

# Listening to Families

## Client Opinion of Needs

Below are the top eight needs of families, as identified by clients themselves. The percentages are based on the number of families who stated they had social services needs, and identified the particular need from the categories listed in the chart below.



Indiana		CAPE	
Emergency rent, utilities, shelter	57%	Emergency rent, utilities, shelter	52%
Food or nutrition	35%	Know more of what's available	24%
Know more of what's available	30%	Education	24%
Health-related or medical	29%	Transportation	24%
Transportation	26%	Employment Services	20%
Other	25%	Food or Nutrition	20%
Housing situation improvement	24%	Health-related or medical	16%
Education	21%	Help with budgeting	16%

Source: 2007 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Data



## Economic Impact

Fighting poverty is not just altruistic; it is a key economic development strategy. Based on client survey data, if we could move each of the families served by CAPE to at least 100% of the FPG, it would generate an additional \$104,675,437 per year in income. This money would then be spent in the community, further stimulating the local economy.



## The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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For questions or to see the full Community Needs Assessment Report, please contact CAPE:

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For more information about IHEDA please visit [www.in.gov/iheda/](http://www.in.gov/iheda/).

# Community Action Agencies



# laying the groundwork for our communities

## 2008 Community Needs Assessment



# 2008 Community Needs Assessment

## A Research Report from Community Action Program of Evansville and Vanderburgh County (CAPE)

In order to better serve the low-income residents of the region, it is important that we maintain an up-to-date picture of who they are and what they need. To do this, the Community Action Program of Evansville and Vanderburgh County (CAPE) board and staff participated in a statewide study which was conducted by the Indiana Community Action Network.

The research was conducted in two parts:

- Background research was conducted using secondary data available from federal, state, and local resources.
- A client survey was designed and administered directly to Hoosiers who use CAPE's services.

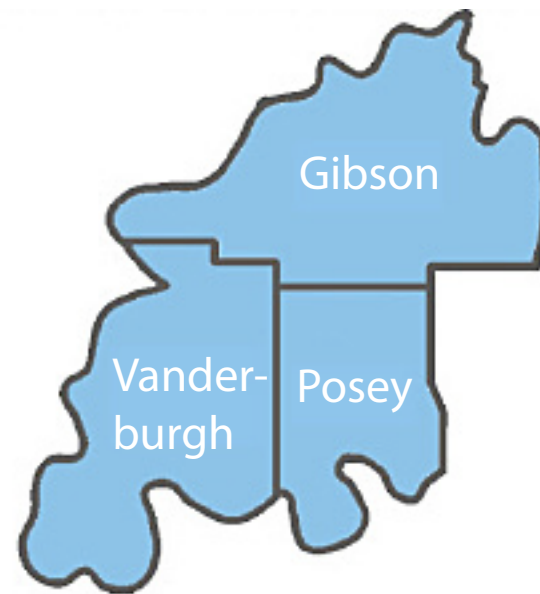
In 2007, CAPE served 32,601 low-income Hoosiers.

Of those served...

- 86%** of heads of households were working
- 68%** lived in rental housing
- 44%** were children
- 38%** were single-parent female headed households
- 24%** were African-American
- 6%** had two or more years of post-secondary education
- 5%** were 70 years old or older
- 2%** were Hispanic/Latino

### CAPE Service Area

#### Indiana's Southwest Region



The findings are helpful to the CAPE board and staff who want to better understand CAPE's clients and their needs. CAPE is using the findings to plan new strategies and services designed to help reduce poverty.

CAPE is eager to share its findings with others who wish to serve low-income families in Southwest Indiana.

The client survey respondents are a valid and reliable sample of the low-income population. This makes it possible for any community group to factor in these results when considering service for community programs and projects.

## Overcoming Poverty and Income Barriers

### Service Area Poverty

According to U.S. Census Bureau, in 2007, 12% of the CAPE's service area population, or 28,547 people, lived below the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). These numbers have increased from 10%, or 22,993 people, in 2000. In 2007, the FPG for a family of four was \$20,650 a year.

### Self-Sufficiency Standard

Studies have shown that it actually takes about twice the FPG for a family to actually be economically self-sufficient. According to the 2005 Indiana Self-Sufficiency Standard, a family of four (two adults, one infant, and one preschooler) in Gibson County would need to make \$2,695 monthly or \$32,344 annually to reach economic self-sufficiency. For this same family type in the remainder of CAPE's service area, it would take the following for this family to meet economic self-sufficiency:

**Posey County**  
\$3,010 monthly or \$36,116 annually  
**Vanderburgh County**  
\$3,206 monthly or \$38,472 annually

Twenty-eight percent, or 61,412, of the CAPE's service area population lived below 200% FPG in 2007.

	2007 Poverty Rate	# All Persons & Ages in Poverty, 2007	2000 Poverty Rate	# All Persons & Ages in Poverty, 2000
Gibson	14%	3,348	8%	2,607
Posey	12%	2,020	7%	1,972
Vanderburgh	15%	23,179	11%	18,414
Indiana	12%	755,245	10%	559,484

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Children in Poverty

In 2007, Indiana's child poverty rate was 17%. All counties served by CAPE, with the exception of Vanderburgh County, were below the statewide average. The child poverty rates for the counties served by CAPE are as follows:

Gibson County 14%  
Posey County 11%  
Vanderburgh County 20%

It is estimated that 9,633 children (under the age of 18) in the CAPE service area were living in poverty in 2007.

### Working Poor

Fifty-seven percent of client survey households with adults under 65 years old had at least one adult working, compared to 48% for the state as a whole.

### Single-Parent Female

#### Headed Households in Poverty

Seventy percent of female client survey respondents under 40 years old, who had incomes below 100% of FPG, were single-parents.

## Employment and Education

### Unemployment Rates

In 2007, the unemployment rate in the CAPE service area was 5%, making it the same as the statewide unemployment rate of 5%. This is an increase of 2% from 2000 for this service area.

Unemployment Rates		
Counties	2007	2000
Gibson	5%	3%
Posey	4%	3%
Vanderburgh	5%	3%
Indiana	5%	3%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Education Level and Income

Post-secondary education is becoming increasingly important to the earning potential of families. For client survey respondents 25 years old and older, without any post-secondary education, the average monthly income was \$801. Client respondents, 25 years old and older, with a two-year post-secondary degree, had an average monthly income of \$1,180.

### Full Time vs Part Time Employment

A key indicator of yearly household income is number of hours worked (increased hours worked having a far greater impact on overall income than an increase in hourly wage). Of those client survey respondents who were employed, over half (59%) worked less than 36 hours per week. When accounting for spouses, 55% worked less than 36 hours per work. These figures were at or below the statewide averages, which were 63% and 55% respectively.

## Other Barriers

### Renting vs Homeownership

In 2007, 70 percent of CAPE client survey respondents lived in rental units compared to 28 percent of Indiana residents who lived in rental units statewide. Whereas 26 percent of CAPE client survey respondents owned their home. This is compared to a statewide homeownership rate of 72 percent in 2007.

### Homelessness

Five percent of client survey respondents have been homeless in the last 12 months. When projecting that out to the entire CAPE service area population, it means 644 families have been homeless in the last 12 months.

### Transportation

Thirty-five percent of CAPE client survey respondents did not have a car in working order. Of those who do not have a car, 67% consider this to be a barrier or problem, and 66% feel they could acquire better employment if they had a car in working order.

### Child Support

For single-parent families, child support is a crucial income source to help these families meet their basic needs. Thirty-two percent of client survey respondents were eligible to receive child support, but only one in four of those families (25%) actually received their support regularly over the last year.

### Health Insurance

Sixty-seven percent of client survey respondents who were employed, did not have private health insurance, indicating that the majority work in jobs with little to no health insurance benefits. Twenty percent of survey respondents stated that neither they as individuals nor their family had private or public health insurance.