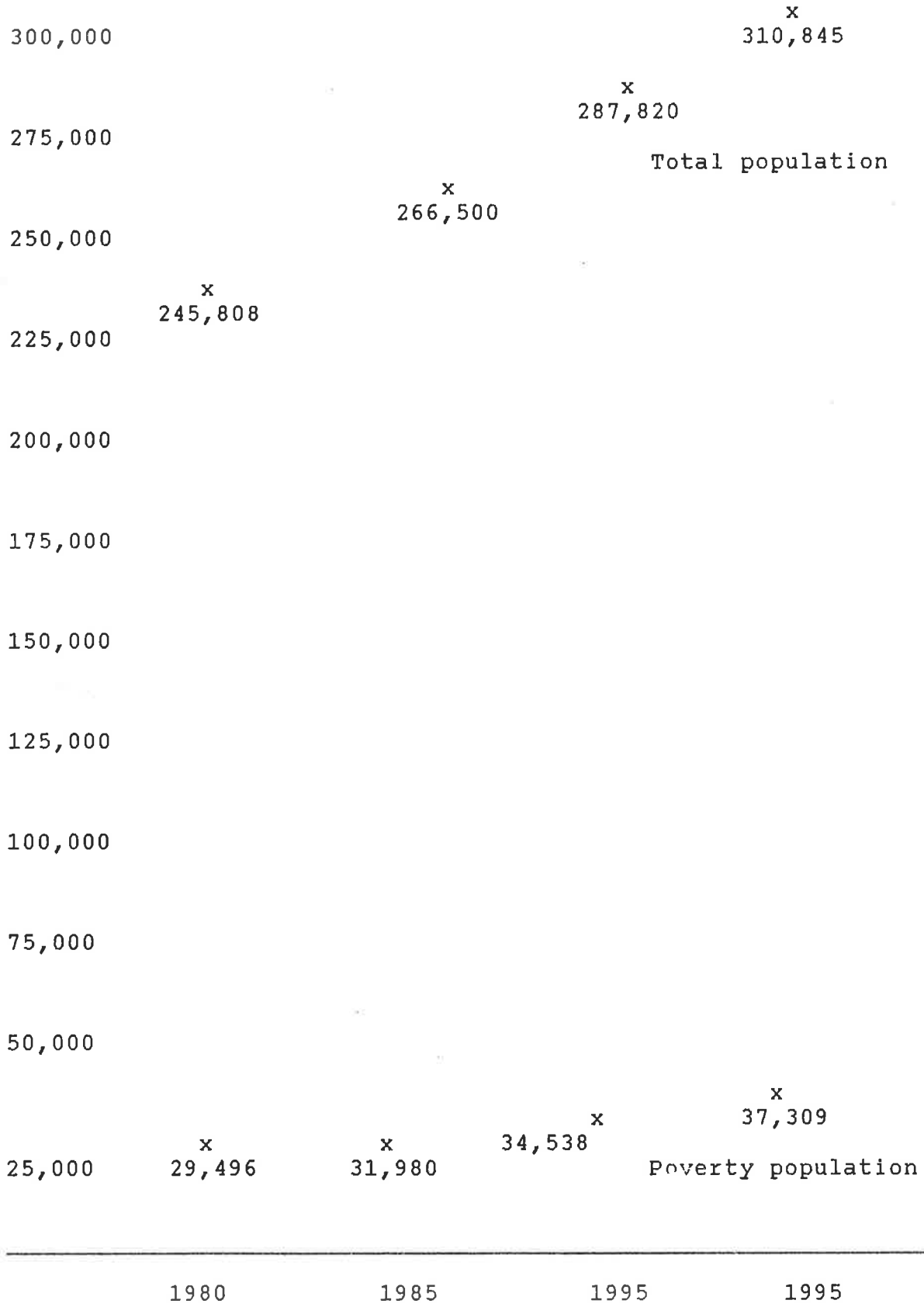
### **Additional Conclusions**

- Transportation to services is more difficult for seniors. Service providers will need to develop new service delivery systems to serve the elderly.
- As the low-income (and healthy) senior population increases, there will be more competition for jobs.
- As more seniors work longer, there will be a decrease in the volunteer pool.
- There will be an increased number of elderly who have been substance abusers in their younger days and who will have added health issues, adding another dimension to a taxed health system. In addition, more seniors may be at risk of becoming substance abusers.
- As the population lives longer, more seniors will outlive their resources thus creating an increased population of seniors in poverty. They will have fewer options in spending their dollars as health care costs eat up their funds.

## RESOURCE READING LIST

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4. Community Profiles Report, 1984, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette
5. "Energy Assistance Advisory Committee Report", 1986, to the Emergency Basic Needs Committee (Portland/Multnomah County)
6. The Future of Human Services, 1987, compiled by James Masters
7. "Hunger Factors Assessment", September, 1986, Oregon Food Share
8. "Health Care for the Medically Poor", 1982, proceedings of the Governor's Conference on Health Care for the Medically Poor
9. The Needs of Washington County's Senior and Disabled Population, 1987, Washington County Area Agency on Aging
10. The Oregonian, articles on hunger and homelessness, November 22, 26, 27, and 28, 1987
11. Oregon and It's Counties, 1980-2000, Center for Population Research and Census, 1984.
12. Oregon's Agenda for the 1990s - Children, Youth and Families, Oregon's Agenda for the 1990s, Dottie Belknap, Editor
13. People Worth Knowing: A Study of Human Needs and Services, 1986, Coalition for Needs Assessment
14. Services for Senior Citizens, 1985, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette
15. Washington County Community Action, Annual Reports from 1977-78 through 1986-87.
16. Washington County Community Development Plan, 1988-1991
17. Washington County 2000, Volumes I through V, Discussion Drafts, 1986
18. Washington County 2000, The Greenest Welcome Mat in Oregon, 1986
19. What Lies Ahead, An Environmental Scan Report, 1985, United Way of America
20. Who Are the Poor, 1987, published by Justice for All

APPENDIX 1  
 POPULATION AND POVERTY GROWTH



APPENDIX 2

RACE  
1

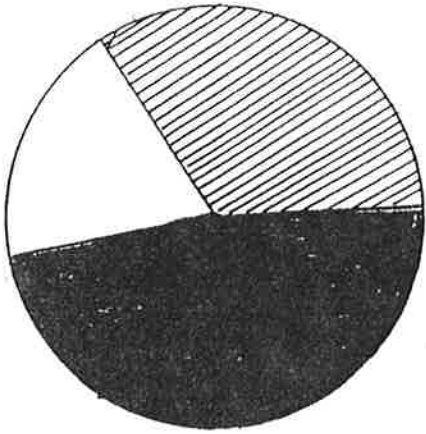
	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE	OTHER
% OF TOTAL POPULATION	93.6	2.6	.5	2.7	.4	.1
% OF "ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED"	88	5	< 1	5	< 1	*
% OF TOTAL ANSWERING WCCAO SURVEY	78	13	5	2	2	*
% OF RACE IN POVERTY	11	24	20	22	21	*

SEX  
1




	FEMALE	MALE
% OF GENERAL POPULATION	52	48
% OF "ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED"	60	40
% OF TOTAL ANSWERING WCCAO SURVEY	73	27

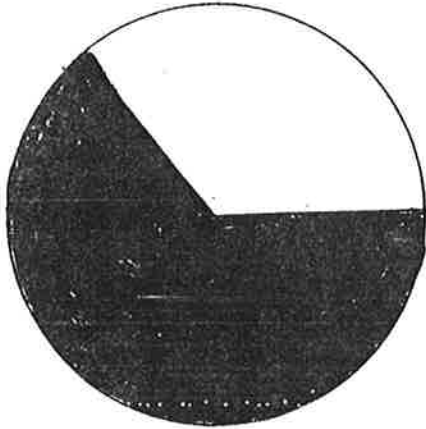
1  
Based on information from 1985 JTPA Planning Categories

APPENDIX 3  
 PROFILE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS\*




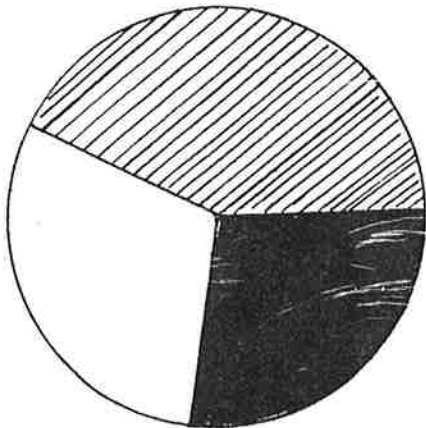
46.7% Poverty households have children with one or two parents

-  Households with children, 46.7%
-  Households with one adult only, 35.6%
-  Households with two adults only, 17.8%






64.6% Poverty households have female household heads

-  Female headed households



27.1% Poverty households have household heads 60 years of age or older

-  Household head 60 years old or older, 27.1%
-  Household head 31-59 years old, 41.7%
-  Household head 19-30 years old, 31.3%

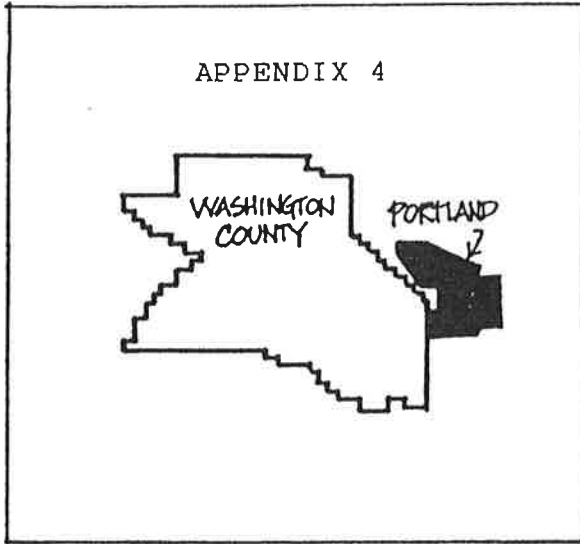
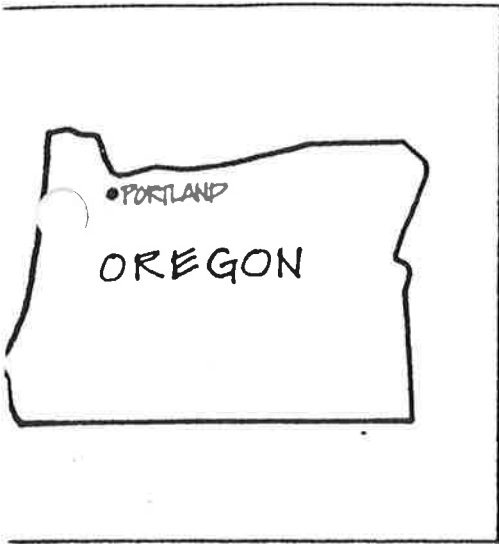
Source: Needs Assessment Coalition data; 125% of poverty, Washington County. Research conducted by Robert C. Holloway Ph.D. and Norman L, Wyers, D.S.W., 1986.

\* Low income is defined as 125% of poverty level.



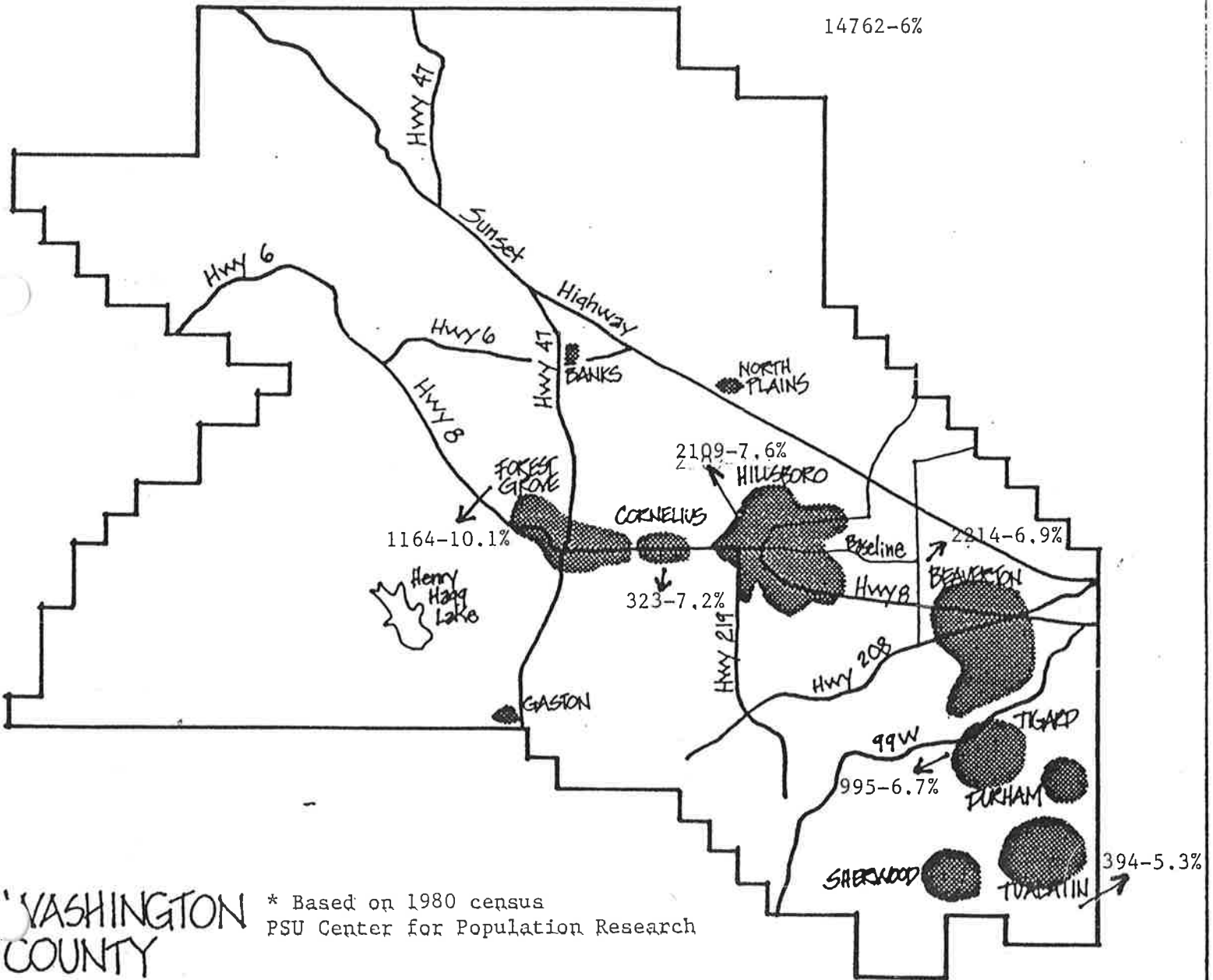


APPENDIX 4



POOR IN WASHINGTON COUNTY\*

14762-6%



WASHINGTON COUNTY

\* Based on 1980 census PSU Center for Population Research

Area	Population	Poverty %
Forest Grove	1164	10.1%
Cornelius	323	7.2%
Hillsboro	2109	7.6%
Beaverton	2814	6.9%
Turham	995	6.7%
Tualatin	394	5.3%



APPENDIX 6

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT--BOARD/VOLUNTEERS

Number surveyed - 60  
Number returned - 26  
Response rate - 38%

1. What are the most important current needs:

Shelter	50%
Food	25%
Employment	29%
Child care	18%
Housing	12%

11% of respondents indicated employment, case management, and energy. All other responses received one cite.

2. What will be the needs in 5 years:

Shelter, food and employment received the most cites (25% or more). Additional issues not previously mentioned included: health care, AIDS, aging, mental health, money management and job search preparation.

3. What external factors affect WCCAO:

Funding	59%
Low visibility	17%

All other responses received 11% or less. These included: reputation as difficult to work with, need to attract more people/dollars (could be seen as a visibility issue), and can WCCAO adequately reflect/represent the county.

4. What internal factors affect WCCAO:

Staff issues/factors	35%
(these ranged from positive comments - the staff is committed, to the neutral - staff is overworked and underpaid, to the negative - staff lacks strong internal cohesion.)	
Internal communications	11%
Sense of direction	11%

5. How well does WCCAC do in meeting community needs:

Very well	30%
Adequately	50%
No response	20%

Comments included: could do a better job with more money; staff lacks commitment; need more visibility; staff does great; don't meet all community needs; leadership is there but staff doesn't seem to know the answers; do too little of many things. (52% of respondents.)

6. In what areas does WCCAO do best:

Food programs (TVFC)	58%
Shelter	29%
Head Start	29%
Energy	23%
RSVP	11%

Youth programs, weatherization and advocacy received on response each.

7. Comments on changes that need to occur:

There is very little consensus on what changes WCCAO could make to do a better job in meeting community needs, although overall it is possible to surmise that increasing pr and community awareness are clear issues. Increased funding came up several times in response to this question but not to any significant degree. Perhaps respondents assumed that since funding was an issue previously mentioned, gaining more funding would help WCCAO do a better job.

Other comments included: the need for centralized Information and Referral; re-evaluate expenditures and re-prioritize; diversify the board; and concentrate on the real issues.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT--CLIENTS/CONSTITUENTS

Number surveyed -- 214 total  
139 clients  
75 others

1. What are the major problem areas you/your family are facing:

Over 50% of responses indicated the following as major need areas - more income, health care and utilities.

Over 25% of responses indicated that employment, food, job counseling and housing were major needs.

2. Have you ever recieved help with problems listed in #1:

Of the total responses, 74% had received at least one service to address at least one of their major problem/need areas; 26% had received no services as they related to the primary need(s).

Respondents who answered surveys while at a WCCAO service center were more likely to indicate that they had received previous WCCAO services. In fact, over 90% had received some WCCAO service at some time. Sixty-three percent had received more than one service, most often a combination of food and energy assistance.

This high level of previous utilization of WCCAO was not consistent for other respondents surveyed outside WCCAO programs. Nearly 70% of these respondents indicated having no previous contact with WCCAO or its programs, although areas of need remained consistent.

3. Other than WCCAO, respondents most frequently received services at FISH, Salvation Army and through churches. Responses were somewhat limited therefore only preliminary conclusions should be draw.

4. What WCCAO services have you received or are you receiving:

For those respondents that received WCCAO services, the following lists those that over 25% of respondents indicated were received:

LIEAP -- 59%

Surplus food -- 57%

Food Box -- 37%

Weatherization -- 35%

Christmas Basket 26% (this number might be skewed by those people who responded yes when they actually received their basket from Salvation Army or some other agency)

5. Satisfaction with WCCAO service:

Most of those who had received WCCAO services were well satisfied with service, treatment and the level of understanding on the part of staff. However, the service that they received did not conclusively help people solve their problem. A little over 50% indicated that they felt their

problem solved to a great degree. Although no one indicated that their problem had not been solved, 18% did not respond. Because many respondents received services for an acute emergency situation - energy assistance, food, etc. - the service may adequately have responded to that emergency but it cannot be concluded, overall, that the service eliminated or reduced the problem.

6. & 7. Further information on satisfaction with WCCAO:

Over 75% would return or send a friend if in need. Comments indicated that WCCAO is a good service and that needs are met there.

8. Pressing community needs:

For those that answered this question (pressing community need) jobs, food, and housing (shelter) were most often cited. Less than 25% of respondents answered this question.

9. Other Comments:

Most often people's comments were thank-you's to WCCAO for having services available and for assisting. Those respondents with familiarity with Head Start commented on the usefulness of the program and the difference it had made with their children. One respondent summed it up with "Community action is good for all of us."

Demographics:

Age -- less than 18	15%
18 - 30	39%
31 - 45	22%
46 - 65	11%
over 65	9%
no answer	4%

Sex - Women 73%  
Men 27%

Race - White 78%  
Hispan 13%  
Black 5%  
Asian 2%  
Native 2%

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT--COMMUNITY LEADERS

Number surveyed - 266  
Number returned - 21  
Response rate - 7.8%

1. Current community needs:

(No item received more than 28%)

Need	% Response	% responses indicating WCCAO as service provider
Housing	28%	< 10%
Food	28%	28%
Health Care	28%	< 10%
Mental Health	23%	< 10%
Education	23%	< 10%
Shelter	23%	28%
Infor/Referral	23%	23%
Alcohol/Drug abuse	23%	< 10%
Employment	23%	< 10%

2. Of the total list of needs in Question 1, which is the most important need in our community today: (aggregated responses)

Cited most often were food, shelter and employment.

3. Key community needs in 5 - 10 years:

Housing, employment, alcohol/drug issues, mental health, and child care.

4. Five year trends likely to affect needs/community:

Declining dollars, increasing population, urbanization, increasing use drugs, single parent households, cuts in AFS, unemployment, and increasing numbers of "specialized" jobs requiring specific training.

5. WCCAO's role:

Community leaders defined WCCAO's role primarily as a service provider and secondarily as a coordinator/catalyst or community leader.

6. Relationship with WCCAO:

Less than 5% of respondents answered this question related to the nature and aspect of their relationship with WCCAO, although the issue of WCCAO visibility in the community did surface.

7. & 8. Affect of WCCAO on the community and areas for improvement:

Several respondents indicated that WCCAO should improve its image as a means of gaining visibility and public acceptance. In particular, WCCAO needed to increase its professionalism in appearing before the community. Leadership, both internal and external, it was suggested, needs to be focused and person to person contact be utilized in furthering WCCAO visibility. One respondent commented that a representative of WCCAO, preferably board or volunteer, should appear at all city/county governmental bodies with hard facts and statistics on the community's needs.

## COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT--SERVICE PROVIDERS

Number surveyed -- 80  
Number returned -- 27  
Response rate -- 34%

### 1. Current community needs

Need	% Response	% responses indicating WCCAO as service provider
Shelter	60%	37%
Food	51%	23%
Housing	48%	14%
Health Care	44%	11%
Mental health	33%	11%
Domestic Violence	29%	14%
Energy Assistance	29%	20%

20% to 25% of respondents cited the following: weatherization; alcohol/drug issues; employment; child care; information and referral; income maintenance.

2. Of the total list of needs in Question 1, which is the most important need in our community today: (aggregated responses)  
Cited most often were housing, shelter and employment.

3. Key community needs in 5 - 10 years:  
Cited most often were housing, employment (14% each), child care, health care and food.

4. Five year trends likely to affect needs/community:  
Employment issues, the economy, increases in housing costs, funding reductions on federal and local levels for social service programs and for individual entitlement programs.

5. WCCAO's Role:  
Almost overwhelmingly, service providers indicated that WCCAO's role is one of leader, coordinator and advocate. Other respondents indicated WCCAO's role as a service deliverer (11%), educator and identifier of needs (7% each).

6. Relationship with WCCAO:  
Of the 16 respondents who answered this question, 37% indicated they had a good relationship with WCCAO. Other comments included: WCCAO should increase communications with others, WCCAO duplicates services already in place (no indications as to which services however).

7. Affect of WCCAO on the community and other comments:  
Several respondents felt that WCCAO has a role in developing networks for information sharing. Three specifically indicated that WCCAO should call together service providers for coordination and planning sessions. Other comments included: expand Head Start, WCCAO should become more familiar with how other organizations function, work with integrity, and, finally, "WCCAO is the community's conscience in action."



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT--WCCAO STAFF

Number surveyed -- 80  
Number returned -- 33  
Response rate -- 41%

1. What are the most important current needs:

Affordable housing	45%
Child care	42%
Employment	33%
Affordable health care	24%

15% of respondents noted food, information and referral, job training and placement, transportation for low income persons, available heat/energy resources.

Employment combined with training and placement totaled 48%.

2. What will the needs be in five years:

Affordable housing, child care, employment, job training and placement, and affordable health care received the most votes.

3. What external factors affect WCCAO:

Funding	70%
Visibility	47%

Other factors listed included: community support, job market/economics, misconceptions about minorities and the low income, county/city reluctance to fund services.

4. What internal factors affect WCCAO:

Not enough staff/trying to do too much	52%
Networking, burn-out, confusing structure	19%

In grouping all responses to this question, the following factors were noted:

Staff	70%
Organization	28%
Client	2%

Thus it could be construed that from the staff perspective, staff issues are the most important internal factor related to WCCAO.

5. How well does WCCAO meet community needs:

Very well	21%
Adequately	70%
Poorly	6%
No response	3%

Comments included: the needs are too great (26% of the 23 comments), more staff needed, need systematic internal referral.

6. In what areas does WCCAO do best:

Head Start	44%
TVFC	34%
Weatherization/energy	31%
Shelter/housing	28%
All others	25%
All programs	9%

7. Comments on changes which need to occur:

The three areas noted most often were:

More financial support	34%
More community support	32%
More staff	16%

In grouping all responses, the following general categories were defined:

Organizational including financial	52%
Staff	35%
Client	13%

8. Other Comments:

All other comments were very general in nature.