

2024/2025

Community Needs Assessment and

Community Action Plan

CSBG/CSP Stanislaus

California Department of Community Services
and Development

Community Services Block Grant



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Introduction

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has developed the 2024/2025 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP) template for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Service Providers network. Each agency must submit a completed CAP, including a CNA to CSD on or before **June 30, 2023**. Changes from the previous template are detailed below in the “What’s New for 2024/2025?” section. Provide all narrative responses in 12-point Arial font with 1.15 spacing. When the CNA and CAP are complete, they should not exceed 65 pages, excluding the appendices.

Purpose

Public Law 105-285 (the CSBG Act) and the California Government Code require that CSD secure a CAP, including a CNA from each agency. Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act directs that receipt of a CAP is a condition to receive funding. Section 12747(a) of the California Government Code requires the CAP to assess poverty-related needs, available resources, feasible goals, and strategies that yield program priorities consistent with standards of effectiveness established for the program. Although CSD may prescribe statewide priorities or strategies that shall be considered and addressed at the local level, each agency is authorized to set its own program priorities in conformance to its determination of local needs. The CAP supported by the CNA is a two-year plan that shows how agencies will deliver CSBG services. CSBG funds are by their nature designed to be flexible. They shall be used to support activities that increase the capacity of low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient.

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification

The Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances are found in section 676(b) of the CSBG Act. These assurances are an integral part of the information included in the CSBG State Plan. A list of the assurances that are applicable to CSBG agencies has been provided in the Federal Programmatic Assurances section of this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and certify that they are complying.

State Assurances and Certification

As required by the CSBG Act, states are required to submit a State Plan as a condition to receive funding. Information provided in agencies’ CAPs will be included in the CSBG State Plan. Alongside Organizational Standards, the state will be reporting on [State Accountability Measures](#) in order to ensure accountability and program performance improvement. A list of the applicable State Assurances and the agency certification for them are found in the State Assurances section of this template.

Compliance with CSBG Organizational Standards

As described in the Office of Community Services (OCS) [Information Memorandum \(IM\) #138](#) dated January 26, 2015, CSBG agencies will comply with implementation of the Organizational Standards. CSD has identified the Organizational Standards that are met through the completion of the CAP and the CNA. A list of Organizational Standards that will be met upon completion of the CAP can be found in the Organizational Standards section of this template. Agencies are encouraged to utilize this list as a resource when reporting on the Organizational Standards annually.

What's New for 2024/2025?

Community Action Plan Workgroup (CAPWG). In summer 2022, CSD organized a workgroup to inform the development of the 2024/2025 CNA and CAP. Workgroup members were selected from the CSBG Service Provider network and the ROMA Coalition. The feedback CSD received from the workgroup has informed not only the 2024/2025 template but also the accompanying CAP training scheduled for mid-December 2022.

Public Hearings – Additional Guidance. The public hearing requirement has been modified. Two years ago, we were in an active pandemic due to the COVID-19 virus. The public health guidelines throughout the state advised communities against large gatherings. CSD advised agencies to follow public health protocols and hold public meeting virtually if an in-person meeting was not an option. For the public hearing on the 2024/2025 draft CAP, CSD requests that agencies conduct in-person, virtual, or hybrid public hearings. While transmission rates of COVID-19 remain high in many communities, agencies are requested to follow their local public health guidelines when deciding in which format to conduct the public hearing. For more information, please see the Public Hearing section of this template.

CNA Helpful Resources. The Helpful Resources section in Part I: Community Needs Assessment contains additional data sets and resources. On recommendation of the CAPWG, CSD has added data sets from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Wisconsin, and a point-in-time data set from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We have also added links to the Local Agencies Portal where you can find examples of completed Community Needs Assessments and project timelines from the CSBG Service Providers network.

Part II: Community Action Plan. The number of questions in the Tripartite Board of Directors, Service Delivery System, Linkages and Funding Coordination, and Monitoring sections has changed. Questions were removed because it was determined that agencies meet these reporting requirements through other CSBG work products such as monitoring and Organizational Standards. In the Service Delivery System and Linkages and Funding Coordination sections, new questions were added. These questions will be covered during the template training webinar.

Sunset of COVID-19 Flexibilities. In the 2022/2023 template, CSD allowed agencies to indicate on selected questions whether there were changes to the response provided in the 2020-2021 CAP or whether agencies would like CSD to accept the 2020-2021 response without adaptations. This option was an effort to reduce administrative burden on agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic. While

CSD has retained some of the flexibilities developed in the previous template, the option for agencies to reference responses in their prior CAP has been discontinued.

Response and Community Awareness. This section replaces the “Additional Information” section in the previous template. For 2024/2025 CSD has included questions pertaining to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The questions about disaster preparedness have been retained from the previous template. While none of this information is directly mandated by statute, CSD is requesting the information to gauge where the CSBG Service Provider network is as a whole on these topics. Responses to the questions in this section are mandatory.

ROMA Certification Requirement. Under section 676(b)(12) of the CSBG Act, CSD and all CSBG agencies are required to assure that we will participate in a Results Oriented Management and Accountability System “not later than fiscal year 2001.” CSD and the CSBG Service Providers have fulfilled this requirement through various approaches. With respect to the ROMA certification of the network CAPs (Organizational Standard 4.3), CSD has allowed agencies to submit their CAP without the signature of a ROMA trainer or implementer if the agency did not have a ROMA trainer or implementer on staff. CSD staff who had the requisite training would certify those CAPs on behalf of the agencies. This process will still be in place for the 2024/2025 template. However, for the 2026/2027 template, CSD will require that CSBG Service Providers provide their own ROMA certification either by staff who have the required ROMA training or in partnership with another agency or organization. CSBG Service Providers should begin formulating a plan to fulfill this requirement.

Checklist

- Cover Page and Certification
- Public Hearing(s)

Part I: Community Needs Assessment

- Narrative
- Results

Part II: Community Action Plan

- Vision Statement
- Mission Statement
- Tripartite Board of Directors
- Service Delivery System
- Linkages and Funding Coordination
- Monitoring
- Data Analysis, Evaluation, and ROMA Application
- Response and Community Awareness
- Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification
- State Assurances and Certification
- Organizational Standards
- Appendices

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)
2024/2025 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan
Cover Page and Certification

Agency Name	Central Valley Opportunity Center
Name of CAP Contact	Jean Warren
Title	Program Manager
Phone	(209) 357-0062 Ext 125
Email	jwarren@cvoc.org

CNA Completed MM/DD/YYYY:
 (Organizational Standard 3.1)

05/09/2023

Board and Agency Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency complies with the Federal CSBG Programmatic, and State Assurances as outlined in the CSBG Act and California Government Code, respectively for services provided under the Federal Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Community Action Plan. The undersigned further certifies the information in this Community Needs Assessment and the Community Action Plan is correct and has been authorized by the governing body of this organization. (Organizational Standard 3.5)

Dec Tatum		
Board Chair (printed name)	Board Chair (signature)	Date
Jorge De Nava		
Executive Director (printed name)	Executive Director (signature)	Date

Certification of ROMA Trainer/Implementer (If applicable)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency's Community Action Plan and strategic plan documents the continuous use of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation).

NCRT/NCRI (printed name)	NCRT/NCRI (signature)	Date

CSD Use Only

Dates CAP (Parts I & II)		Accepted By
Received	Accepted	

Public Hearing(s)

California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d)

State Statute Requirements

As required by California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d), agencies are required to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the draft CAP. All testimony presented by low-income individuals and families during the public hearing shall be identified in the final CAP. Agencies shall indicate whether or not the concerns expressed by low-income individuals and families have been addressed. If an agency determines that any of the concerns have not been addressed in the CAP, the agency shall include in its response document, information about the concerns and comment as to their validity.

Guidelines

Notice of Public Hearing

1. Notice of the public hearing and comment period must be published at least 15 calendar days prior to the public hearing.
2. The notice may be published on the agency's website, social media channels, and/or in newspaper(s) of local distribution.
3. The notice must include information about the draft CAP; where members of the community may review, or how they may receive a copy of, the draft CAP; the dates of the comment period; where written comments may be sent; date, time, and location of the public hearing; and the agency contact information.
4. The comment period should be open for at least 15 calendar days prior to the public hearing. Agencies may opt to extend the comment period for a selected number of days after the hearing.
5. The draft CAP must be made available for public review and inspection at least 30 days prior to the public hearing. The draft CAP can be posted on the agency's website, social media channels, and distributed electronically or in paper format.
6. Attach a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing as Appendix A to the final CAP.

Public Hearing

1. Agencies must conduct at least one public hearing on the draft CAP.
2. Public hearing(s) will be held in the designated CSBG service area(s).
3. Low-income testimony presented at the hearing or received during the comment period must be memorialized verbatim in the Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document and appended to the final CAP as Appendix B.
4. The Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response document should include the name of low-income individual, his/her verbatim testimony, an indication of whether or not the need was addressed in the draft CAP, and the agency's response to the testimony if the concern was not addressed in the draft CAP.

Additional Guidance

COVID-19 poses unique challenges to fulfilling the public hearing requirement. CSD asks that agencies continue to adhere to state and local public health guidance to slow the spread of the virus and ensure public safety. The health and safety of agency staff and the communities you serve is paramount. Therefore, for the purposes of fulfilling the public hearing requirement on the draft CAP, agencies may conduct the public hearing in-person, remotely, or using a hybrid model (in-person and remotely) based on the public health protocols in place in their communities.

Public Hearing Report

Date(s) of Public Hearing(s)	June 13, 2023
Location(s) of Public Hearing(s)	1801 H St, Suite A-4 Modesto, Ca 95354
Dates of the Comment Period(s)	May 12, 2023 - June 13, 2023
Where was the Notice of Public Hearing published? (agency website, newspaper, social media channels)	
Date the Notice(s) of Public Hearing(s) was published	
Number of Attendees at the Public Hearing(s) (Approximately)	

Part I: Community Needs Assessment

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

Helpful Resources

In 2011, NASCSP published a [Community Action to Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment Tool](#) that supports planning and implementing a comprehensive CNA. The tool lays out design choices, planning steps, implementation practices, analysis, and presentation options.

The National Community Action Partnership has an [Assessment Tool](#) designed specifically for the community needs assessment process. Here you can select from a variety of county-specific data sets.

Examples of Community Needs Assessments and project timelines from agencies within the California CSBG Providers network can be found on the [Local Agencies Portal](#) under the CSBG – Resources tab. If you do not have an account or have not received CSD login credentials, please email CSD at ExternalAccess@csd.ca.gov.

To provide a comprehensive “picture” of the community needs in your service area(s), agencies will collect and analyze both quantitative and qualitative data. Links to several national and state quantitative data sets are given below. Local and agency data also provide information about the needs of the community.

Sample Data Sets			
U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Data	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic Data	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Data & Report	
HUD Exchange PIT and HIC Data Since 2007	National Low-Income Housing Coalition Housing Needs by State	National Center for Education Statistics IPEDS	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator		University of Wisconsin Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings	
California Department of Education School Data via DataQuest	California Employment Development Department UI Data by County	California Department of Public Health Various Data Sets	
California Department of Finance Demographics	California Attorney General Open Justice	California Governor’s Office Covid-19 Data	California Health and Human Services Data Portal
CSD Census Tableau Data by County			Population Reference Bureau KidsData

Community Needs Assessment Narrative

CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(3)(C), 676(b)(9)

Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

1. Describe how your agency collected and included current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for your service area. (Organizational Standard 3.2)

CVOC uses the US Census Community Survey as the primary source of data specific to Stanislaus County's poverty rates prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity. CVOC also uses county specific data compiled by local service organizations and county and city departments.

CVOC includes program data collected via our agency databases to determine poverty rates based on various demographics. Reviews county poverty demographics compared to the demographics of clients served by the agency is used to verify that CVOC is providing services to those most in need.

2. Describe the geographic location(s) that your agency is funded to serve with CSBG. If applicable, include a description of the various pockets, high-need areas, or neighborhoods of poverty that are being served by your agency.

CVOC provides CSBG/CSP funded services to low-income individuals and their families in California's Stanislaus County. Stanislaus County is located in the San Joaquin Valley, in the heart of California's agriculturally rich Central Valley, and is the 30th largest county in California at about 1,521 square miles in area. The county is made up of small rural agrarian towns as well as metropolitan cities that are mostly concentrated near the two major north-south routes, Interstate 5 and Highway 99. Due in part to the large geographical size of the county, CVOC's service area is made up of both rural and urban high-needs areas. CVOC has established a physical location in downtown Modesto; located near the transit station and close to a number of bus stops to make services easily accessible to low income individuals living in the urban areas of the county. CVOC saw the need for services in westside of Stanislaus County, and in 2022 CVOC opened a second Career and Service Center in the City of Patterson. The new center in Patterson provides access to the nearby rural and agrarian communities of Newman, Westly, and Grayson. As of April 2023, we have been able to provide assistance to an additional 119 individuals on the westside of the County.

3. Indicate from which sources your agency collected and analyzed quantitative data for the CNA. (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

Federal Government/National Data Sets

- Census Bureau
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Department of Housing & Urban
development
- Department of Health & Human
Services
- National Low-Income Housing Coalition
- National Center for Education Statistics
- Academic data resources
- Other online data resources
- Other

Local Data Sets

- Local crime statistics
- High school graduation rate
- School district school readiness
- Local employers
- Local labor market
- Childcare providers
- Public benefits usage
- County Public Health Department
- Other

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California State Data Sets

- Employment Development Department
- Department of Education
- Department of Public Health
- Attorney General
- Department of Finance
- State Covid-19 Data
- Other

Agency Data Sets

- Client demographics
- Service data
- CSBG Annual Report
- Client satisfaction data
- Other

Surveys

- Clients
- Partners and other service providers
- General public
- Staff
- Board members
- Private sector
- Public sector
- Educational institutions

4. If you selected "Other" in any of the data sets in Question 4, list the additional sources.

CVOC uses public records to conduct research of current conditions in Stanislaus County using Census data, other reports and community assessments.

5. Indicate the approaches your agency took to gather qualitative data for the CNA. (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

Surveys

- Clients
- Partners and other service providers
- General public
- Staff
- Board members
- Private sector
- Public sector
- Educational institutions

Focus Groups

- Local leaders
- Elected officials
- Partner organizations' leadership
- Board members
- New and potential partners
- Clients
- Staff

Interviews

- Local leaders
- Elected officials
- Partner organizations' leadership
- Board members
- New and potential partners
- Clients

 Community Forums **Asset Mapping** **Other**

6. If you selected “Other” in Question 6, please list the additional approaches your agency took to gather qualitative data.

CVOC uses public records to conduct research of current conditions in Stanislaus County using Census data, local agency reports, and community needs assessment conducted by health clinics and other community-based organizations.

7. Describe your agency’s analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data collected from low-income individuals and families. (Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.3)

As a part of the preparation of the 2024/2025 Community Action Plan, CVOC completed a Community Needs Assessment during February to April. The Community Needs Assessment is designed to identify the causes and conditions of poverty in Stanislaus County as well as the needs of the low income. In addition, CVOC sought out input from stakeholders on the service priorities. Using information gather though the Community Needs Assessment, an analysis of both qualitative (data that was gathered through surveys, community meetings, input from CVOC staff and clients, input from local agencies) and quantitative data (statistics gathered from Census data and other sources), CVOC developed the Community Needs Assessment that is reflective of the input of data these two data gathering methods.

Central Valley Opportunity Center analysis of the needs of the low-income population of Stanislaus County consisted of a review of current program operations, evaluation of program effectiveness, community needs assessment meetings, solicitation of input from the community at large, coordination meetings with other service providers as well as examination of the community profile and identified needs of the low-income population of the county. CVOC conducted a Community Needs Survey as part of the annual planning process and sent surveys out to stake holders. The results of this Community Needs Surveys are included in the Community Needs Assessment.

8. Summarize the data gathered from each sector of the community listed below and detail how your agency used the information to assess needs and resources in your agency’s service area(s). Your agency must demonstrate that each sector was included in the needs assessment; A response for each sector is required. (CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(3)(C), 676(b)(9), Organizational Standard 2.2)

A. Community-based organizations

CVOC utilized the Community Needs Assessment Survey and conducted 6 Community Meetings to survey all sectors of the community. The survey was mailed out to community- based organization using our emailing list. Results from completed surveys were entered on an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed to determine responses from the various entities. The Survey asked respondent to identify which sector they represent and this information was analyzed to determine the input by sector. During Community Meetings, any verbal input from representative of these sectors was also included in CVOC Community Needs Assessment. During the community needs process community-based organization identified the need for employment services, homeless services, the need for affordable

housing, and a lack of community resources or knowledge of these resources.

B. Faith-based organizations

CVOC utilized the Community Needs Assessment Survey and conducted 6 Community Meetings to survey all sectors of the community. The survey was mailed out to faith-based organizations using our emailing list. Results from completed surveys were entered on an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed to determine responses from the various entities. The Survey asked respondent to identify which sector they represent and this information was analyzed to determine the input by sector. During Community Meetings, any verbal input from representative of these sectors was also included in CVOC Community Needs Assessment. During the community needs assessment process, faith-based organization representatives identified employment services, substance abuse counseling, vocational training, and GED courses as the top needs in the community.

C. Private sector (local utility companies, charitable organizations, local food banks)

CVOC utilized the Community Needs Assessment Survey and conducted 6 Community Meetings to survey all sectors of the community. The survey was distributed to private sector organizations using our emailing list. Results from completed surveys were entered on an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed to determine responses from the various entities. The Survey asked respondent to identify which sector they represent and this information was analyzed to determine the input by sector. During Community Meetings, any verbal input from representative of these sectors was also included in CVOC Community Needs Assessment. During the community needs assessment process, private sector representatives identified assistance for homeless individuals, affordable housing, education, and drug/substance abuse counselling as the top needs in the community.

D. Public sector (social services departments, state agencies)

CVOC utilized the Community Needs Assessment Survey and conducted 6 Community Meetings to survey all sectors of the community. The survey was mailed out to public sector agencies using our emailing list. Results from completed surveys were entered on an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed to determine responses from the various entities. The Survey asked respondent to identify which sector they represent and this information was analyzed to determine the input by sector. During Community Meetings, any verbal input from representative of these sectors was also included in CVOC Community Needs Assessment. During the community needs assessment process, public sector representatives identified mental health and substance abuse counseling as a need, as well as assistance for homeless individuals, veterans, and disabled individuals.

E. Educational institutions (local school districts, colleges)

CVOC utilized the Community Needs Assessment Survey and conducted 6 Community Meetings to survey all sectors of the community. The survey was mailed out to educational institutions using our emailing list. Results from completed surveys were entered on an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed to determine responses from the various entities. The Survey asked respondent to identify which sector they represent and this information was analyzed to determine the input by sector. During Community Meetings, any verbal input from representative of these sectors was also included in CVOC Community Needs Assessment. During the community needs assessment process, individuals representing educational institutions identified affordable housing, food and nutrition, affordable healthcare, and school as the top needs in the community.

9. “Causes of poverty” are the negative factors that create or foster barriers to self-sufficiency and/or reduce access to resources in communities in which low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of the data, describe the causes of poverty in your agency’s service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

Analysis of Census and other data, community needs surveys and focus group community meetings, that were employed to identify the causes that contribute to poverty affecting the communities in Stanislaus County can be summarized as follows:

Unemployment/Working Poor: Low-income client, community members, and local service groups, who responded to CVOC's Community Needs Survey, cited unemployment and/or low wage jobs as a contributing factor to most other problems facing the low-income populations. Unemployment in Stanislaus County is 6.9%, which is higher than both the state and national average, and was ranked the top problem in the community. Unskilled low wage jobs or seasonal employment are not enough to cover the rising cost of living in the County. Full-time employment now does not always equate to financial stability. The majority of low-income clients who are unable to obtain adequately paid employment lack specific vocational or educational skills for high-demand, well-paid occupations that would enable them to compete for full-time employment paying higher wages and benefits. Low-income clients who have acquired new skills will need to compete with more skilled applicants and thus require assistance with job search techniques in order to be able to obtain employment in skilled occupation.

Homelessness: Homelessness and those considered housing insecure cite the lack of affordable housing, loss of employment, substance abuse, and mental health issues as the root of their homelessness. Addressing the varied problems of the chronic homeless clients is a challenge facing not just the county or one single agency, but a nationwide systemic issue. The most successful program addressing the issue homelessness or housing insecurity through a holistic approach; providing clients with access or referrals to counseling, shelter, rental assistance, and vocational and/or employment services.

Lack of Affordable Housing: Rising cost of housing in the Central Valley continues to be an issue. Over 15,400 low-income renter households in Stanislaus County do not have access to an affordable home. Affordable housing is difficult to find and some of the low-income housing is either in bad condition or located in high crime areas. A majority of low-income renters are cost burned, meaning that more than half of their income is spent on housing costs and very little is left to pay for other basic necessities such as food or emergencies. Adequate and stable housing is the foundation for good physical and mental health, as well as employment stability.

Health Care Access and Availability: Health care costs are high, even for those with insurance co-payments. Unsubsidized monthly premiums are high and act as an additional barrier to accessing health care. No cost or low-cost clinics are unable to meet the needs of those who lack back health care. Lack of knowledge of how to access health insurance appears to be a problem for those that are socially isolated due to language barriers or legal residency issues. Stanislaus County, like more of the united states is facing a shortage of providers. The shortage of physicians is also seen in other areas of healthcare such as in mental health, and dental care.

Lack of Transportation: Rural low-income resident cited a lack of public transportation in their communities created problems when seeking employment, training, education, and other needed services. Since many of the services are only available in the larger cities, those in rural areas had less access due to transportation issues. Residents who lacked reliable private vehicles cited that

job opportunities in the large cities were not accessible without public transportation. Since education and training programs and facilities are located in major cities, transportation was an

Unforeseen Emergencies: Since most low-income families exist at or below the Federal Poverty Level, few have the financial resources to handle even minor emergencies. Low-income families often require assistance for travel, health, food, housing, clothes or other one-time needs. Living in poverty does not allow for most households to save for emergencies as most income would go to meeting immediate basic needs.

10. “Conditions of poverty” are the negative environmental, safety, health and/or economic conditions that may reduce investment or growth in communities where low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of the data, describe the conditions of poverty in your agency’s service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

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Economic Conditions: Poor economic conditions reduce the growth of the low-income individuals that live in the county. Unemployment in the county has historically been higher than the national and state average. Pre-pandemic unemployment in the area was 6.5% in comparison to the 4.3% of the state and 3.5% of the nation. Current unemployment in the County is slightly higher than pre-pandemic unemployment at 6.9% for March 2023. During the community needs assessment low income individuals expressed concerns about low wage jobs, and the need to attract higher paying jobs to the area.

Health Conditions: Poor physical and mental health can negatively impact the overall quality of life and an individual's chances of employment and income earning potential. The service area has 20% fewer doctors, and 24% fewer dentist than the state average. Higher rates of chronic diseases and disability are a health concern for local area providers. Kaiser Permanente states that the Modesto service area has higher rates of heart disease deaths, stroke deaths, diabetes, and people with disabilities than the state average. Mental health conditions in the service area are just as bad with residents reporting 19% more poor mental health days per month than the state average, and rates of death of despair are 21% higher than the state average.

Crime and Safety: The lack of safety in predominantly low-income neighborhoods reduces the growth of low- income individuals in those neighborhoods. The low-income households are the most vulnerable in terms of the being able to recover from the personal impact of crimes due to lack of resources to replace property, obtain needed health care, relocate to safer areas or obtain needed assistance from the community. Residents of low-income communities cite gang related crime in their communities as a major problem. Gang related activities have been at the center of many forums and discussions within the county. While most community leaders, agencies and law enforcement have spent time and resources on gang prevention, there is no easy solution to the problem of organized gang crimes. Most agencies focus on gang prevention through the provision of services to deter youth and young adults from joining gang and committing crimes.

COVID-19: The after effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still felt in the community, and recovery has been slow in the Central Valley. Low-income households were among the hardest hit and have been slower to recovery than other populations. The pandemic magnified the clear disparities and inequities between race, economic status, age, and gender as infection soared in low-income communities and communities of color. Low-income households lost heads of household, lost employment, received unexpected medical bills, and some had adverse health complication that caused permanent disability; which drove many into further depths of poverty. During the 2022 Point-In-Time Count, 11% of homeless recorded stated that they were homeless as a direct result of COVID-19. Due to distribution chain issues caused by the pandemic, much like everyone else, residents in the County are struggling to afford everyday essentials. During our community needs assessment process low-income clients and community members stated the need for additional assistance with basic necessities such as food, gas, utilities, and rental assistance.

11. Describe your agency's approach or system for collecting, analyzing, and reporting customer satisfaction data to the governing board. (Organizational Standard 1.3)

CVOC surveys all clients participating in agency programs at varying intervals to determine satisfaction with the services provided. From these surveys, CVOC analyzes the responses of the clients and includes these in the planning and development of programs and services as well as reports to the CVOC Board of Directors. During the 2024/2025 CSBG Annual Plan development and Community Needs Assessment process, CVOC included a customer satisfaction survey question: "If you have used or are familiar with CVOC's programs and services, please complete the following scale. Please rate the quality and effectiveness of CVOC's services. (Please enter a check mark in the box using key below) 1= Poor; 2= Fair 3=Good 4= Excellent; or DK = Don't Know." Results of these surveys were included as part of the Community Needs Assessment. See Appendix C.

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Community Needs Assessment Results

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

State Plan 14.1a

Table 1: Needs Table

Complete the table below. Insert row(s) if additional space is needed.

Needs Identified	Level	Agency Mission (Y/N)	Currently Addressing (Y/N)	Agency Priority (Y/N)
Unemployment	Family	Yes	Yes	Yes
Homelessness	Community	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crime and Gang Violence	Community	No	No	No
Health Care Access	Community	No	No	No
Illiteracy/ High School Dropout	Family	Yes	Yes	Yes

Needs Identified: List the needs identified in your most recent CNA.

Level: List the need level, i.e., community or family. **Community Level:** Does the issue impact the community, not just clients or potential clients of the agency? For example, a community level employment need is: There is a lack of good paying jobs in our community. **Family Level:** Does the need concern individuals/families who have identified things in their own life that are lacking? An example of a family level employment need would be: Individuals do not have good paying jobs.

Essential to Agency Mission: Indicate if the identified need aligns with your agency's mission.

Currently Addressing: Indicate if your agency is already addressing the identified need.

Agency Priority: Indicate if the identified need will be addressed either directly or indirectly.

Table 2: Priority Ranking Table

List all needs identified as an agency priority in Table 1. Insert row(s) if additional space is needed.

Agency Priorities	Description of programs, services, activities	Indicator(s) or Service(s) Category	Why is the need a priority?
1. Employment Job Skills Training and Job Placement Assistance	Vocational Training, Job Search Workshops, Job Development, Job Placement, Employment Support Services	FNPI and SRV	Community residents identified unemployment as the largest problem facing their community and unemployment rate in the County is high. Through employment and career services CVOC will provide the tools needed to self-sufficiency.
2. Homeless Prevention and Homeless Assistance	Rental Assistance, Hotel/Motel Stays, Housing Counseling, Tenant/Landlord mediation, Referral Services	FNPI and SRV	Community residents identified homelessness as the second most pressing issue facing their community. CVOC will provide rental assistance, housing counseling, mediation, and referrals to additional assistance to individuals who are housing insecure. CVOC will assist homeless individuals by providing emergency shelter and referrals to long-term shelters.
3. Housing/Energy Assistance	Energy Payment Assistance, Home Weatherization, Appliance Replacement	FNPI and SRV	Adequate and safe housing is essential for overall health, quality of life, and employment stability.
4. Education GED, ESL	High School Equivalency Classes, English-as-a-Second language Classes, Remedial Education	FNPI and SRV	Community residents identified Illiteracy and High School Dropout as the fifth highest problem facing their community. CVOC provides educational services to promote career and educational advancement.
5. Community Resources Accessibility to Needed Services	Community Resources Referral and Coordination.	FNPI, CNPI, SRV	Referrals and coordination are an important part of removing barriers to self-sufficiency for clients facing a variety of challenges. CVOC refers clients to community

			partners that can fill service gaps or have an additional expertise in area of need.
6. Emergency Assistance	Emergency Food, Shelter, clothing, and other services	FNPI and SRV	Emergency assistance provides supportive services to remove temporary barrier to obtaining stable employment, vocational training, or higher educational attainment.
7. Program Development	Planning and program expansion and development. Coordinating and collaboration to expand services.	CNPI	Planning and program development are needed in order to coordinate services and bring in additional programs and funds to continue to assist low-income individuals.
8. Transportation Assistance	CVOC Transportation system, bus pass, emergency transportation assistance, transportation to needed social services.	FNPI, CNPI, SRV	Transportation assistance is a priority due to the lack of public transportation. Lack of transportation cited as a major barrier to access services and training.

Agency Priorities: Rank your agency's planned programs, services and activities to address the needs identified in Table 1 as agency priorities.

Description of programs, services, activities: Briefly describe the program, services or activities that your agency will provide to address the need. Identify the number of clients to be served or the number of units offered, including timeframes for each.

Indicator/Service Category: List the indicator(s) (CNPI, FNPI) or service(s) (SRV) that will be reported in CSBG Annual Report.

Why is this need a priority: Provide a brief explanation about why this need has been identified as a priority. Connect the need with the data. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A))

Part II: Community Action Plan

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Sections 12745(e), 12747(a)

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 11, Chapter 1, Sections 100651 and 100655

Vision and Mission Statement

1. Provide your agency's Vision Statement.

Our vision is that people in our communities have stable and secure futures.

2. Provide your agency's Mission Statement.

Our mission is to provide employment, skills training, education, and emergency services to improve the quality of life for farmworkers and underserved members in our communities.

Tripartite Board of Directors

CSBG Act Sections 676B(a) and (b); 676(b)(10)

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 11, Chapter 1, Section 100605

1. Describe your agency's procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization or low-income individuals to be inadequately represented on your agency's board to petition for adequate representation. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(10))

CVOC's Board of Directors is a tripartite board which includes representation from the low/moderate income community as well as representation from the public sector which may include representatives from community organizations that serve the low-income population. Should an individual, group or organization that serves the low-income request representation on the CVOC Board of Directors, the procedure for submission of an application and procedures for selection of Board representatives, contained in the CVOC Board of Directors By Laws will be followed. A copy of the CVOC By Laws have been submitted to the Department of Community Services and Development and are available for review at the CVOC Administrative Offices in Winton, California. Representation on the CVOC Board of Directors is dictated by the By Laws and requests to amend the Board representation must follow the procedures contained in the By Laws.

Service Delivery System

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A)

State Plan 14.3

1. Describe your agency's service delivery system. Include a description of your client intake process or system and specify whether services are delivered via direct services or subcontractors, or a combination of both. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(A), State Plan 14.3)

CVOC will comply with the requirement to serve eligible beneficiaries as defined by Government Code Section 12730(f). CVOC performs intake and eligibility determinations on all clients seeking any type of financial assistance under the CSBG Program/s. CVOC has developed a Client Intake/Eligibility system which ensures that clients are eligible to receive services. CVOC's Management Information Systems provides for proper documentation of eligibility for services. CVOC allows for self-certification for short-term services when clients are not able to produce verification of income. However, CVOC has access to EDD Wage Report verification information and in most cases can obtain some proof on income to determine that the client meets the income eligibility for services.

CVOC's service delivery system focuses heavily on Family Self-Sufficiency activities due to the serious family development needs of the low-income population. Given the socio-economic conditions of the county and taking into consideration economy, labor market and growth occupations, CVOC's strategy provides direct services that remove common employment barriers, provide job skills training, and job placement assistance with the goal of self-sufficiency.

2. Describe how the poverty data related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity referenced in Part I, Question 1 informs your service delivery and strategies in your service area?

CVOC conducts a Community Needs Assessment every two years and identifies the current needs of the low-income community in Stanislaus County. CVOC uses client input gathered through customer satisfaction surveys, employer surveys, and agency data; as well as poverty data in relation to race/ethnicity, gender, age, as a critical part of the Community Needs Assessment process. CVOC uses data collected to inform the service delivery and strategies CVOC will follow.

Linkages and Funding Coordination

CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(B) and (C); (3)(B), (C) and (D); 676(b)(4), (5), (6), and (9)

California Government Code Sections 12747, 12760

Organizational Standards 2.1, 2.4

State Plan 9.3a, 9.3b, 9.4b, 9.6, 9.7, 14.1b, 14.1c, 14.3d, 14.4

1. Describe how your agency coordinates funding with other providers in your service area. If there is a formalized coalition of social service providers in your service area, list the coalition(s) by name and methods used to coordinate services/funding. (CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(C), 676(b)(3)(C); Organizational Standard 2.1; State Plan 14.1c, 9.6, 9.7)

CVOC coordinates the CSBG/CSP Program with all other programs operated by the agency or other agencies that serve the needs of low-income population of Stanislaus County. Central Valley Opportunity Center pursues a course of community involvement and cooperation for the maximum utilization of resources. CVOC is participating in several of the current efforts to coordinate and improve the provision of education and employment services. These projects include Welfare to Work, School to Work and One Stop Shop initiatives. CVOC's approach is to provide its participants with supportive services through an active referral program to community resources capable of providing the desired service. Relations with other service deliverers have been established through financial and non-financial agreements. Other cooperative relationships have been developed through over 44 years of working together to improve our communities.

2. Provide information on any memorandums of understanding and/or service agreements your agency has with other entities regarding coordination of services/funding. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9), Organizational Standard 2.1; State Plan 14.1c, 9.6, 9.7)

CVOC has active representation on the Stanislaus County Workforce Innovation and Opportunities (WIOA) Boards and MOU and service agreements that include the development of policies and service systems to increase employment and training services to the low-income population of Stanislaus County. CVOC has a service MOU agreement with the Human Services Department in Stanislaus County and has partnered with this agency on Welfare to Work project. CVOC has operated several projects in conjunction with the local Employment Development Department for providing Rapid Response for dislocated agricultural workers. From 2021 to early 2022 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CVOC developed partnerships with the County of Stanislaus agencies to coordinate and provide direct services to the low-income and agriculture workers.

3. Describe how your agency ensures delivery of services to low-income individuals while avoiding duplication of services in the service area(s). (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(5), State Plan 9.3a, California Government Code 12760)

CVOC's outreach efforts are targeted to reach the low-income communities as well as those individuals and families most in need of services. CVOC maintains communications networks through staff participation at community meetings, community events, job fairs, or other functions that

are of interest to the low-income community. Management staff regularly participates in collaboration and coordination events and meetings with service delivery agencies, local government, faith-based organizations, education, employment and other public service groups. These activities seek to reduce duplicative services and increase targeted services to those individuals, families and communities most in need.

4. Describe how your agency will leverage other funding sources and increase programmatic and/or organizational capacity. (California Government Code Section 12747)

CVOC's strives to maximize services by leveraging CSBG funds with other public and private resources both within the agency and through participation in cooperative programs with other agencies. Some examples of this includes; CVOC utilizes Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds to augment CSBG employment in training activities targeting youth, migrant and seasonal farmworkers and dislocated agriculture workers. CVOC utilizes High School Equivalency funds to enhance CSBG services in the areas of high school diploma and GED attainment. CVOC utilizes LIHEAP and DOE energy program, funds to provide energy related payment assistance, assistance with appliance replacement and weatherization and solar installations. CVOC has received various emergency assistance and jobs programs for residents in Stanislaus County. CVOC's received funding to operate Welfare to Work Learn 2 Earn and High School Equivalency which serves current Cal Works/Cal Fresh recipients in securing employment, through structured job search activities and HiSET preparation courses. Through the leveraging of these resources and other resources, CVOC provides a much broader range of services and more comprehensive activities to the low-income clients.

5. Describe your agency's contingency plan for potential funding reductions. (California Government Code Section 12747)

In the event that federal funding is reduced, management will notify the CVOC Board of Directors of the amount of the reduction, the status of the current programs and provide an evaluation of the current program activities. The Board of Directors, along with management staff, will develop proposed reductions and/or elimination of activities based on the following:

1. Determination of activities which may be funded from other sources such as other grants/contracts, in kind services, volunteer programs or increased match contributions.
2. Evaluation of staff assigned to the CSBG/CSP program activities, workloads in light of reduced funding for consideration or consolidated of positions, lay-off recommendations and alternative funding of positions.
3. Review of across-the-board reduction of program activities and services in relation to the amount of the funding reduction.

The CVOC Board of Directors will hold public hearings and request input on service reductions. The Board and management staff will prepare a recommendation on the reductions and consider

alternatives prior to a final decision.

While any reduction in funding will impact the service levels, total elimination of funding would impact the ability of the agency to continue to operate some major components of our services to the low-income population of Stanislaus County. Severe reductions in CSBG funding would significantly reduce or eliminate services in areas of employment and training and education services, emergency services, public education and a substantial portion of the family development activities, reduce the ability of the agency to maintain the planning/development and agency coordination functions.

6. Describe how your agency documents the number of volunteers and hours mobilized to support your activities. (Organizational Standard 2.4)

CVOC's tracking and reporting of volunteer hours are limited to the CVOC Board of Directors volunteer hours as there is no other current active volunteer program. CVOC volunteer board hours are tracked by the board liaison through attendance at board and committee meetings, attendance at board trainings and conferences.

7. Describe how your agency will address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(1)(B), State Plan 14.1b)

CVOC coordinates with local at-risk youth programs to provide job training, work experience, life skills training, job development, volunteer opportunities and youth mentoring. CVOC coordinates with local school districts for our High School Equivalency Program

8. Describe how your agency will promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs such as the establishment of violence-free zones, youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, entrepreneurship programs, after after-school childcare. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(1)(B), State Plan 14.1b)

CVOC provides information and referral as well as public education to inform and the low income population of child care programs provided by local education agencies. CVOC coordinates with local child care and after school program to provide child care services to assist the low-income population.

9. Describe the coordination of employment and training activities as defined in Section 3 of the Workforce and Innovation and Opportunity Act [29 U.S.C. 3102]. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(5); State Plan 9.4b)

CVOC has active representation on the Stanislaus County Workforce Innovation and Opportunities (WIOA) boards and has worked with them in the development of policies and service systems that include service to the low-income population of Stanislaus County. CVOC participates in monthly

Workforce Development meetings, development of Workforce Service Plans, participates in staff cross training, works with local shared technology development efforts, works with committee on issues of standardization, such as assessment, job development, facility design and other related issues. These efforts have improved the integration of the different partners systems.

CVOC has a service MOU agreement with the Department in Stanislaus County and has partnered with One Stop through the cross utilization of staff and standardized operating procedures. Based upon the common understanding developed through on-going efforts, the local Workforce Development groups are successfully operating service systems. Based upon the local partnership, CVOC has a good understanding of the local priorities, operating concerns, structures and our role in the local system.

CVOC has operated several projects in conjunction with the local Workforce Department. CVOC has contracted to jointly provided Dislocated Agricultural Worker WOIA Adult and Youth projects. In addition to working with the Department, CVOC has co-enrolled clients with the local Department of Rehabilitation, Social Services Cal Works and Housing Authority.

10. Describe how your agency will provide emergency supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary, to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(4), State Plan 14.4)

CVOC provides direct assistance in the form of food vouchers and through referral to local food banks, Cal Fresh (SNAP) programs, WIC, or other agencies. Referrals to faith-based organizations that provide emergency food assistance to the low-income population of Stanislaus County. CVOC provides nutrition public education classes that include information on applying for the food assistance as well as information on shopping for and preparing low-cost meals.

11. Describe how your agency coordinates with other antipoverty programs in your area, including the emergency energy crisis intervention programs under Title XXVI, relating to low-income home energy assistance (LIHEAP) that are conducted in the community. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(6))

CVOC provides direct assistance in the form of rental and utility payment assistance for clients who are in jeopardy of losing their housing and/or utilities or are homeless and need assistance in obtaining housing. CVOC provides referral to local housing programs for assistance in home purchases housing rehabilitation or other housing needs. CVOC operates various home weatherization and energy conservation programs which provide low-income clients with the ability to maintain their home and improve their living conditions.

12. Describe how your agency coordinates services with your local LIHEAP service provider?

CVOC is the LiHEAP provider in Stanislaus County.

13. Describe how your agency will use funds to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives, which may include fatherhood and other initiatives, with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(D), State Plan 14.3d)

CVOC utilizes funds to support community initiatives and provides non-financial support through active participation in neighborhood initiatives and innovative community projects. CVOC receives a number of local contracts which are designed to address the goal of strengthening families and moving families from dependence on public assistance to self-sufficiency.

CVOC's operation of the Cal Works program and public education activities include goals of family development and parental responsibility. CVOC's Case Management approach to services includes the goal of strengthening families and assisting families to develop goals for themselves and their communities. CVOC partners with local agencies involved in community and neighborhood initiatives to include the goal of family development.

14. Describe how your agency will develop linkages to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(B), State Plan 9.3b)

CVOC has a strong presence within Stanislaus County and is an active partner in the service area provider network. We seek to collaborate and coordinate with partners and funders to strengthen services and achieve positive results for the low-income individuals in Stanislaus County. CVOC leadership and center management staff are engaging and collaborative partners who attend community events, and regional collaborative meetings. Leadership and management are constantly looking for new opportunities to apply for supportive funding and partnerships through new grants, projects, and activities that aligned with our agency mission.

Monitoring

CSBG Act Section 678D(a)(1)(A) and (B)

1. Describe how your agency's monitoring activities are related to establishing and maintaining the integrity of the CSBG program. Include your process for maintaining high standards of program and fiscal performance.

CVOC utilizes the following systematic approach to monitoring all grants and programs operated by the agency:

Compliance Monitoring: To ensure that the requirements of a specified agreement or document are met. These are the Act Regulations, Annual Plan and any sub-agreement entered into under this grant as the documents against which compliance is monitored.

Plan versus Actual Monitoring: Provides CVOC with current information on the extent to which programs and various components are achieving goals in the Annual Plan or sub-grant contract. Using MIS reports, an analysis can be used to assess progress toward goals and objectives, to identify existing or emerging problems, and to indicate if corrective action should be initiated.

Managerial Monitoring: To review the quality of the program and effectiveness of services to participants. Program planners will "troubleshoot" problems identified through desk or compliance review, determine corrective action, provide technical assistance, and provide daily liaison with the agency or program to ensure that corrective action occurs.

Monitoring activities are operated through CVOC's Planning unit. CVOC Board of Directors conducts additional monitoring through review of reports to the board and evaluations of the Strategic Plan goals and outcomes. CVOC conducts annual and monthly program evaluations. Program design includes performance measures, as well as procedures for obtaining required information, in order to conduct evaluation of the programs.

2. If your agency utilizes subcontractors, please describe your process for monitoring the subcontractors. Include the frequency, type of monitoring, i.e., onsite, desk review, or both, follow-up on corrective action, and issuance of formal monitoring reports.

NIA - CVOC does not use subcontractors.

Data Analysis, Evaluation, and ROMA Application

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12)

Organizational Standards 4.2, 4.3

1. Describe your agency's method for evaluating the effectiveness of programs and services. Include information about the types of measurement tools, the data sources and collection procedures, and the frequency of data collection and reporting. (Organizational Standard 4.3)

CVOC has a formal monitoring and evaluation structure, which is utilized for controlling all the corporation's activities. The following brief outline summarizes the steps, which are taken to track and report the CSBG program's progress.

- At the start of each program year, staff receive an orientation to the goals and activities of the program. Reporting forms and requirements are distributed and reviewed to ensure an understanding of the required reporting procedures.
- In-house reports are submitted by staff on a monthly basis to the County Director, who reviews them for completeness, accuracy and to determine the level of activity within each component of the program. Based on this information, the County Director will make staffing changes or other program modifications. The County Director submits reports to the Planning Unit before the 5th working day of each month.
- The Planning Department prepares reports or notifies the Executive Director directly of program performance levels and areas of concern. Quarterly reports are submitted to the Executive Director for review and submission.

2. Applying the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation, describe one change your agency made to improve low-income individuals' and families' capacity for self-sufficiency. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.2)

CVOC conducted student lead assessments of our vocational and educational training programs. CVOC conducted classroom training reviews in order to gauge student satisfaction with courses that are currently offered to determine if there was a need for improvements such as new equipment, improvements to curriculum, and instructor performance. Administrative staff analyzed the data collected from these student surveys implemented staff training development, and improvement to classroom trainings. Low-income individuals' capacity for self-sufficiency improved through modifications made to classroom trainings as individual are better prepared. During the Community needs assessment CVOC saw an increase in student satisfaction with vocational trainings and educational classes.

3. Applying the full ROMA cycle, describe one change your agency facilitated to help revitalize the low-income communities in your agency's service area(s). (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.2)

During the COVID19 pandemic, CVOC identified the need for community resources in the westside of the County. CVOC assessed the possibility of expanding our physical presence and applied for general funding grants to open a new center. The process was long, but the new location opened in late 2022. City of Patterson CVOC Service Center provides services to the rural communities of Newman, Westly, and Grayson. As of April 2023, our new center has assisted 119 individuals.

DRAFT

Response and Community Awareness

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Does your agency have Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs in place that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals, including people of different ages, races and ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, genders, religions, cultures, and sexual orientations?

Yes

No

2. If yes, please describe.

3. Does your agency have Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies in place that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals, including people of different ages, races and ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientations?

Yes

No

4. If yes, please describe.

Central Valley Opportunity Center is committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. CVOC is an equal opportunity employer. Company policy prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, gender, gender identity, religion, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition including genetic characteristics, pregnancy, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws. CVOC also prohibits unlawful discrimination based on a perception that an employee, applicant, client or independent contractor has any of those characteristics, or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics. All such discrimination is unlawful. CVOC is committed to compliance with all applicable laws providing equal employment opportunities and access to services to individuals regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender identity, religion, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, national origin or ancestry, medical condition including genetic characteristics, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, physical handicap, disability, or medical condition, except where physical fitness is a bona fide occupational qualification. CVOC will not tolerate any type of discrimination against applicants for employment, employees, students, clients, or persons doing business with CVOC, or independent contractors. CVOC prohibits unlawful discrimination by any employee of the company, including supervisors and co-workers. CVOC is an Affirmative Action Employer.

Disaster Preparedness

1. Does your agency have a disaster plan in place that includes strategies on how to remain operational and continue providing services to low-income individuals and families during and following a disaster? The term disaster is used in broad terms including, but not limited to, a natural disaster, pandemic, etc.

Yes

No

2. If yes, when was the disaster plan last updated?

3. Briefly describe your agency's main strategies to remain operational during and after a disaster.

CVOC's internal methods of remaining operational during a disaster require that management teams meet to develop written plans and procedures in response to the disaster. Rather than a single plan, CVOC has a method of development of a response to a disaster which includes a written plan/directive/s specific to the need to remain operational.

Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification

CSBG Act 676(b)

Use of CSBG Funds Supporting Local Activities

676(b)(1)(A): The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (A) to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals receiving assistance under title IV of the Social Security Act, homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and elderly low-income individuals and families, and a description of how such activities will enable the families and individuals--

- i. to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency (particularly for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act);
 - ii. to secure and retain meaningful employment;
 - iii. to attain an adequate education with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families in the community, which may include family literacy initiatives;
 - iv. to make better use of available income;
 - v. to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
 - vi. to obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs;
 - vii. to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots
 - viii. partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to
-
- I. document best practices based on successful grassroots intervention in urban areas, to develop methodologies for wide-spread replication; and
 - II. strengthen and improve relationships with local law enforcement agencies, which may include participation in activities such as neighborhood or community policing efforts;

Needs of Youth

676(b)(1)(B) The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (B) to address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, give priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime, and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs that have demonstrated success in preventing or reducing youth crime, such as--

- I. programs for the establishment of violence-free zones that would involve youth development and intervention models (such as models involving youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, and entrepreneurship programs); and
- II. after-school childcare programs.

Coordination of Other Programs

676(b)(1)(C) The state will assure “that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used – (C) to make more effective use of, and to coordinate with, other programs related to the purposes of this subtitle (including state welfare reform efforts)

Eligible Entity Service Delivery System

676(b)(3)(A) Eligible entities will describe “the service delivery system, for services provided or coordinated with funds made available through grants made under 675C(a), targeted to low-income individuals and families in communities within the state;

Eligible Entity Linkages – Approach to Filling Service Gaps

676(b)(3)(B) Eligible entities will describe “how linkages will be developed to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations.”

Coordination of Eligible Entity Allocation 90 Percent Funds with Public/Private Resources

676(b)(3)(C) Eligible entities will describe how funds made available through grants made under 675C(a) will be coordinated with other public and private resources.”

Eligible Entity Innovative Community and Neighborhood Initiatives, Including Fatherhood/Parental Responsibility

676(b)(3)(D) Eligible entities will describe “how the local entity will use the funds [made available under 675C(a)] to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of this subtitle, which may include fatherhood initiatives and other initiatives with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging parenting.”

Eligible Entity Emergency Food and Nutrition Services

676(b)(4) An assurance “that eligible entities in the state will provide, on an emergency basis, for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals.”

State and Eligible Entity Coordination/linkages and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Employment and Training Activities

676(b)(5) An assurance “that the State and eligible entities in the State will coordinate, and establish linkages between, governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services, and [describe] how the State and the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce development systems under such Act.”

State Coordination/Linkages and Low-income Home Energy Assistance

676(b)(6) “[A]n assurance that the State will ensure coordination between antipoverty programs in each community in the State, and ensure, where appropriate, that emergency energy crisis intervention programs under title XXVI (relating to low-income home energy assistance) are conducted in such community.”

Community Organizations

676(b)(9) An assurance “that the State and eligible entities in the state will, to the maximum extent possible, coordinate programs with and form partnerships with other organizations serving low-income residents of the communities and members of the groups served by the State, including religious organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations.”

Eligible Entity Tripartite Board Representation

676(b)(10) “[T]he State will require each eligible entity in the State to establish procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, or religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization, or low-income individuals, to be inadequately represented on the board (or other mechanism) of the eligible entity to petition for adequate representation.”

Eligible Entity Community Action Plans and Community Needs Assessments

676(b)(11) “[A]n assurance that the State will secure from each eligible entity in the State, as a condition to receipt of funding by the entity through a community service block grant made under this subtitle for a program, a community action plan (which shall be submitted to the Secretary, at the request of the Secretary, with the State Plan) that includes a community needs assessment for the community serviced, which may be coordinated with the community needs assessment conducted for other programs.”

State and Eligible Entity Performance Measurement: ROMA or Alternate System

676(b)(12) “[A]n assurance that the State and all eligible entities in the State will, not later than fiscal year 2001, participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability System, another performance measure system for which the Secretary facilitated development pursuant to section 678E(b), or an alternative system for measuring performance and results that meets the requirements of that section, and [describe] outcome measures to be used to measure eligible entity performance in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization.”

Fiscal Controls, Audits, and Withholding

678D(a)(1)(B) An assurance that cost and accounting standards of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are maintained.

- By checking this box and signing the Cover Page and Certification, the agency’s Executive Director and Board Chair are certifying that the agency meets the assurances set out above.**

State Assurances and Certification

California Government Code Sections 12747(a), 12760, 12768

For CAA, MSFW, NAI, and LPA Agencies

[California Government Code § 12747\(a\)](#): Community action plans shall provide for the contingency of reduced federal funding.

[California Government Code § 12760](#): CSBG agencies funded under this article shall coordinate their plans and activities with other agencies funded under Articles 7 (commencing with Section 12765) and 8 (commencing with Section 12770) that serve any part of their communities, so that funds are not used to duplicate particular services to the same beneficiaries and plans and policies affecting all grantees under this chapter are shaped, to the extent possible, so as to be equitable and beneficial to all community agencies and the populations they serve.

- By checking this box and signing the Cover Page and Certification, the agency's Executive Director and Board Chair are certifying the agency meets assurances set out above.**

For MSFW Agencies Only

[California Government Code § 12768](#): Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) entities funded by the department shall coordinate their plans and activities with other agencies funded by the department to avoid duplication of services and to maximize services for all eligible beneficiaries.

- By checking this box and signing the Cover Page and Certification, the agency's Executive Director and Board Chair are certifying the agency meets assurances set out above.**

Organizational Standards

Category One: Consumer Input and Involvement

Standard 1.1 The organization/department demonstrates low-income individuals' participation in its activities.

Standard 1.2 The organization/department analyzes information collected directly from low-income individuals as part of the community assessment.

Standard 1.3 (Private) The organization has a systematic approach for collecting, analyzing, and reporting customer satisfaction data to the governing board.

Standard 1.3 (Public) The department has a systematic approach for collecting, analyzing, and reporting customer satisfaction data to the tripartite board/advisory body, which may be met through broader local government processes.

Category Two: Community Engagement

Standard 2.1 The organization/department has documented or demonstrated partnerships across the community, for specifically identified purposes; partnerships include other anti-poverty organizations in the area.

Standard 2.2 The organization/department utilizes information gathered from key sectors of the community in assessing needs and resources, during the community assessment process or other times. These sectors would include at minimum: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector, public sector, and educational institutions.

Standard 2.4 The organization/department documents the number of volunteers and hours mobilized in support of its activities.

Category Three: Community Assessment

Standard 3.1 (Private) Organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3 years.

Standard 3.1 (Public) The department conducted or was engaged in a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3-year period, if no other report exists.

Standard 3.2 As part of the community assessment, the organization/department collects and includes current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area(s).

Standard 3.3 The organization/department collects and analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.

Standard 3.4 The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.

Standard 3.5 The governing board or tripartite board/advisory body formally accepts the completed community assessment.

Category Four: Organizational Leadership

Standard 4.1 (Private) The governing board has reviewed the organization's mission statement within the past 5 years and assured that:

1. The mission addresses poverty; and
2. The organization's programs and services are in alignment with the mission.

Standard 4.1 (Public) The tripartite board/advisory body has reviewed the department's mission statement within the past 5 years and assured that:

1. The mission addresses poverty; and
2. The CSBG programs and services are in alignment with the mission.

Standard 4.2 The organization's/department's Community Action Plan is outcome-based, anti-poverty focused, and ties directly to the community assessment.

Standard 4.3 The organization's/department's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the full Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). In addition, the organization documents having used the services of a ROMA-certified trainer (or equivalent) to assist in implementation.

Appendices

Please complete the table below by entering the title of the document and its assigned appendix letter. Agencies must provide a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing and the Low-Income Testimony and the Agency's Response document as appendices A and B, respectively. Other appendices such as the community need assessment, surveys, maps, graphs, executive summaries, analytical summaries are encouraged. All appendices should be labeled as an appendix (e.g., Appendix A: Copy of the Notice of Public Hearing) and submitted with the CAP.

Document Title	Appendix Location
Copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing	A
Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response	B
Stanislaus County Community Needs Assessment	C

Appendix C

***COMMUNITY NEEDS
ASSESSMENT***

Stanislaus County

DRAFT



2023 Community Needs Assessment of Stanislaus County

Prepared by the CVOC Planning Department

CVOC Community Needs Assessment Introduction

Central Valley Opportunity Center's Community Needs Assessment of the low-income populations of Stanislaus County consisted of the review of current program operations, evaluation of program effectiveness, community meetings, solicitation of input from the community at large, coordinated meetings with other service providers as well as examining of the community profile to identify the needs of the low-income populations of the county. CVOC conducted a Community Needs Assessment Survey and sent/handed our surveys to our stakeholders. The results of this Community Needs Survey are included.

To ensure that CVOC's Community Needs Assessment is comprehensive, CVOC participates in development, coordination and planning activities with a wide variety of community organizations that are involved in assessing the needs of the low-income and targeted populations.

Community Profile

Stanislaus County is located in the San Joaquin Valley, in the heart of California's Central Valley. The County borders San Joaquin County on the north, the east by Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Calaveras Counties. The County's total area is 1,521 sq. miles, approximately 973,440 acres. Two major California Highways, Interstate 5 and Highway 99, run north and south bound across the County. There are three major rivers in Stanislaus County, the Stanislaus and Tuolumne River, running east to west, and the San Joaquin River running north to south. Stanislaus County continues to be an agricultural county in transition. Prior to 1960 most of the nine incorporated cities was just over 3 times that of the unincorporated area of the County. While its economic base remains predominantly agricultural, the County's economy continues to diversify.

Stanislaus County has populations of 552, 851 with a median age of 34.7 and the median household income of \$73,982. Between the 2010 Census and 2020 Census the population of the County is estimated to have grown from 514,453 to 552,878 a 7.5% increase.

The population of Stanislaus County is 50.1% female and 49.9% male with the median age of 34.7 years old. The population of Stanislaus County, CA is 49.5% Hispanic or Latino, 38.1% White, 6.3% Asian, 3.7% African American or Black, and 4.4% other races or two or more races.

The largest college and university in Stanislaus County, CA are Modesto Junior College and California State University-Stanislaus. CSU Stanislaus awarded a total of 2835 degrees from 2021-2022 with 69% being first generation graduates and 53% of graduates being Hispanic/Latino(a). In the same year, Modesto Junior College awarded 682 certificates, 2,385 Associates Degrees and 6 Bachelor's Degrees with a 53% of the student body being Hispanic/Latino.

Selected Statistic from US Census

Population Estimates, July 1, 2021, (V2021)	勢 552,851
PEOPLE	
Population	
Population Estimates, July 1, 2022, (V2022)	勢 551,275
Population Estimates, July 1, 2021, (V2021)	勢 552,851
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2022)	勢 552,880
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2021)	勢 552,880
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2022, (V2022)	勢 -0.3%
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2021, (V2021)	勢 0.0%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	552,878
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	514,453
Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent	勢 6.8%
Persons under 18 years, percent	勢 26.9%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	勢 13.4%
Female persons, percent	勢 50.1%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	勢 82.5%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	勢 3.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	勢 2.2%
Asian alone, percent (a)	勢 6.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	勢 1.0%
Two or More Races, percent	勢

	4.4%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	49.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	38.1%
Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2017-2021	19,401
Foreign born persons, percent, 2017-2021	20.1%
Housing	
Housing units, July 1, 2021, (V2021)	183,898
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2017-2021	59.5%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2017-2021	\$338,300
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2017-2021	\$1,839
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2017-2021	\$579
Median gross rent, 2017-2021	\$1,315
Building permits, 2021	811
Families & Living Arrangements	
Households, 2017-2021	175,067
Persons per household, 2017-2021	3.12
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2017-2021	89.6%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2017-2021	42.8%
Computer and Internet Use	
Households with a computer, percent, 2017-2021	93.6%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2017-2021	88.7%
Education	
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2017-2021	80.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2017-2021	17.9%
Health	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2017-2021	8.7%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	7.4%
Economy	
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2017-2021	61.3%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2017-2021	53.7%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)	971,642
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)	4,257,582
Total transportation and warehousing receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)	744,687

Total retail sales, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)	7,486,445
Total retail sales per capita, 2017 (c)	\$13,749
Transportation	
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2017-2021	31.0
Income & Poverty	
Median household income (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$68,368
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$29,195
Persons in poverty, percent	勢 14.1%

BUSINESSES

Businesses	
Total employer establishments, 2021	9,611
Total employment, 2021	139,483
Total annual payroll, 2021 (\$1,000)	7,774,716
Total employment, percent change, 2020-2021	-4.2%
Total nonemployer establishments, 2019	30,847
All employer firms, Reference year 2017	7,450
Men-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	S
Women-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	1,243
Minority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	2,191
Nonminority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	4,358
Veteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	376
Nonveteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	6,200

Poverty

According to the US Census, 14% (75,765 persons) of the county population lives in poverty, which is higher than the national rate of 11.6%. The median household income in Stanislaus County is \$68,368, which is 23% lower than the State median income. There are over 29,300 children under the age of 18 living in poverty, and Latinos and African American households live in poverty in higher numbers. The same data shows that individuals with less than a high school diploma make up a higher percentage of individuals living below poverty. Unfortunately, employment does not guarantee financial stability as two-thirds of the county adults living in poverty are employed full-time

In 2021, Over 28,000 county residents receive some type of public benefits or SNAP benefits in, which is a 37% increase since 2019, which had over 20,300 recipients. The

sections that follow provide additional detailed information and analysis of these statistics and other factors that contribute to the conditions of poverty in the county.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Stanislaus County was 6.9% in March 2023, up from a revised 6.8% in February 2023, and well above the adjusted State unemployment rate of 4.4% and almost double the national unemployment rate of 3.5% for the month of March 2023. The three communities with the highest unemployment rate in the County are Bret Harte, Bystrom, and Empire; all with an unemployment rate above 11%. The low-income and limited skilled, who are often employed in low-wage, part-time service jobs or in the high seasonal agriculture sector, were impacted by store closure and recent winter storms. County residents are seeking more employment opportunities especially jobs with higher wages and benefits. Unemployment was ranked the highest problem in the community during our community needs assessment.

Education

Stanislaus County has large populations of migrant seasonal farmworkers and recent immigrants. Large percentages of MSFW's and recent immigrants are limited English speaking and have low education levels or little to no formal education in the United States. According to the National Farmworker Survey (NAWs) the average level of formal education completed by California farmworkers was eighth grade, and only 25% reported to have taken at least one adult education class in the United States. In Stanislaus County, 20.8% of those living below poverty have less than a high school diploma.

The NAWS reports that 58% of California farmworkers surveyed were parents, and on average had two or more minor children at the time the interview took place. According to the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), 2,188 migrant students were enrolled in the 2021-2022 school year, a slight increase from the previous school year. In the same school year, SCOE reported 26,475 English Language Learners, with 88% of English Language Learners reporting Spanish as their primary language. Based off of the Five-Year Cohort Outcomes from the Department of Education, the district with the highest dropout and non-completers in the County were Stanislaus County Office of Education (62.7%), Keyes Union (20.8%), and Ceres Unified (9.1%). Illiteracy/HS Dropout Rates was the fifth highest problem identified by community members during the community needs assessment.

Housing and Homelessness

The County's homeless populations decreased by 1,070 individuals from 2021 to 2022 according to the 2022 Stanislaus County Homeless Point-In-Time Count. The Stanislaus Community System of Care (CSOS), who conducts the count, notes that while there is a decrease in the homeless population the 2022 count it is generally consistent with past yearly numbers reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, there was a variety of factors such as different data collection methods due to COVID safety guidelines, encampment sweeps, and 49% fewer volunteers, which CSOS acknowledges could have played a role in decreased numbers. In 2022, the number of homeless individuals in shelters increase by 26% from 2021, CSOC attributes the increase to record freezing temperature at the time the survey took place. The top six reasons survey participants gave for how they became homeless are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.) Unable to Pay Rent | 4.) Substance Abuse |
| 2.) Asked to Leave | 5.) Illness |
| 3.) Lose of Employment | 6.) Domestic Abuse |

Modesto is the city with the largest homeless populations with 1,433 homeless individuals. CVOC’s service center is located in downtown Modesto, which holds 29% of the county’s estimated homeless population. The homeless individuals’ sites lack of transportation, lack of documentation, long waitlist, and little knowledge of social service providers as obstacles to accessing services. Adequate and stable housing is the foundation for good physical and mental health, as well as employment stability. Inadequate housing contributes to poor health, chronic diseases, injuries, and has adverse effects on children. Stanislaus County residents ranked homelessness as the second highest problem in their community.

Affordable Housing

Finding affordable housing continues to be a serious problem in Stanislaus County. The 2022 Affordable Housing Needs Report states that renter in the County need to earn 1.9 time the state minimum wage to afford the average asking rent. County residents would have to earn \$27.88 per hour to be able to afford the average asking rent in 2022. Currently the average asking rent for Stanislaus County is \$1,450, which is a 15.5% increase from the previous year’s average asking rent of \$1,255. Over 15,400 low-income renter households in Stanislaus County do not have access to an affordable home. In 2019, 77% of low-income renters were cost burdened, meaning that more than half of their income is spent on housing costs; we estimate this percentage to be higher today as inflation has risen over 18% since this data was gathered.

While there has been a 62% increase in overall state and federal funding for housing production and preservation from the previous year, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit production and preservation in Stanislaus County decreased by 100% between 2020 and 2021. The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit has decreased since 2020, which was the last year that the County saw a slight increase since 2016. Lack of affordable housing was the sixth highest problem identified during the community needs process.

Nutrition and Hunger

Persons living at or below the poverty line generally do not have the ability to purchase nutritious and adequate food. Hunger and poor nutrition have negative effects on all

people, but are particularly devastating to children, elderly and persons with health problems. In Stanislaus County there are 75,765 individuals who live below the poverty line and 29,349 children under the age of 18 live in poverty.

According to the most recent data published by Feeding America, there are 64,320 people in Stanislaus County facing food insecurity, that being over 11% of the county's population. The USDA defines food insecurity as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life, and is considered a public health issue. Reasons for food insecurity include, but are not limited to unemployment, poverty, lack of affordable housing, and lack of transportation.

The high cost of food and increasing cost of living have added additional stress to households that already faced food insecurity. The food-at-home (grocery store or supermarket food purchases) Consumer Price Index in March 2023 was 8.4 percent higher than March 2022. Food prices are expected to grow more slowly in 2023 than in 2022 but still at above historical-average rates. In 2023, all food prices are predicted to increase 6.5 percent. The average meal cost in Stanislaus County is \$3.61 which is higher than the state and national average of \$3.45 and \$3.25, yet Stanislaus County is located in the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley, and is the 6th top agricultural producing county in California, with leading commodities such as Almonds, Milk, and Poultry. The abundance brought in by the agricultural industry has not translated to affordable nutritious food options for County residents.

Crime and Safety

Crime has a negative affect on all person's lives and communities. In the last 6 months the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department has reported 1,086 crimes within the County; these crimes range from petty theft to homicide. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that only 42% of reported crimes by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office were cleared in 2020. The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency stated in their 2020 Community Health Assessment that violent crime has increased by 5.5% from 2008-2017. Stanislaus County also has a higher rate of violent crimes than the State of California. Fatalities caused by firearms have decreased in the county since 2012, but there are many disparities felt by communities of color as the death rate by homicide with a firearm is astronomically higher for African Americans at 17.7 per 100,000 population and for Hispanic/Latinos at 6.8 per 100,000 population.

The impact of these crimes can have secondary effects on the victims and their families which include loss of income, loss of property, lasting physical and emotional issues as well as lasting pain and suffering. Low-income households are the most vulnerable in terms of being able to recover from the personal impact of crimes due to lack of resources to replace damage or stolen property, obtain physical and mental healthcare after a traumatizing event, ability to relocate to safer area, invest in home security systems, or obtain needed assistance from the community. Stanislaus County residents ranked crime and violence as the 3rd highest problem facing their community.

Healthcare and Care Access

Stanislaus County has a shortage of healthcare and mental health providers, which limits the access of care. The healthcare system in the area is strained, and lacks affordable health care providers that reflect the community that they serve. California's covered California and expansion of Medi-Cal coverage has helped many accesses medical treatment, but Hispanic populations still have higher percentages of uninsured individuals. Kaiser Permanente in Modesto reports that key information gathered during the health assessment found that lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate providers as a barrier to healthcare access.

There is also a shortage of mental health providers in the area. In addition to provider shortage, there are a number of barriers to accessing mental health services such as high costs, limited health insurance coverage for mental health, and social stigma. The pandemic only increased barriers to mental health services and put an additional strain on an already overloaded system of providers in the area.

Poor physical and mental health can reduce an individual's chances of employment and overall quality of life. Stanislaus County residents ranked lack of healthcare access as the fourth highest problem in their community. Residents also stated that lack of access to mental healthcare and substance abuse counseling were among their other concerns.

Post – COVID Recovery

Recovery has been slow in the Central Valley, 11% of homeless recorded by the 2022 PIT Count stated that they were homeless as a direct result of COVID-19. Due to distribution chain issues caused by the pandemic, much like everyone else, residents in the County are struggling to afford everyday essentials. During our community needs assessment county residents expressed the need for additional food assistance. Unemployment rate has been on the decline, but still remains slightly higher than pre-pandemic unemployment rate of 6.5%.

Community Resources

During the Community Needs Assessment process, it became very evident that there were far more pressing social needs in the community than existing resources could begin to address. The community social service network is challenged by changes in operating structures, budget constraints/ budget cuts and in need of continued comprehensive coordination efforts. In order for local agencies to be competitive in state, national and private grant competitions coordination, development and planning activities are an essential part of agency development and resource broadening efforts. There is a need for coordination efforts and community collaboration to seek competitive social service funding to supplement the local social service network The chart below is an analysis of the assistance program in Stanislaus County and their effectiveness in terms of meeting the needs of the low-income population.

<u>Agency/Programs</u>	<u>Effectiveness of Assistance to the low-income population</u>
Workforce Investment Act/Employment and Training Programs	CVOC is the program operator for the WIOA167 MSFW program and as such coordinates with the Stanislaus County WIOA programs. The WIOA mainstream programs provide employment and training opportunities for low-income clients seeking training and employment.
Employment Development Department	The Employment Development Department provides targeted assistance to unemployed workers who have been dislocated or laid off from their jobs to find jobs. Although they are a valuable source of job opportunities, there is limited assistance for the unskilled worker in obtaining employment and training opportunities other than referral services to employment and training programs. EDD outreach to the unemployed in need of training services provides a valuable referral service to CVOC's clients.
Stanislaus County Schools	Programs for limited and mono-lingual clients are limited. Limited assistance is available through the school district for youth who have recently dropped out of the school system. Continuation school is also targeted to recent dropouts and is not designed to aid the older high school dropouts.
County/City Business Development	Small business development assistance is limited.
Food Banks	Food banks in CVOC's service area are a valuable resource for emergency food. The amount and types of food are limited and outreach efforts to inform clients of nutritional programs available is limited to relatively small service areas or groups
Stanislaus County Housing Authority	Housing Authorities have limited resources to provide services such as migrant housing and subsidized housing. Waiting lists for

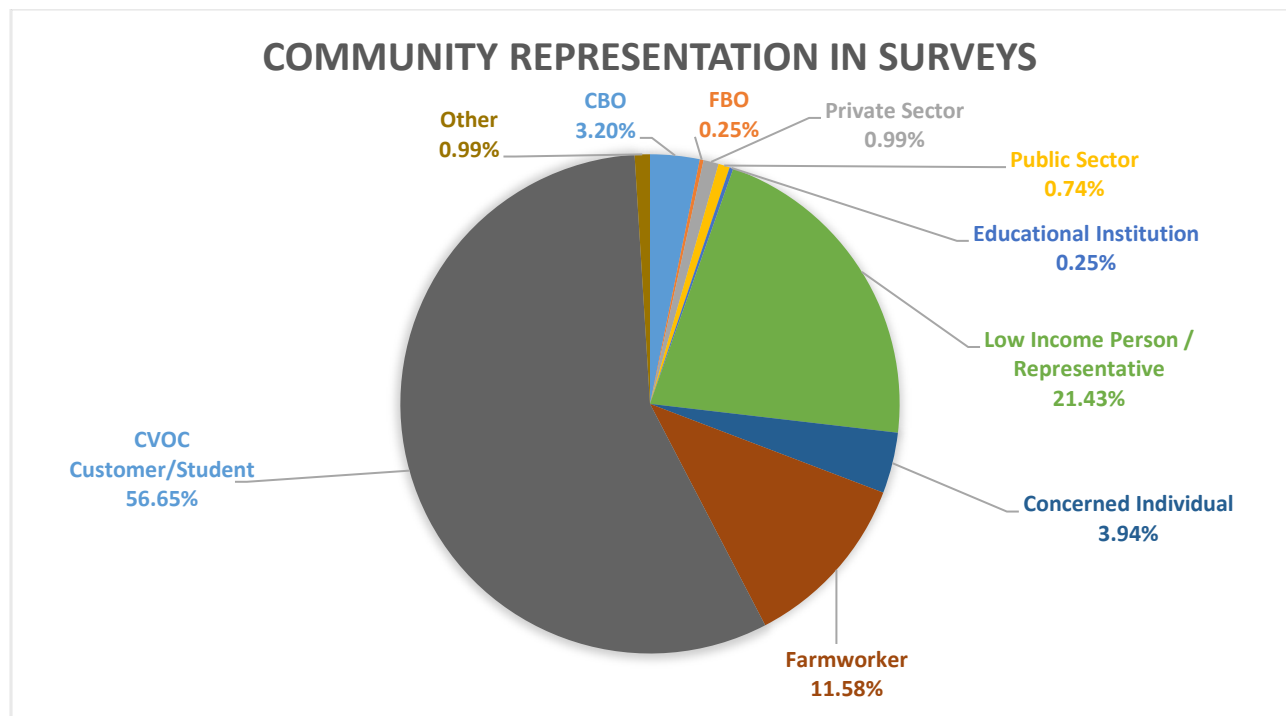
	subsidized housing are 2 to 3 years and migrant housing is limited. Housing rehabilitation and home repair funding is not available to renters.
Salvation Army	The Salvation is a valuable resource for clients in need of emergency assistance. The Salvation Army locations are primarily in the major cities in CVOC's service area and access is limited if clients do not have transportation to the sites.
Health Centers and Clinics	Health clinic and centers that provide low-cost/no-cost medical services are a critical resource for medical care for low-income clients. Several of these clinics target the rural areas. However as with most services the need is much greater than the capacity of these clinics and waiting lists for non-critical care appointments can take months. Due to funding cutback, some local clinics in the rural areas have closed or only are open a few days per week.
Stanislaus County/Modesto, Riverbank, Oakdale, Turlock, Ceres, City Programs and Services	Various programs and services such as city parks and recreation departments, police activities/services, mental health departments, etc have many valuable services. In CVOC's service area, few services are free and are limited to the most populated areas. City and County services in the rural areas are few. Bi-lingual staffs are not always available to assist clients in understanding and applying for services.
Stanislaus County Department of Human Services, Department of Social Services (Cal Works, Cal Fresh (SNAP)	Services such as Cal Works, Cal Fresh, Medi Cal, etc. are provided by the county social services departments. Although these services are utilized by many low-income clients, the focus is to move client off of the public assistance system.
United Way Stanislaus County Modesto	Various programs and services either direct or through subcontracts with other organization. Due to limited funding, and budget cuts, program services are limited

	and not always available especially in the rural areas.
The Bridge Family Resource Center	Services are limited to the southeast Asian population. Funding cuts have reduced the type and scope of services provided.
West Modesto King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative	Services are directed to seniors and youth. Services such as health, food/meals, recreation, tutorial and education services have been reduced or eliminated/
Haven's Women's Shelter of Stanislaus County	Shelter, crisis counseling and emergency services, domestic violence programs are limited to victims of domestic violence only.
Children's Crisis Center Modesto	Shelter for abused children, Respite Case, Family Line, Case Management, and Parenting Classes continue to be at risk of elimination due to budget cuts.
Community Housing and Shelter Service Modesto	Shelter and Housing Services continue to be a critical need as homeless families in Stanislaus county increase. Recent economic downturns, housing foreclosures have increased those seeking housing and shelter assistance.
American Red Cross Modesto	Although these services are vital in times of crisis, clients can only access services from this agency during disasters.
Interfaith Ministries Modesto	This agency has very limited funding mainly from donations. Most programs and services offered are very limited and not always available.
Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties	Food distribution continues to be cut due to the lack of donated food. The variety and amount of food available continue to decline. Recent closures of food processing plants in Stanislaus county have reduced the amount of donated food.

Community Needs Assessment Survey Introduction

CVOC, as part of the ongoing assessment of the community needs, completed a process of needs assessment surveys, community meetings and data gathering to identify conditions of poverty in Stanislaus County. A Community Needs Assessment Survey was handed out to current clients, sent to local service providers, distributed at all community events, and posted on our website and across all social media accounts. During February 2023 to April 2023, 406 surveys were submitted in Stanislaus County, these surveys provide insight and ranking of the needs of the community. (See copy of Survey). In addition to surveys, 6 Community Meeting took place throughout the County to discuss the needs of the low-income and farmworker communities. The summary below provides a review of the Community Needs Assessment Survey and Community Meetings as well as their results an analysis of the surveys and community meetings.

Surveys were distributed in English and Spanish, with any translations or interpretation to additional languages done and documented by staff fluent in the language in which the survey was translated to. Please note in the graph below that CVOC Students and Clients are for the most part apart of the low-income and farmworker community.



Community Meeting Summary – Stanislaus County

Community Meeting dates and locations:

- 03/15/2023 | C.A.S.A Del Rio 2400 Stanislaus, Riverbank | 9-10 a.m.
- 03/21/2023 | CVOC Modesto Office 1801 H. St. Ste. B1 | 1-2p.m.
- 03/23/2023 | CVOC Patterson Office 40 N 3rd St. | 9-10 a.m.
- 03/28/2023 | Ceres HEAP 3860 Brickett Ct. Ste. A | 3-4 p.m.
- 04/04/2023 | CVOC Modesto Office 1801 H. St. Ste. A4 | 10 a.m.
- 04/05/2023 | Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave., Turlock | 9-10 a.m.

Other locations where surveys were collected:

- CVOC HEAP Modesto Ste. B1
- CVOC Patterson Office
- CVOC HEAP Ceres Office
- CVOC Weatherization Ceres Office

Leading Community Needs Meeting were CVOC staff:

- Jessica Fregoso
- Alejandro Alberto
- Martha Villegas
- Karmela Ovro

Helping with Survey were CVOC staff:

- Lucio Cruz
- Sandra Arellano
- Heather Seal
- Araceli Sanchez Juarez
- Rosie Lepe
- Monika Gregorbabrody
- Jacklyn Bedoy

1. Rank the following community problems in the county/your community from 1 to 11 with 1 being the most pressing problem and 11 being the least.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 a) Unemployment | 7 g) Lack of Affordable Housing |
| 2 b) Homelessness | 8 h) Lack of Public Transportation |
| 3 c) Crime/Gang violence | 9 i) Lack of Community Resources |
| 4 d) Healthcare access and availability | 10 j) Poverty/Working Poor |
| 5 e) Illiteracy/High School Dropout Rates | 11 k) Other: |
| 6 f) Drug/Alcohol Abuse | |

2. Apart from the social problems listed in Question 1 (above), are there other urgent social problems in your community or in the county. If so, list them below. Other social problems listed:

- Weather Emergency
- Counseling
- Sickness
- Emergency assistance
- Trainings and shelter for youth
- Lack of jobs/more job in the valley
- More police in communities
- More utility bill assistance
- Language barriers
- Assistance for middle class
- More Food banks/food assistance
- Lack of adequate fire hydrant water flow. Fire/ambulance responses slow because of distance from emergency response. Slow response time from law enforcement in rural communities such as La Grange.
- Better roads, streets, sidewalks
- Free citizenship classes
- Mental health services
- Lack of services for deaf people
- Childcare

3. List the top 5 Community Needs/Services that you think CVOC should be addressing.

- Unemployment/ Health /Lack of housing
- More trainings/more instructors/ and free lunch
- ESL classes
- Rent assistance
- Employment assistance

4. In the space provided below, provide any other comments related to the needs of your community or CVOC services and programs.

- Emergency Assistance
- Housing
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Utilities assistance or discounts
- Better Public Transportation
- Youth programs
- More jobs in Modesto so people will not have to commute to the bay area. More family activities to keep youth out of trouble.
- More help for grandparents taking care of grandkids.
- More help for people facing eviction.
- Food pantries and clothe pantries for those in need.
- Helping people relocate back to their families.
- Help seniors who do not have any income other an SSI.

- Job search assistance.
- Keep Californians happy so they won't leave the state.
- More vocational trainings.
- Help those that are undocumented too.
- Better roads and safe highways
- Provide ESL classes.
- Help with other bills like fixing roof or other house improvements.
- Offer accounting trainings.
- More help for the deaf community.
- Better recreational parks.
- Providing more help to farmworkers
- Family resources
- Mental health resources

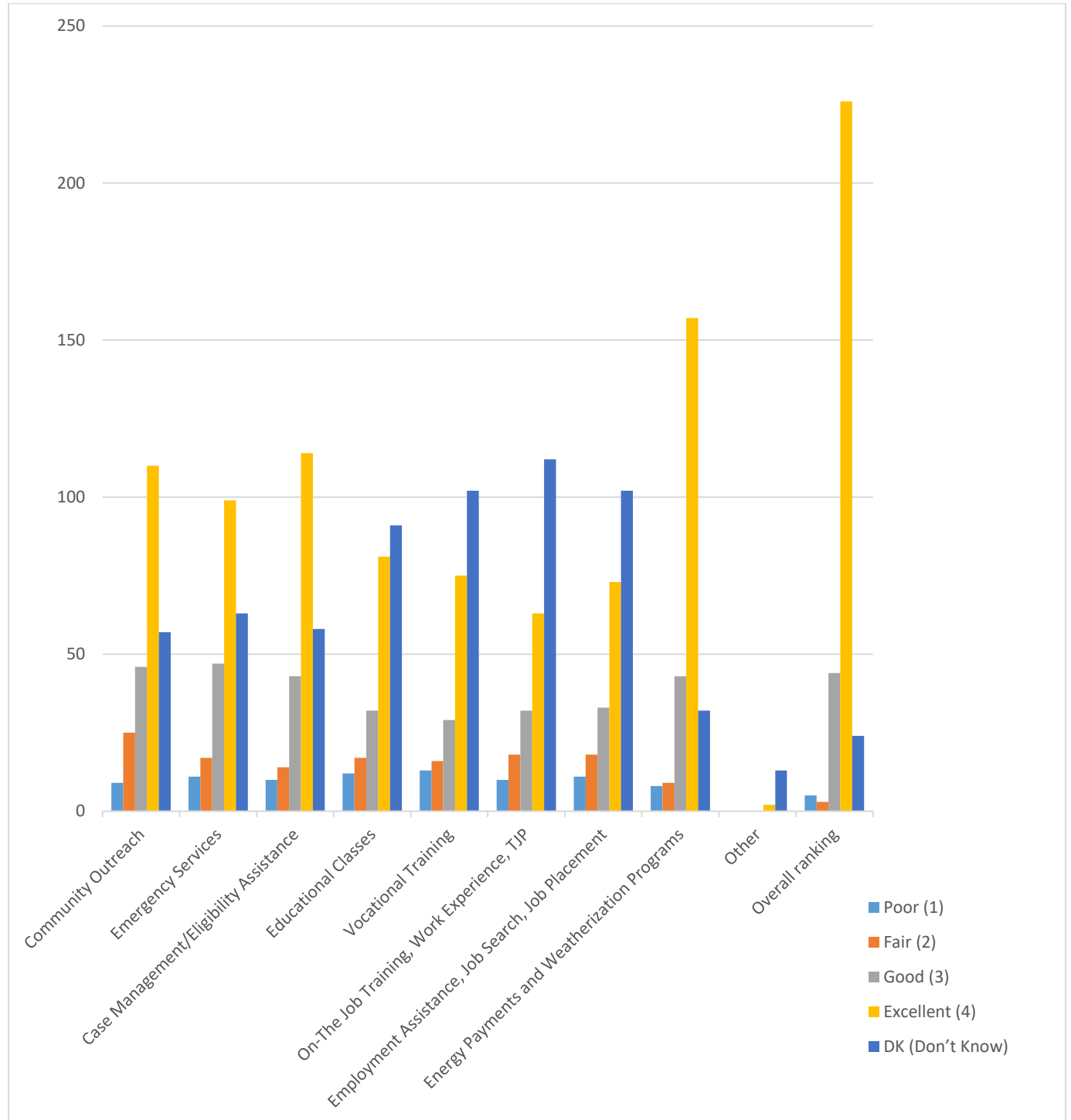
5. List any comments made by the attendees.

- CVOC staff is very nice and helpful.
- Thank you CVOC for the support you give to the community.

Needs Identified	Source Abbreviation (See Key Below)
Surveys and testimony at Community Meetings indicate that there is a need for unemployment assistance. From 406 surveys, 158 people ranked this need as the number 1.	LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO
Surveys and testimony at Community Meetings indicate that there is a need for more Homelessness Assistance. From 406 Surveys, 164 people ranked this need as number 2.	LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO
Surveys and testimony at Community Meetings indicate that there is a need for crime and violence intervention services. From 406 Surveys, 141 people ranked this need as number 3.	LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO
Surveys and testimony at Community Meetings indicate that there is a need for accessible health care. From 406 surveys, 137 people ranked this need as number 4.	LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO
Surveys at Community Meetings indicate that there is a need for High School Equivalency. From 406 Surveys, 128 people ranked this need as number 5.	LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO
Abbreviation Key: LIP (Low Income Person) CBO (Community Based Organization) FB (Faith Based Organization, PS (Public Section) PVS (Private Sector, EDO (Educational Organization)	

Customer Satisfaction Question Results

If you have used or are familiar with CVOC's programs and services, please complete the following scale. Please rate the quality and effectiveness of CVOC's services. (Please enter a check mark in the box using key below) 1= Poor; 2= Fair 3=Good 4= Excellent; or DK = Don't Know.



List the "Other" CVOC's programs and services that were provided in the question above.

- Bills
- Vocational and job training programs
- Farmworker assistance
- Welding

Sources:

<https://www.csustan.edu/iea/institutional-data/degrees-awarded>

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<https://chpc.net/resources/stanislaus-county-housing-need-report-2022/>

<https://www.stancounty.com/newsfeed/pdf/20220613-resch-pit.pdf>

https://chpc.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Stanislaus_Housing_Report_2022-AHNR-1.pdf

<https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2020/overall/california>

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=public+benefits&t=SNAP/Food+Stamps&g=050XX00US06099&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B19058>

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