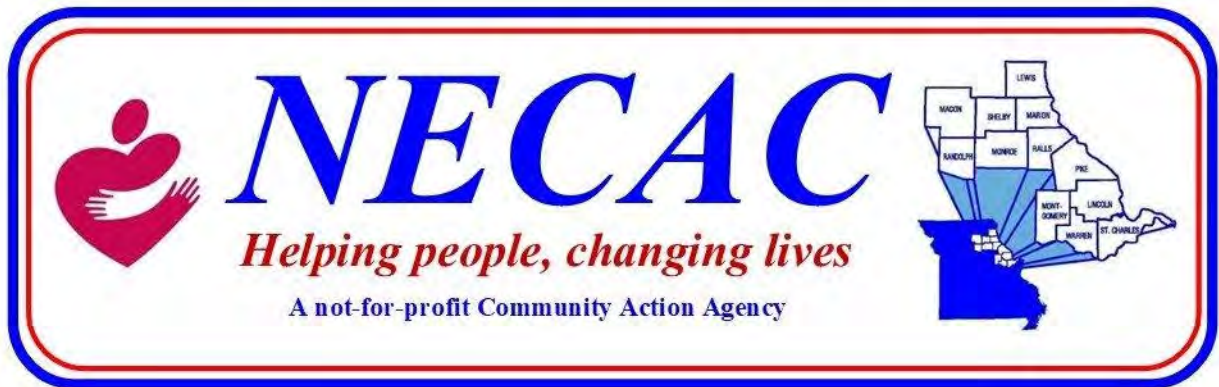


# North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC)



## Community Needs Assessment 2023

Board Approved: July 25, 2023

# **North East Community Action Corporation**

## **Community Needs Assessment Introduction**

### **Vision, Mission and Values**

North East Community Action Corporation is a non-profit organization designed to work toward alleviating the causes and conditions of poverty. As the largest of the 19 Missouri agencies in geographic area, NECAC serves low-income individuals in the rural counties of Lewis, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Randolph and Shelby, and the three metropolitan counties of Lincoln, St. Charles and Warren. Throughout the years, programs have been implemented to focus on new issues, modified to meet the changing needs of the community and have spun programs off to other agencies to meet the challenges in NECAC's service area more effectively and efficiently.

### **Our Vision**

People will become empowered within their own communities to eliminate poverty so that all residents can achieve and enjoy economic independence. We are committed to building stronger communities by strengthening families. Our visualization is that all community members, including lower income people, themselves, will take the responsibility and work together to alleviate the causes of poverty.

### **Our Mission**

NECAC strives to make a difference by empowering people, improving lives and building communities. It is NECAC's purpose - to assist the disadvantaged within our service area in their efforts to rise above poverty by providing needed services to enable each individual to function at his or her own improved financial, physical, mental and social level.

### **Our Values**

To embrace the ambitious vision of actually eliminating poverty, we have concluded that our work must continue to engage the imagination and commitment of the citizens in our area. However, this goal cannot be accomplished by NECAC alone. All individuals and communities must face the current truths about poverty and join NECAC in developing bold, transformational strategies to address these local issues. To realize its vision and fulfill its mission, NECAC is committed to pursuing its top prioritized strategic initiatives, which have been identified through NECAC's planning process. These priorities as outlined will address the:

- Community Needs Safe and Affordable Housing
- Individuals Need Living Wage Jobs
- Individuals Need Food Security

## NECAC Service Area Population



County/ State	Population
Lewis	10,031
Lincoln	58,689
Macon	15,222
Marion	28,564
Monroe	8,643
Montgomery	11,384
Pike	18,052
Ralls	10,318
Randolph	24,880
Saint Charles	402,377
Shelby	6,087
Warren	35,033
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>6,141,534</b>

## NECAC Service Area Demographics

### Race Demographics:

Report Area	Total Population	White Total	Black Total	American Indian Total	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian Total	Some Other Total	Mixed Race Total
North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC)	629,280	561,891	26,011	1,217	11,819	281	4,842	23,219
Lewis County, MO	10,031	9,332	364	31	30	13	0	261
Lincoln County, MO	58,689	54,987	1,350	125	165	67	256	1,739
Macon County, MO	15,222	14,204	318	82	110	3	56	449
Marion County, MO	28,564	26,024	1,258	74	175	28	84	921
Monroe County, MO	8,643	8,077	271	60	41	14	26	154
Montgomery County, MO	11,384	10,589	180	36	16	0	130	433
Pike County, MO	18,052	16,102	1,188	46	69	28	235	384
Ralls County, MO	10,318	9,745	193	23	39	0	74	244
Randolph County, MO	24,880	22,106	1,508	116	103	0	141	906
St. Charles County, MO	402,377	352,890	18,583	332	10,806	128	3,469	16,169
Shelby County, MO	6,087	5,784	151	22	13	0	34	83
Warren County, MO	35,033	32,051	647	270	252	0	337	1,476
Missouri	6,141,534	4,930,466	695,678	19,904	123,406	8,468	84,084	279,528
United States	329,725,481	224,789,109	41,393,012	2,722,661	18,782,924	615,557	18,382,796	23,039,422

### Age & Gender Demographics

Report Area	0 to 4 Male	0 to 4 Female	5 to 17 Male	5 to 17 Female	18 to 64 Male	18 to 64 Female	Over 64 Male	Over 64 Female
North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC)	18,874	18,102	56,524	53,903	192,363	188,312	41,796	55,266
Lewis County, MO	293	270	888	782	3,037	2,829	796	1,063
Lincoln County, MO	1,935	2,033	5,807	5,273	17,968	17,686	3,506	4,200
Macon County, MO	475	392	1,389	1,325	4,156	4,164	1,330	1,793
Marion County, MO	948	839	2,387	2,606	8,278	8,412	2,075	2,787
Monroe County, MO	252	229	759	699	2,378	2,290	881	1,058
Montgomery County, MO	353	328	1,022	837	3,293	3,269	954	1,241
Pike County, MO	553	477	1,570	1,534	6,210	4,514	1,384	1,720
Ralls County, MO	267	288	877	788	3,037	2,857	926	1,123
Randolph County, MO	786	726	2,017	1,896	8,538	6,908	1,664	2,213
St. Charles County, MO	11,732	11,394	36,104	34,524	123,472	123,437	25,058	34,136
Shelby County, MO	200	179	614	498	1,665	1,634	549	689
Warren County, MO	1,080	947	3,090	3,141	10,331	10,312	2,673	3,243
Missouri	188,129	179,003	525,391	499,852	1,852,663	1,862,660	417,851	572,278
United States	9,940,776	9,482,345	28,050,668	26,760,286	101,452,751	101,150,034	21,484,809	29,126,201

Income / Use of Income													
Base Year:							2023						
Data Points:	Lewis	Lincoln	Macon	Marion	Monroe	Mtg	Pike	Ralls	Randolph	St. Charles	Shelby	Warren	Missouri
Poverty Rate	14.4%	9.4%	13.0%	14.3%	13.0%	13.0%	14.9%	11.4%	12.1%	5.0%	14.6%	9.0%	12.1%
Percent Change in poverty rate from last assessment	-1.0%	-1.2%	-0.9%	0.8%	-0.6%	-1.3%	-1.0%	2.3%	-5.5%	-9.3%	8.9%	-1.5%	-1.1%
Number of families at or below 125% FPL	306	1612	454	1268	279	421	785	367	954	4767	348	979	191926
Median Income	\$ 42,710	\$ 70,054	\$ 49,013	\$ 54,230	\$ 48,661	\$ 56,447	\$ 51,255	\$ 57,061	\$ 51,924	\$ 90,567	\$ 48,430	\$ 69,678	\$ 58,812
Percent change in median income from last assessment	\$ (5,469)	\$ 7,816	\$ 3,573	\$ 4,837	\$ 2,445	\$ 7,496	\$ 7,664	\$ (488)	\$ 6,949	\$ 8,519	\$ 3,866	\$ 7,622	\$ 4,400
Required Living Wage- 1 Adult/1 Child	\$ 28.59	\$31.53	\$29.46	\$30.18	\$30.04	\$30.89	\$29.83	\$30.20	\$29.46	\$33.06	\$29.46	\$31.53	\$32.67
Cost of Living before Taxes- 1 Adult/1 Child	\$ 59,461.00	\$65,574	\$61,282	\$62,768	\$62,481	\$64,259	\$62,052	\$62,822	\$61,282	\$68,758	\$61,282	\$65,574	\$67,959
Required Living Wage- 1 Adult	\$ 14.92	\$16.14	\$14.41	\$15.03	\$14.66	\$14.67	\$14.92	\$15.18	\$14.64	\$16.14	\$14.41	\$16.14	\$15.77
Cost of Living before Taxes- 1 Adult	\$ 31,028.00	\$65,574	\$29,966	\$31,258	\$30,489	\$30,520	\$31,043	\$31,581	\$30,458	\$33,566	\$29,966	\$33,566	\$32,801
Number of families receiving TANF benefits	16	104	14	83	16	31	30	19	68	259	6	70	12,032
Percentage of individuals receiving Food Stamps (SNAP)	44.6%	36.6%	47.8%	NO DATA	46.6%	53.5%	47.4%	41.3%	53.6%	19.5%	50.6%	46.4%	47.9%
Number of residents receiving food stamps- Households	405	2,467	664	1,875	355	610	897	329	1,639	7,260	273	1,566	328,963
Average SNAP Benefit Payment /Amount per Month	\$ 241.00	\$ 278.00	\$ 238.00	\$ 241.00	\$ 246.00	\$ 252.00	\$ 243.00	\$ 248.00	\$ 237.00	\$ 266.00	\$ 243.00	\$ 278.00	\$ 256.00
Number of families receiving Women, Infant and Children (WIC)	3,285	14,352	4,794	10,155	2,785	3,511	5,748	2,737	7,529	46,151	2,335	9,188	1,675,786
Number of Infants Participating in WIC	59	258	77	170	37	81	104	33	166	760	36	169	8,018
Rate of Students receiving Free & Reduced Lunch	42.74%	33.46%	41.43%	48.39%	44.43%	47.68%	46.88%	39.46%	51.82%	17.81%	44.48%	42.08%	47.37%
Number of persons receiving Medicaid	1,349	7,657	2,397	5,691	1,413	1,928	2,781	1,259	4,784	24,495	1,060	4,751	876,902
Number of persons receiving Medicare - 65+	1,863	8,015	3,363	5,299	1,826	2,341	3,109	2,201	4,158	61,889	1,355	6,051	2,046,411
Number of persons receiving Medicare - Disabled	348	2,154	544	1,347	282	529	695	391	1,105	7,721	188	1,247	408,393
Number of Individuals who have an established disability through the SSA office	2,395	11,645	4,250	7,040	2,390	3,130	4,215	2,625	5,425	73,855	1,570	7,875	1,312,639
Average SSA Benefit Amount	\$ 1,264.00	\$ 1,379.00	\$ 1,254.00	\$ 1,238.00	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 1,284.00	\$ 1,259.00	\$ 1,323.00	\$ 1,327.00	\$ 1,555.00	\$ 1,203.00	\$ 1,412.00	\$ 1,356.00

Causes of Poverty					
No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of Living Wage Jobs- <i>Employment</i>	Community Members	Focus Groups	Service Area	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack of living wage jobs</u> is the main cause of poverty for community members. Without income, individuals are not able to obtain safe and affordable housing, education, nutritional foods to feed their families, health insurance, transportation and childcare.
2	Lack of High School Diplomas- <i>Education</i>	Community Members	Surveys	Service Area	<b>15.16%</b> have NO High School Diploma or Equivalent, of survey respondents stated they have less than a high school diploma, and out of the individuals who lack a diploma- <b>88.14%</b> completed grade 9-12th, <b>7.91%</b> completed 6th-8th grade and <b>3.95%</b> did not attend any schooling
3	Fixed Income - <i>Use of Income</i>	Individuals -Seniors/ Disabled	Focus Groups	Service Area	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified that <u>Individuals on Fixed Income (Social Security) are struggling to meet basic needs</u> due to rising costs. Individuals are on strict budgets are unable to obtain additional income due to disabilities or other limitations. Based on the quantitative data collected, we found the <u>average benefit amount for an individual on SSA in our service area is \$ 1,314.83 per month (Lowest: Shelby; Highest: St. Charles)</u> - this is a <u>yearly benefit amount of \$15,777.96</u> . If you compare this data to the <u>cost of living before taxes- 1 Adult</u> , we find the <u>average required income for our service area is \$34,084.58 per year</u> . This is a <b>\$ -18, 306.62 difference between cost of living and SSA benefit amounts.</b>
4	Inflation- Price Increases - <i>Use of Income</i>	Community- Increased Prices	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified that <u>Inflation has caused many negative effects</u> such as additional Transportation (Gas), Nutrition (Food), Housing (Rent/Mortgage/Utilities) barriers and families are struggling to meet basic needs.
5	Generational Poverty	Individuals- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Generational Poverty is a barrier to becoming self-sufficient</u> . Community Members stated individuals who experience generational poverty may not know how to overcome poverty due to personal experiences.
Gaps in Services					
	Gap	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of Local Resources	Agency- Funding Opportunities	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby (5/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community Lacks Resources to assist individuals with emergency services</u> . This is due to the high number of requests for assistance and not enough funding to assist individuals with services.
2	Public Transportation	Community- All	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups across 12- counties identified the <u>Community lacks public transportation</u> . Community members stated transportation is a leading cause of unemployment due to potential employees not being able to commute to work. Based on Quantitative data, we have identified <b>all 12 counties have a rate below state average for public transportation availability.</b>
Barriers to Exiting Poverty or Obtaining Services					
	Barrier	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of Income- Deposits	Individuals- Seeking Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack income required for Security Deposits</u> .
2	Lack of Income- Utility Bills	Individuals- Maintaining Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack income required for monthly utility bills</u> .
3	Lack of Income- Down Payment for Home Ownership	Individuals- Purchasing Home	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income required for down payments when purchasing a home</u> .
4	Lack of Income- Home Insurance	Individuals- Home Owners	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income needed to pay monthly home insurance</u> .
5	Lack of Income- Cost of Co-Pays	Individuals- Low Income/ Fixed Income	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income needed to pay Co-Pays at medical centers/ doctors offices</u> .
6	Lack of Income- Medical Expenses	Individuals- Low Income/ Fixed Income	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income needed to pay Medical Expenses- Bills, Medication, etc.</u> .
7	Lack of Income- Cost of Childcare	Community- Parents	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income needed to pay Childcare Costs</u> .
8	Lack of Income- Secondary Education Costs	Individuals- Seeking Educational Advancement	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack income to cover secondary education expenses (Tuition, Books, Laptops, etc.)</u> . This was identified as a leading cause of individuals not attending secondary education since many of our community members are struggling to meet basic needs and education can be looked at as a luxury expense rather than a need.
9	Private Transportation	Individuals- Seeking/Maintaining Employment	Focus Groups	ALL 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to gain/ maintain employment due to costs of private transportation (vehicle, fees to maintain and fuel)</u> . Based on quantitative data, we found that an <b>average of 82.6% of community members (Lowest: St. Charles; Highest Lincoln)</b> <u>utilize private transportation</u> across our 12- county service area.
Community Needs Assessment Survey Results					
	Survey Response Data	Population	County	Results and Description	
1	General Household Income	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>25%</b> of respondents stated they make 10,001-20,000 per year, <b>21.88%</b> stated they make 0-10,000 per year and <b>13.49%</b> stated they have no cash income.	
2	Sources of Income	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>41.74%</b> of respondents receive SSA/ SSI Income (Fixed Income), <b>41.31%</b> of respondents earn income through Wage/Salary and <b>11.40%</b> of respondents stated they receive NO income.	
3	Expenses- Greatest to Least by HH	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified the communities top 5 expenses are Housing- Mortgage/Rent ( <b>66.39%</b> ), Utilities- Electric/Gas/Water/Etc. ( <b>47.41%</b> ), Groceries- Food ( <b>34.54%</b> ), Transportation ( <b>27.84%</b> ) and Childcare ( <b>21.87%</b> )	
4	Use Of Income- Savings	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>75.74%</b> of respondents stated they do NOT have a savings account set aside for unexpected expenses.	
5	Use Of Income- Supporting HH	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>65.72%</b> of respondents stated they are unable to support their family with the monthly income receive (without assistance programs)	

	Agency Report Data	Population	County	Results and Description
1	Sources of Household Income	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>17%</b> - Income from Employment Only; <b>3%</b> - Income from Employment & Other Income Sources; <b>&gt;1%</b> - Income from Employment, Other Income Sources & Non-Cash Benefits; <b>4%</b> - Income from Employment & Non-Cash Benefits; <b>30%</b> - Other Income Source Only; <b>13%</b> - Other Income Source & Non-Cash Benefits; <b>18%</b> - NO Income; <b>4%</b> - Non-Cash Benefits Only; and <b>10%</b> - Unknown/Not Reported. Based on the data, NECAC can identify our largest population only receives income from "Other Income Source Only".
2	Level of Household Income- FPL	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>19%</b> - Up to 50%; <b>21%</b> - 51%-75%; <b>18%</b> - 76%-100%; <b>13%</b> - 101%-125%; <b>5%</b> - 126%-150%; <b>3%</b> - 151%-175%; <b>1%</b> - 176%-200%; <b>&gt;1%</b> - 250% and Over; <b>19%</b> - Unknown/Not Reported. Based on this information, NECAC can identify 51%-75% FPL is our largest demographic served.
3	Other Reported Income Sources	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>1%</b> - TANF; <b>15%</b> - Supplemental Security Income (SSI); <b>8%</b> - Social Security Disability Income (SSDI); <b>&gt;1%</b> - VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation; <b>&gt;1%</b> - Private Disability Insurance; <b>&gt;1%</b> - VA Non-Service Connected Disability Pension; <b>2%</b> - Retirement Income from Social Security; <b>1%</b> - Pension; <b>7%</b> - Child Support; <b>&gt;1%</b> - Alimony or other Spousal Support; <b>2%</b> - Unemployment Insurance; <b>&gt;1%</b> - "Other"; and <b>68%</b> - Unknown/Not Reported.
4	Non-Cash Benefits	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>12%</b> - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); <b>&gt;1%</b> - Women, Infant, Children (WIC); <b>42%</b> - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); <b>&gt;1%</b> - Housing Choice Voucher; <b>1%</b> - Public Housing; and <b>44%</b> - Unknown/Not Reported. Based on the data, NECAC can identify LIHEAP is the largest reported program providing clients with non-cash benefits.
<b>Current Program / Established Partnerships</b>				
	Program/ Partnership	Need	Population(s) Served	What this Accomplishes
1	SER National/ MER Goodwill	Employment/ Training Opportunities	Low Income Elderly Individuals	NECAC partners with agencies to place volunteers in the service centers to provide hands on training opportunities and work with individuals to build employment skills. Through programs, volunteers are paid stipends for the hours worked and allows them to increase monthly income without decreasing SSA benefits.
2	Life Skill Classes- Budgeting	Budgeting- Assist clients stretch their income	Individuals- Any	NECAC provides one-on-one budgeting classes to clients needing assistance with bill planning and stretching their income to meet basic household needs.
3	Weatherization	Home Energy Repairs	Low Income	NECAC Weatherization administrators help with improving energy efficiency. Once Weatherization has completed services on a home, clients are able to see a decrease in monthly utility bills.
5	Housing Development	Affordable Housing	Low Income	NECAC Housing Development assists low income individuals with subsidized housing. With this program, customers are able to save on housing costs to assist with other issue areas.
6	HUD Section 8 Vouchers	Affordable Housing	Low Income	Section 8 housing vouchers assist low income individuals with monthly housing expenses- rent/utilities.
7	CSBG Emergency Funds	Emergency Funds	Low Income	CSBG staff have access to a wide range of funds that are grant funded and donated. Funds are used on a case by case basis to help qualifying customers.
8	Skill Up	Education/Employment	SNAP Recipients	NECAC currently operates the SkillUp program across our 12-county service area. This program is designed to assist individuals on SNAP achieve educational attainment so they are "Skilled Up" to enter the workforce. Through this program, we are able to assist clients with supportive services such as school books, laptops, lab fess, etc. and provide tuition assistance to approved institutions.

Education													
Base Year:													2023
Data Points:	Lewis	Lincoln	Macon	Marion	Monroe	Mtg	Pike	Ralls	Randolph	St. Charles	Shelby	Warren	Missouri
High School Graduation Rate	95.35%	94.23%	96.88%	95.40%	93.16%	92.14%	95.00%	80.95%	90.76%	94.95%	94.44%	89.09%	91.58%
Percent of Individuals Without HS Diploma or Equivalent	12.79%	10.00%	10.58%	10.64%	10.03%	13.05%	13.28%	9.53%	11.43%	4.95%	10.00%	10.49%	9.41%
Number of Public School Districts	2	4	6	2	5	2	4	2	5	4	2	2	518
Higher Education Enrollment	NO DATA	18.5%	26.1%	22.7%	24.7%	24.6%	20.4%	18.0%	26.5%	26.5%	24.6%	21.7%	24.5%
Higher Education Completion Rate- Bachelors	9.20%	13.54%	11.79%	15.72%	10.50%	11.26%	10.45%	9.57%	12.40%	25.89%	13.27%	12.94%	18.44%
Higher Education Completion Rate- Graduate or Professional	5.24%	4.41%	5.68%	9.05%	3.34%	5.10%	4.55%	5.80%	5.54%	14.87%	6.11%	6.51%	11.50%
Number of Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	162
Adult-Literacy Rate- Level 1-Upper	24.3%	23.2%	24.6%	24.1%	22.5%	27.1%	28.3%	23.7%	25.0%	14.7%	22.3%	22.3%	22.9%
Adult-Literacy Rate- Level 1-Lower	16.1%	15.7%	16.3%	16.5%	13.2%	19.6%	20.4%	14.1%	17.9%	8.0%	12.5%	15.6%	15.4%
Early Education Enrollment	41	349	27	235	57	66	125	21	185	1,743	58	98	54,969
Causes of Poverty													
No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description								
1	Lack of High School Diplomas- Education	Community Members	Surveys	All 12	<b>15.16%</b> have NO High School Diploma or Equivalent, of survey respondents stated they have less than a high school diploma, and out of the individuals who lack a diploma <b>88.14%</b> completed grade 9-12th, <b>7.91%</b> completed 6th-8th grade and <b>3.95%</b> did not attend any schooling.								
2	Lack of Living Wage Jobs- Employment	Community Members	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack of living wage jobs</u> is the main cause of poverty for community members. Without income, individuals are not able to obtain safe and affordable housing, education, nutritional foods to feed their families, health insurance, transportation and childcare.								
3	Lack of Parental Support	Individuals- Students	Focus Groups	Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marion, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Warren (8/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>students lack parental support</u> . This was based on Community Members stating lack of parental support for students can lead to students not completing school because the family does not see it as important. This lead to the comment of parents may not have educational attainment themselves so they do not see the need.								
4	Lack of Secondary Education	Community Members	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack secondary education</u> . This was based on Community Members stating the community has many employment opportunities but individuals are not qualified due to their lack of educational attainment. This did include non-traditional schooling such as trade/ vocational.								
Gaps in Services													
	Gap In Services	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description								
1	Lack of Local Resources	Agency- Funding Opportunities	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby (5/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community Lacks Resources to assist individuals with emergency services</u> . This is due to the high number of requests for assistance and not enough funding to assist individuals with services.								
2	Public Transportation	Community- All	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community lacks public transportation</u> . Community members stated transportation is a leading cause of individuals not being able to travel to a secondary education facility. Based on Quantitative data, we have identified <b>all 12 counties have a rate below state average for public transportation availability. We also identified 8 counties in our service area do not have a secondary education facility</b> within the county so individuals would need transportation to travel to school.								
2	Internet Access	Individuals- Online Learning	Focus Groups	Lewis, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby (6/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals lack internet access in rural communities</u> . During this conversation, community members also identified many <u>individuals are unable to afford service due to high costs and limited financial resources</u> , even when providers are available.								
Barriers to Exiting Poverty or Obtaining Services													
	Barriers	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description								
1	Lack of Knowledge to Access Community Resources	Individuals- Seeking Financial Assistance	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack the knowledge to access community resources</u> . Community members feel programs are available to qualifying clients but many individuals do not know about the resources in their communities.								



2	Private Transportation	Individuals- All	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to attend secondary education due to costs of private transportation (vehicle, fees to maintain and fuel)</u> . Based on quantitative data, we found that an <b>average of 82.6% of community members ( Lowest: St. Charles; Highest Lincoln) utilize private transportation</b> across our 12- county service area.
3	Bullying	Individuals- Students	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Students lack educational attainment due to bullying within the school system.</u>
4	Mental Health Disorders	Individuals- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals with Mental Health Disorders have additional challenges to achieve educational attainment</u> . Additionally, Quantitative data shows on average the ratio of Mental Health providers to Population is 1904:01:00 ( <b>Marion: 340:01:00; Monroe/Shelby: 4340:01:00</b> ) . This data shows that we do not have enough mental health providers in our area to address the needs of the community.
5	Substance Abuse Disorders	Individuals- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals with Substance Abuse Disorders have additional challenges to achieve educational attainment</u> . Additional, Quantitative data shows <b>NECAC's service area makes up for 7% of the population</b> with co-occurring substance abuse disorders.
6	Lack of Housing- Homeless	Individuals- Homeless	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals without permanent housing have additional challenges to achieve educational attainment</u> . Based on <u>Agency Report Data</u> , we find that <b>203 individuals seeking services identified as Homeless during Fiscal Year 2022</b> .
7	Lack of Interest in Education	Individuals- Parents/Students	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Parents lack interest in their child's educational attainment</u> . This was due to parents lacking education themselves and therefore do not see the value of their child completing educational benchmarks. Additionally, based on Quantitative data we find that High School graduations are below the state average (91.56%) in <b>Ralls (80.95%), Randolph (90.76%), and Warren (89.09%) counties</b> . We also identified Adult-Literacy rates in 10 counties is above the state average- showing a higher population of individuals who cannot read or write.
8	Home Computers/ Laptops	Individuals- Online Learning	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals lack financial resources to obtain a home computer/laptop to participate in educational programs from remote locations</u> . Community Members discussed due to limited secondary educational facilities within the service area, individuals are seeking online opportunities due to lack of transportation and lack of income to cover daily expenses.
9	Lack of Income- Secondary Education Costs	Individuals- Seeking Educational Advancement	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack income to cover secondary education expenses (Tuition, Books, Laptops, etc.)</u> . This was identified as a leading cause of individuals not attending secondary education since many of our community members are struggling to meet basic needs and education can be looked at as a luxury expense rather than a need.
<b>Community Needs Assessment Survey Results</b>					
	<b>Survey Response Data</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Results and Description</b>
1	Education Level- Survey Responses	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	Survey Data	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>34.42%</b> have a High School Diploma or Equivalent, <b>19.12%</b> have some college education, <b>17.85%</b> have a Bachelors or Higher, <b>15.16%</b> have NO High School Diploma or Equivalent, <b>7.65%</b> have an Associated Degree and <b>5.81%</b> have a Trade/ Vocational Certification.
2	Education Level- Grade Completed (NO HS Diploma)	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	Survey Data	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified of the <b>15.16%</b> of respondents WITHOUT a High School Diploma- <b>88.14%</b> completed grade 9-12th, <b>7.91%</b> completed 6th-8th grade and <b>3.95%</b> did not attend any schooling
3	Early Education Enrollment	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	Survey Data	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>10.62%</b> of respondents stated they have a child enrolled in Preschool or Kindergarten.
<b>FY22 Missouri Information System (MIS) Client Data- Individuals served</b>					
	<b>Agency Report Data</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Results and Description</b>	
1	Education Levels- Ages 14-25+	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>5%</b> - 0-8th grade; <b>12%</b> Grades 9th-12th/ Non-Graduate; <b>17%</b> High School Graduate/ Equivalenty Diploma; <b>3%</b> - 12th Grade + Some College; <b>4%</b> 2 or 4 years College Graduate; <b>&gt;1%</b> Graduate of other post secondary school; and <b>57%</b> - Unknown/Not Reported. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify individuals with a High School/ Equivalent Diploma is our largest reported population served.</u>	
2	Disconnected Youth	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>8 (&gt;1%)</b> or clients served identified as <u>Disconnected Youth- ages 14-24 who are neither working or in school.</u>	
<b>Current Program / Established Partnerships</b>					
	<b>Established Partnerships</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Population(s) Served</b>	<b>What this Accomplishes</b>	
1	Trade School- Ranken	Referrals for Students Seeking Educational Attainment Supportive Services	Trade School Enrollees	By partnering with Ranken Tech, we are able to assist students with educational services through NECAC programs. We currently have a referral system that covers Lincoln, St. Charles, Warren, Pike and Montgomery counties. This partnership allows NECAC to reach more individuals in the community and educate the community about our programs/ services.	
2	Community Colleges	Referrals for Students Seeking Educational Attainment Supportive Services	Community College Enrollees	By partnering with Community Colleges, we are able to assist students with educational services through NECAC programs. We currently work with two community colleges in our service area (St. Charles Community College (SCC) and Moberly Area Community College (MACC)). This partnership allows NECAC to reach more individuals in the community and educate the community about our programs/ services.	
3	Public Schools	Back to School Fairs- School Supplies for Students/ Simulations	Students K-12	NECAC partners with local school districts across our 12- county service area to provide back to school supplies for low-income families. This partnership allows the Community the opportunity to receive free supplies and get children ready for the upcoming school year. This partnership also allows us to book simulations in schools to bring awareness to school staff (Poverty Simulations), Vocational Opportunities (VOICE) to K-5 Students and the importance of education (REALL) with High School age students.	
4	Skill Up	Education Assistance- Supportive Services/ Tuition	Low Income	NECAC currently operates the SkillUp program across our 12-county service area. This program is designed to assist individuals on SNAP achieve educational attainment so they are "Skilled Up" to enter the workforce. Through this program, we are able to assist clients with supportive services such as school books, laptops, lab fees, etc. and provide tuition assistance to approved institutions.	

5	Case Management	Education Planning	Low Income	NECAC currently provides case management to clients seeking long term or short term goals- such as educational attainment. Through this program we are able to assist clients with education planning, FASFA applications, referrals to organizations with tuition assistance, and navigating unexpected barriers.
6	Workforce Development Program Providers (Career Centers)	Bundling Program Services	Unemployed/ Under Employed	By bundling services with Career Center programs and SkillUp/Case Management we will be more efficient at serving our target population. This partnership allows for additional dollars to be utilized when proving employment/ education services to participants and can allow for additional barriers to be resolved.
7	Chamber of Commerce (Local)	Awareness of Employment Programs/ Opportunities	Community Members- Businesses/ Organizations	Providing program information (SkillUp/Case Management/ Life Skills (Employment) to the Chamber of Commerce allows NECAC to receive additional referrals and inform the community of current services for low-income/ eligible clients. In general, this partnership will assist our community with gaining educational attainment and living wage employment required to become self-sufficient.

**Adult Literacy-**

**Level 1 Upper-** are at risk for being able to understand printed material. Those at the upper end of Level 1 can read and understand the text well enough to be able to perform small task, but might have difficulty understanding or drawing inferences from multiple forms of text.

**Lower -** end may struggle with basic vocabulary or even be functionally illiterate.

Employment														
Base Year:														2023
Data Points:	Lewis	Lincoln	Macon	Marion	Monroe	Mtg	Pike	Ralls	Randolph	St. Charles	Shelby	Warren	Missouri	
Unemployment Rate	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%	1.9%	1.5%	1.4%	1.8%	1.8%	
Percent of Individuals Unemployed	1.0%	4.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%	4.0%	4.0%	2.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%	4.0%	3.0%	
Percent Change in Labor Force	-1.9%	3.9%	0.0%	1.0%	1.8%	4.8%	-1.0%	0.0%	6.0%	7.4%	0.9%	6.1%	1.6%	
Small Business/Entrepreneurship Growth Rate	5.43%	0.00%	-1.75%	0.51%	-1.11%	-2.49%	-1.54%	0.00%	-4.02%	0.00%	-3.87%	-5.15%	-0.70%	
Job Growth Rate	59%	64%	55%	61%	58%	57%	53%	63%	54%	64%	70%	60%	63%	
Area Growth Rate By Industry- 1st	Health Care/ Social Assistance	Manufacturing	Health Care/ Social Assistance	Health Care/ Social Assistance	Manufacturing	Manufacturing	Health Care/Social Assistance	Manufacturing	Health Care/ Social Assistance	Health Care/ Social Assistance	Health Care/ Social Assistance	Manufacturing	Health Care/ Social Assistance	
Area Growth Rate By Industry- 2nd	Manufacturing	Construction	Manufacturing	Manufacturing	Health Care/ Social Services	Construction	Retail Trade	Health Care/ Social Services	Retail Trade	Retail Trade	Manufacturing	Construction	Retail Trade	
Area Growth Rate By Industry- 3rd	Retail Trade	Retail Trade	Construction	Retail Trade	Retail Trade	Retail Trade	Manufacturing	Retail Trade	Manufacturing	Finance/ Insurance	Agriculture/ Forestry/ Fishing/Hunting	Health Care/ Social Assistance	Manufacturing	
Transportation- Motor Vehicle, Drive Alone	78.2%	85.4%	83.1%	82.4%	84.9%	79.6%	84.4%	84.3%	84.2%	83.4%	77.2%	84.9%	80.8%	
Transportation- Carpool	8.9%	7.7%	7.7%	9.1%	8.2%	12.4%	7.7%	6.3%	9.2%	6.2%	7.7%	9.8%	8.4%	
Transportation- Bicycle/Walking	3.6%	2.1%	2.8%	2.2%	3.0%	3.3%	1.7%	1.7%	0.6%	0.8%	9.0%	0.4%	2.1%	
Transportation- Public Transportation	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	1.2%	
Transportation- Taxi/Other	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%	0.1%	1.3%	0.7%	2.0%	1.0%	0.6%	1.2%	1.0%	
Transportation- Work From Home (No Transportation Needed)	7.5%	3.6%	5.3%	5.1%	3.1%	4.1%	4.9%	7.0%	3.6%	8.5%	5.5%	3.6%	6.6%	
Causes of Poverty														
No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description									
1	Lack of Living Wage Jobs	Community- Employers	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Randolph and Warren (6/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified the <u>Community lacks living wage jobs</u> . This was based on hiring employers and average wages for open positions within the county- Community identified many positions are below living wage and will not allow a family to be self-sufficient. Based on Quantitative data we have identified that <b>Monroe (1.8%), Warren (1.8%) and Randolph (1.9%)</b> counties have the <u>highest unemployment rate</u> in our service area. We also found that <b>Lincoln (4%), Montgomery (4%), Pike (4%), Randolph (4%), and Warren (4%)</b> have the <u>highest percentage of Unemployed Individuals based on population</u> .									
2	Lack of Employment Skills	Individuals- Unemployed/ Under Employed	Focus Groups	Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Randolph, Shelby and Warren (11/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>individuals lack employment skills</u> . Community members stated that employers are hiring but many individuals lack the skills needed to obtain employment available. Based on Quantitative Data, we have identified that <b>Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Randolph, Shelby and Warren</b> counties having a <u>higher rate of individuals without a High School Diploma/ Equivalent</u> than the state average with <b>Pike</b> having the <u>highest rate at 13.28%</u> . We also have identified the same counties have a <u>significantly lower rate than the state average of individuals with secondary educational attainment</u> with <b>Lewis</b> county being the lowest at <u>9.20%</u> .									
Gaps in Services														
Gap	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description										
1	Childcare-3rd Shift Employment (Odd Shifts)	Individuals (Parents)- Seeking Employment	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Marion, Pike and St. Charles Counties (4/12)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>lack of childcare for employees working 3rd shift (night shift)</u> . Additional Qualitative data collected, <b>Marion County and Saint Charles Counties</b> have <u>one overnight childcare facility with very limited/ no openings</u> - no other counties have this opportunity.									
2	Public Transportation	Community- All	Focus Groups	ALL 12	Community Members who attended focus groups across 12- counties identified the <u>Community lacks public transportation</u> . Community members stated transportation is a leading cause of unemployment due to potential employees not being able to commute to work. Based on Quantitative data, we have identified <b>all 12 counties have a rate below state average for public transportation availability</b> .									
3	Internet Access	Individuals- Job Search	Focus Groups	Lewis, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby (6/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals lack internet access in rural communities</u> . During this conversation, community members also identified many <u>individuals are unable to afford service due to high costs and limited financial resources</u> , even when providers are available.									
Barriers to Exiting Poverty or Obtaining Services														
Barrier	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description										

1	Lack of Knowledge to start Small Business/ Entrepreneurship	Individuals- Seeking Self-Employment Opportunities	Focus Groups	Macon, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Randolph, Shelby and Warren (7/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals lack the knowledge to start a small business</u> . This was based on the current employment industries in the area and an individuals desire to bring a new opportunity to the community but they lack the knowledge to get started. Based on Quantitative data we found that <b>Macon (-1.75%), Monroe (-1.11), Montgomery (-2.49%), Pike (-1.54%), Randolph (-4.02%), Shelby (-3.87%) and Warren (-5.15%)</b> have seen a decrease in <u>Small Business Growth</u> since 2019.
2	Background Checks for Employment	Individuals - Seeking Employment with previous Criminal History	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Marion, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, and Randolph (6/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to obtain employment due to criminal backgrounds (felonies)</u> . Based on Quantitative data collected, we have identified that an average of 1.45% of individuals in our service are have been incarcerated with <b>Ralls having the highest rate at 2.33% and Randolph is the second highest at 2.25%.</b>
3	Substance Abuse/ Drug Testing for Employment	Individuals- Seeking Employment	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Marion, Pike, Ralls, Randolph, St. Charles and Warren Counties (7/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to obtain employment due to substance abuse problems</u> . This was based on qualitative data collected by employers and community partners working with employment programs. Based on quantitative data, we found that an <b>average of 176 individuals</b> in our service area per county ( <b>Lowest: Ralls; Highest: St. Charles</b> ) <u>receive mental health services with co-occurring substance abuse disorders</u> .
4	Lack of Childcare Facilities	Community- Individuals with Children	Focus Groups	ALL 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>the Community lacks childcare facilities</u> . This information was based on the number of licensed facilities currently in operation and the number of households in our service area ( <b>Average per County: 19,527 Households</b> ) - Individuals are unable to obtain childcare due to lack of openings/ general number of facilities ( <b>Lowest: Shelby; Highest: St. Charles</b> )
5	Private Transportation	Individuals- Seeking/Maintaining Employment	Focus Groups	ALL 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to gain/ maintain employment due to costs of private transportation (vehicle, fees to maintain and fuel)</u> . Based on quantitative data, we found that an <b>average of 82.6% of community members ( Lowest: St. Charles; Highest Lincoln)</b> <u>utilize private transportation</u> across our 12- county service area.
6	Home Computers/ Laptops	Individuals- Job Applications	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals lack financial resources to obtain a home computer/laptop to complete job applications from remote locations</u> . Community Members discussed most employers in the community no longer offer in-person applications (paper) and require potential applicants to complete employment applications online.
7	Lack of Support Systems	Individuals- Maintaining Employment	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals lack support systems to maintain employment</u> . This was based on community members stating many community members lack time off work within the first year and family obligations such as lack of childcare, death in family, illness, etc. effect work attendance and without a support system, maintaining employment is difficult for many individuals.
8	Lack of References	Individuals- Seeking Employment	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>Individuals lack professional references when applying for employment opportunities</u> .
9	Lack of Advancement Opportunities	Community- Employers	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended Focus Groups identified <u>the Community lacks advancement opportunities for employees seeking greater responsibility</u> . This was based on community members identifying the community lacks living wage jobs as many open positions are entry level with no direct line of advancement- no increase in income.

**Community Needs Assessment Survey Results**

	Survey Response Data	Population	County	Results and Description
1	Employment- Survey Data	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>55.99%</b> of respondents are not work, <b>30.32%</b> are working full-time, <b>10.80%</b> are working part-time and <b>2.82%</b> are self-employed
2	Employment-Seeking	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>23.47%</b> of respondents are seeking employment ( <i>from statistics above</i> )
3	Employment- Lack of/ Why	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified of the <b>76.53%</b> of respondents <b>not</b> seeking employment ( <i>from statistics above</i> ) <b>61.86%</b> state they are Disabled, <b>21.19%</b> are retired, <b>5.93%</b> lack childcare, <b>4.52%</b> lack transportation, <b>4.52%</b> state they are not qualified for available positions based on their education level, employment experience, etc. and <b>1.98%</b> gave up after not getting hired anywhere.
4	Employment- Lack of Transportation	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>20.14%</b> of respondents do not have reliable private transportation.
5	Employment-Type of Transportation	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>82.93%</b> of respondents use a Motor Vehicle, <b>12.66%</b> Carpool, <b>5.26%</b> Walk, <b>1.28%</b> use a Bicycle and <b>1.56%</b> use Private Transportation (Bus) as a primary mode of transportation.

**FY22 Missouri Information System (MIS) Client Data- Individuals served**

	Agency Report Data	Population	County	Results and Description
1	Work Status- 18+	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we found <b>6%</b> of customers have full-time employment, <b>3%</b> have part-time employment, <b>27%</b> are unemployed and <b>2%</b> are retired. This shows us at the majority of clients served are unemployed and may need employment assistance. Based on this data, NECAC can identify Unemployed individuals are <u>largest population served</u> .

**Current Program / Established Partnerships**

	Established Partnerships	Need	Population(s) Served	What this Accomplishes
1	Workforce Development Program Providers (Career Centers)	Bundling Program Services	Unemployed/ Under Employed	By bundling services with Career Center programs and SkillUp/Case Management we will be more efficient at serving our target population. This partnership allows for additional dollars to be utilized when proving employment/ education services to participants and can allow for additional barriers to be resolved.
2	Chamber of Commerce (Local)	Awareness of Employment Programs/ Opportunities	Community Members- Businesses/ Organizations	Providing program information (SkillUp/Case Management/ Life Skills (Employment) to the Chamber of Commerce allows NECAC to receive additional referrals and inform the community of current services for low-income/ eligible clients. In general, this partnership will assist our community with gaining educational attainment and living wage employment required to become self-sufficient.

**Partnerships That Need to be Created**

	Purpose	Partnerships That Need to be Created	Population(s) Served	What this will Accomplish
--	---------	--------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------------

1	Awareness of Job Opportunities/ Referrals	Local Employers	Unemployed/ Under Employed	By establishing partnerships with local employers, we will be more successful at serving our SkillUp/Case Management participants. This partnership would allow for NECAC to build relationships with our community members and develop a referral process when employers are seeking new hires. This partnership could also allow NECAC to work with current employees to assist them with barriers that are causing absents from work (maintaining employment support)
---	--	-----------------	-------------------------------	--

Housing													
Base Year:	2023												
Data Points:	Lewis	Lincoln	Macon	Marion	Monroe	Mtg	Pike	Ralls	Randolph	St. Charles	Shelby	Warren	Missouri
Number of Home Owners	2,751	15,920	4,391	7,467	2,802	3,630	4,753	3,530	6,304	121,904	1,880	10,440	1,637,374
Foreclosure Rates	7.00%	4.64%	3.93%	5.14%	5.68%	5.15%	5.77%	4.13%	4.69%	2.54%	5.43%	3.72%	4.02%
Median Home Value	\$ 99,972	\$ 209,961	\$ 117,637	\$ 152,690	\$ 127,534	\$ 129,621	\$ 120,907	\$ 160,342	\$ 129,270	\$ 268,189	\$ 89,193	\$ 220,917	\$ 202,562
Median Mortgage Costs	\$ 571	\$ 1,002	\$ 638	\$ 799	\$ 748	\$ 891	\$ 621	\$ 810	\$ 728	\$ 1,619	\$ 445	\$ 1,109	\$ 1,020
Median Rental Cost	\$ 587	\$ 876	\$ 629	\$ 693	\$ 637	\$ 713	\$ 669	\$ 705	\$ 697	\$ 587	\$ 1,118	\$ 904	\$ 886
Fair Market Rent	\$ 931	\$ 1,294	\$ 1,055	\$ 1,096	\$ 917	\$ 1,046	\$ 954	\$ 1,055	\$ 1,032	\$ 1,294	\$ 913	\$ 1,294	\$ 1,060
Homeless Individuals	0	13	0	21	0	0	0	0	8	42	0	10	5926
Homeless Children	10	119	15	147	21	67	117	25	253	668	17	NO DATA	34944
Total Number of Housing Units	4,316	23,642	7,401	12,886	4,465	5,801	7,609	5,034	10,815	164,505	2,951	15,843	2,807,604
Number Vacant Rental Units	131	232	67	334	35	92	75	46	137	1,978	30	70	55,842
Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes	32	21	86	-	31	18	93	10	6	301	-	9	9,692
Overcrowded Housing Units	83	365	84	201	40	154	111	31	63	1,274	10	459	43,327
Rate of Low Income Housing - Public Housing	50.1%	61.9%	52.3%	46.7%	53.5%	44.5%	45.1%	42.0%	57.0%	53.4%	40.6%	62.9%	56.2%
Average Household Size	2.75	2.71	2.63	2.37	2.43	2.39	2.49	2.55	2.58	2.51	2.58	2.72	2.46
Median Housing Age	45	26	50	49	42	40	47	35	48	27	50	23	44
Average Utility Costs	\$ 146.59	\$ 125.39	\$ 139.83	\$ 145.10	\$ 135.55	\$ 137.92	\$ 143.83	\$ 144.13	\$ 131.82	\$ 124.65	\$ 135.09	\$ 125.33	\$ 134.69
Number of Public Water Systems	5	39	8	3	6	11	6	4	6	23	5	21	2,700
Number of Private Water Wells	85	2,892	25	72	210	1,040	454	84	56	2,867	62	2,371	400,000
Causes of Poverty													
No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description								
1	High Cost of Housing	Individuals- Seeking/Maintaining Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to afford cost associated with securing &amp; maintaining permanent housing.</u> This was based on the increase in housing costs across the nation- Rent, Utilities, and Deposits.								
2	Lack of Living Wage Jobs- Employment	Community Members	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack living wage jobs</u> is the main cause of poverty for community members. Without income, individuals are not able to obtain safe and affordable housing, education, nutritional foods to feed these families, health insurance, transportation and childcare.								
Gaps in Services													
Gap	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description									
1	Lack of Affordable Housing	Community- Seeking/ Maintaining Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community Lacks Affordable Housing.</u> Additional Qualitative data was collected that identified NECAC has 75 Low Income Housing apartment complexes across our 12-county service area. <u>Of the 75, Ralls (0), Lewis (1), Monroe (1), Montgomery (1), and Shelby (1)</u> have the lowest number of complexes.								
2	Lack of Local Resources	Agency- Funding Opportunities	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby (5/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community Lacks Resources to assist individuals with emergency services.</u> This is due to the high number of requests for assistance and not enough funding to assist individuals with services.								
Barriers to Exiting Poverty or Obtaining Services													
Barrier	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description									
1	Limited Housing Assistance Programs (Vouchers/ General Assistance )	Agency- Housing Assistance	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby (7/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Agencies have limited resources to assist with housing related emergency services.</u> This was based on the high demand for housing services and not enough funding to support the communities needs. Based on <u>Agency Report Data</u> , we identified <b>203 Individuals seeking NECAC services self identified as Homeless, 151 "Other" and 293 Unknown.</b>								
3	Lack of Energy Efficient Homes/ Home Repair Needed	Community- Owner/Renter Occupied Housing	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Marion, Pike, Randolph and Shelby (6/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community lacks Energy Efficient Homes.</u> This was based on the high number of housing opportunities that need additional repairs such as insulation, windows, doors to cut down on heating/cooling costs due to the age of the properties. Based on Quantitative data, we find the <u>average age of houses in our service area is 40.2 (Oldest: Shelby- 50 yrs.; Newest: Warren-23 yrs.)</u>								
4	Lack of Heating/Cooling in Homes	Individuals- Maintaining Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack Heating/Cooling in their homes.</u> This was based on the high number of individuals reporting to agencies stating they do not have utilities due to high costs and low income. Based on <u>Agency Data</u> , we found a <b>9% increase in LIHEAP applications from 2022 to 2023</b> which shows an increase in need.								
5	Increase in Taxes (Local/ Personal Property)	Community- Residents	Focus Groups	St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren (3/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Individuals are unable to afford yearly taxes due to tax increases.</u> This was based on the increase of local property taxes- Homeowners.								
6	Lack of Energy Education	Individuals- Any	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack Energy Education.</u> The Focus Group participants stated individuals do not know how to minimize energy costs by preventative measures- unplugging power cords when not using, raising the temperature when not home, etc.								

7	"Not in My Backyard" Stigma- Low Income Housing	Community- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community has a stigma associated with Low-Income Housing- "Not in my Backyard"</u> . It was communicated during focus groups that individuals in the community feel income based housing brings crime into the community and is associated with negative thoughts and feelings.
8	Bad Credit	Individuals- Seeking Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals with bad credit are unable to obtain permanent housing</u> . This was based on the communities current rental procedures and credit checks create barriers to obtaining housing opportunities.
9	Unsafe, Unsanitary Rental Units	Community Seeking/ Maintaining Housing	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike and Ralls (6/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community has unsafe, unsanitary units for rent</u> . Based on Quantitative data, we found <b>NECAC's service area makes up 6% of the states Unsafe, Unsanitary homes.</b>
10	Criminal History	Individuals- Seeking Housing	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Marion, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, and Randolph (6/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to obtain permanent housing due to criminal backgrounds</u> . Based on Quantitative data collected, we have identified that an average of 1.45% of individuals in our service area have been incarcerated with <b>Ralls having the highest rate at 2.33% and Randolph is the second highest at 2.25%.</b>
11	Bad Rental History	Individuals- Seeking Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals with bad rental history are unable to obtain permanent housing</u> . This was based on the communities current rental procedures and rental history/ background checks create barriers to obtaining housing opportunities.
12	Overcrowded Housing	Individuals- Low Income	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals are living in Overcrowded Housing due to the lack of housing available</u> . Based on Quantitative data, we found <b>NECAC's service area makes up 6% of the overcrowded housing</b> reported to the state. We also found rural areas are the most vulnerable areas/ higher rates due.
13	Lack of Income- Deposits	Individuals- Seeking Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack income required for Security Deposits</u> .
14	Lack of Income- Utility Bills	Individuals- Maintaining Housing	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack income required for monthly utility bills</u> .
15	Lack of Income- Down Payment for Home Ownership	Individuals- Purchasing Home	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income required for down payments when purchasing a home</u> .
16	Lack of Income- Home Insurance	Individuals- Home Owners	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income needed to pay monthly home insurance</u> .
<b>Community Needs Assessment Survey Results</b>					
	<b>Survey Response Data</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Results and Description</b>	
1	Housing- Rent/Own	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>49.36%</b> of respondents Own their Home, <b>46.24%</b> Rent their Home and <b>4.40%</b> NONE- Living with Friends/Family/ Homeless.	
2	Housing- Type	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>60.48%</b> of respondents live in a House, <b>17.99%</b> live in an Apartment, <b>17.28%</b> live in a Mobile Home, <b>2.27%</b> live in a duplex, <b>1.84%</b> are Homeless and <b>0.14%</b> live in a Temporary Shelter.	
3	Housing- Assistance	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>22.70%</b> of respondents are receiving housing assistance (Section 8/Income Based)	
4	Homelessness- Past 12 Months	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>7.13%</b> of respondents stated they have experienced homelessness within the last 12-months	
5	Paying Utilities	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>62.62%</b> of respondents stated they are unable to pay their monthly utility bills without assistance programs (LIHEAP/Emergency/Section 8)	
6	Sources of Energy	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>88.24%</b> of respondents have Electric, <b>32.72%</b> have Natural Gas, <b>12.04%</b> have Propane, <b>4.11%</b> have Wood, <b>2.12%</b> have NONE, and <b>0.57%</b> have Cylinder Propane in their homes	
<b>FY22 Missouri Information System (MIS) Client Data-Individuals served</b>					
	<b>Agency Report Data</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Results and Description</b>	
1	Housing Status	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>64%</b> of client <u>rent</u> their home, <b>30%</b> <u>own</u> their home, <b>2%</b> of clients are <u>homeless</u> , <b>1%</b> of clients are in " <u>other temporary housing</u> ", and <b>3%</b> housing source was <u>not reported</u> to the agency. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify homeowners are largest population served.</u>	
2	Household Size	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 13	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>38%</b> - Single Person Household, <b>21%</b> - Two People, <b>17%</b> - Three People, <b>12%</b> - Four People, <b>7%</b> - Five People, <b>5%</b> - Six or More People. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify Single Person households are the largest population served.</u>	
3	Household Type	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 14	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>38%</b> - Single Person; <b>9%</b> - Two Adults, No Children; <b>32%</b> - Single Female Parent; <b>3%</b> - Single Male Parent; <b>11%</b> Two Parent Household; <b>1%</b> - Non-Related Adults with Children; <b>4%</b> - Multigenerational Household; <b>2%</b> "Other"; and <b>&gt;1%</b> - Unknown/Not Reported. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify Single Person households are the largest population served.</u>	
<b>Current Program / Established Partnerships</b>					
	<b>Established Partnerships</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Population(s) Served</b>	<b>What this Accomplishes</b>	
1	Coordinated Entry	Individuals- Referrals for Services	ALL 12	NECAC partners with Coordinated Entry across our 12- county service area. This partnership creates referrals for clients seeking specific services and communication between	

2	Fragile Family System for Care-Lincoln County Housing Task Force	Individuals- Homeless	Lincoln County	NECAC will be a partner on this project and will be a referral agency when clients are seeking services to become stably housed, gain employment, seeking educational attainment, etc. This allows clients to receive bundled services and address multiple needs they may have. This is a homeless shelter and they are working to create transportation services for clients staying with them.
3	NECAC Weatherization	Home Repair	Low Income	NECAC currently offers Weatherization to qualifying households in all 12 counties in our service area. They cover a wide range of home repair through various funding sources. Homes that are weatherized are more energy efficient and will help households cut down on utility cost year round and help avoid high utility costs.
4	NECAC Section 8	Affordable Housing	Low Income	NECAC currently operates two PHA's that cover all 12 counties in our service area. Section 8 helps low income families with rental assistance and aids qualifying families maintain affordable housing. The number of vouchers is based on funding.
5	NECAC Homeownership	Homeownership/ Classes	Low Income	NECAC offers a homeownership program to aid low income families obtain loans and financial classes.
6	NECAC CSBG Operated Emergency Funds	Emergency Assistance	Low Income	NECAC currently operates a variety of emergency programs and are able to assist income eligible customers with housing assistance. Funds are limited, but when available can assist with utility and housing deposits.
7	LIHEAP	Utility Costs	Low Income	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is offered in the Winter and Summer to assist income eligible customers with heat/ cooling assistance. This helps customers who cannot afford there utilities keep services connected.
8	Housing Development	Affordable Housing	Low Income	NECAC Housing Development assists low income individuals with subsidized housing
9	NECAC	Housing Education	Low Income	NECAC offer life skills classes to customers to provide educational classes.
10	NECAC	Obtain/Maintain Housing	Low Income	NECAC offers partnering for success for low income customers. With this program, county coordinators can work one-on-one with participants to reach housing goals
<b>Partnerships That Need to be Created</b>				
	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Partnerships That Need to be Created</b>	<b>Population(s) Served</b>	<b>What this will Accomplish</b>
1	Create Housing Opportunities	State & Local Government, Housing Organizations	ALL 12	The Community Needs Safe and Affordable Housing. During Focus groups, individuals in all 12 counties stated there is lack of housing availability and many units are unaffordable for individuals on low/ fixed incomes. By creating housing opportunities, we would house more individuals and they would have a better chance of staying stably housed.



Health/Nutrition														
Base Year:	2023													
Data Points:	Lewis	Lincoln	Macon	Marion	Monroe	Mtg	Pike	Ralls	Randolph	St. Charles	Shelby	Warren	Missouri	
Food Availability Rate	0.00%	5.03%	26.30%	14.02%	0.00%	26.49%	0.00%	0.00%	16.18%	10.36%	0.00%	14.07%	NO DATA	
Rate of Individuals who are <b>Food Insecure</b>	13.7%	11.5%	12.5%	13.9%	13.3%	13.3%	13.3%	11.3%	13.8%	7.5%	12.7%	11.8%	11.4%	
Rate of Individuals who are <b>Food Insecure but ineligible for assistance</b>	36%	40%	28%	30%	32%	33%	36%	41%	36%	63%	19%	39%	37%	
Rate of Individuals who are Uninsured	9.40%	10.28%	11.09%	8.73%	10.15%	11.16%	9.23%	8.81%	9.41%	5.80%	11.16%	9.54%	9.62%	
Ratio of Mental Health providers to Population	1640:01:00	1040:01:00	1680:01:00	340:01:00	4340:01:00	2260:01:00	1760:01:00	2060:01:00	900:01:00	560:01:00	4340:01:00	1930:01:00	460:01:00	
Number of Individuals receiving Mental Health Services with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Disorders	32	315	43	447	35	46	50	31	116	789	35	174	29,799	
Number of Individuals who Smoke	29.2%	23.5%	28.4%	29.1%	22.6%	30.7%	23.8%	23.8%	28.9%	17.5%	28.8%	22.7%	19.4%	
Life Expectancy-Years	78.5	76.7	77.5	77.0	79.6	76.3	77.2	78.3	76.2	80.4	77.0	78.1	74.6	
Resident Death Count	126	562	268	374	127	195	230	146	342	97	97	3,792	73,883	
Perinatal Death Rate	11.00%	8.95%	9.19%	11.68%	2.89%	6.06%	10.33%	12.95%	6.89%	7.99%	9.67%	8.05%	9.71%	
Infant Death Rate	7.86%	5.44%	6.64%	7.46%	2.89%	4.04%	4.54%	9.25%	6.27%	5.10%	9.67%	5.88%	6.44%	

**Causes of Poverty**

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	High Costs of Food- <i>Use of Income</i>	Community- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to afford food due to high costs</u> . Community Members stated families who were already struggling to make ends meet are now unable to obtain basic needs (food) due to rising costs at the grocery stores. Under barriers, we have also identified the need for additional food pantry hours of operation to provide additional support to at risk families.
2	Lack of Living Wage <i>Jobs- Employment</i>	Community- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack living wage jobs</u> is the main cause of poverty for community members. Without income, individuals are not able to obtain safe and affordable housing, education, nutritional foods to feed there families, health insurance, transportation and childcare.
3	Lack of Affordable Insurance Plans	Community- General	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Macon, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby <i>(5/12 Counties)</i>	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community lacks affordable healthcare plans</u> . Community members stated health insurance is unaffordable if not covered by employers or state- income based (Medicaid/Medicare). Without health insurance, individuals create additional debts and create additional barriers- Use of Income, Housing, Nutrition, and Transportation. Based on Quantitative data, we identified the <b>average rate of individuals uninsured in NECAC's service area is 9.56%</b> , which is 0.06% lower than the state average. However, <b>Lincoln (10.28%), Macon (11.09%), Monroe (10.15%), Montgomery (11.16%) and Shelby (11.16)</b> have a higher rate than the state average.
4	Lack of Food Availability	Community- General	Qualitative Data	Lewis, Monroe, Pike, Ralls and Shelby <i>(5/12 Counties)</i>	Per Quantitative data, the average rate of <u>individuals who are food insecure</u> in NECAC service area is <b>12.4%</b> - which is 1% higher than the state average. Counties with the highest level of food insecurities are <b>Marion (13.9%), Randolph (13.8%) and Lewis (13.7%)</b> . In counties with <i>low food availability rates</i> ( <b>Lewis, Monroe, Pike, Ralls and Shelby</b> ).

**Gaps in Services**

Gap	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description	
1	Lack of Local Resources	Agency- Funding Opportunities	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby <i>(5/12 Counties)</i>	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community Lacks Resources to assist individuals with emergency services</u> . This is due to the high number of requests for assistance and not enough funding to assist individuals with services.
2	Lack of Healthcare Providers	Community- General	Focus Groups	Lewis, Monroe, Montgomery, Ralls, and Shelby <i>(4/12 Counties)</i>	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community lacks healthcare providers</u> . Community Members in the identified counties stated they have few (or no) doctors within the county and individuals seeking services must travel to outside counties to receive medical assistance. <i>This creates additional barriers such as transportation and Use of income.</i>

3	Lack of Mental Health Service Providers	Community- General	Focus Groups	Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Randolph, Shelby, St. Charles and Warren (11/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the Community lacks mental health providers. Based on the quantitative data, the <u>average the ratio of Mental Health providers to Population is 1904:01:00 (Marion: 340:01:00; Monroe/Shelby: 4340:01:00)</u> . This data shows that we do not have enough mental health providers in our area to address the needs of the community.
4	Lack of Women's Health Providers	Community- Women	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community lack women's' health providers</u> . Community members stated they must travel to receive women's health services due to the lack of providers in the community. Since Family Planning is no longer in operation, an increase of individuals are seeking services.
5	Lack of Specialist	Community- General	Focus Groups	Lewis, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, and Shelby (4/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community lack specialist providers</u> . Community members stated they must travel to receive specialist health services due to the lack of providers in the community.
6	Lack of Public Transportation	Community- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups across 12- counties identified the <u>Community lacks public transportation</u> . Community members stated transportation is a barrier to individuals seeking health services if they reside in a county without a local provider. Based on Quantitative data, we have identified <b>all 12 counties have a rate below state average for public transportation availability.</b>

**Barriers to Exiting Poverty or Obtaining Services**

Barrier	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description	
1	Lack of Healthcare Providers Accepting Medicaid	Community- Healthcare Providers	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community lacks healthcare providers accepting Medicaid</u> . Community members stated many providers available in the area do not accept Medicaid clients, this creates a barrier for low-income clients to obtain medical services. It was also stated this creates transportation barriers due to customers traveling to receive services.
2	Lack of Private Transportation	Individuals- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals are unable to receive medical assistance due to traveling out of county for services- (vehicle, fees to maintain and fuel)</u> . Based on quantitative data, we found that an <b>average of 82.6% of community members (Lowest: St. Charles; Highest Lincoln)</b> utilize private transportation across our 12- county service area.
3	Lack of Dental/Vision Insurance offered by Employers	Individuals- Employees	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack employer covered Dental/Vision insurance</u> . Community members stated many employers in our service area may only offer health insurance but Dental/Vision is not included. This creates barriers for individuals seeking services due to the out of pocket costs associated with services.
4	Sigma- Mental Health	Community- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community has a sigma around Mental Health/ Mental Health Services</u> . Community Members stated individuals with Mental Health disorders may not seek services due to the sigma around mental health in today's society.
5	Lack of Nutrition Education- Basic Cooking Skills	Individuals- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack nutrition education- basic cooking skills</u> . Community members stated individuals have barriers to eating nutritious meals due to the lack of knowledge to prepare meals and rather opt for premade meals or fast-food options.
6	Lack of Supplies Needed to Prepare Meals- Homeless	Individuals- Homeless	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Marion, Randolph, St. Charles and Warren (4/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack supplies needed to prepare meals</u> . Community members stated homeless individuals do not have the supplies needed to prepare meals due to lack of housing- appliances, cookware, etc. It was also identified individuals recently housed after being homeless, eviction, lost housing due to house fire, etc. may not have appliances or cookware and would be unable to prepare meals.
7	Lack of Nutrition Education- Food Preservation	Individuals- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack nutrition education- Food Preservation</u> . Community member stated individuals lack skills such as canning and freeze drying to extend shelf life of foods to utilize later. Individuals could learn skills that would assist with <u>Use of Income</u> - less food waste and assist them with feeding their family when fresh and affordable produce is no longer in season.
8	Poor Meal Choices- Healthy vs. Convenient	Individuals- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack nutrition education- health vs. convenient</u> . Community Members stated individuals lack the knowledge to prepare healthy meal choices due to the idea fast-food/ premade meals are more affordable than healthy foods.
9	Lack of Access to Food Pantries	Individuals- Seeking Food Assistance	Focus Groups	Lewis, Monroe, Pike, Ralls and Shelby (5/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack access to food pantries due to limited hours of operation</u> . Community members stated in many counties food pantries are only open a few times a month and is typically during the day when individuals are at work. Individuals with employment are unable to access services, which creates a food insecurity for many families. Per Quantitative data, the average <b>rate of individuals who are food insecure in NECAC service area is 12.4%</b> - which is 1% higher than the state average. Counties with the highest level of food insecurities are <b>Marion (13.9%), Randolph (13.8%) and Lewis (13.7%)</b> . In counties with <b>low food availability rates (Lewis, Monroe, Pike, Ralls and Shelby)</b> food pantries may be the only source for low-income Individuals to feed their families
10	Criminal History- Cannot Access SNAP Benefits	Individuals- Criminal Backgrounds	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Ralls, St. Charles and Warren (4/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack food assistance due to criminal backgrounds</u> . Community Members stated individuals with criminal backgrounds may not qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) even if they are income eligible. This creates food insecurities when individuals are unable to afford the cost of food and they do not qualify for public assistance programs. Based on Quantitative data, we identified NECAC's service area average <b>rate of Individuals who are Food Insecure but ineligible for assistance is 36%</b> compared to the state average of 37%. However, <b>Lincoln (40%), Ralls (41%), St. Charles (63%) and Warren (39%)</b> are above the state average.
11	Lack of Income- Cost of Co-Pays	Individuals- Low Income/ Fixed Income	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income needed to pay Co-Pays at medical centers/ doctors offices</u> .
12	Lack of Income- Medical Expenses	Individuals- Low Income/ Fixed Income	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income needed to pay Medical Expenses- Bills, Medication, etc.</u>

**Community Needs Assessment Survey Results**

Survey Response Data	Population	County	Results and Description	
1	Travel- Food Source	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>53.26%</b> of respondents travel less than 5 miles to the nearest food source, <b>23.80%</b> travel 6-10 miles, <b>11.47%</b> travel 11-15 miles, <b>6.37%</b> travel 16-20 miles and <b>5.10%</b> travel over 20 miles.

2	Travel- Food Pantry	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>75.67%</b> of respondents stated they have a food pantry within 10 miles of their home, <b>11.17%</b> stated they do NOT have a food pantry within 10 miles of their home and <b>13.15%</b> are not sure.
3	Nutrition Issues	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>45.93%</b> of respondents stated they have NO food issues affecting their family, <b>38.52%</b> stated they cant afford to purchase nutritious meals, <b>15.69%</b> stated they are NOT eligible for SNAP, <b>6.85%</b> stated they lack transportation needed to get food, <b>3.99%</b> stated they do NOT know how to prepare nutritious meals, <b>3.42%</b> stated they lack kitchen appliance to prepare meals, and <b>3.14%</b> stated food pantries, meals on wheels, community gardens, etc. are not available in their community.
4	Assistance with Purchasing Food	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>52.99%</b> of respondents are NOT receiving assistance, <b>43.30%</b> are receiving SNAP benefits, <b>10.54%</b> are receiving free & reduced lunch for their children at school and <b>4.70%</b> are receiving assistance through Women, Infant, Children (WIC)
5	Health Insurance	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>37.73%</b> of respondents are on Medicaid, <b>26.52%</b> are on Private Insurance (provided by employer or self-pay), <b>26.38%</b> are on Medicare and <b>9.36%</b> have NO health insurance.
<b>FY22 Missouri Information System (MIS) Client Data- Individuals served</b>				
<b>Agency Report Data</b>				
	<b>Agency Report Data</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Results and Description</b>
1	Disabling Conditions	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>20%</b> of clients served during FY22 reported a disabling condition.
2	Health Insurance	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>80%</b> of clients served during FY22 reported they do NOT have health insurance of any kind.
3	Health Insurance- Sources	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>13%</b> of clients have Medicaid, <b>2%</b> have Medicare, <b>4%</b> have State Children's Health Insurance, <b>&gt;1%</b> have State Health Insurance for Adults, <b>&gt;1%</b> have Military Health Care, <b>&gt;1%</b> have Direct-Purchase Health Insurance, <b>&gt;1%</b> have Employment Based health Insurance and <b>79%</b> Unknown/Not Reported. This information is based on clients served during FY22.
4	SNAP Participation	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>12%</b> of clients served during FY22 reported receiving SNAP Benefits
5	WIC Participation	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>&gt;1%</b> of clients served during FY 22 reported receiving WIC services
<b>Current Program / Established Partnerships</b>				
	<b>Established Partnerships</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Population(s) Served</b>	<b>What this Accomplishes</b>
1	Local Food Pantries	Food Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals	Individuals- Low Income	By partnering with local food pantries, NECAC is able to make referrals to assist clients obtain food at no cost. Due to prices increasing and families struggling to meet basic needs, food pantries are an essential service in our communities.
2	Aldi's- Hannibal	Nutritious Foods for Low-income Individuals	Individuals- Low Income- Ralls/Marion	By partnering with Aldi's in Hannibal, NECAC is able to obtain free fresh produce, shelf stable items and household goods to provide assistance to low-income individuals in Ralls and Marion counties. <b>Ralls county was identified as a county with 0.00% Food Availability</b> per the Quantitative data. With this partnership, we hope to decrease our counties food insecurities and provide gap services for individuals who do not qualify for SNAP and barriers associated with local Food Pantry Access as identified above.
3	Food Bank of North East MO	Food Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals	Individuals- Low Income - Ralls/ Marion	By partnering with Aldi's in Hannibal, NECAC is able to obtain free fresh produce, and shelf stable items to provide assistance to low-income individuals in Ralls and Marion counties. <b>Ralls county was identified as a county with 0.00% Food Availability</b> per the Quantitative data. With this partnership, we hope to decrease our counties food insecurities and provide gap services for individuals who do not qualify for SNAP and barriers associated with local Food Pantry Access as identified above.

Civic Engagement													
Base Year:													2023
Data Points:	Lewis	Lincoln	Macon	Marion	Monroe	Mtg	Pike	Ralls	Randolph	St. Charles	Shelby	Warren	Missouri
Number of Registered Voters	5,961	41,596	10,726	20,071	6,088	8,053	10,862	7,693	15,189	289,605	4,371	25,719	4,286,342
Rate of Registered Voters	60%	68%	71%	70%	71%	72%	62%	74%	62%	70%	73%	71%	69%
Number of Nonprofit Organizations	60	175	87	158	48	61	115	59	122	1238	46	119	39,243
Number Volunteer Organizations- Rate per 100,000 Population	538.28	266.69	466.83	508.33	473.11	450.45	602.72	444.23	396.50	285.00	622.64	303.95	NO DATA
Causes of Poverty													
No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description								
1	Lack of Public Transportation	Community- All	Focus Groups	ALL 12	Community Members who attended focus groups across 12- counties identified the <u>Community lacks public transportation</u> . Based on Quantitative data, we have identified <b>all 12 counties have a rate below state average for public transportation availability</b> .								
Gaps in Services													
Gap	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description									
2	Lack of Local Resources	Agency- Funding Opportunities	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby (5/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community Lacks Resources to assist individuals with emergency services</u> . This is due to the high number of requests for assistance and not enough funding to assist individuals with services.								
Barriers to Exiting Poverty or Obtaining Services													
Barrier	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description									
1	Lack of Knowledge- Resources Available	Community- All	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>Individuals lack the knowledge to access community resources</u> . Community members feel programs are available to qualifying clients but many individuals do not know about the resources in their communities.								
Community Needs Assessment Survey Results													
Survey Response Data	Population	County	Results and Description										
1	Registered Voter	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>82.60%</b> of respondents stated they are registered voters									

Multiple Domains													
Base Year:	2023												
Data Points:	Lewis	Lincoln	Macon	Marion	Monroe	Mtg	Pike	Ralls	Randolph	St. Charles	Shelby	Warren	Missouri
<b>Total Population</b>	10,031	58,689	15,222	28,564	8,643	11,384	18,052	10,318	24,880	402,377	6,087	35,033	6,141,534
<b>Total Households</b>	3,597	19,818	5,908	11,537	3,731	4,995	6,653	4,132	8,872	149,472	2,485	13,129	2,440,212
Population- <b>White</b>	9,332	54,987	14,204	26,024	8,077	10,589	16,102	9,745	22,106	352,890	5,784	32,051	4,930,466
Population- <b>Black</b>	346	1,350	318	1,258	271	180	1,188	193	1,508	18,583	151	647	695,678
Population- <b>American Indian</b>	31	125	82	74	60	36	46	23	116	332	22	270	19,904
Population- <b>Asian</b>	30	165	110	175	41	16	69	39	103	10,806	13	252	123,406
Population <b>Native Hawaiian</b>	13	67	3	28	14	-	28	-	-	128	-	-	8,468
Population- <b>Some Other</b>	-	256	56	84	26	130	235	74	141	3,469	34	337	84,084
Population- <b>Mixed Race</b>	261	1,739	449	921	154	433	384	244	906	16,169	83	1,476	279,528
Population- <b>Total Male</b>	5,014	29,216	7,350	13,688	4,270	5,622	9,717	5,107	13,005	196,366	3,028	17,174	2,984,034
Population- <b>Total Female</b>	4,944	29,192	7,674	14,644	4,276	5,675	8,245	5,056	11,743	203,491	3,000	17,643	2,541,515
<b>Male 0-4</b>	293	1,935	475	948	252	353	553	267	786	11,732	200	1,080	188,129
<b>Female 0-4</b>	270	2,033	392	839	229	328	477	288	726	11,394	179	947	179,003
<b>Male 5-17</b>	888	5,807	1,389	2,387	759	1,022	1,570	877	2,017	36,104	614	3,090	525,391
<b>Female 5-17</b>	782	5,273	1,325	2,606	699	837	1,534	788	1,896	34,524	498	3,141	499,852
<b>Male 18-64</b>	3,037	17,968	4,156	8,278	2,378	3,293	6,210	3,037	8,538	123,472	1,665	10,331	1,852,663
<b>Female 18-64</b>	2,829	17,686	4,164	8,412	2,290	3,269	4,514	2,857	6,908	123,437	1,634	10,312	1,862,660
<b>Male 65+</b>	796	3,506	1,330	2,075	881	954	1,384	926	1,664	25,058	549	2,673	417,851
<b>Female 65+</b>	1,063	4,200	1,793	2,787	1,058	1,241	1,720	1,123	2,213	34,136	689	3,243	572,278
Veterans- Total	775	3,521	1,032	1,738	775	834	999	793	1,576	22,871	413	2,866	377,127
Veterans- Male	696	3,311	896	1,568	657	791	924	742	1,504	21,402	374	2,616	346,497
Veterans- Female	79	210	136	170	118	43	75	51	75	1,469	39	250	30,630
Veterans- 18-34	39	235	48	118	18	58	78	32	131	1,478	16	215	30,011
Veterans- 35-54	161	661	294	358	164	201	174	231	379	5,590	85	663	82,479
Veterans- 55-64	132	847	90	185	140	158	178	95	337	3,786	59	461	71,398
Veterans- 65+	443	1,778	600	1,077	453	417	569	435	729	12,017	253	1,527	193,239
Veterans- Educational Attainment- No HS Diploma	9.42%	8.55%	15.31%	8.11%	12.90%	6.49%	4.02%	7.97%	7.14%	4.30%	10.44%	5.56%	5.96%
Veterans- Educational Attainment- HS Diploma	56.52%	38.05%	45.54%	45.80%	40.77%	45.91%	54.57%	51.03%	39.52%	26.73%	49.51%	45.94%	32.44%
Veterans- Educational Attainment- Bachelors +	9.55%	13.75%	13.66%	14.56%	20.39%	18.39%	14.57%	9.00%	15.81%	34.07%	12.62%	14.00%	25.40%
Number of Licensed Child Care Facilities	5	12	5	23	7	4	15	7	15	154	3	14	2,888
Average Cost of Child Care- Infant	\$ 32.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 37.70	\$ 30.00	\$ 34.00	NO DATA
Average Cost of Child Care- Preschool	\$ 29.47	\$ 31.05	\$ 27.60	\$ 29.47	\$ 23.00	\$ 27.60	\$ 27.60	\$ 29.47	\$ 29.47	\$ 33.35	\$ 27.60	\$ 31.05	NO DATA
Average Cost of Child Care- School Age	\$ 16.68	\$ 18.68	\$ 13.01	\$ 16.68	\$ 13.34	\$ 13.01	\$ 13.01	\$ 16.68	\$ 16.68	\$ 26.68	\$ 13.01	\$ 18.68	NO DATA
Incarceration Rate	1.01%	1.41%	0.97%	1.96%	0.70%	1.78%	1.68%	2.33%	2.25%	0.87%	1.24%	1.19%	1.40%
Violent Crime- <b>Total</b>	20	165	18	109	38	10	43	12	144	648	4	111	30,514
Violent Crime- <b>Homicide</b>	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	9	0	1	596
Violent Crime- <b>Aggravated Assault</b>	14	138	14	82	35	9	39	12	135	489	3	81	21,809

Violent Crime- <b>Armed Robbery</b>	0	2	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	52	0	5	5,197
Violent Crime- <b>Forcible Rape</b>	2	18	3	24	2	1	2	0	5	96	1	23	2,755
Property Crime- <b>Total</b>	97	570	205	1,196	77	137	166	89	328	5,329	28	592	162,247
Property Crime- <b>Burglaries</b>	23	115	43	104	17	39	19	14	67	489	3	106	27,101
Property Crime- <b>Larcenies</b>	67	423	157	1,033	53	95	137	65	235	4,447	20	435	114,408
Property Crime- <b>Auto Theft</b>	6	28	4	57	4	3	9	10	26	369	5	43	19,676
Property Crime- <b>Arson</b>	1	4	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	24	0	8	1,062

**Causes of Poverty**

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of Availability-Childcare Facilities	Community- Parents	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the <u>Community lacks childcare availability</u> . Based on Quantitative data, we identified that NECAC's 12-County Service area makes up for 9% of the states licensed facilities but
2	Lack of Living Wage Jobs- Employment	Community- General	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack living wage jobs</u> . is the main cause of poverty for community members. Without income, individuals are not able to obtain safe and affordable housing, education, nutritional foods to feed there families, health insurance, transportation and childcare.
3	Lack of Support-Single Parent Households	Community- Parents	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified Parents lack Support Systems. This was based on the lack of childcare opportunities in the community and individuals stated Single Parent Households are the most effected by this since they do not have a support system to fall back on when childcare is not available. Based on Agency Data, we found <b>32% of NECAC's customers are Single Female Parents and 3% are Single Male Parents.</b>
4	Lack of Educational Attainment	Veterans - No High School Diploma	Quantitative Data- Statistics	Pike, St. Charles and Warren (3/12 Counties)	Based on the statistics collected, we have identified an average of 8.35% of veterans in our service are do not have a high school diploma. However, <b>Pike (4.02%), St. Charles (4.30%) and Warren (5.56%)</b> lower than the state average of 5.96%.

**Gaps in Services**

Gap	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description	
1	Lack of Childcare-3rd Shift Employment (Odd Shifts)	Individuals (Parents)- Employed	Focus Groups	Lincoln, Marion, Pike and St. Charles Counties (4/12)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>lack of childcare for employees working 3rd shift (night shift)</u> . Additional Qualitative data collected, <b>Marion County and Saint Charles Counties</b> have one overnight childcare facility with very limited/ no openings. no other counties have this opportunity.
2	Lack of Local Resources	Agency- Funding Opportunities	Focus Groups	Lewis, Macon, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby (5/12 Counties)	Community Members who attended focus groups identified the Community <u>Lacks Resources to assist individuals with emergency services</u> . This is due to the high number of requests for assistance and not enough funding to assist individuals with services.

**Barriers to Exiting Poverty or Obtaining Services**

Barrier	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description	
4	Lack of Income- Cost of Childcare	Community- Parents	Focus Groups	All 12	Community Members who attended focus groups identified <u>individuals lack income needed to pay Childcare Costs</u> .

**Community Needs Assessment Survey Results**

Survey Response Data	Population	County	Results and Description	
1	Type of Childcare	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>43.45%</b> of respondents do NOT have childcare, <b>7.12%</b> use a family member of friend for childcare, <b>3.28%</b> use traditional daycare, and <b>1.85%</b> have a child enrolled in Early Head Start/Head Start
2	Veteran Status	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>7.92%</b> of respondents are Veterans or Active Military
3	Age	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>41.75%</b> - 40-59 years old; <b>23.48%</b> - 25-39 years old; <b>16.27%</b> - 65+ years old; <b>15.42%</b> - 60-64 years old; <b>2.69%</b> - 20-24 years old; and <b>0.42%</b> - less than 20 years old.
4	Marital Status	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>34.99%</b> - Single; <b>31.87%</b> - Married; <b>19.55%</b> - Divorced; <b>7.65%</b> Widowed; <b>5.95%</b> Separated
5	Gender	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>77.75%</b> - Women; <b>21.40%</b> - Male; <b>0.43%</b> - Trans-Man; <b>0.43%</b> Non-Conforming; and <b>0.00%</b> Trans-Female
6	Race	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>86.67%</b> - White; <b>8.79%</b> - Black; <b>1.70%</b> - Multi Racial; <b>1.13%</b> - Hispanic; <b>0.85%</b> "Other"; <b>0.71%</b> - Native American; and <b>0.14%</b> - Asian
7	Number in HH	Individuals- Completed Online Surveys	All 12	Based on Quantitative data collected during our survey process, we have identified <b>34.79%</b> - One Person; <b>28.03%</b> - Two People; <b>16.90%</b> - Three People; <b>10.28%</b> - Four People; <b>5.92%</b> - Five People; <b>1.97%</b> - Six People; <b>2.11%</b> - Seven or More People

**FY22 Missouri Information System (MIS) Client Data-Individuals served**

Agency Report Data	Population	County	Results and Description	
1	Household Size	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>38%</b> - Single Person Household, <b>21%</b> - Two People, <b>17%</b> - Three People, <b>12%</b> - Four People, <b>7%</b> - Five People, <b>5%</b> - Six or More People. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify Single Person households are the largest population served.</u>
2	Household Type	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>38%</b> - Single Person; <b>9%</b> - Two Adults, No Children; <b>32%</b> - Single Female Parent; <b>3%</b> - Single Male Parent; <b>11%</b> Two Parent Household; <b>1%</b> - Non-Related Adults with Children; <b>4%</b> - Multigenerational Household; <b>2%</b> "Other"; and <b>&gt;1%</b> - Unknown/Not Reported. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify Single Person households are the largest population served.</u>

3	Gender	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>58%</b> Women; <b>42%</b> Men and <b>&gt;1%</b> Other. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify women are the largest population served.</u>
4	Age	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>11%</b> ages 0-5; <b>19%</b> ages 6-13; <b>10%</b> ages 14-17; <b>8%</b> ages 18-24; <b>24%</b> ages 25-44; <b>10%</b> ages 45-54; <b>6%</b> 55-59; <b>5%</b> ages 60-64; <b>5%</b> ages 65-74; and <b>2%</b> ages 75+. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify individuals age 25-44 are the largest population served.</u>
5	Ethnicity/Race	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>2%</b> Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Organs; <b>91%</b> <u>NOT</u> Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Organs and <b>7%</b> Unknown/Not Reported. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify NOT Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Organ are the largest population served.</u>
6	Race	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>&gt;1%</b> American Indian or Alaska Native; <b>&gt;1%</b> Asian; <b>14%</b> Black; <b>&gt;1%</b> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; <b>73%</b> White; <b>&gt;1%</b> Other; <b>5%</b> Multi-race and <b>7%</b> Unknown/Not Reported. <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify White individuals are the largest population served.</u>
7	Military Status	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 12	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>1%</b> of our population served stated they are a veteran and we encountered <b>1 individual currently Active Military</b> . <u>Based on this data, NECAC can identify 99% of clients are not veterans.</u>
8	Affordable Care Act Subsidy	Individuals- NECAC Customers	All 13	Based on FY22 MIS reports, we show <b>1</b> individual is <u>receiving a childcare subsidy.</u>
<b>Current Program / Established Partnerships</b>				
	<b>Established Partnerships</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Population(s) Served</b>	<b>What this Accomplishes</b>
1	Veterans Affairs Supporting Housing (VASH)	Housing Assistance for Veterans	Veterans- St. Charles, Lincoln & Warren	NECAC LCPHA & St. Charles PHA partner with the St. Louis VA hospital to assist veterans with housing assistance. Through this program, eligible veterans are assisted with a monthly subsidy towards their rent. This allows veterans to obtain safe and affordable housing within 50 miles of the VA hospital. Currently this program covers St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren counties in NECAC's 12-county service area.
2	Missouri Department of Social Services	Childcare Assistance	All 12	NECAC provides referrals for families seeking childcare assistance across our 12-county service area. Through the state of Missouri, individuals are able to complete applications through the Child Care Subsidy Program to receive childcare assistance at licensed childcare facilities.
3	Skill Up	Education/Employment Assistance & Supportive Services	Low Income	NECAC currently operates the SkillUp program across our 12-county service area. This program is designed to assist individuals on SNAP achieve educational attainment so they are "Skilled Up" to enter the workforce. Through this program, we are able to assist clients with supportive services such as school books, laptops, lab fess, childcare assistance payments, etc. and provide tuition assistance to approved institutions. Through this program, individuals have the opportunity to increase their education, obtain living wage employment, and increase their use of income to cover household costs.

---

# North East Community Action Corporation

## Community Needs Assessment

### Data Analysis

---

#### Executive Summary

North East Community Action Corporation is one of 19 Community Action Agencies in Missouri. Our Mission statement is “NECAC strives to make a difference by empowering people, changing lives and building communities”. Our purpose is to assist the disadvantaged within our service area in their efforts to rise above poverty by providing needed services to enable each individual to function at his or her own improved financial, physical, mental and social level. NECAC serves low-income, elderly and disable individuals in our 12-county service area, which consists of Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Randolph, Shelby, St. Charles, and Warren counties.

During the data collection process, we sent out surveys to be completed by:

- Community action customers/low Income residents
- Faith based organizations
- Private sector
- Community organizations/partners
- Education institution/staff
- Healthcare agencies
- Board members of community action agency
- Staff or volunteer of community action agency
- Local politician/government/private sector representative

The Community Needs Assessment surveys (CNA) consisted of 37 multiple-choice questions focusing on demographics, household income, education, employment, housing, nutrition, health and transportation. We compiled the questions from past surveys, the tool kit provided



by the state in 2023 and questions sent by other OMPA members to create our 2023 CNA survey that was sent out to community members. Surveys were emailed to community members on list above to be completed using a survey monkey link with the exception of the community action customers/low income residents. Community Action Customers/Low Income Residents completed surveys in office utilizing a kiosk with a direct link to Survey Monkey. We collected a total of 707 responses. The quantitative data collected from the Community Needs Assessment survey was collected from survey monkey and we broke the data down by county and analyzed data for our entire service area. This allowed us to look at specific needs in each community as well as data trends between all communities we serve.

In person focus groups were conducted this year in April 2023 at NECAC service centers in all 12-counties and groups were conducted by CSBG Director and County Coordinators. We had 83 people attend focus groups for all 12 counties, and we collected detailed qualitative data from 10 open-ended questions to analyze for the community needs assessment. The qualitative data collected from the Focus Groups was analyzed by county and as a total service area. This allowed to agency to determine specific county needs. We did have gaps in data due to the questions we asked during the community needs assessment survey. With the data we pulled from focus groups, MIS reports for FY22, and statistics we see that we did not collect quantitative data for the following community issues:

- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Accessibility to Phone/Internet Services
- Number of Respondents that are Ex-Offenders

When looking at all the data collected, we find that Lack of Transportation, Lack of Housing Availability, Lack of Employment Skills, Inflation and Lack of Childcare are trending throughout all issue areas.

## Issue Area Analysis

### Use of Income

Qualitative data was received from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector. This information was obtained via surveys, and focus groups. In reviewing the issue area-use of income, Individuals lack living wage jobs was identified as the number one reason for cause of poverty. Also identified were individuals living on fixed incomes, lack of high school diplomas, Inflation and generational poverty are also considered causes of poverty.

Data was gathered to complete the CNA Template Issue Area Characteristics. When looking at the poverty rate, the data ranged from **5.0%-14.9%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **12.0%**, versus the state average of **12.1%**. For median income, the data ranged from **\$42,710.00-\$90,567.00**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in an average of **\$57,502.50**, versus the state average of **\$58,812.00**. For required living wage, we collected data for *1 Adult households*, the data ranged from **\$14.21-\$16.14**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in an average of **\$15.11**, versus the state average of **\$15.77**. For number of families at or below 125% of poverty, there were a total of **12,540** families out of the state total of **191,926**. For number of families receiving TANF, the total for the service area was **716** out of the state total of **12,032**. For number of children that receive free and reduced lunch, the data ranged from **17.81%-51.82%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **41.72%**, versus the state rate of **47.37%**. When looking at the percent of individuals receiving SNAP benefits, the data ranged from **19.5%-53.6%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **43.3%**, versus the state average of **47.9%**. We also looked at the number of households receiving SNAP, there were a total of **18,340** households across the service area that contributed to the state total of **328,963**. When looking at the average SNAP benefit payment amount received each month, the data ranged from **\$237.00- \$278.00**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in an average of **\$250.92**, versus the state average of **\$256.00**. For number receiving Women, Infant, children (WIC), the service area total was **112,570**, which contributed to the state total of **1,675,786**. For number receiving Medicaid, the service area total was **59,565**, which contributed to the state total of **876,902**. For number receiving Medicare (65+), the service area total was **101,470**, which contributed to the state total of **2,046,411**. For number receiving Medicare (Disabled), the service area total was **16,551**, which contributed to the state total of **408,393**. For number of individuals with an established

disability through SSA, the service area total was **126,416**, which contributed to the state total of **1,312,639**. For the average SSA *benefit amount*, the data ranged from **\$1,203.00-\$1,555.00** across the service area. Averaged all 12 counties' data resulted in an average payment of **\$1,314.83** versus the state average of **\$1,356.00**.

Quantitative data was informed partially by 707 survey responses collected from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector in the 12-county service area. This information was obtained via surveys. Surveys were sent to partners and distributed in service centers.

- **13.49%** of survey respondents reported their yearly household income as “No Cash Income”
- **21.88%** of survey respondents report their yearly household income as \$0 - \$10,000.
- **25%** of survey respondents report their yearly household income as \$10,001 - \$20,000.
- What are the household sources of income: **41.31%** stated Wages/Salary, **0.14%** stated Barter/Trade, **41.74%** stated Social Security or Social Security Disability, **2.42%** stated Side Jobs, **2.99%** stated Retirement, and **11.40%** stated No Income.
- **65.72%** of survey respondents reported that they are not able to support their family with the monthly income that they receive.
- **75.74%** of survey respondents say they do not have an emergency fund in case of unexpected expenses.
- Participants ranked their household expenses from more expensive to least expensive: **66.39%** Housing, **47.41%** Utilities, **34.54%** Groceries, **27.84%** Transportation, **22.78%** Childcare, **46.50%** Medical Expenses, **47.54%** Phone/Internet, and **22.78%** Entertainment.

The accumulation of this data resulted in apparent gaps, and barriers as identified below. Gaps identified in the community include community lacks local resources to assist customers with limited income and programs designed to assist families with achieving self-sufficiency and the community lacks public transportation. Barriers identified in the community include lack of income to cover rental deposits, utility bills, down payments for home ownership, home insurance, co-pays for health services, medical expenses such as hospital bills and prescriptions, childcare costs and secondary education expenses. Individuals lack private transportation is also considered an income barrier. It was reported through data that community members should attend budgeting education for individuals seeking assistance with self-sufficiency. We also identified single parent households are also a barrier to income; this is because 32% of the population receiving services through NECAC are single female parents and 3% are single male parents. We find from the data collected, in able to support a household with 1 adult/1 child, the average wage needed is \$30.35 an hour, while the average hourly wage in NECAC's 12 county area is \$20.18. Needs were presented through the data and include affordable childcare due to

individuals without support systems need childcare to obtain/maintain employment. As is evident in these summaries, the need for childcare is woven throughout many issue areas. In addition to this, housing quality was a big issue with the need for home energy repairs due to high utility costs. Affordable housing came up in the qualitative data in every county as a need. Lastly, the need to build a personal/family emergency fund was identified as a need. The community does have some resources to meet some of gaps and barriers.

- NECAC partners with Metropolitan Employment Rehabilitation Services (MERS) Goodwill and Senior Community Service Employment Program through SER National. Through both programs, NECAC will host volunteers to teach employment skills and provide volunteer opportunities. Individuals participating in this program are considered low-income and must be 55+ to participate. Individuals receive a stipend for hours worked with the host agency. This allows participants to increase their monthly income without decreasing their SSA benefits.
- NECAC currently operates the Skill Up program out of our service centers. This program is only able to serve individuals receiving SNAP benefits. With this program, participants are able to obtain assistance for tuition, childcare, travel related expenses, school supplies, etc. With this program, we also work closely with the career centers in our service area. This allows participants to receive additional services that we may not offer or find additional funds if we do not have them. This does not change the structural issues of tuition costs, transportation or childcare but it can meet some individual needs.
- OAT's is offered in 10 of the 12 counties NECAC covers. At this time, we have a signed partnership with at least one branch. In many of our counties, this is the only form of public transportation available due to 9 of the 12 counties in our service area being rural areas. However, there are guidelines to this service and it is not always available. This does not change the structural issues of the lack of transportation, but can meet some individual needs.
- NECAC currently offers Case Management and Life Skills Classes to individuals in need of the service. With case management, we are able to make appointments for one on one meetings for participants to work on educational and employment goals. This may include working with an individual who is interested in receiving additional education or needing assistance with obtaining employment. Our life skills classes are available for participant's needing training in the following categories: employment, education, health, nutrition, budgeting, etc. The University of Missouri-Extension does offer some Life Skills support to the community. However, services and availability vary from county to county.

- Community volunteers also actively partner with NECAC to work with local school districts to provide proactive educational programming through Vocational Opportunities Inspiring Children in Elementary (VOICE) and Reality Enrichment and Life Lessons (REALL) that aides in dropout prevention and educational attainment.

CSBG staff offer a variety of life skills classes including those related to personal finances. Case Management also offers a chance to help with making smart financial decisions and discuss banking and budgeting. NECAC staff in the Weatherization department administer help with improving energy efficiency. The NECAC Housing program assists low-income individuals with subsidized housing. CSBG staff have limited access to center emergency funds that come from donations. These are used on a case-by-case basis and could potentially cover home repairs and other income use needs. There are a number of areas in which CSBG staff could be instrumental in providing solutions by developing linkages to assist in the issue area of use of income. CSBG staff could form partnerships with the municipalities in the NECAC's service area to try and work with the economic development departments to discuss how to help community members make a living wage. CSBG staff could advocate within all municipalities in all counties for leadership in those areas to find a way to add or improve public transportation. CSBG could develop a process and provide supports to community members interested in starting their own in-home child care business to increase childcare slots throughout communities. CSBG staff could explore funding opportunities to help provide home repairs to low income individuals and families. CSBG staff could work with local municipalities within the service area to connect with planning and development departments to advocate for increased affordable rental units and family sized rental units that are affordable. The community does have some resources to meet some of the gaps, and barriers.

## Education

Qualitative data was received from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector. This information was obtained via surveys, and focus groups. In reviewing the issue area-use of education, Individuals lack high school diplomas was identified as the number one reason for cause of poverty. Also identified were individuals lack living wage jobs, individuals lack parental support and individuals lack secondary educational attainment are also considered causes of poverty.

Data was gathered to complete the CNA Template Issue Area Characteristics. When looking at the percentage of high school graduation rates, the data ranged from **80.95%-96.88%** across the

service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **92.70%** versus the state average of **91.58%**. The percentage of individuals without a high school diploma ranged from **9.53%-13.05%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **10.56%**, versus the state average of **9.41%**. The percentage of higher education enrollment ranged from **18.5%-26.5%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **23.1%**, versus the state average of **24.5%**. The rate of higher education completion (bachelors) ranges from **9.20%-25.89%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **13.04%**, versus the state average of **18.44%**. The rate of higher education completion (graduate or professional) ranges from **3.34%-14.87%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **6.35%**, versus the state average of **11.50%**. The rate of adult-literacy (level 1- upper) ranges from **14.7%-28.3%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **23.5%**, versus the state average of **22.9%**. The rate of adult-literacy (level 1- lower) ranges from **8.0%-20.4%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **15.5%**, versus the state average of **15.4%**. For number of early education enrollments, the service area total was **3,005**, which contributed to the state total of **54,969**.

Quantitative data was informed partially by 707 survey responses collected from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector in the 12-county service area. This information was obtained via surveys. Surveys were sent to partners, and distributed in service centers.

- Survey respondents were asked about their education level:**17.85%** of survey respondents have a Bachelor's Degree or higher, **5.81%** of survey respondents have a Technical or Vocational Degree or Certification, **7.65%** of survey respondents have an Associate's Degree, **15.16%** of survey respondents have less than a high school diploma, **19.12%** of survey respondents have completed some college, **34.42%** of survey respondents have a high school diploma or Equivalent Diploma.
- **3.95%** of Non-High School Graduates stated they have not completed any schooling, **88.14%** stated they completed grades 9th-12<sup>th</sup> (non-graduate), and **7.91%** stated they completed grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
- **2.16%** of respondents stated they are currently attending College/ Trade/ Vocational schooling.

The accumulation of this data resulted in apparent gaps, and barriers as identified below. Gaps identified in the community include the community lacks local resources to assist individuals with emergency services, community lacks public transportation to attend secondary education, and individuals lack internet access in rural communities due to high costs of services and limited

providers. It was also identified lack of internet access limits individuals learning opportunities such as online education programs. Barriers identified in the community include individuals lack knowledge to access community resources such as education programs, Individuals lack private transportation to attend secondary education programs due to high costs associated with owning a vehicle, Individuals experience bullying within the school system which decreases interest and participation in public schools, individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health disorders have additional challenges to achieve educational attainment, Individuals lack safe and affordable housing, individuals lack interest in educational attainment due to generational poverty, individuals lack financial resources to obtain a home computer/laptop to participate in online learning opportunities and individuals lack income to cover secondary expenses such as tuition, books, laptops, etc. Needs that exist in relation to education include transportation, childcare, housing and education assistance-tuition. Data collected was identified as family, and community-related needs, they include internet access, while this has also been identified as a structural cause, particularly for widespread broadband access, it is also a need on the individual level. Families may be able to access internet options via nontraditional providers, such as cell phone companies, but many cannot. The community does have some resources to meet some of the gaps, and barriers.

- NECAC collaborates with local agencies to conduct a back to school fair in the summer before school goes back into session. Many families are able to obtain needed school supplies for their children during this fair. However, due to the high volume of students in needs, we do not have the capacity to serve all the eligible customers in our service area.
- NECAC currently operates the Skill Up program out of our service centers. This program is only able to serve individuals receiving SNAP benefits. With this program, participants are able to obtain assistance for tuition, childcare, travel related expenses, school supplies, etc. With this program, we also work closely with the career centers in our service area. This allows participants to receive additional services that we may not offer or find additional funds if we do not have them. This does not change the structural issues of tuition costs, transportation or childcare but it can meet some individual needs.
- OAT's is offered in 10 of the 12 counties NECAC covers. At this time, we have a signed partnership with at least one branch. In many of our counties, this is the only form of public transportation available due to 9 of the 12 counties in our service area being rural areas. However, there are guidelines to this service and it is not always available. This does not change the structural issues of the lack of transportation, but can meet some individual needs.
- NECAC currently offers Case Management and Life Skills Classes to individuals in need of the service. With case management, we are able to make appointments for one on one meetings for participants to work on educational and employment goals. This may include working

with an individual who is interested in receiving additional education or needing assistance with obtaining employment. Our life skills classes are available for participant's needing training in the following categories: employment, education, health, nutrition, budgeting, etc. The University of Missouri-Extension does offer some Life Skills support to the community. However, services and availability vary from county to county.

- Community volunteers also actively partner with NECAC to work with local school districts to provide proactive educational programming through Vocational Opportunities Inspiring Children in Elementary (VOICE) and Reality Enrichment and Life Lessons (REALL) that aides in dropout prevention and educational attainment.

There are a number of areas in which CSBG staff could be instrumental in providing solutions by developing partnerships. CSBG staff could advocate to local, state, and federal municipalities to increase the public transportation options and for broadband internet expansion in the communities served. NECAC could partner with local YMCA's located in 5 of the 12 counties we service to provide customers with after school programs for youth. Lastly, CSBG staff can explore funding to obtain technological devices for individuals and families to help support educational needs. The community does have some resources to meet some of the gaps, and barriers.

## Employment

Qualitative data was received from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector. This information was obtained via surveys and focus groups. In reviewing the issue area-employment, cumulative results for this area indicated lack of living wage jobs was the top reported area of concern. Data also indicated individuals lack employment skills contributes to the cause of poverty.

Data was gathered to complete the CNA Template Issue Area Characteristics. When looking at the unemployment rate, the data ranged from **1.4%-1.8%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **1.7%**, versus the state average of **1.8%**. The percentage of individuals unemployed ranged from **1.0%-4.0%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **3.0%**, versus the state average of **3.0%**. The percentage of change in labor force ranged from **-1.9%-7.4%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **2.4%**, versus the state average of **1.6%**. The growth rate of small businesses/ entrepreneurship ranged from **-5.15%-5.43%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a percentage of **-1.17%**, versus the state average of **-0.70%**. Regarding job growth, NECAC's service area had data ranges from **53%-70%**. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a growth of **59.83%** versus the state average of



**63%**. When looking at the sector with the highest employment rate, we found **Manufacturing, Healthcare/ Social Assistance, and Construction** were identified. When looking at motor vehicle transportation- driving alone, the data ranged from **77.2%-85.4%** across the service area. Averaging all 12-counties' data resulted in a percentage of **82.7%**, versus the state average of **80.8%**. When looking at motor vehicle transportation- carpool, the data ranged from **6.2%-12.4%** across the service area. Averaging all 12-counties' data resulted in a percentage of **8.4%**, versus the state average of **8.4%**. When looking at motor vehicle transportation- bicycle/walking, the data ranged from **0.4%-3.6%** across the service area. Averaging all 12-counties' data resulted in a percentage of **2.6%**, versus the state average of **2.1%**. When looking at motor vehicle transportation- public transportation, the data ranged from **0.0%-0.8%** across the service area. Averaging all 12-counties' data resulted in a percentage of **0.2%**, versus the state average of **1.2%**. When looking at motor vehicle transportation- taxi/other, the data ranged from **0.1%-1.2%** across the service area. Averaging all 12-counties' data resulted in a percentage of **1.0%**, versus the state average of **1.0%**. When looking at motor vehicle transportation- work from home (none), the data ranged from **3.1%-8.5%** across the service area. Averaging all 12-counties' data resulted in a percentage of **5.2%**, versus the state average of **6.6%**.

Quantitative data was informed partially by 707 survey responses collected from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector in the 12-county service area. This information was obtained via surveys. Surveys were sent to partners, and distributed in service centers.

- When asked about status of employment: **2.82%** of survey respondents are self-employed, **10.86%** of respondents work part-time, **30.32%** of respondents work full-time, and **55.99%** of respondents are not working
- Of the **55.99%** that are **not working**: **23.47%** are looking for employment and **76.53%** are not looking for employment
- The **76.53%** of survey respondents that are not looking for employment report the reasons they are not seeking employment: **4.52%** report lack of transportation, **5.93%** report lack of child care, **21.19%** report being retired, **61.86%** report being disabled, **1.98%** gave up after not getting hired anywhere, and **4.52%** not qualified for available jobs,
- We asked “do you currently make money doing odd jobs, providing services, or bartering for mutual help with someone” **13.46%** responded yes
- **62.62%** are not able to support their family with the monthly income they receive.

The accumulation of this data resulted in apparent barriers, and gaps as identified below. The gaps present include individuals lack childcare for 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers (overnights/evenings), the community lacks public transportation, and individuals lack internet access to complete online

job applications and job search activities. It was determined while education is in its own issue area, it figures heavily into the employment issue area. Barrier to exiting poverty or obtaining services includes individuals lack knowledge to start small businesses/ self-employment, individuals with criminal history are unable to pass background screenings, individuals with substance abuse disorders are unable to pass drug screenings, community lacks childcare facilities, individuals lack private transportation, individuals lack home computers/laptops to complete online employment applications or job search, single parents lack support systems, individuals lack professional references for employment applications and individuals currently employed lack advancement opportunities. Needs that exist in relation to employment include transportation, childcare, educational attainment, and employment skills. We included tuition assistance under needs due to 4.52% of survey respondents stating they lack the education to obtain employment. If individuals are able to obtain assistance with tuition, they potentially could gain the skills needed for available jobs in the community. The community does have some resources to meet some of gaps, and barriers.

- NECAC provides individuals with case management services to clients seeking educational attainment. Case management services are provided in a one-on-one setting and staff assist clients with identifying short term and long term goals to help them achieve their desired outcome.
- NECAC currently operates the Skill Up program out of our service centers. This program is only able to serve individuals receiving SNAP benefits. With this program, participants are able to obtain assistance for tuition, childcare, travel related expenses, school supplies, auto repairs, etc. With this program, we also work closely with the career centers in our service area. This allows participants to receive additional services that we may not offer or find additional funds if we do not have them. Skill Up is designed to help individuals obtain a living wage employment and ultimately become self-sufficient through trainings and educational achievement.
- OAT's is offered in 10 of the 12 counties NECAC covers. At this time, we have a signed partnership with at least one branch. In many of our counties, this is the only form of public transportation available due to 9 of the 12 counties in our service area being rural areas. However, there are guidelines to this service and it is not always available. This does not change the structural issues of the lack of transportation, but can meet some individual needs.

CSBG staff could form partnerships with the municipalities in the NECAC service area to work with the economic development departments and the Chambers of Commerce to advocate for increased businesses and jobs in the area. CSBG could advocate to local, state, and federal municipalities to increase the public transportation options and for broadband internet expansion in the communities served. CSBG staff could explore funding opportunities that

would provide technological devices and support to individuals that need to access benefit services, require educational supports, or in support of employment.

## Housing

Qualitative data was received from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector. This information was obtained via surveys and focus groups. In reviewing the issue area-housing, high cost of permanent housing was identified as the number one reason for cause of poverty. Also identified was individuals lack living wage jobs due to the high cost of permanent housing and is needed to maintain housing.

Data was gathered to complete the CNA Template Issue Area Characteristics. When looking at the number of homeowners, the service area total was **185,772**, which contributed to the state total of **1,637,374**. For average foreclosure rate, the data ranged from **2.54%-7.00%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in an average of **4.82%**, versus the state average of **4.02%**. For the median home value, the data ranged from **\$89,193-\$268,189**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in an average of **\$152,186**, versus the state average of **\$202,562**. For the median mortgage costs, data ranged from **\$445-\$1,619**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in a mortgage cost of **\$832**, versus the state average of **\$1,020**. For the median rental costs, data ranged from **\$587-\$1,118**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in a rental cost of **\$735**, versus the state average of **\$886**. For the fair market rent, data ranged from **\$913-1,294**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in a fair market rent of **\$1,073**, versus the state average of **\$1,060**. For number of homeless individuals, numbers were obtained from the Continuum of Care and Balance of State in region 3, region 2, region 5 and St. Charles County. Region 3 consists of Randolph and Macon counties there were **94** individuals across the service area, contributing to the state total of **5,926**. For number of homeless children, based on data collected **1,459** children are reported homeless, which contributed to the state total of **34,944**. When looking at the total number of housing units, the service area total was **265,268**, which contributed to the state total of **2,807,604**. When looking at the number of vacant rental units the service area total was **3,227**, which contributed to the state total of **55,842**. When looking at the number of unsafe, unsanitary units, the service area total was **607**, which contributed to the state total of **9,692**. When looking at the number of overcrowded housing units, the service area total was **2,875**, which contributed to the state total of **43,327**. For the rate of low-income housing (Public Housing) the data ranged from **40.6%-62.9%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties data resulted in a rate of **50.8%** versus the state average of **56.2%**. For the average household size, the data ranged from **2.37-2.75**, across the service area. Averaging all

12 counties data resulted in an average **2.56** individuals, versus the state average of **2.46**. For the median housing age, the data ranged from **23-50** years, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties data resulted in an average of **40** years, versus the state average of **44** years. For the average cost of utilities, the data ranged from **\$124.65-\$146.59**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties data resulted in an average of **\$136.27**, versus the state average of **\$134.59**.

Quantitative data was informed partially by 707 survey responses collected from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector in the 12-county service area. This information was obtained via surveys. Surveys were sent to partners, and distributed in service centers.

- **60.48%** of respondents report living in a house, **17.99%** an apartment, **17.28%** a mobile home, **2.27%** a duplex, **1.84%** homeless, less than **0.14%** in a shelter
- **49.36%** of respondents are currently home owners, **46.24%** are renters, and **4.40%** reported “none- living with friends/family/homeless.
- **22.70%** receive some form of housing assistance and **7.13%** have experienced homelessness in the past 12 months.
- **62.62%** of respondents stated they are unable to pay all their monthly bills without assistance programs (LIHEAP/Emergency Assistance)
- **88.24%** of respondents stated their primary source of heat is electric, **32.72%** natural gas, **12.04%** propane, **4.11%** wood, **2.12%** none and less than **0.57%** have cylinder propane.

The accumulation of this data resulted in apparent barriers, and gaps as identified below. When looking at gaps, community lacks affordable housing and the community lacks local resources to assist low-income individuals obtain and maintain housing. There are barriers to exiting poverty or obtaining services in relation to the issue area of housing. This includes high numbers of unsanitary/safe units, lack of living wage jobs, high utility costs, individuals have bad credit, lack of down payment money, and lack of money for deposits. In addition, those with poor rental histories or criminal conviction history face additional barriers in relation to obtaining safe, sanitary, affordable housing. Regarding needs, extensive home repairs were cited as a need across the service area, safe, sanitary and affordable housing, emergency housing assistance, and transitional housing/emergency shelters. The community does have some resources to meet some of gaps, and barriers.

- NECAC staff in the LIHEAP and Weatherization departments administer help with the cost of utilities and improving energy efficiency to help with costs.
- CSBG operates various emergency programs to assist individuals with emergency housing funds to help individuals avoid eviction, hotel stays for homeless and minor home repairs when allowable by the funding source.

- NECAC's Homeownership program can help individuals with fixing credit, and information on how to purchase a home.
- The NECAC Housing Development program assists low-income individuals with subsidized housing.
- Section 8 housing for LCPHA and St. Charles public housing agencies are also operated through NECAC and can assist eligible individuals in obtaining a housing voucher.
- CSBG staff offer case management to assist with obtaining and maintaining housing.
- CSBG offer a variety of classes, which includes classes related to housing such as budgeting, realistic renting, and healthy homes.

CSBG staff have partnerships with United Way, local landlords, city and state governments and community resource organizations. CSBG staff could start an advocacy campaign to help those who have criminal histories obtain housing and educate property owners on how they could make better accommodations.

## Health & Nutrition

Qualitative data was received from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector. This information was obtained via surveys, and focus groups. In reviewing the issue area-health & nutrition, cumulative results for this area indicated high cost of nutritious foods was the top reported area of concern. Data also indicated the community lacks affordable health insurance plans, community lacks food availability and individuals lack of living wage jobs contributes to the cause of poverty.

Data was gathered to complete the CNA Template Issue Area Characteristics. When looking at food availability rates, the data ranged from **0.00%-26.30%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **9.37%**. For average rate of individuals who are food insecure, the data ranged from **7.5%-13.8%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in an average of **12.4%**, versus the state average of **11.4%**. For the rate of individuals who are food insecure but ineligible for assistance, the data ranged from **19%-41%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in an average of **36%**, versus the state average of **37%**. For the rate of individuals who are uninsured, data ranged from **5.80%-11.16%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in an average of **9.56%**, versus the state average of **9.62%**. For the ration of mental health providers to population, data ranged from **340:0100-4340:0100**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in an average of **1904:0100**, versus the state average of **460:0100**. For the number of individuals who smoke, data ranged from **17.5%-30.7%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in an average of **25.8%**, versus the state average of **19.4%**. For number of

individuals receiving mental health services with a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, based on data collected **there we a total of 2,113** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **29,799**. When looking at the resident death count, the service area total was **6,356**, which contributed to the state total of **73,883**. When looking at life expectancy (years), the data ranged from **76.3-80.4**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **77.7** verse the state average of **74.6**. When looking at perinatal death rates, the data ranged from **2.89%-12.95%** across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **8.80%** versus the state average of **9.71%**. When looking at infant death rates, the data ranged from **2.89%-9.67%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **6.25%**, versus the state average of **6.44%**.

Quantitative data was informed partially by 707 survey responses collected from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector in the 12-county service area. This information was obtained via surveys. Surveys were sent to partners, and distributed in service centers.

- When asked how far do you travel to the nearest food source: **53.26%** travel less than 5 miles, **23.80%** travel 6-10 miles, **11.47%** travel 11-15 miles, **6.37%** travel 16-20 miles, **5.10%** travel over 20 miles
- **11.17%** of respondents report a food bank or pantry not being available within 10 miles of their home and **13.15%** did not know.
- When asked with the top 3 nutrition issues that affect your family: **38.52%** can't afford to purchase nutritious meals, **3.99%** don't know how to prepare nutritious meals, **15.69%** are not eligible for food stamps, **6.85%** lack transportation to get food, **3.42%** lack kitchen appliances, **3.14%** food pantry's/meals on wheels/community gardens are not available in my area, and **45.93%** none.
- **43.30%** of respondents are receiving food stamps, **4.70%** are receiving WIC, **10.54%** are receiving free & reduced lunch for school age students, and **52.99%** are not receiving any assistance.

The accumulation of this data resulted in apparent barriers, and gaps as identified below. Gaps in the community were identified as the community lacks local resources to assist low-income clients with emergency services, community lacks local healthcare providers, community lacks mental health service providers, community lacks women's health service providers, community lacks local specialist health providers and the community lacks public transportation to obtain health and nutrition services. Barriers include Individuals lack private transportation to access in person services, community lacks healthcare providers accepting Medicaid clients, individuals lack employer provided dental/vision insurance, communities mental health stigma, individuals lack nutrition education such as food preservation, basic cooking skills and budgeting, individuals

lack supplies needed to prepare meals, Individuals make poor food choices, individuals lack access to food pantries, individuals are ineligible for food assistance programs due to criminal backgrounds, and Individuals lack income required to cover co-pay costs and medical expenses. The community does have some resources to meet some of gaps, and barriers.

- NECAC offices with Food Pantry MOU's will continue to provide nutritious foods to low-income clients who are faced with a food insecurity. This service is available during NECAC's regular business hours and individuals are able to receive food assistance as needed.
- CSBG staff will continue the "Feed your neighbor" project that will consist of food huts. This will allow community members to have access to shelf stable items 24/7. The Feed your Neighbor boxes will be stocked periodically by partner agencies and can be accessed at any time by those in need.
- CSBG will partner with local businesses/organizations in Monroe County to develop a community garden which will provide fresh produce to community members for free and provide gardening education to participants.
- University of Missouri Extension offers many nutrition education classes. NECAC can develop a partnership to host life skill classes in office or remote to assist clients with nutrition education.
- CSBG offer a variety of classes, which includes classes related to nutrition such as budgeting, food preservation and healthy cooking on a budget. Classes are typically partnered with a community garden to provide bundled services.
- NECAC currently operates an In-Home services program. In-Home is able to assist elderly and disabled persons with care needed to remain in their own homes such as light cleaning, medication assistance and personal care.
- NECAC receives funding for the WIC program, WIC offers income eligible individuals with woman/children's health service. This allows individuals to obtain services they otherwise would not be able to afford. WIC in Saint Charles and Warren is currently partnering with Farmer's Markets to provide stipends that can be used to purchase fresh produce.

There are a number of areas in which CSBG staff could be instrumental in providing solutions by developing partnerships. CSBG staff will have discussions with non-profit and faith-based organizations to advocate for new food pantry hours of operation to better serve clients who are currently employed. Based on data collected regarding food availability, CSBG staff could form partnerships with local vendors to create a farmer's market. CSBG staff could form partnerships with the municipalities in the NECAC service area. CSBG staff could advocate within all municipalities in all counties for leadership in those areas to find a way to add or improve public transportation.

## Civic Engagement

Qualitative data was received from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector. This information was obtained via surveys, and focus groups. The causes of poverty were identified as lack of non-profit organizations to assist our vulnerable population with emergency services and lack of public transportation to obtain services.

Data was gathered to complete the CNA Template Issue Area Characteristics. When looking at the number of registered voters, the total across the 12-county service area was **445,934**, compared to the state total of **4,286,342**. For the rate of registered voters, data ranged from **60%-74%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in an average of **69%** versus the state average of **69%**. For the number of Non-Profit Organizations, the 12-county service area had a total of **2,288**, which contributed to the state total of **39,243**. For the total number of volunteer organizations- rate per 100,000 population, data ranged from **266.69-622.64**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data, resulted in an average of **446.56**.

Quantitative data was informed partially by 707 survey responses collected from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector in the 12-county service area. This information was obtained via surveys. Surveys were sent to partners, and distributed in service centers.

- **82.60%** of respondents stated they are registered voters.

The accumulation of this data resulted in apparent barriers, and gaps as identified below. Gaps in the community were identified as lack of transportation to receive in person services, and lack of community resources (funding/direct services) to obtain services to meet basic needs. The barrier identified was individuals in the community lack knowledge of resources available to them. This was based on focus group responses; many community members are not aware of what services are offered in the community or how to access them. The community does have some resources to meet some of gaps, and barriers.

- NECAC staff will continue outreach efforts to inform the community on programs/ services operated in our service area. This will be done by media releases, commutating with local organizations/ businesses and street outreach efforts.
- NECAC staff will continue to work with local resources groups to ensure the community is educated on services offered and eligibility guidelines



- NECAC will create partnerships with other organizations to develop working relationships and make referrals for gap services.

There are a number of areas in which CSBG staff could be instrumental in providing solutions by developing partnerships. CSBG staff could look into forming partnerships with all local providers and organizations in the service area to advocate and explore how to bring more funding opportunities to the community. CSBG staff could advocate within all municipalities in all counties for leadership in those areas to find a way to add or improve public transportation to meet transportation needs. CSBG staff could explore funding that would allow for the supplement of funds for clients to pay for transportation related services.

## Multiple Domains

Qualitative data was received from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector. This information was obtained via surveys, and focus groups. In reviewing the issue area-multiple domains, cumulative results for this area indicated the community lacks childcare facilities was the top reported area of concern. Data also indicated single parent households lack support systems, veterans lack educational attainment and individuals lack of living wage jobs contributes to the cause of poverty.

Data was gathered to complete the CNA Template Issue Area Characteristics. For the total population, based on data collected there we a total of **629,280** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **6,141,534**. For the total households, based on data collected there we a total of **234,329** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **2,440,212**. For the total White population, based on data collected there we a total of **561,891** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **4,930,466**. For the total Black population, based on data collected there we a total of **25,993** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **695,678**. For the total American Indian population, based on data collected there we a total of **1,217** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **19,904**. For the total Asian population, based on data collected there we a total of **11,819** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **123,406**. For the total Native Hawaiian population, based on data collected there we a total of **281** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **8,468**. For the total "Some Other" population, based on data collected there we a total of **4,842** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **84,084**. For the total Mixed-Race population, based on data collected there we a total of **23,219** individuals across the

service area that contributed to the state total of **279,528**. For the total male population, based on data collected there we a total of **309,557** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **2,984,034**. For the total male population ages 0-4, based on data collected there we a total of **18,874** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **188,129**. For the total male population ages 5-17, based on data collected there we a total of **156,524** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **525,391**. For the total male population ages 18-64, based on data collected there we a total of **192,363** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **1,852,663**. For the total male population age 65+, based on data collected there we a total of **41,796** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **417,851**. For the total female population, based on data collected there we a total of **315,583** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **2,541,515**. For the total female population ages 0-4, based on data collected there we a total of **18,102** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **179,003**. For the total female population ages 5-17, based on data collected there we a total of **53,903** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **499,852**. For the total female population ages 18-64, based on data collected there we a total of **188,312** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **1,862,660**. For the total female population age 65+, based on data collected there we a total of **55,266** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **572,278**. For the total Veteran population, based on data collected there we a total of **38,193** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **377,127**. For the total male Veteran population, based on data collected there we a total of **35,481** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **377,127**. For the total female Veteran population, based on data collected there we a total of **2,715** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **30,630**. For the total Veteran population ages 18-34, based on data collected there we a total of **2,466** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **30,011**. For the total Veteran population ages 35-54, based on data collected there we a total of **8,961** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **82,479**. For the total Veteran population ages 55-64, based on data collected there we a total of **6,468** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **71,398**. For the total Veteran population age 65+, based on data collected there we a total of **20,298** individuals across the service area that contributed to the state total of **193,239**. When looking at the rate of Veterans without educational attainment- no high school diploma, the data ranged from **4.30%-15.31%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **8.35%** versus the state rate of **5.96%**. When looking at the rate of Veterans with high school diploma, the data ranged from **26.73%-56.52%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **44.99%** versus the state rate of **32.44%**. When looking at the rate of Veterans with secondary education attainment- Bachelors or Higher, the data ranged from

9.00%-34.07%, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **15.86%** versus the state rate of **25.40%**. For the total number of licensed childcare facilities based on data collected there we a total of **264** facilities across the service area that contributed to the state total of **2,888**. When looking at the average cost of childcare for an infant- per day, the data ranged from **\$30.00-\$37.70**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **\$31.98**. When looking at the average cost of childcare per day for preschool age children, the data ranged from **\$23.00-\$33.35**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **\$28.89**. When looking at the average cost of childcare per day for school age children, the data ranged from **\$13.01-\$26.68**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **\$16.35**. When looking at the incarceration rate, the data ranged from **0.07%-2.33%**, across the service area. Averaging all 12 counties' data resulted in a rate of **1.45%** versus the state rate of **1.40%**. For the violent crime total, based on data collected there we a total of **1,322** crimes across the service area that contributed to the state total of **30,514**. For the total number of homicides, based on data collected there we a total of **18** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **596**. For the total number of aggravated assaults, based on data collected there we a total of **1,051** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **21,809**. For the total number of armed robberies, based on data collected there we a total of **66** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **5,197**. For the total number of forcible rapes, based on data collected there we a total of **177** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **2,755**. For the total number of property crimes, based on data collected there we a total of **8,814** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **162,247**. For the total number of burglaries, based on data collected there we a total of **1,039** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **27,101**. For the total number of larcenies, based on data collected there we a total of **7,167** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **114,408**. For the total number of auto thefts, based on data collected there we a total of **564** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **19,676**. For the total number of arsons, based on data collected there we a total of **44** across the service area that contributed to the state total of **1,062**.

Quantitative data was informed partially by 707 survey responses collected from low-income individuals, the private sector, community partners, educational partners, faith-based partners, and the public sector in the 12-county service area. This information was obtained via surveys. Surveys were sent to partners, and distributed in service centers.

- Childcare

- **43.45%** of respondents do NOT have childcare, **7.12%** use a family member or friend for childcare, **3.28%** use traditional daycare, and **1.85%** have a child enrolled in Early Head Start/Head Start
- Veteran Status
  - **7.92%** of respondents are Veterans or Active Military
- Demographics
  - Age: **41.75%**- 40-59 years old; **23.48%**- 25-39 years old; **16.27%**- 65+ years old; **15.42%**- 60-64 years old; **2.69%**- 20-24 years old; and **0.42%**- less than 20 years old.
  - Marital Status: **34.99%**- Single; **31.87%**- Married; **19.55%**- Divorced; **7.65%** Widowed; **5.95%** Separated
  - Gender: **77.75%**- Women; **21.40%**- Male; **0.43%**- Trans-Man; **0.43%** Non-Conforming; and **0.00%** Trans-Female
  - Race: **86.67%**- White; **8.79%**- Black; **1.70%**- Multi Racial; **1.13%**- Hispanic; **0.85%** "Other"; **0.71%**- Native American; and **0.14%**- Asian
  - Number in Household: **34.79%**- One Person; **28.03%**- Two People; **16.90%**- Three People; **10.28%**- Four People; **5.92%**- Five People; **1.97%**- Six People; **2.11%**- Seven or More People

The accumulation of this data resulted in apparent barriers, and gaps as identified below. Gaps in the community were identified as the community lacks childcare for overnight/evening workers, and the community lacks local resources to assist vulnerable populations with emergency services. Barrier identified includes individuals are unable to cover the cost of childcare. Childcare was mentioned across income, education, and employment domains. The community does have some resources to meet some of gaps, and barriers.

- NECAC currently operates an In-Home services program. In-Home is able to assist elderly and disabled persons with care needed to remain in their own homes such as light cleaning, medication assistance and personal care. In-Home services could assist our aging veteran population by providing services that would allow them to stay in their homes.
- NECAC LCPHA & St. Charles PHA partner with the St. Louis VA hospital to assist veterans with housing assistance (VASH). Through this program, eligible veterans are assisted with a monthly subsidy towards their rent. This allows veterans to obtain safe and affordable housing within 50 miles of the VA hospital. Currently this program covers St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren counties in NECAC's 12-county service area.
- NECAC currently operates the SkillUp program across our 12-county service area. This program is designed to assist individuals on SNAP achieve educational attainment so they are "Skilled Up" to enter the workforce. Through this program, we are able to assist clients with supportive

services such as school books, laptops, lab fees, childcare assistance payments, etc. and provide tuition assistance to approved institutions. Through this program, individuals have the opportunity to increase their education, obtain living wage employment, and increase their use of income to cover household costs.

There are a number of areas in which CSBG staff could be instrumental in providing solutions by developing partnerships. CSBG staff will have discussions with non-profit and faith-based organizations to advocate for additional childcare facilities across our 12-county service area and continue to make referrals to DSS when individuals are unable to afford childcare costs. Based on data collected regarding the number of veterans without educational attainment, CSBG staff could continue outreach efforts to better serve this population with education programs such as SkillUp and general case management. CSBG staff could also research and partner with local providers serving veterans to develop a referral system and increase the number of veterans being served by NECAC.

---

# Community Needs Assessment

## Prioritization Summary

---

### Executive Summary

Issue areas covered for this Community Needs Assessment included: Use of Income, Employment, Education, Housing, Health & Nutrition, Civic Engagement and Multiple Domains. Each issue area was then analyzed for causes of poverty, gaps, barriers to exiting poverty or obtaining services, and potential partnerships to resolve gaps/barriers.

Participants and partners contributed to the qualitative and quantitative data collected for this effort. Within each county, low-income participants contributed to the public survey and focus group data collection.

The survey used for data collection efforts was distributed to the public sector. It was also given to low-income participants and community partners. Community partners included:

- Lewis County Food Pantry, Lewis County Back to School/ Adopt a Child, Lewis County Health Department, Lewis County Social Services, GAMM, Lewis County Affordable Housing Apartments, Lincoln County COC Group, Connecting, Resource, Education, Work (CREW), Senior Resource Group (SRG), Rural Advocates for Independent Living, Better Living Center, Foster Adopt Connect, Macon County Ministries Food Pantry, Macon County Public Administrator, Family Literacy Center, Macon County Health Department, Ray of Hope Pregnancy Care Ministries, Mark Twain Behavioral Health, Horizon Credit Union, Learning Opportunities and Quality Works, United Healthcare Community and State, Learning Opportunities and Quality Works, Long Branch Area YMCA, Avenues, Clarity Healthcare, Douglass Community Services, Families and Communities Together (F.A.C.T.), Hannibal Children's Center, Hannibal Housing Authority, Harvest Outreach Ministries, Holy Family Catholic Church, Mark Twain Behavioral Health, Mission 180, Missouri Job Center (Missouri Career Center), Northeast Independent Living Services (N.E.I.L.S.), Preferred Family Healthcare, The Salvation Army, United Way of the Mark Twain Area, Northeast Missouri Humane Society, University of Missouri Extension, Christmas is Caring, Hometown Volunteers, City of Paris, Community Health Care, Society of St. Vincent DePaul Immaculate Conception, Montgomery County Cares, Birthright of Montgomery City, Montgomery County SB40 (DDAB of Montgomery County), New Florence United Methodist Church,

Chamber of Commerce Montgomery City Missouri, Reach Community Church, Options for Women, Pike County Health Department, Pike County Memorial Hospital, Bowling Green School District, MCFACT, Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, Ralls County Sheriff, New London Police Department, New London City Hall, Madi's Kindness Projects, Perry City Hall Alderman, Dutch Country General Store, Compass Health, RCDDS, Randolph County Housing Authority, Lighthouse Counseling, Douglas Community Head Start/ Home Base, Moberly Regional Medical Center, Job Point, Family Support System, Safe Passage, Moberly School District, Missouri University Extension, Missouri Foundation for Health, Calibrate Recovery, Missouri Senior Medical Patrol, Randolph County Health Department, MACC/VFW, ICAN, Burell Behavioral Health, Division of Family Services, Olive Tree Counseling, Saline County Health Department, Coyote Hill, Ralls County Health Department, Caring Communities, St. Vincent DePaul, Healthy Blue, Moberly Area Community College, Missouri University Parent link, Shelby County Communities Talking Action, Bethel Christian Church, Missouri University Extension Center, Parents As Teachers, Meadow Wood Estates, Hillman Place, Woodbury Place, Missouri Career Center, Saint Charles Community College, Faith Haven House, Peine Lakes, LINC, Greater Giving, First Community Credit Union, Courtland Apartments, Anchor House, United Health Care, Saint Patrick's Center, Warren County School District, Saint Charles Community College, Compass Health, Saint Joachim Ann, Job Corps, Youth In Need, Point and Time County, Missouri Department of Corrections

Each issue area presented with its own barriers: Within Use of Income, the most relevant barriers are lack of local resources, Inflation, Fixed Incomes, and Generational Poverty. Within Education, the most relevant barriers are lack of parental support, lack of knowledge to access community resources, lack of private transportation, bullying in school districts, present mental health disorders, present substance abuse disorders, lack of housing, and lack of interest in educational attainment. Within Employment, the most relevant barriers are lack of public transportation, lack of internet access, lack of childcare, lack of employment skills, lack of living wage jobs, lack of knowledge to start a small business, background checks, drug testing for new hires, lack of private transportation, lack of home computers/ laptops for job search, lack of support systems, lack of references, and lack of advancement opportunities with current employer. Within Housing, the most relevant barriers are lack of affordable housing, limited assistance programs for housing expenses, high cost of housing, lack of energy efficient homes, lack of heating/cooling in homes, increase in taxes, lack of energy education, low income housing stigma in the community, bad credit, criminal history, bad rental history, overcrowded housing and number of unsafe, unsanitary rental units. Within Health & Nutrition, the relevant barriers are lack of healthcare providers in the community, lack of mental health service providers in the community, lack of women's healthcare providers in the community, lack of public transportation, lack of affordable health insurance plans, lack of healthcare providers accepting Medicaid, lack of private transportation, lack of employer provided dental/vision

insurance plans, mental health stigma in the community, lack of nutrition education- basic cooking skills/food preservation, lack of supplies needed to prepare meals, poor meal choices, lack of access to food pantries and ineligible for SNAP due to criminal history . Within **Civic Engagement**, the relevant barriers are lack of public transportation and lack of knowledge of resources available in the community. Within **Multiple Domains**, the relevant barriers are lack of childcare facilities/availability, lack of support for single parent household and lack of educational attainment.

CSBG staff will develop programs and partnerships to assist in the issue areas. For Use of Income, CSBG staff will address the lack of local resources gap by seeking additional funding to assist low income customers in our service area. While expanding public transportation is outside of the capacity of the agency, CSBG staff will employ any advocacy efforts they can for transportation efforts in rural counties and seek out funding that can assist with personal financial costs associated with transportation (auto repairs, insurance, gas, licensing, etc.). For **Education**, CSBG staff will address the issue of lack of income- secondary education cost by partnering with local secondary education facilities to create a referral system for individuals seeking financial assistance. CSBG staff will also continue to proactively address the customer's education level through the dropout prevention programs of Vocational Opportunities Inspiring Children in Elementary (VOICE) & Reality Enrichment and Life Lessons (REALL). CSBG staff will continue to offer educational supports one-on-one and, in a group, setting via Life Skills and Case Management programming. CSBG staff will explore ways to help and advocate for our rural service area to expand their broadband connections as well as look for means to help with financial responsibilities of regular and reliable internet services for families. For **Employment**, CSBG staff will address the issue of lack of employment skills and lack of advancement opportunities by increasing SkillUp enrollments in all 12-counties. Through this program, individuals can receive training, resume assistance and one-on-one case management to assist customers reach goals. While expanding public transportation is outside of the capacity of the agency, CSBG staff will employ any advocacy efforts they can for transportation efforts in rural counties and seek out funding that can assist with personal financial costs associated with transportation. CSBG staff will also seek funding that assists with technology support, in hopes of securing devices to provide to low-income participants. CSBG staff will continue offering life skill classes. For **Housing**, NECAC staff will maintain good relationships and advocate for housing-related needs including expanded housing options for transitional and family units, landlord responsibility, and inclusion of those with criminal and/or poor rental histories in housing options. NECAC staff will seek funding to assist with extensive home repairs. CSBG staff will continue to offer life skills classes to customers. For **Health & Nutrition**, CSBG staff will explore expanding in- office food pantries to additional office locations. Currently food pantries are offered in Monroe and Ralls County, this was developed after our 2020 assessment. We will also look into expanding emergency food programs such as a "Feed your Neighbor"



with food access issues. In addition, CSBG staff would like to add a job-training component to this development to aid in the employment issue area. CSBG staff will continue to support individuals and families one-on-one or in-group settings toward nutrition related goals via Life Skills programming. CSBG staff will also have a professional goal to become more educated on helping case management clients with wellness goals. While expanding public transportation is outside of the capacity of the agency, CSBG staff will employ any advocacy efforts they can for transportation efforts in rural counties and seek out funding that can assist with personal financial costs associated with transportation.

North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC) prioritized gaps in services, barriers to overcoming poverty and partnerships once the data analysis portion of the Community Needs Assessment was completed

Information obtained from all qualitative sources, in conjunction with quantitative data was analyzed to determine commonalities among data points by the CSBG Community Needs Assessment workgroup

Prioritization revealed the following regarding agency capacity and needs demonstrated through the Community Needs Assessment data. NECAC's prioritization lies in the area of **(1) Housing:** help individual's access safe, sanitary and affordable housing through emergency assistance, housing vouchers, Weatherization and subsidized housing; **(2) Employment:** help individuals obtain a living wage job through employment trainings, transportation assistance, Employment related assistance such as uniform/interview clothing/ supplies and access to affordable childcare; **(3) Nutrition:** help individuals with obtaining food assistance through in office food pantries, provide assistance with SNAP applications, provide direct services such as grocery gift cards when funding is available and conduct nutrition education classes for food preservation such as canning and freeze drying. Details regarding these priorities lie on the following pages.

## Descriptions

### Priority #1 Community needs safe & affordable housing

Housing was determined to be a priority to the agency as a result of the Community Needs Assessment process. Qualitative data was obtained from educational partners, faith-based partners, community partners, low-income individuals, Board members, and the public sector. This information was then analyzed. This qualitative data was then compared with quantitative data as displayed in the Issue Area Characteristics template. Analyzing the two sources of information helped the Community Needs Assessment workgroup to begin the prioritization process. Assisting Individuals obtain Safe and Affordable Housing was determined to be a high effort, high reward priority and within the agency's capacity.

### Priority #2 Individuals need living wage jobs

Employment was determined to be a priority to the agency as a result of the Community Needs Assessment process. Qualitative data was obtained from educational partners, faith-based partners, community partners, low-income individuals, Board members, and the public sector. This information was then analyzed. This qualitative data was then compared with quantitative data as displayed in the Issue Area Characteristics template. Analyzing the two sources of information helped the Community Needs Assessment workgroup to begin the prioritization process. Assisting Individuals obtain Living Wage Jobs was determined to be a high effort, high reward priority and within the agency's capacity.

### Priority #3 Individuals need food security

Nutrition was determined to be a priority to the agency as a result of the Community Needs Assessment process. Qualitative data was obtained from educational partners, faith-based partners, community partners, low-income individuals, Board members, and the public sector. This information was then analyzed. This qualitative data was then compared with quantitative data as displayed in the Issue Area Characteristics template. Analyzing the two sources of information helped the Community Needs Assessment workgroup to begin the prioritization process. Providing nutrition assistance was determined to be a high effort, high reward priority and within the agency's capacity.

## Others for Consideration

**Communities need affordable public transportation** (Use of Income, Employment, Education and Health & Nutrition) throughout the service was a need that was prioritized. However, at this time, NECAC does not have the agency capacity to implement such a system. CSBG staff would like to support this issue by employing advocacy efforts with local municipalities and community resource organizations. In addition, CSBG staff would like to research funding that may assist with personal transportation costs, as this issue area was noted throughout other issue areas. NECAC staff would like to advocate to OATS that serves elderly, rural, and disabled community members to increase services so that transportation can be met. Should another organization address this area, then increases are expected to be made in regards to poverty and employment, education and housing. This is expected to have a substantial impact as success in those areas trickles to others as well.

**Communities need licensed childcare facilities** (Use of Income, Employment, Education, Multiple Domains) throughout the service was a need that was prioritized. However, at this time, NECAC does not have the agency capacity to implement such a system. CSBG staff would like to research funding that may assist childcare expenses. Should another organization address this area, then increases are expected to be made in regards to poverty and use of income, employment, and education. This is expected to have a substantial impact as success in those areas trickles to others as well.