



2020 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Board of Director Approval: 2020 Community Needs Assessment | June 16, 2020
2021 Update | April 20, 2021
2022 Update | June 21, 2022

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<i>Update to Community Needs Assessment approved by BVCA Board of Directors on June 21, 2022</i>	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA), located in rural Southeast Nebraska, is a locally operated non-profit belonging to a national network of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies that are dedicated to reducing poverty and improving self-sufficiency among low income populations. Headquartered in the city of Fairbury, the BVCA service area includes Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, and York County.

Mission: *We overcome poverty by meeting basic needs, helping people to grow, and collaborating in our communities.*

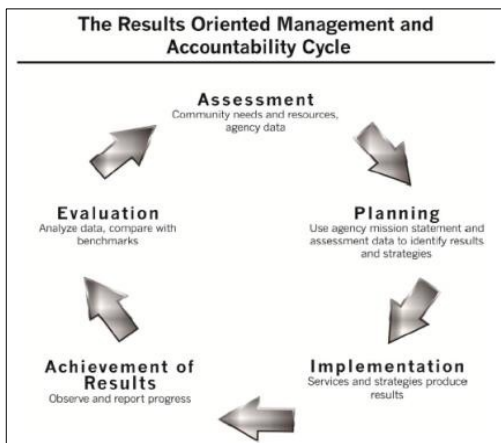
Vision: *Our communities are safe and supportive, differences and traditions are respected, individuals and families are financially secure, and everyone has opportunities to develop their potential.*



The Community Action network is united by three primary overarching goals:

- Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security.
- Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunity.
- People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.

To this end, BVCA operates 21 field offices located throughout each of the nine counties to provide assessable housing, employment, education, health, nutrition, and emergency services to low income residents.



To ensure programs and initiatives best serve the communities throughout our region, BVCA implements a comprehensive planning and outcome measurement process known as Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA). Conceptualized as a five-stage cycle, a crucial beginning step for the development of planning for results using the ROMA process is "Assessment". BVCA conducts a Comprehensive Needs Assessment every three years to evaluate current conditions and identify local family and community needs. Identified needs within the scope of our organization's mission are prioritized, allowing us to mobilize resources that focus on programs, which provide meaningful services to improve the lives and financial stability of low-income families.

PROCESS

From September 2019 through March 2020, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA) conducted a multi-component community needs assessment to inform its strategic planning process. The components included a client needs survey (479 area respondents), nineteen key stakeholder interviews with leaders of education, government, faith-based, business and community-based organizations, extensive secondary research, and a comprehensive community resource mapping project. Quantitative and qualitative data from these sources were combined with existing information from staff surveys and interviews, as well as an ongoing customer satisfaction survey. The goal was to create a comprehensive

Needs Assessment Report in PowerPoint format to share with the greater community and to produce the organization's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.

In addition, BVCA conducted a client survey (133 telephone interviews), an online community survey (487 respondents), and obtained feedback from front line staff and five local elected officials about the impact of COVID-19 as part of the CARES Act COVID-19 Needs Assessment Update in May 2020.

This Executive Summary identifies the key findings of these needs assessment activities and is designed to prompt community conversations about the strengths and challenges that face us as we work together to build a brighter future.

KEY FINDINGS

Population Profile

Overall, our population is declining. Seward, York, and Saline counties posted population increases; the remaining counties show declines.

Our area has a higher proportion of preschool-aged children and residents 65+ than Nebraska. In the BVCA service area, 19.3% of residents are ages 65 or older compared to 15% of Nebraska residents, while 5.9% of BVCA residents are ages 5 or younger, compared to 3.6% in Nebraska. As a result, services and housing for seniors - as well as early childhood education for preschoolers - will become more important in our communities in the future.

Our Hispanic/Latinx population increased 29.6% since 2010, compared to 21.4% throughout Nebraska. These population increases occurred across our service area, with 40% of Hispanic and Latinx residents under the age of eighteen.

In our communities, 4,216 households (1 in 10) live in poverty, with female-headed households most likely to live in poverty. Among children living in poverty, Black children are three times more likely to live in poverty than White children and Hispanic and Latinx children are more than twice as likely.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity describes a household's inability to provide enough food for every person in the household to lead an active and healthy life (*Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2019*). In our communities, forty-six percent of BVCA clients reported not having enough food at least sometimes during the last year, increasing to 58% for single parent households. The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch has increased in most communities, with 40% of families qualified in the 2019-2020 school year.

The impact on food insecurity is expected to intensify, as close to 20% of BVCA clients and community members surveyed about the COVID impact said they were not confident they would have enough food in the next month. Approximately 80% of the respondents who had received free food in the previous month had received it through school programs and most of those programs were scheduled to end in May or June.

Health

Residents in many of our communities are dying prematurely from causes that are preventable and at a rate higher than the state as a whole. Most BVCA counties have a higher percentage of obese adults compared to Nebraska. Obesity is a statewide problem—in 2019, 34% of Nebraskans were obese and the percentage is increasing.

When the COVID-19 survey was conducted, the pandemic had not had a significant health impact on residents in the majority of the BVCA service area. However, Saline County was hit very hard with one of the highest infection rates in the state, due to the presence of a large meat processing plant. Another county, Gage, had a severe outbreak in one of its nursing homes.

Mental health is a critical area of concern and poverty is associated with much higher levels of poor mental health. In our area, women age 18–44 are much more vulnerable and youth in several BVCA counties have a very high risk of suicide and ideation attempts. Mental health impacts from the pandemic were identified in the client and community COVID-19 surveys. Approximately 30% of respondents in both surveys said they had been nervous, anxious, depressed, uninterested or unable to enjoy doing things more than half of the days, or nearly every day, in the past month. Stakeholder interviews indicate that there is a severe shortage of mental health providers in our service area, as well as a variety of other problems limiting the accessibility of mental health services.

In addition, all population groups in our area do not have insurance coverage to pay for healthcare services. Thirty-one percent of residents under age 65 living below 200% of poverty in Saline County lack health insurance (highest rate), while the “no coverage” rates in other BVCA counties of residents living below 200% of poverty range between 19-24%. Around 10% of COVID-19 survey respondents (both client & community) reported that they had lost health insurance due to the pandemic.

Housing

Housing quality is a major issue across the BVCA area. A large portion of housing in our counties is over 50 years old and deferred maintenance can cause serious health problems for residents. Over 3000 single-family homes in the area are classified as ‘badly worn’ or ‘worn out’ by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (2019 County Profiles).

The availability of suitable affordable housing is a problem in many areas. The total number of housing units has declined in six of our counties. Affordable quality rentals, especially those with more than two bedrooms, are lacking in our area. New housing construction in our area rose sharply from 2015-2017 with several communities adding single-family homes and duplexes, but the number of units in larger rental properties has declined.

One in three renters in our communities are cost-burdened (paying more than 30% of their monthly income for housing), with 27% paying more than 50% of their monthly income for rent. Sixteen percent of homeowner households in our counties are cost-burdened, with 12% paying more than 50% of their monthly income for housing.

Housing stability may be at risk for some residents in the coming months depending on whether family incomes rebound. Of clients responding to the COVID-19 survey, 18% said they were not very confident, or only somewhat confident they would be able to pay their rent or mortgage on time in the next month. Twenty-four percent reported the same uncertainty about their utility bills. Of community respondents, 12% said they were not very confident, or only somewhat confident they would be able to pay their rent or mortgage on time in the next month. Fifteen percent reported the same uncertainty about their utility bills.

Child Development and Education

Early childcare education is crucial to a child's future success with 90% of brain development occurring before age 5. The market rate for full-time unsubsidized childcare is unaffordable for some families in rural Nebraska counties where care can range from \$6,650-\$9,200 per year (2019 market study). The average subsidy in Nebraska is \$3,344 (2017).

Established quality improvement programs like the BVCA's *Infant Toddler Quality Initiative* and Nebraska's *Step Up to Quality* help great childcare providers become even better by offering support and resources.

In our service area, more childcare providers could benefit from participation in these types of quality improvement programs.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to negatively impact the availability of quality childcare in our communities. Fifty-eight percent of clients and 41% of community members responding to the COVID-19 survey were only somewhat or not at all confident they would be able to find affordable daycare in the next 4 weeks. Staff reported some private daycares had already closed and others were wavering.

Educational attainment levels for adults vary in our counties. Saline County differs markedly with a higher proportion of adults who did not finish high school (16%), and a lower proportion of adults with a college/graduate degree (14%). BVCA clients are less likely to have a high school education than other residents. Newcomers to our communities appear to have similar educational levels as current residents.

The COVID-19 survey identified strong needs for improving internet access and access to computer equipment to support meeting educational objectives for school-age children and residents seeking to raise their level of education. About 20% of both clients and community members reported poor internet access, 12% of both reported needing help paying for internet access, and 21% of clients and 12% of community members reported needing help to purchase computers for school use.

Jobs

The impact of the pandemic on jobs was notable among COVID-19 survey respondents. Fifty-one percent of clients and 37% of community members reported that jobs in their households had been impacted and high percentages (88% clients and 77% community members) reported declining incomes. About 55% of all respondents were not at all confident or only somewhat confident that they would be working in the next 4 weeks.

In the long term, helping our residents prepare for and obtain living wage employment should reduce pressure on other assistance programs. Most working people living in poverty are working part-time or part-year jobs. Some jobs do not pay enough for families to afford the additional costs of working, including transportation and childcare. Forty percent of BVCA clients reported job-related concerns (training, finding a job, transportation to a job) on the client survey; none reported receiving help finding a job.

Financial Education and Support

Between 30-50% of client survey respondents reported engaging in negative financial behaviors (paying credit card minimum, using credit card to pay monthly bills, etc.). Forty-three percent said that understanding their credit score was a concern, but only 1% reported getting help in this area.

Financial assistance programs in our counties currently address short-term emergencies with small amounts of funding or, due to funding restrictions, provide intensive services only to specific populations (i.e., victims of domestic abuse, foster care youth aging out of the system). Successful programs that help people escape from poverty provide an in-depth analysis of barriers, action planning, follow-up coaching/support, and often, financial assistance and matched savings opportunities.

CONCLUSION

Residents in our communities can benefit from a wide variety of supportive programs and services to help them escape poverty. The economic impact of the pandemic is expected to expand the number of residents needing services, and intensify community needs—especially among the working poor and families with children. In addition, community service organizations that partner with Blue Valley Community Action

Partnership, particularly senior centers, daycare providers, food banks and healthcare facilities will be negatively affected, putting the populations they serve at further risk.

SECONDARY INFORMATION SOURCES

Population Profile:

- *US Census 2000, 2010, ACS Estimates 2014-2018*

Food Insecurity:

- *Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2019*
- *NE Department of Education, Free and Reduced Lunch Counts by School (District and County, 2013-2020, alternate years used for trend.)*

Health:

- *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps 2020*
- *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, CDC, reported by Trust for America's Health*
- *Community Health Assessment - Community Health Improvement Plan for Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer Counties 2018-2023 Public Health Solutions, 2018. Based on NE BRFSS data 2011-2015*
- *America's Health Rankings and CDC, National Center for Health Statistics based on Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Surveillance System in 2016*

Housing:

- *US Census ACS 2014-2018*
- *Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) 2019 County Profiles*
- *US Census Bureau Data 2010-2017, as reported in NIFA County Statistics reports 2019*

Jobs:

- *Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage <https://livingwage.mit.edu>*
- *US Census ACS 2014-2018*

Child Development:

- *Childcare Market Rate Survey Report 2019, Buffet Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska.*
- *NE Department of Health and Human Services, as reported in Kids Count in Nebraska Report 2018*

OVERVIEW

Our Communities

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Strengths and Challenges

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership
Needs Assessment Report
June 2020

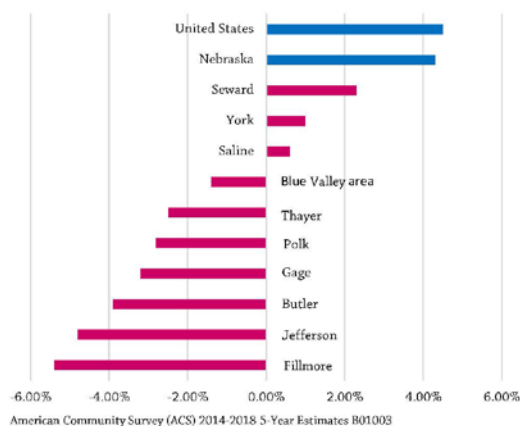


Overall our population has declined 1.4% since 2010

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- Three of our nine counties have increased population (Seward, York and Saline), while the other six have declined.
- Current population estimate for the service area is 97,991.
- Overall, the population for the Blue Valley area has declined 5% since 2000.

Population % change 2010-2018

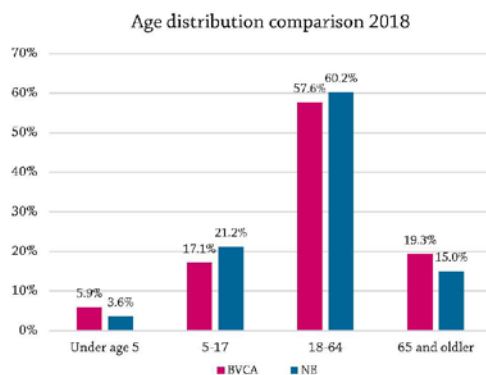


Resident Characteristics

Age and Ethnicity



Our area has a higher proportion of preschool age children and residents 65+ compared to Nebraska

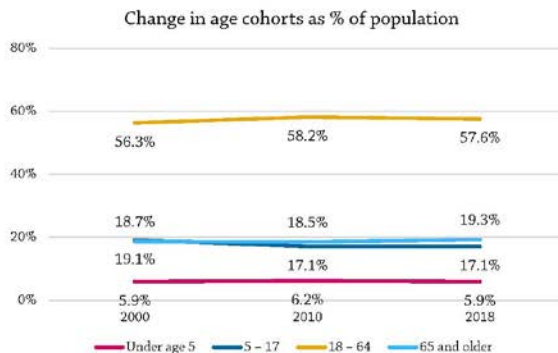


Census 2000 Summary File 4, Matrices PCT3 and PCT4. 2010 Census Summary File 1, ACS Estimates 2014-2018

- Our area has a lower proportion of working age adults than the state as a whole.

Age cohorts across all counties show small changes over time

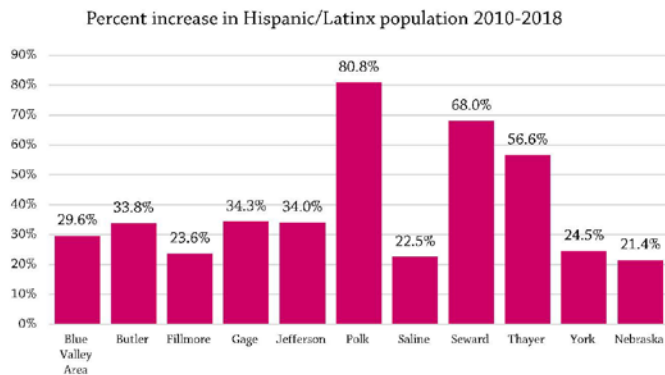
- Age breakdowns appear fairly stable since 2000.



Census 2000 Summary File 4, Matrices PCT3 and PCT4. 2010 Census Summary File 1, ACS Estimates 2014-2018

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Our Hispanic/Latinx population is growing

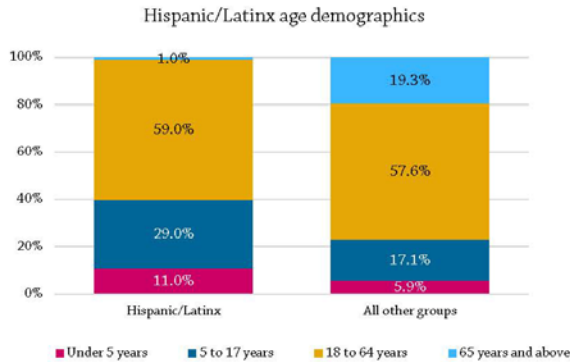


2010 US Census, American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (B01001)

- Hispanic and Latinx populations have increased almost 30% since 2010 from 4,887 to 6,332.
- Increases across counties differ greatly, with Polk County showing an 81% increase.
- Saline County, with the largest number of Hispanic residents, had a 22.5% increase.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Hispanic and Latinx residents are younger compared to other residents

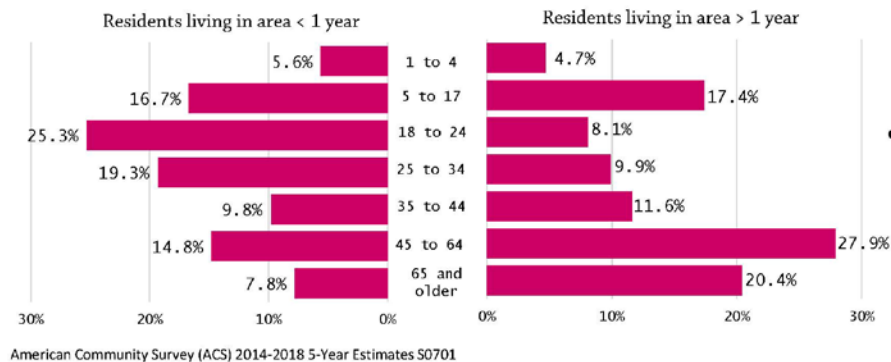


Census 2000 Summary File 4, Matrices PCT3 and PCT4. 2010 Census Summary File 1, ACS Estimates 2014-2018

- 40% of Hispanic and Latinx residents are age 17 or younger.
- Only 1% are 65 or older, compared to 20% of other residents.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Newcomers are younger than current residents



- Newcomers are residents who have lived in the area for less than one year.
- Newcomers are more likely to be in the 18-34 age range, while residents who have lived in the area longer are more likely to be age 45 or older.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Conclusions



- The growing percentage of senior residents has implications for housing and supportive services as this cohort continues to age (esp. Thayer, Jefferson and Fillmore counties).
- Higher numbers of preschool aged children signals that childcare will continue to be an important issue.
- Counties with little ethnic diversity in the past will need to focus more on this in the future as numbers increase.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

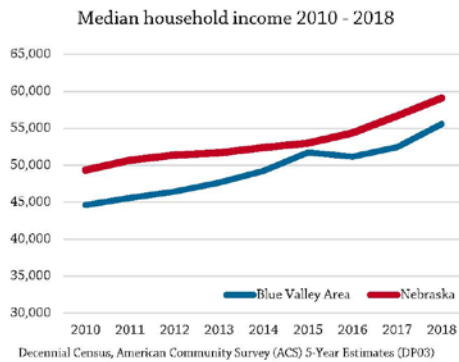


Poverty

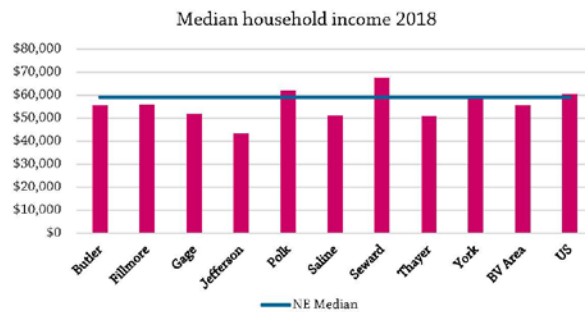


Economic Status and Food Access

Median income has risen in all communities, but levels vary



- The median for the Blue Valley area mirrored the state trajectory.



Decennial Census, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (DP03)

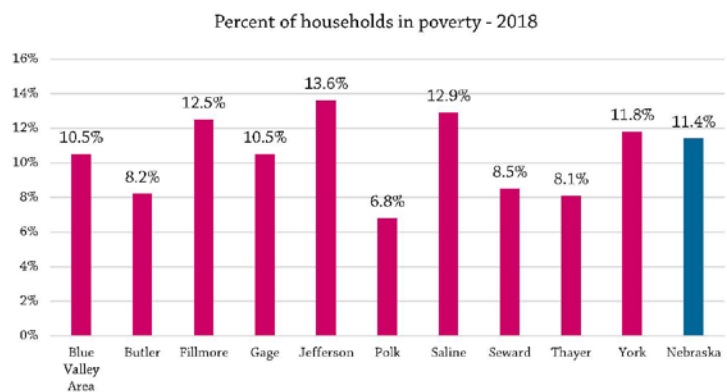
- The median for Jefferson County is \$44,300, in contrast to Seward County at \$67,500.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

One in ten households in our communities live in poverty



- 10.5% of all households in the BVCA area live below 100% of federal poverty levels.
- The percentage of households in poverty has declined marginally (.6%) for the BVCA area since 2006-2010 estimates.



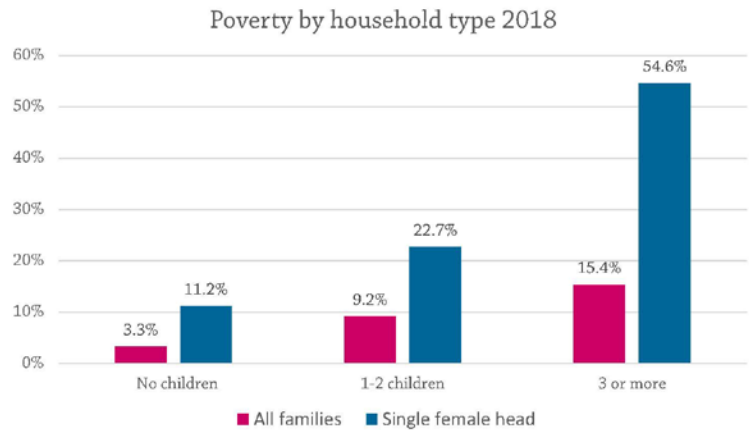
American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Females with children are more likely to live in poverty



- Families in our communities that are headed by a single female are more likely to live in poverty compared to all families.
- 22.7% of female-headed families with 1-2 children live in poverty, with 3 or more children this jumps to 54.6%.



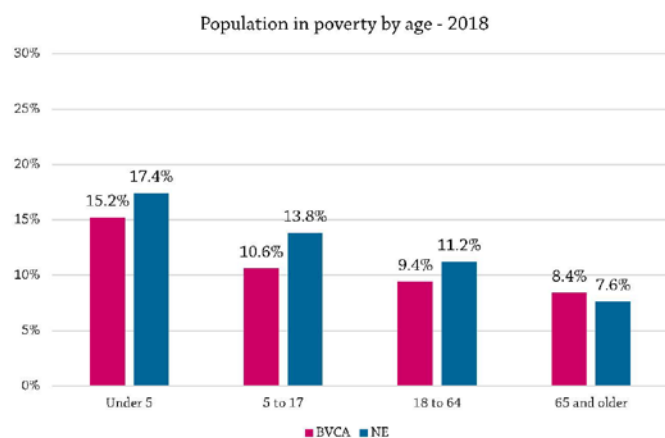
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Many children in our communities live in poverty



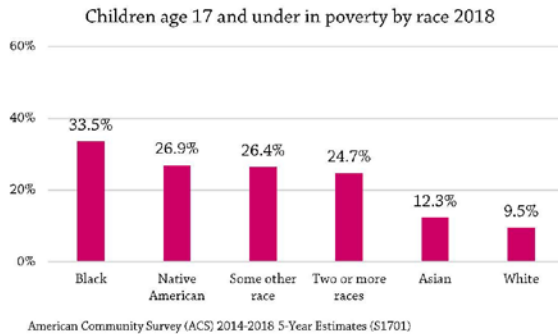
- 15.2% of children under age 5 and 10.6% of children and youth age 5-17 live in poverty across our communities.
- This equates to 2,611 children in 2018.
- The rate in our communities is lower than for the state of Nebraska for all ages except people age 65 and older.



American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Non-white children are more likely to live in poverty

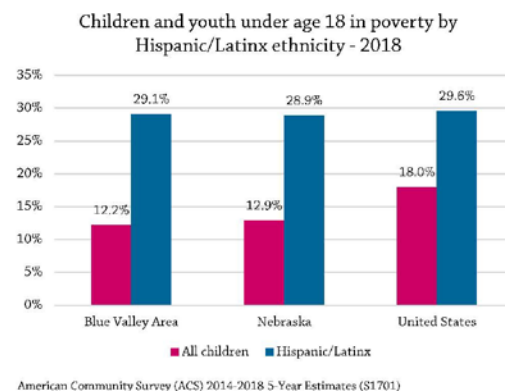


- In our counties, nearly 10% of white children live in poverty.
- Non-white children fare much worse: Asian children are 1/3 more likely and African-American children are 3X more likely to live in poverty.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

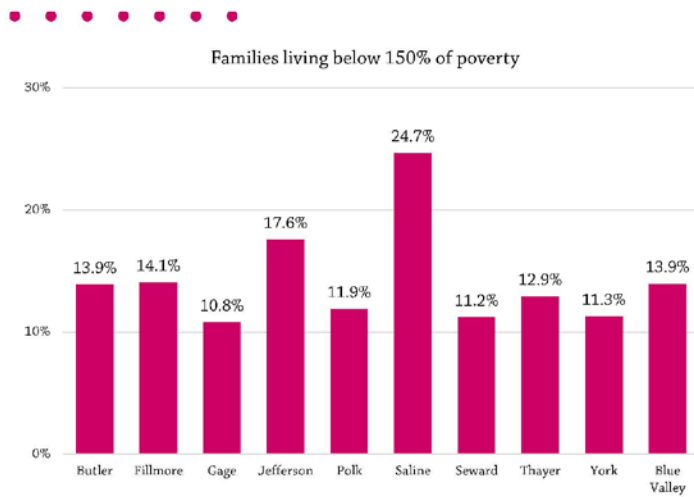
Hispanic and Latinx children are much more likely to live in poverty

- The percentage of Hispanic and Latinx children in the BVCA area living in poverty mirrors that of Nebraska and the US.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Many BVCA client families live below 150% of poverty



- Approx. **2/3 of 2019 BVCA clients** lived at or below **150%** of poverty.
- About **1/2 of BVCA clients** lived at or below the **100%** poverty level.
- 150% of poverty is \$32,580 for a family of three.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Food Insecurity

According to the organization Feeding America, “food insecurity describes a household’s inability to provide enough food for every person in the household to lead an active and healthy life.” Food insecurity can threaten individual health and the ability of children to learn and grow. Participation in programs such as SNAP may move a person from being food insecure to being counted as food secure.

Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2019

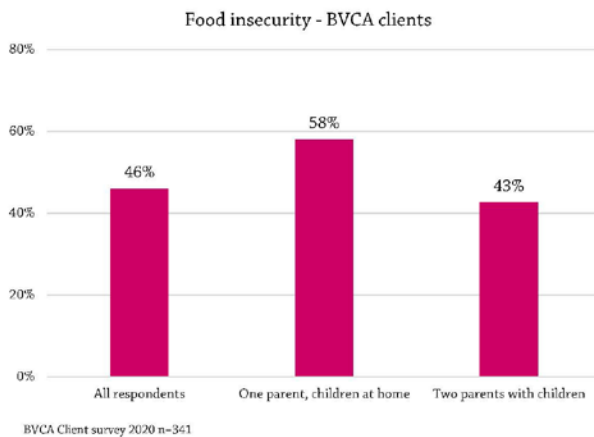


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

BVCA client survey results demonstrate food insecurity



- 46% of BVCA client survey respondents reported not having enough food at least sometimes.
- 58% of respondent households with children and only one adult in the home did not have enough food at least sometimes.

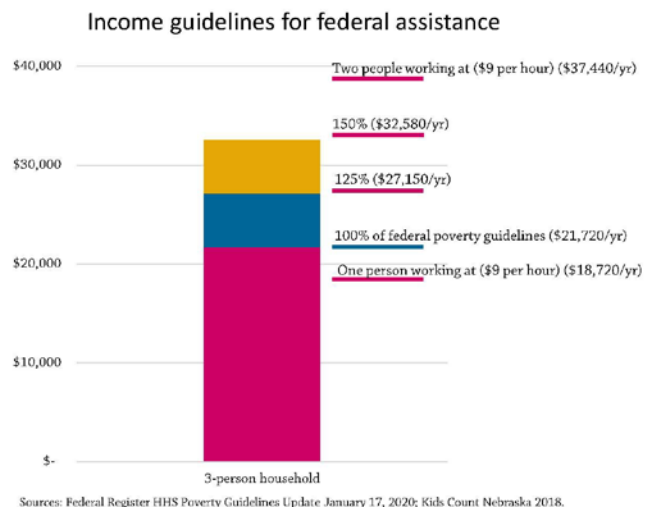


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Families working minimum wage jobs struggle to meet basic needs



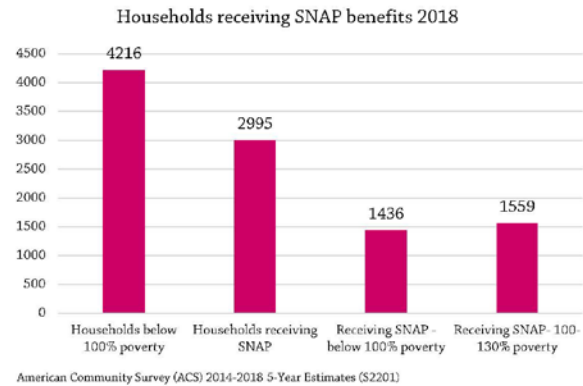
- The federal 100% poverty guideline is \$21,720 per year for a 3-person family.
- A single parent with 2 children making minimum wage would qualify for assistance, but two parents making the minimum would not.
- SNAP income criteria is 130%.
- Medicaid expansion is 138%.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Far fewer people are receiving SNAP benefits than might be eligible in our counties

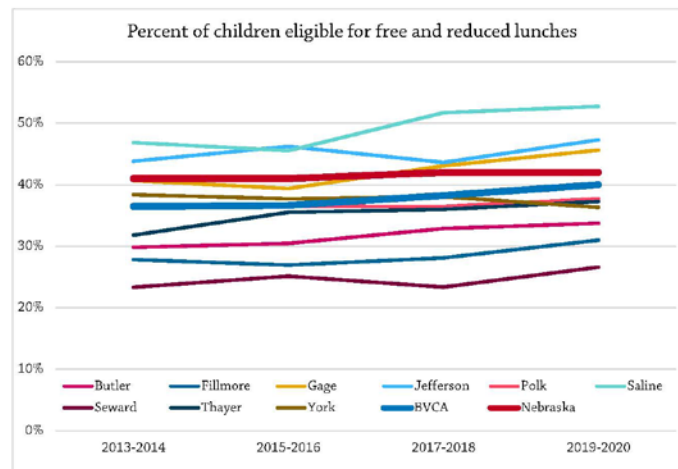
- Households with incomes up to 130% of poverty may be eligible for SNAP depending on whether they meet additional eligibility requirements.
- Almost 3000 households in our counties or 7.5% received SNAP benefits in 2018.
- Of those, 48% have incomes below poverty and 52% are at 100-130% of poverty.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch has increased in most communities

- 40% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch in 2019-2020.
- In 2019-2020, 78% of eligible students qualified for a free lunch, the rest paid a reduced price.
- The trend for most counties shows a slight increase in the percentage of eligible students since 2013-2014.



NE Department of Education, Free and Reduced Lunch Counts by School (District and County, 2013-2020, alternate years used for trend).

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Conclusions



- Poverty will continue to be a pressing concern in our area, especially for children, women, and minorities.
- Efforts to enroll more eligible people in SNAP could help reduce food insecurity.



Health

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Prevention and Insurance Coverage

Health rankings vary widely among our counties



Health Outcome Rankings for Nebraska Counties 2019	
County	Rank
Polk	1
Seward	11
Fillmore	12
Thayer	32
Jefferson	34
Butler	41
Gage	49
York	56
Saline	66

Rank out of 79 the counties ranked in the study

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (CHRR) Data

- Health Outcome Rankings are a composite of length of life, physical and mental health status, physical and mental distress, and low birthweight.
- Polk County ranks at the top of all Nebraska counties on Health Outcomes. Saline County ranks 66 out of the 79 Nebraska counties that are ranked.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Premature Death

Premature death is used as an indicator because it reflects deaths at an early age that could be prevented. Looking at the root causes of premature death - including traffic accidents, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, poor nutrition, obesity, and physical inactivity - can help communities focus on prevention strategies.

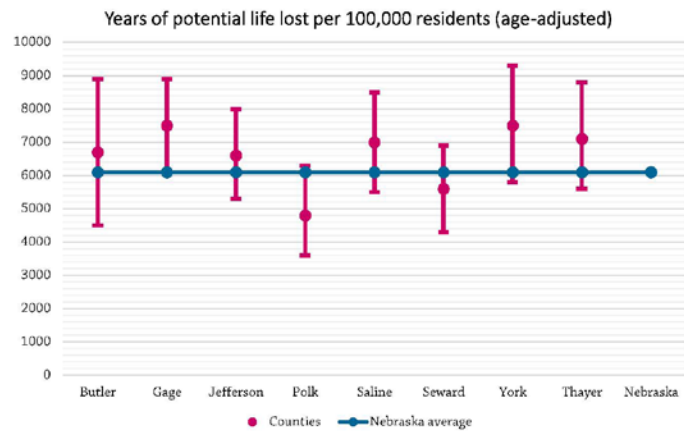


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Residents in many of our counties are dying prematurely from causes that are preventable



- Most counties have more premature deaths than the state average.
- In the chart, the red dots are the estimates of years of life lost; the vertical lines indicate the range of error in the estimates. Higher numbers represent more years lost.

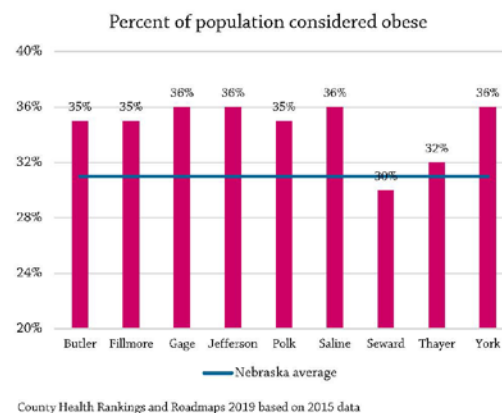


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Most BVCA counties have a higher percentage of adults who are obese compared to Nebraska



- In seven of the nine BVCA counties this indicator is higher than the state average.
- Obesity shows an increasing trend in all BVCA counties, the state of Nebraska, and the United States as a whole.
- In 2019, 34% of Nebraskans were obese. Nebraska is one of 6 states with the biggest increase in obesity from 2013-2018 (>15%).



Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, CDC, reported by Trust for America's Health

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Mental Health

Inadequate mental health treatment services can limit a person's ability to work, increase emotional and physical stress on individuals and families, and negatively impact the potential for success.

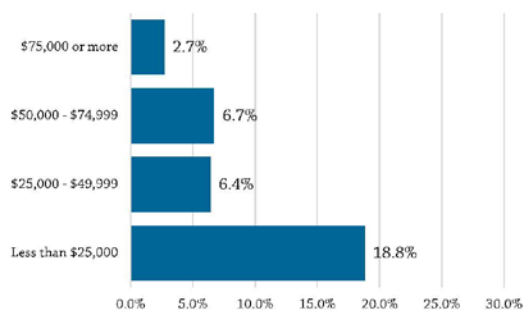


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Mental health issues are more common among women, young people, and lower income individuals

• • • • •

Percent of adults reporting frequent mental distress



Community Health Assessment - Community Health Improvement Plan for Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer Counties 2018-2023 Public Health Solutions, 2018. Based on NE BRFSS data 2011-2015

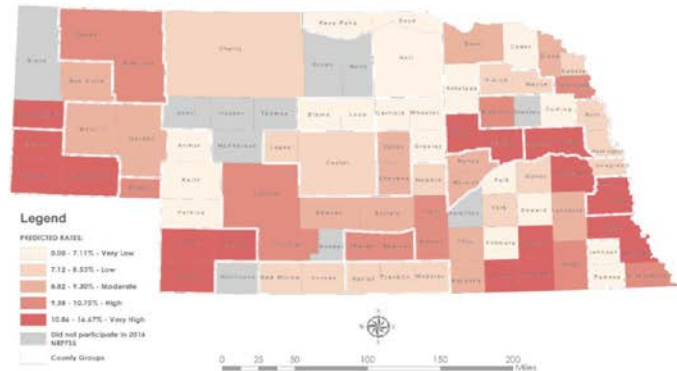
- **Females and adults age 18-44** were more likely to have been told they have depression and reported more days per month where their mental health was 'not good.'
- **Individuals making less than \$25,000** fared the worst on all mental health indicators. 18.8% in this group reported frequent mental distress.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Youth in several counties have a very high risk of suicide ideation and attempts

• • • • •

- Saline, Jefferson, Thayer and Gage counties have the highest risk.
- Seward, Polk and Fillmore have the lowest.



Source: America's Health Rankings and CDC, National Center for Health Statistics based on Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Surveillance System in 2016

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

We face many mental health service challenges

• • • • •

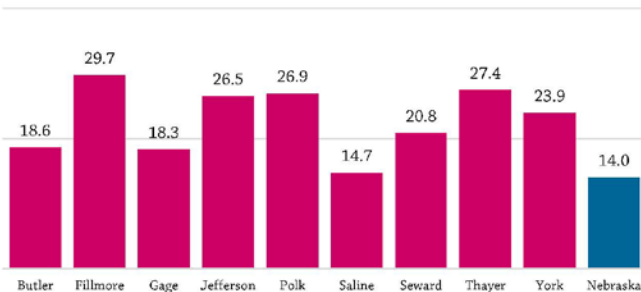
- Not enough providers
- High turnover
- Lack of bi-lingual providers
- Inadequate beds for long-term treatment
- Lack of community support services for people in recovery
- Benefit limits on covered provider visits
- Lack of transportation to communities with services
- Difficulty identifying families in need – reluctance to seek help
- Complex application process - no single accessible resource to help
- Lack of communication and collaboration among service providers

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Our communities offer a wealth of opportunities to make social connections



Number of social organizations per 10,000 residents



County Health Rankings and Roadmaps 2020 (Based on 2015 Data)

- Isolation and low community involvement are associated with increased morbidity and premature death.
- Social support is a strong predictor of positive health behaviors. Social organizations are an asset to be leveraged.
- Many BVCA counties rank far above the state average of 14 social associations for 10,000 residents.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

All population groups do not have health coverage



- 11% of BVCA area adults under age 65 lacked health coverage.
- 22% of BVCA area adults under age 65 living at less than 200% of poverty lacked health coverage.

Uninsured population age 18 to 64 by income



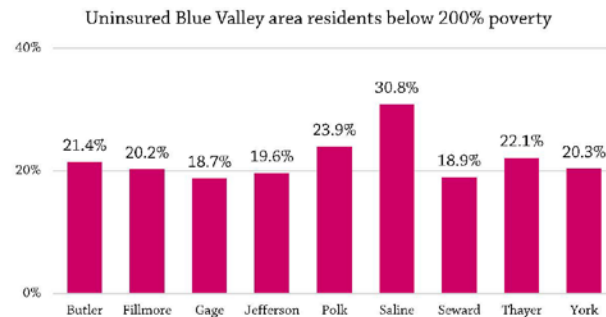
US Census Small Area Health Insurance Estimates 2017

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Percentages of uninsured residents vary among our counties



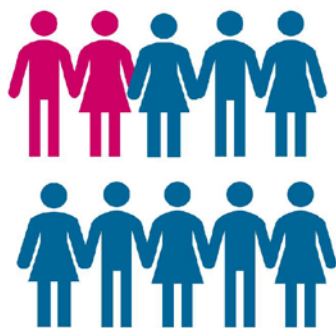
- Saline County had the highest percentage of uninsured (200% of poverty or less) at 30.8%.
- Gage and Seward counties are at the lower end with 18.7% and 18.9% respectively (200% of poverty or below).



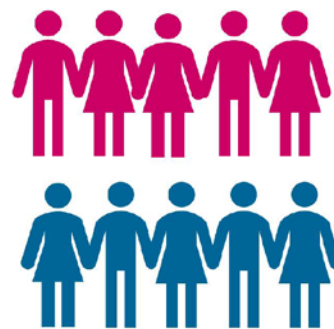
US Census Small Area Health Insurance Estimates 2017

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Client survey results show impact of health coverage inequities



- 20% of 2019 BVCA clients had no insurance.



- 53% of survey respondents reported that they didn't seek medical care when needed at least sometime during the past year because of cost.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Local health needs assessments reflect similar priorities

Public Health Solutions

- Mental health: including mental and emotional well-being and substance use
- Chronic disease: specifically obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes
- Access to resources and opportunities, health equity
- Environmental health: focused on safe and healthy community environments, housing, access to recreation

Jefferson Community Health & Life

- Obesity, lifestyle, chronic disease education and prevention
- Substance abuse and addiction services
- Access to mental health care, including financial access

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Conclusions

- Efforts to reduce obesity and improve the mental health of residents could reduce the risk of premature death in our communities.
- Improving equity in healthcare access includes increasing insurance coverage to broader populations.
- Public health departments, hospitals, BVCA, social organizations and schools/youth programs could benefit from collaboration to effectively use resources.

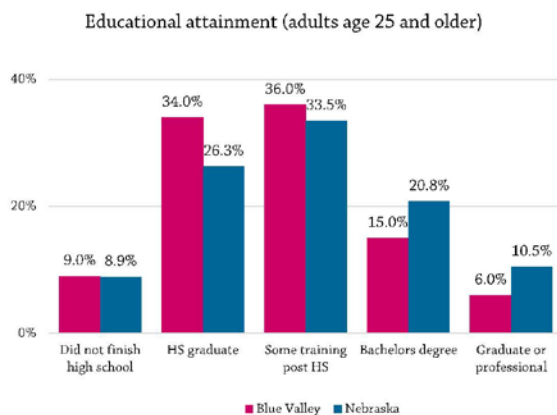
Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Now
HIRING

Jobs

.....
Education and Employment Status

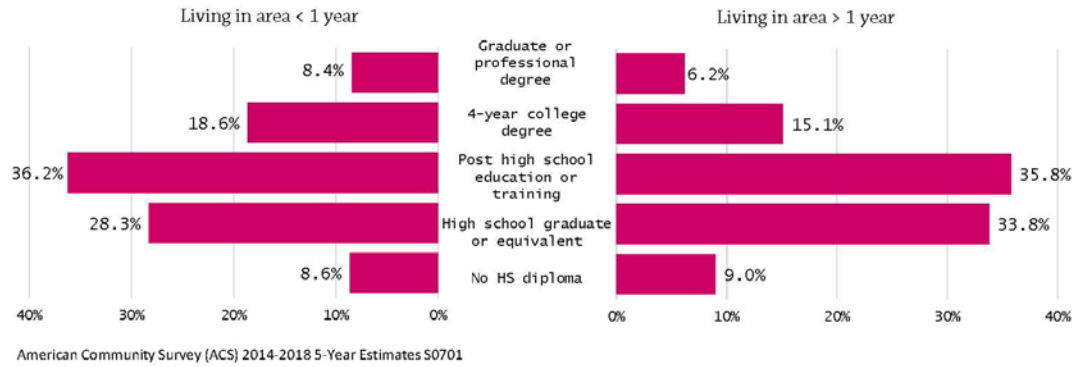
Educational attainment levels vary within our counties



American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)

- Among adult residents in our area: 34% graduated high school; 36% have a 2-year post-secondary degree, some college or training; and 21% have 4 years of college or more.
- Although not shown in this graph, Saline County differs markedly with a higher proportion of adults who did not finish high school (16%), and a lower proportion of adults with a college/graduate degree (14%).

Newcomers have similar education levels as current residents



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

BVCA clients are less likely to have a high school education



Educational attainment of BVCA clients

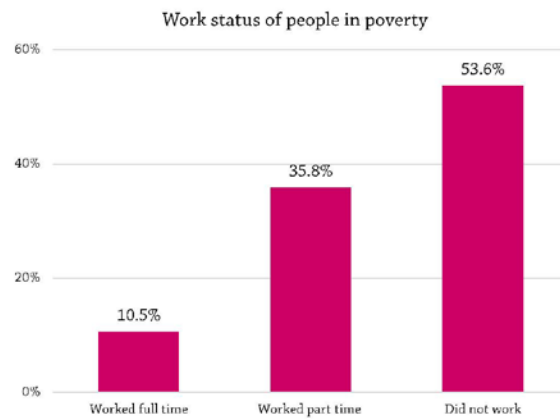


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Most working people living in poverty are working part-time or part-year jobs

- Across all BVCA counties, 36% of people aged 16 and older living in poverty worked part-time or part year in the last 12 months.
- 54% did not work, including retirees, people with a medical issue or disability, and students.
- 11% worked full-time.

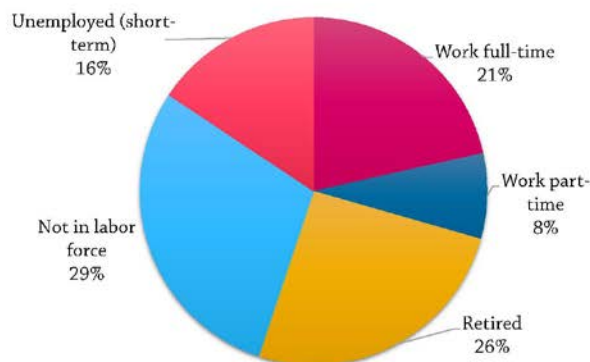
Note: Numbers are based on total population aged 16 and older living in poverty



US Census ACS 2014-2018 Table S1701

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

BVCA client employment status



BVCA 2018-2019 Client data - n = 3,895 unduplicated individuals (age 25 and older)

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

BVCA clients face a variety of employment issues



- Of 2019 BVCA client survey respondents, about 40% reported job-related concerns (training, finding a job, transportation to a job); None reported receiving help finding a job.
- Some jobs do not pay enough to afford the additional costs of working, including transportation and childcare.

BVCA 2018-2019 Client data – n = 3,895 unduplicated individuals (age 25 and older)

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Living wage



- The living wage is the hourly rate needed to support an individual or a family. The living wage assumes that a person is working a full-time job (2080 hours per year). The calculation comes from a model created by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, drawing from the US Census and other sources.
- For more information see <https://livingwage.mit.edu>

Hourly rate	1 Adult 2 children	2 Adults 2 children both adults working	2 adults 2 children 1 adult working
Living Wage	\$ 27.33	\$ 15.05	\$ 23.94
Poverty Wage	\$ 9.99	\$ 6.30	\$ 12.04
Minimum wage	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00
Income before taxes to cover expenses	\$ 56,837	\$ 62,596	\$ 49,797

Numbers in the table are for Gage County. Numbers for other BVCA counties were either identical or nearly identical.
<https://livingwage.mit.edu>

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Helping residents achieve a living wage is challenging



- Individuals may lack the education and/or skills for a better paying job.
- Individuals may not be motivated to work or may have mental health or substance abuse issues that need to be addressed.
- There are limited job training opportunities and job placement services in some of our counties.
- Many of the highest need jobs in our communities pay the lowest salaries: childcare workers, senior care, fast food, janitorial, etc.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Conclusions



- Helping our residents obtain living wage employment would reduce pressure on other assistance programs.
- Lower educational attainment for Saline County residents have implications for workforce development and training.
- Job training and placement services should be strengthened in our communities and address the unique needs of working age newcomers.
- Colleges, chambers, economic development organizations and BVCA would benefit from collaboration to effectively use resources.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

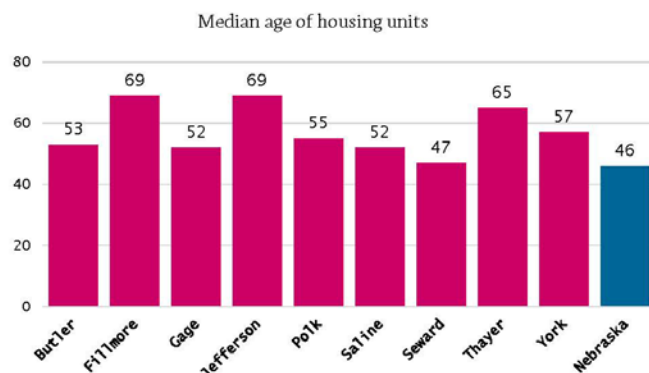


Housing

Rental and Homeownership

A large portion of housing in our counties is over 50 years old

- The median age of housing units in Fillmore, Jefferson and Thayer counties is almost 70 years old.
- Older housing stock may need major modifications to meet the needs of today's young families and provide a healthy living environment for residents.



American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (B25035)

Many properties suffer from deferred maintenance



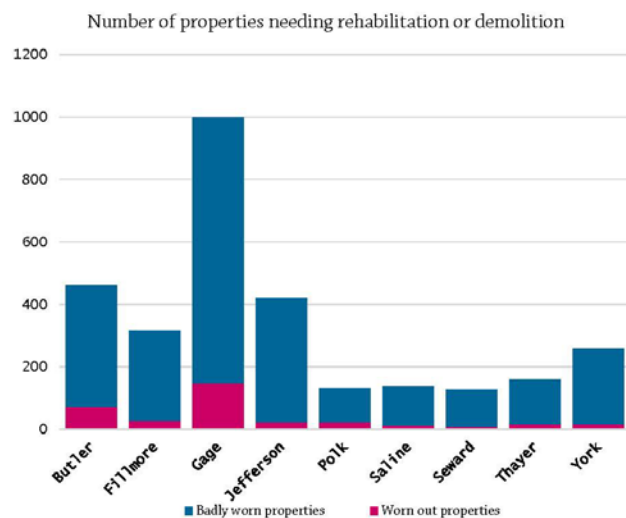
- Poor upkeep increases utility costs and can lead to serious health problems.
- Interviews with stakeholders and feedback from consumers reported in several recent housing studies identify poor property conditions as a major housing challenge in BVCA counties.
- In BVCA client surveys: 38% of respondents reported living in homes that need improvement; 12% reported mold and 45.9% of homeowners said their homes needed repair.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Older housing needs significant maintenance and rehabilitation



- ‘Badly worn’ properties may be saved with rehabilitation; those that are ‘worn out’ may need to be demolished.
- Gage County has the largest number of properties needing rehabilitation.
- Butler County has the largest percentage of properties in badly worn or worn out condition at 28%. Gage is 17%.

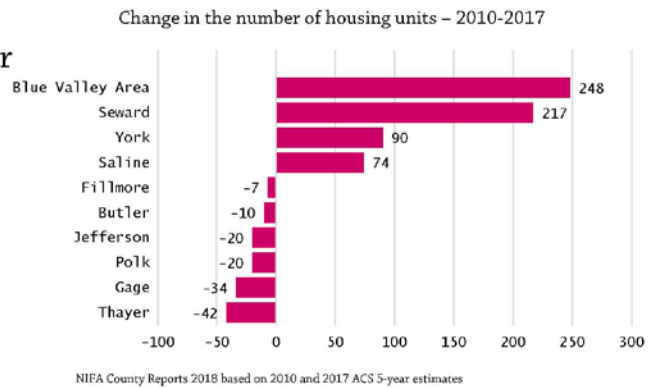


Based on assessments for each county reported in NIFA 2019 County Reports

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

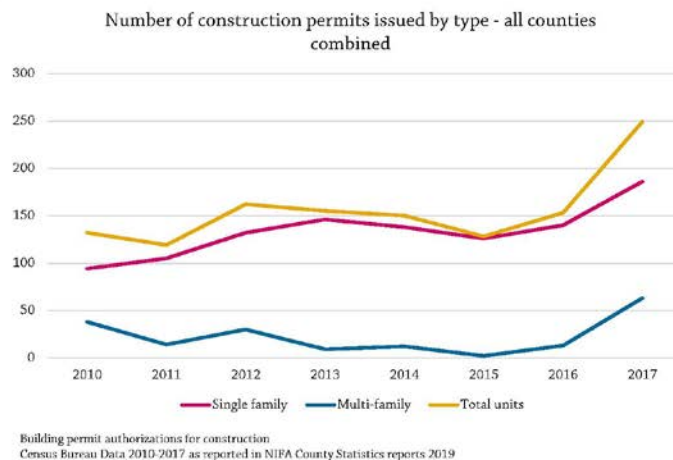
Seward, York and Saline counties have increased housing units

- Three counties show a net gain in the number of housing units in their communities between 2010 and 2017.
- Six counties show a net loss during the same time period.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Housing construction increased sharply from 2015 - 2017

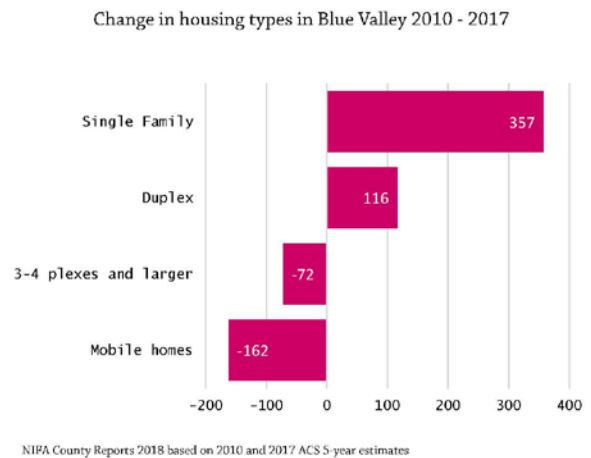


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Our communities added single family units and duplexes



- The number of rental units in 3 and 4-plexes or larger has declined.
- Six counties lost a significant number of mobile homes, while Jefferson, Polk, and Saline show more mobile homes in 2017 than in 2010.

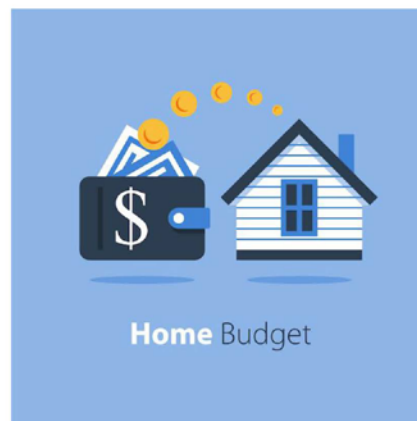


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Housing cost burdens

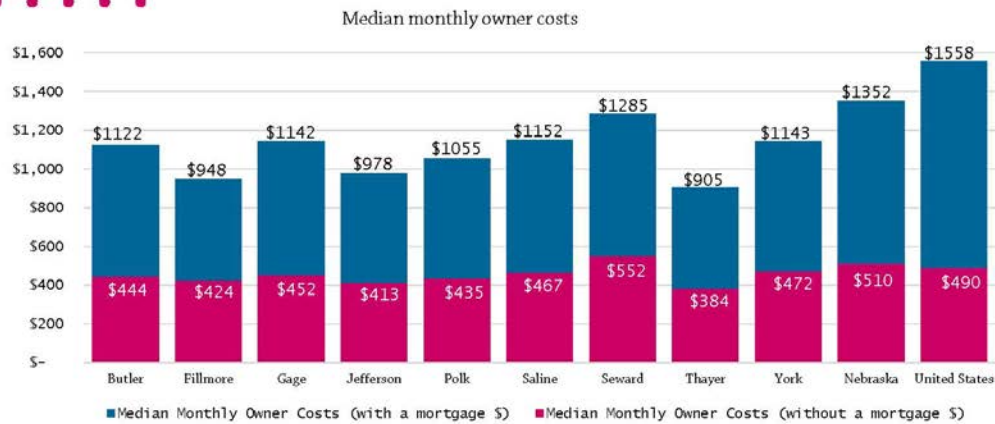


- Cost-burdened households (renter or homeowner) pay more than 30% of their income for housing. Severely cost-burdened households pay more than 50% of their income for housing.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

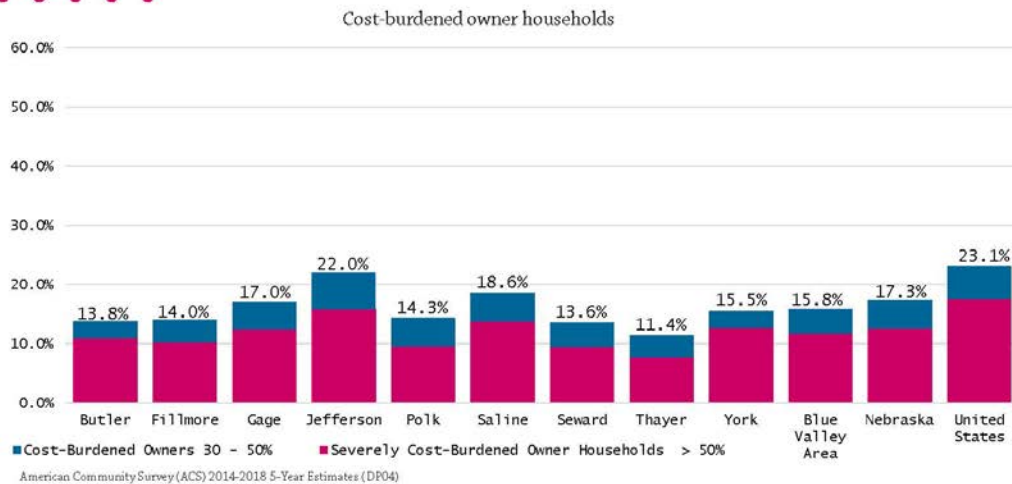
There is a wide range of median monthly mortgage costs in our counties



American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (DP04)

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

16% of homeowner households in our counties are cost-burdened, 12% are severely cost-burdened

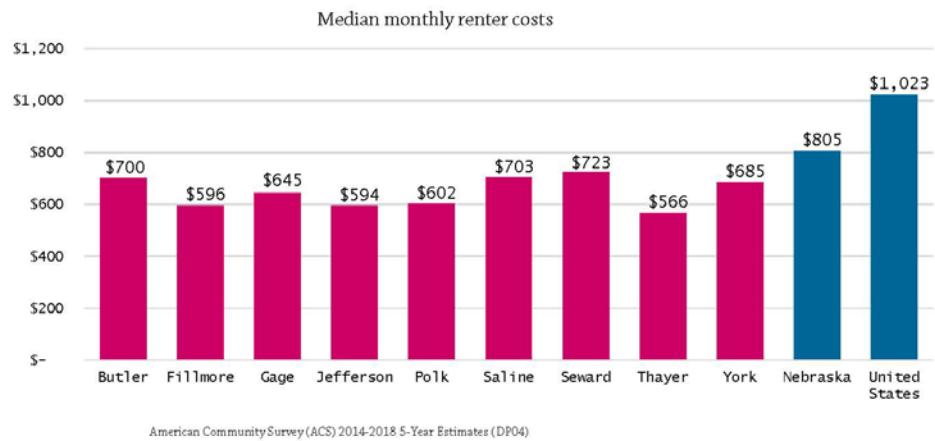


American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (DP04)

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

The variance among median rents in our counties is not as wide as mortgage costs

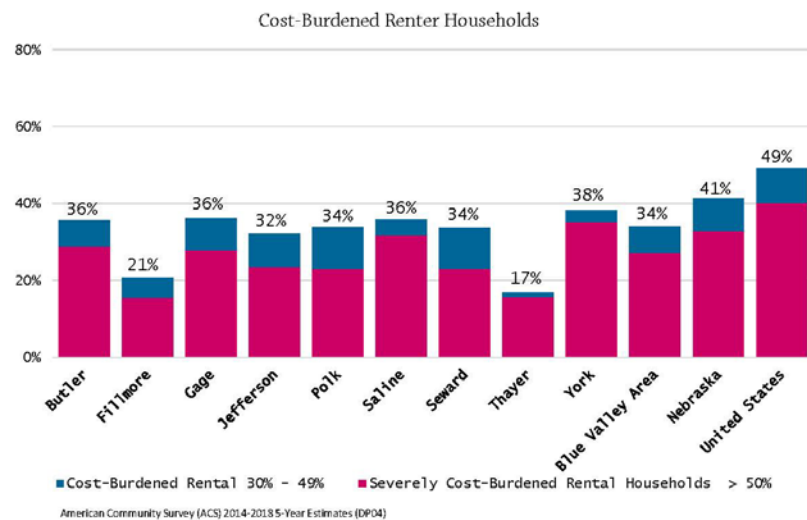
- Median rents are lowest in Thayer county and highest in Seward county.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

34% of renters in our counties are cost-burdened

- 27% are severely cost-burdened.
- According to available data, Thayer and Fillmore counties have much lower percentages of cost-burdened renters than the rest of our area.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Rental units of all sizes are needed



- In many communities, older homes are often the only rental housing options with three or more bedrooms.
- In at least one community, there is a shortage of one-bedroom units.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

BVCA client surveys reveal housing needs



- 82% of households with children and one adult rent their home, compared to 53% of 2 adult families.
- Obtaining help with rent or deposits is a concern for 44% of current renters who responded to the survey.
- Finding affordable housing is a concern for 68% of respondents.
- 71% of homeowners said that obtaining help with home maintenance is a concern.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Wait lists demonstrate rental and weatherization needs



Rental

- Fillmore-31
- Gage-54
- Jefferson-11
- Saline-25
- Thayer-8
- York-10

Weatherization

- Polk-5
- Butler-3
- York-2
- Seward-1
- Saline-2
- Thayer-4
- Jefferson-4
- Gage-10

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Supportive services for residents in multi-family housing is also a need



- Using housing as a platform to deliver other services that address the social determinants of health is a strategy that has led to positive change in many communities across the nation.
- Current funding for some existing multi-family properties does not allow funding to be used for supportive services.
- Families struggling to pay medical expenses are often in jeopardy of losing their housing.
- Some families need longer-term rather than one-time assistance to cover both rent and utilities.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



There are many challenges to address in housing



- In some locations, housing standards are non-existent or are not enforced.
- Down payment and rental assistance programs, while available across the service area, are seen as underfunded.
- Tax credit subsidies for multi-family projects have declined, decreasing the economic feasibility of construction.
- Higher rents in college communities have strained the limits of affordability for some families.
- Some banks limit the types of mortgages they offer because of the required paperwork.
- The 36% of income limitation on the size of the mortgage cuts some low-income families out of the market.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Conclusions



- York, Jefferson and Gage counties need to increase the number of rental units to meet the current demand.
- A large number of single-family properties in our counties need to be demolished or undergo significant rehabilitation.
- Owner-occupied rehab and rent-to-own programs could help address housing condition issues.
- New sources of funding for supportive housing services should be explored.
- Housing organizations, community/economic development organizations, and BVCA could benefit from collaboration to effectively use and leverage resources and establish stronger community housing policies.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Financial Support

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Classes, Coaching and Direct Assistance

Financial assistance programs in our counties currently address short-term problems and emergencies with small amounts of funding

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- Successful programs that help people escape from poverty provide an in-depth analysis of barriers, action planning, follow-up coaching/support, and often, financial assistance and matched savings opportunities.
- Currently, due to limited funding, only certain populations qualify for these more intensive services: i.e., victims of domestic abuse, foster care youth aging out of the system, etc.



BVCA clients could benefit from more intensive financial assistance program offerings



- In a BVCA client survey, 51% of respondents said that getting help to buy or fix a car was a concern
- 43% said that understanding their credit score was a concern, but only 1.2% reported getting help in this area
- Between 30-50% respondents reported engaging in negative financial behaviors (paying credit card minimum, using credit card to pay monthly bills, etc.)
- 15% reported using payday loans in the last 12 months



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Conclusions



- Educating the general population about the cycle of poverty and what it takes to break the cycle could increase collaboration among agencies and grow community support for more intensive financial assistance programs. (York County Coalition may have a model that could benefit other counties.)
- Finding funding and establishing programs to provide more intensive financial assistance to broader populations should be a priority. A new Community Response Program in York may offer an example of a program model with broader eligibility criteria.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Child Development

.....
Costs and Quality



Childcare costs

The market rate for full-time unsubsidized childcare in rural Nebraska counties can range from \$6,650-\$9,200 per year according to a 2019 market survey of licensed providers across the state. Daily rates in most rural communities range from \$25 to \$37 depending on the age of the child, the curriculum, and whether the program is home or center-based.

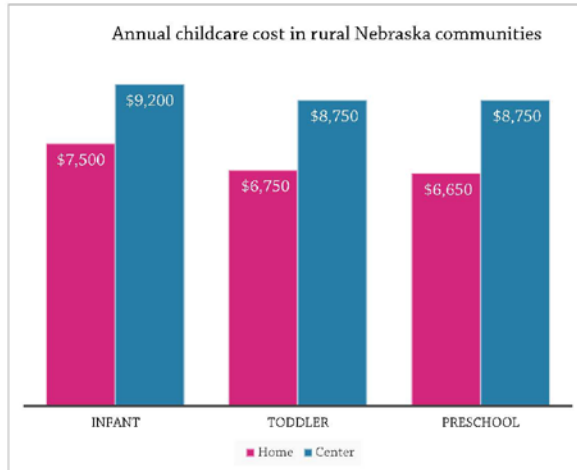


The market rate for full-time unsubsidized childcare is unaffordable for some families



- The annual cost in the graphic reflects the 80% percentile - 80% of open slots can be 'purchased' at or below that amount.
- Rates in Blue Valley counties generally fall between the 60 and 80 percentiles. Gage and Saline county rates are slightly higher.
- The average annual childcare subsidy in Nebraska in 2017 was \$3344.

NDHHS as reported in Kids Count in Nebraska Report 2018



Childcare Market Rate Survey Report 2019, Buffet Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

There is an unmet need for subsidized childcare in many of our counties



Head Start/EHS/Partnership Waitlists Combined

- Fillmore-2
- Gage-29
- Jefferson-17
- Saline-44
- Seward-4
- Thayer-23
- York-17
- According to several of our stakeholder interviewees, Polk and Butler counties currently lack adequate affordable childcare opportunities, while other communities may be just one provider retirement or closure away from not having enough capacity to meet current childcare needs.
- In the 2019 BVCA client survey, 28% of respondents with young children expressed concerns about having sufficient childcare and 35% said they were concerned about paying for it.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Step Up to Quality (SUTQ)

- Early childcare education is crucial to a child's future success with 90% of brain development occurring before age 5.
- **Step Up to Quality (SUTQ)** helps great childcare providers become even better by offering support and resources. SUTQ provides training for parents and providers to increase positive early childhood outcomes.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

SUTQ Benefits

- SUTQ provides a financial incentive as participants move to higher levels of achievement. Programs that accept subsidies may also qualify for an increase in the subsidy rate and providers may qualify for financial support or grants from SUTQ partners.

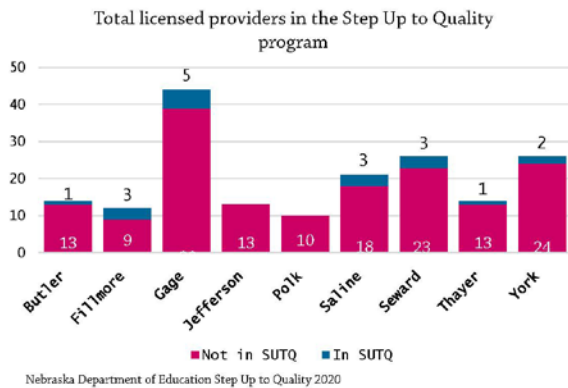


Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Participation in SUTQ can be increased in our counties



- As of January 2020, 10% of licensed childcare providers in BVCA counties were participating in SUTQ.
- The program has five levels or steps, with different requirements and benefits. HS and EHS programs automatically meet the requirements of Step 3 and some elect not to participate because they have already incorporated the Step 3 criteria into their programs.



Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges

Conclusions



- Consider expanding childcare offerings in counties with large waitlists.
- Explore the need and potential for childcare services in Polk & Butler counties with ESU #7 and schools.
- Promote broader provider participation in SUTQ.

Our Communities: Strengths and Challenges



Stakeholders identified community trends or threats

- The potential for more flooding that would strain community resources.
- Saline County economic development activities: construction of a new hotel, talk of Orscheln's moving, and a rumor of adding another line at Smithfield which would bring in more worker's families when there is already overcrowding at schools.
- Interest in the revitalization of downtown Beatrice.
- 40-50 Costco chicken houses being built on farms throughout Polk and Butler counties creating more jobs, but also the potential need for increased services.



Stakeholders identified community trends or threats



- Special populations falling through the cracks: specifically, **people without children** and **immigrants**. Related issue: difficulty hiring enough bilingual staff to help immigrant families.
- Growing tendency to focus on self and own family, rather than helping neighbors.
- New restrictions on public benefits that will put even more pressure on nonprofits and faith-based organizations providing basic needs.



APPENDIX I. CENSUS TRACT MAPS

MEDIAN AGE IN YEARS

PERCENT HISPANIC/LATINX

PERCENT OF POPULATION IN POVERTY

PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY

MEDIAN HOME VALUE

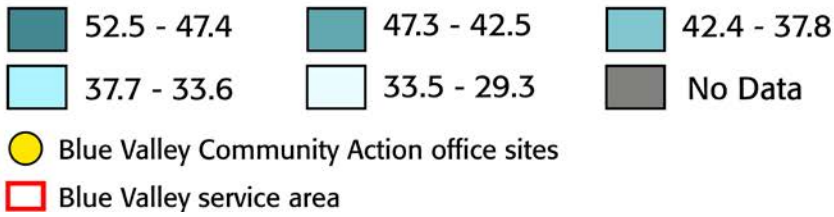
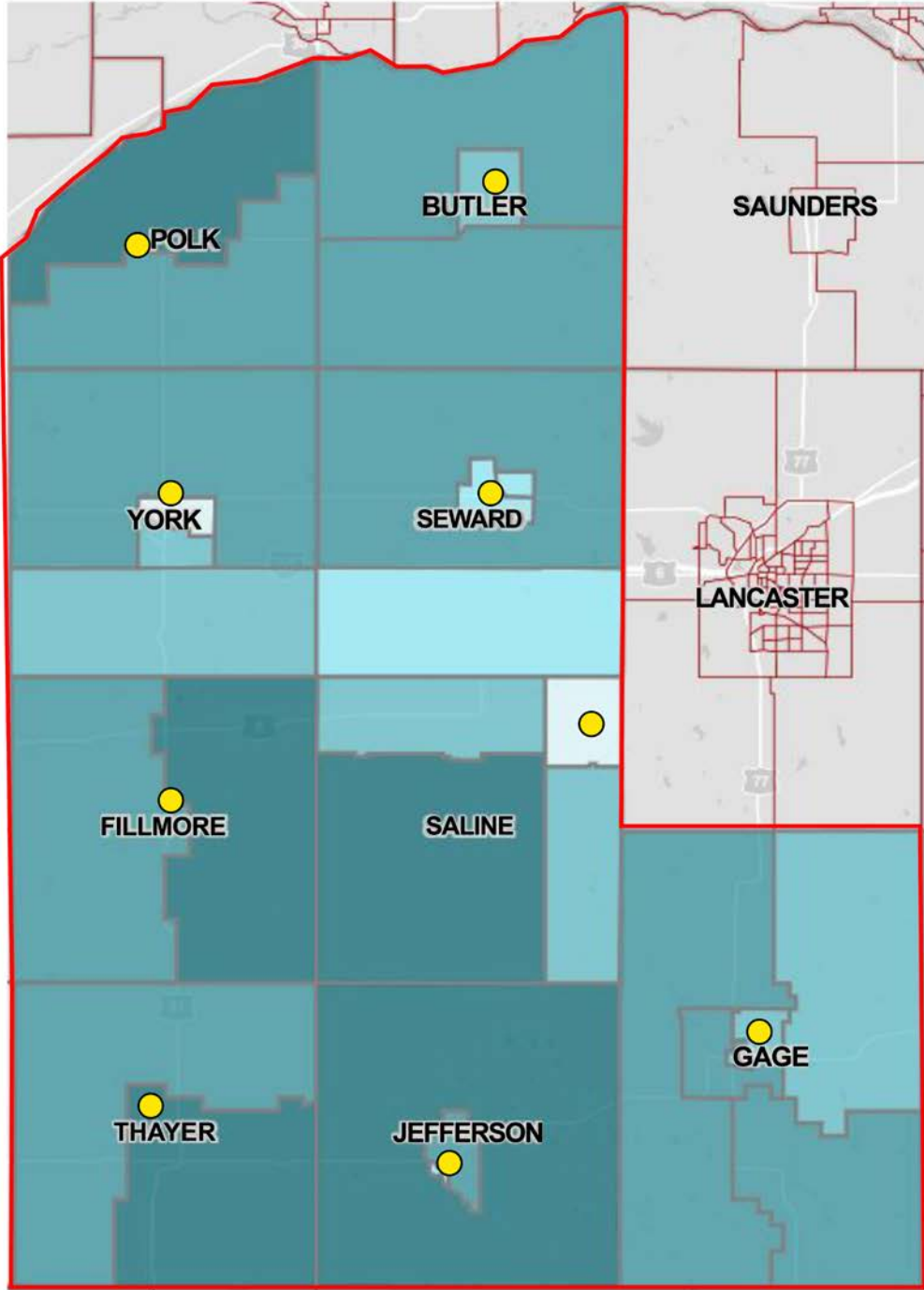
PERCENT OF COST-BURDENED OWNER HOUSEHOLDS

MEDIAN MONTHLY GROSS RENT

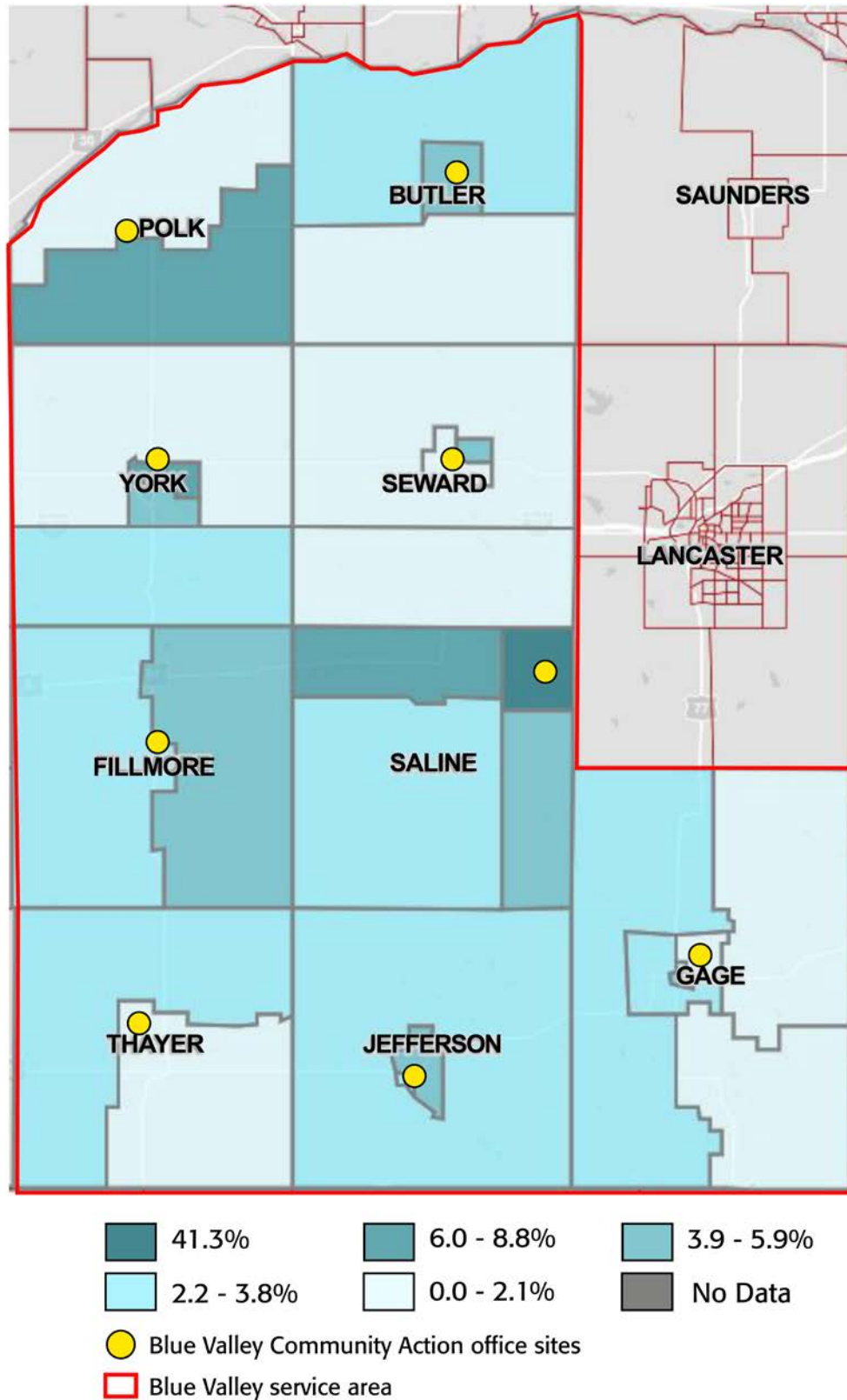
PERCENT OF COST-BURDENED RENTER HOUSEHOLDS

Source for all maps: American Community Survey 2014 -2018 estimates

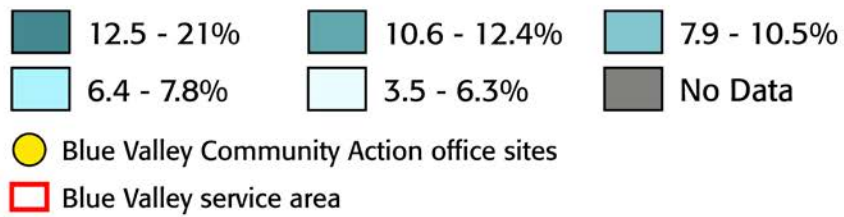
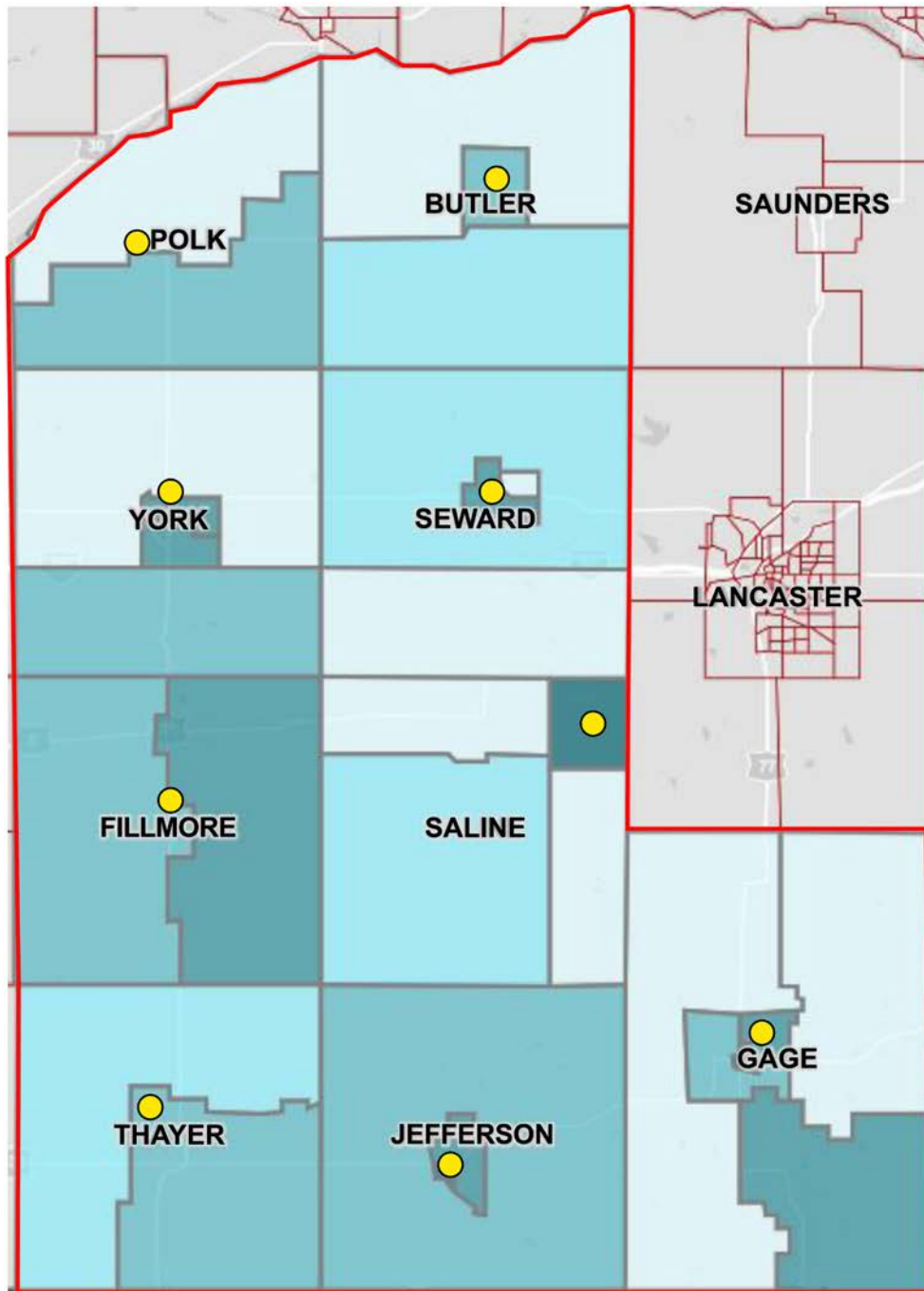
MEDIAN AGE IN YEARS **(BY CENSUS TRACT)**



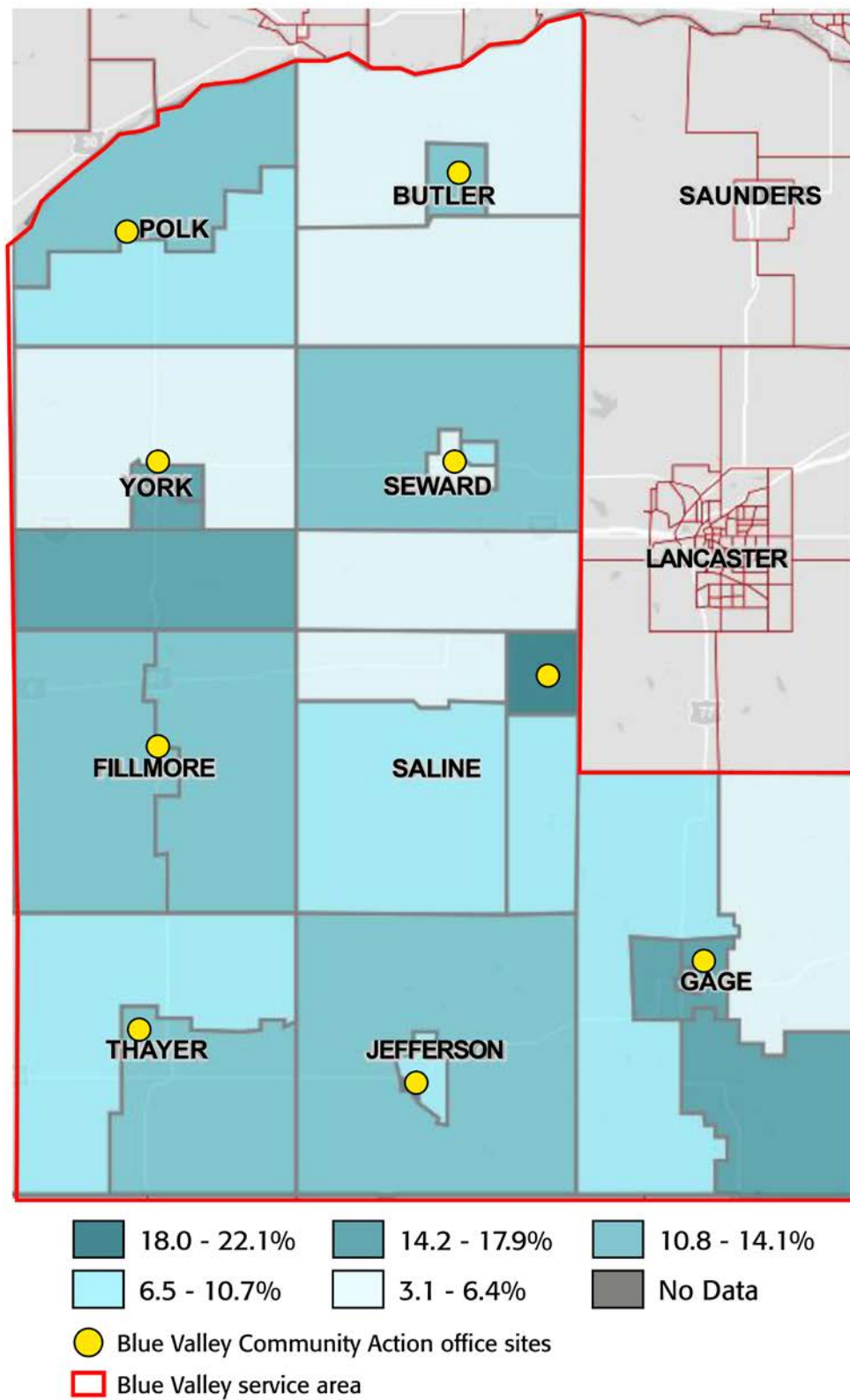
PERCENT HISPANIC/LATINX (BY CENSUS TRACT)



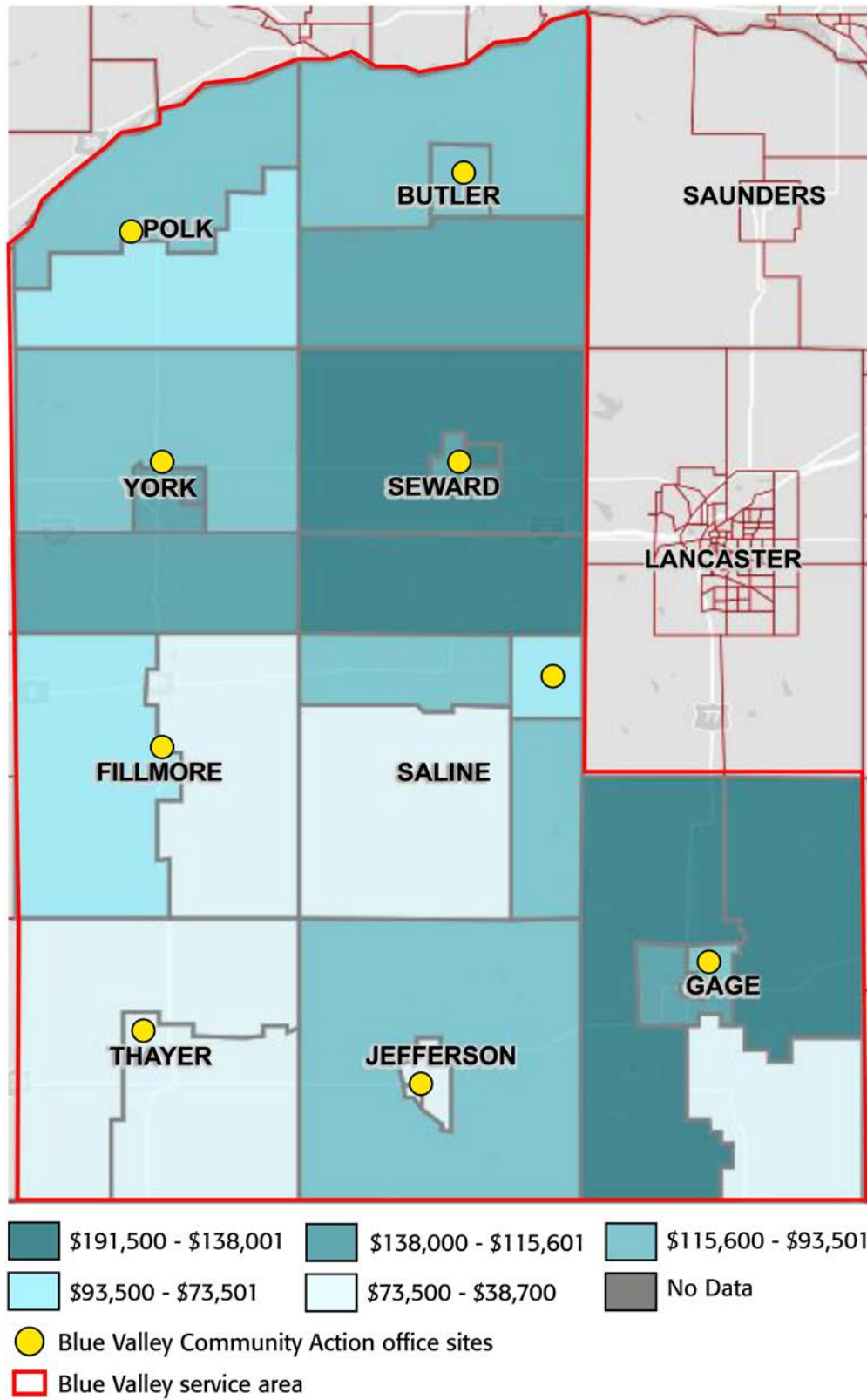
PERCENT OF POPULATION IN POVERTY
(BY CENSUS TRACT)



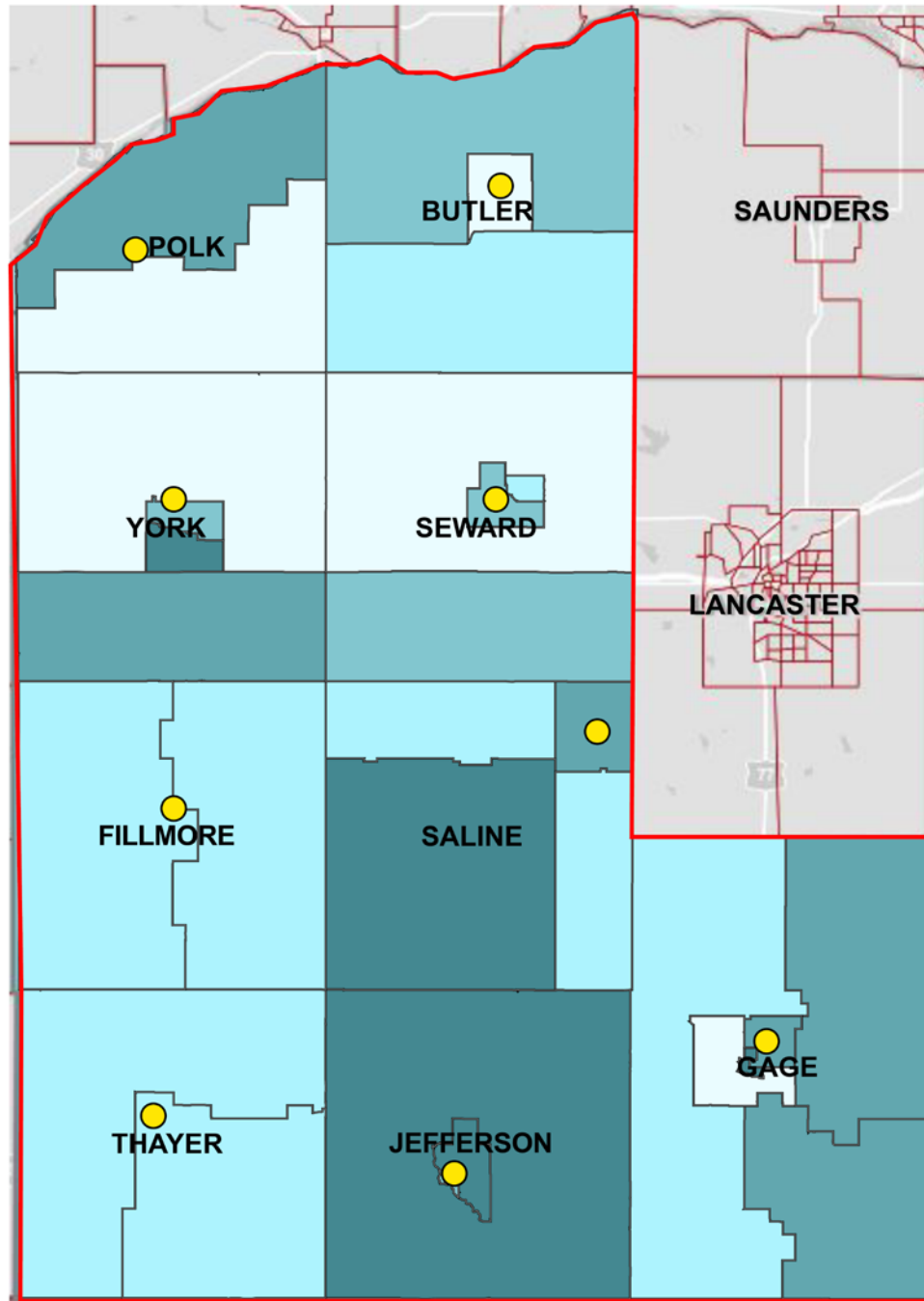
PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY (BY CENSUS TRACT)



MEDIAN HOME VALUE (BY CENSUS TRACT)



PERCENT OF COST-BURDENED OWNER HOUSEHOLDS (BY CENSUS TRACT)

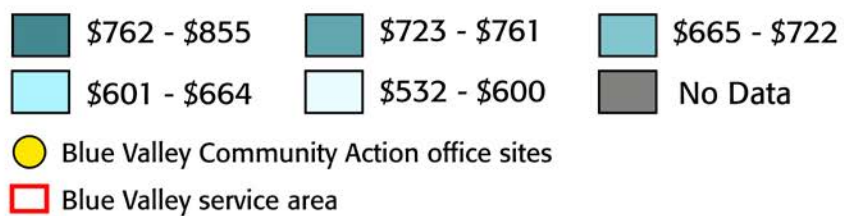
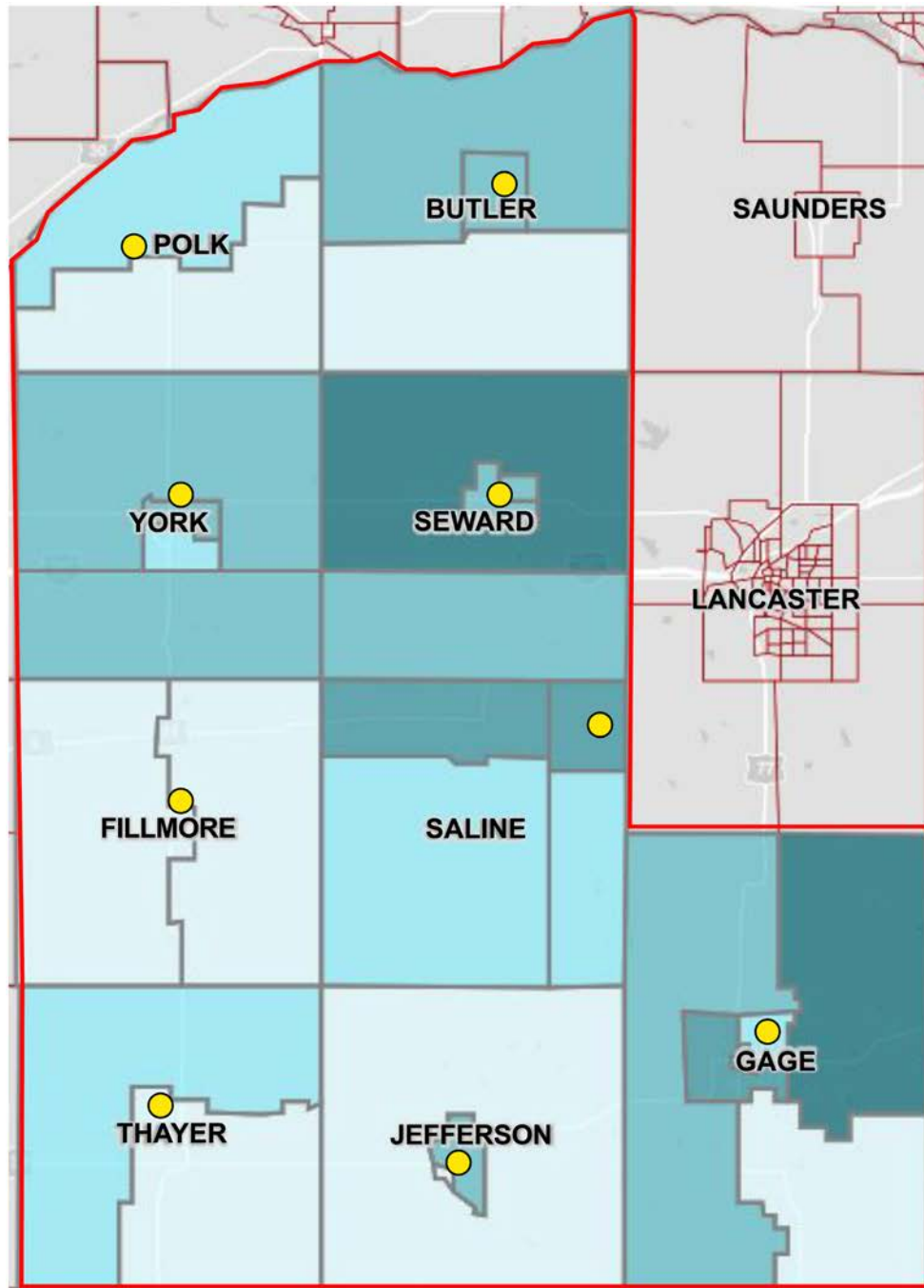


Cost-burdened households pay more than 30% of income on housing costs

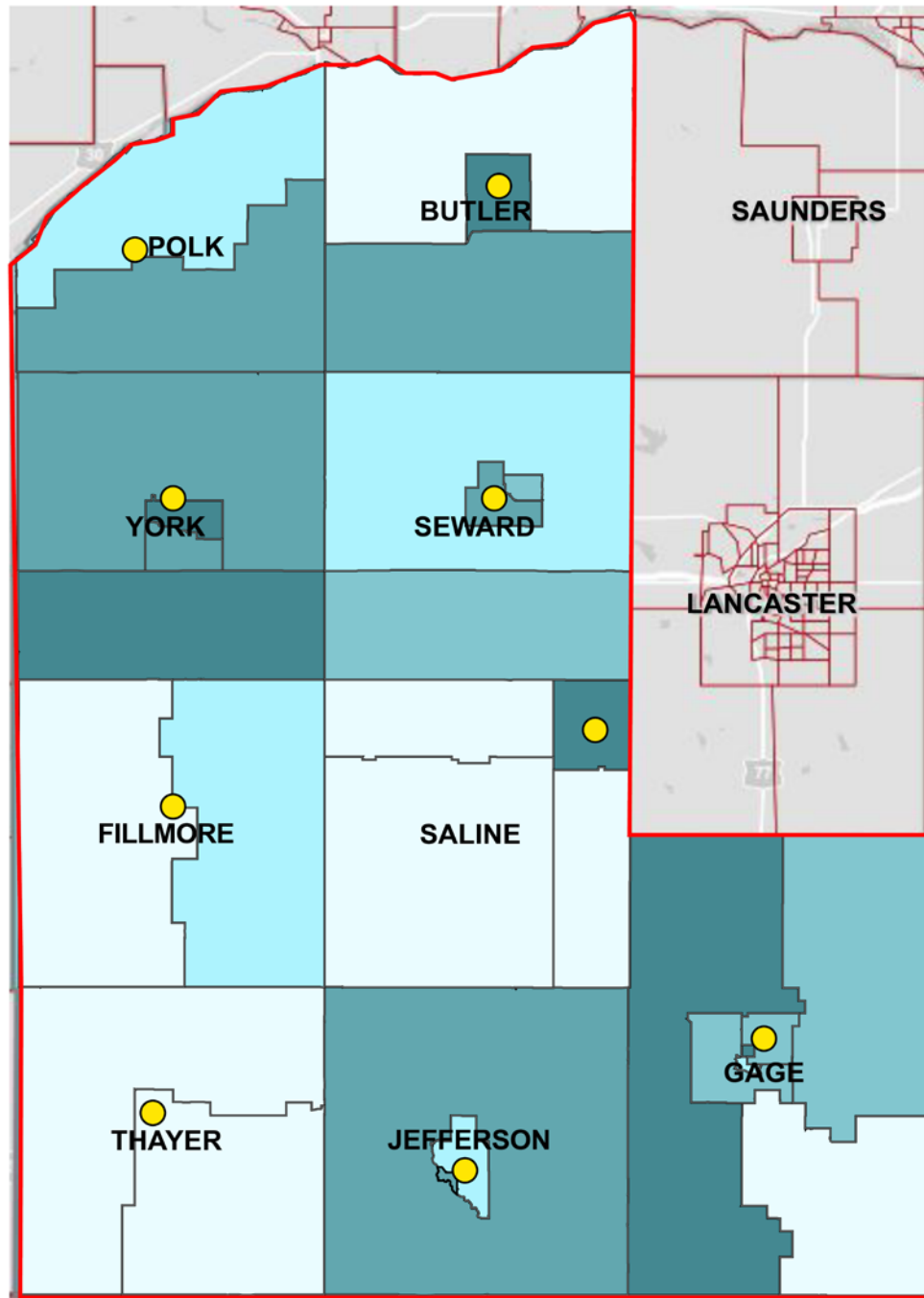
 28.1 - 38.9%	 20.7 - 28.0%	 17.7 - 20.6%
 13.9 - 17.6%	 9.1 - 13.8%	 No Data

● Blue Valley Community Action office sites
□ Blue Valley service area

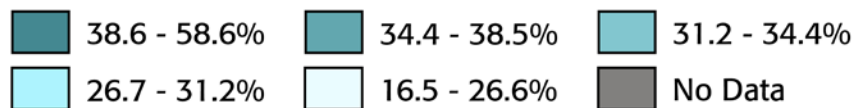
MEDIAN MONTHLY GROSS RENT (BY CENSUS TRACT)



PERCENT OF COST-BURDENED RENTER HOUSEHOLDS (BY CENSUS TRACT)



Cost-burdened households pay more than 30% of income on housing costs



● Blue Valley Community Action office sites

Blue Valley service area

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Geographic Area	2000	2010	2018
Butler	8,767	8,395	8,067
Fillmore	6,634	5,890	5,574
Gage	22,993	22,311	21,595
Jefferson	8,333	7,547	7,188
Polk	5,639	5,406	5,255
Saline	13,843	14,200	14,288
Seward	16,496	16,750	17,127
Thayer	6,055	5,228	5,098
York	14,598	13,665	13,799
Blue Valley Area	103,358	99,392	97,991
Nebraska	1,711,263	1,826,341	1,904,760
United States	281,421,906	308,745,538	322,903,030
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates B0100			

Table 2a. Change in Age Distribution 2000-2018								
Geographic Area	2000							Percent 65 and over
	Under 5	Percent Under 5	5 to 17	Percent 5 to 17	18 to 64	Percent 18 to 64	65 and over	
Butler	599	6.8	1844	21.0%	4,771	54.4%	1,553	17.7%
Fillmore	387	5.8	1361	20.5%	3,475	52.4%	1,411	21.3%
Gage	1,353	5.9	4161	18.1%	13,065	56.8%	4,414	19.2%
Jefferson	440	5.3	1,500	18.0%	4,504	54.1%	1,889	22.7%
Polk	326	5.8	1092	19.4%	3,014	53.4%	1,207	21.4%
Saline	863	6.2	2618	18.9%	7,984	57.7%	2,378	17.2%
Seward	924	5.6	3155	19.1%	9,915	60.1%	2,502	15.2%
Thayer	343	5.7	1116	18.4%	3,110	51.4%	1,486	24.5%
York	814	5.6	2877	19.7%	8,374	57.4%	2,533	17.4%
Blue Valley Area	6049	5.9	19724	19.1%	58212	56.3%	19373	18.7%
Nebraska	117,048	6.8	333,194	19.5%	1,028,826	60.1%	232,195	13.6%
United States	19,175,798	6.8	53,118,014	18.9%	174,136,341	61.9%	34,991,753	12.4%
US Census 2000								

Table 2b. Change in Age Distribution 2000-2018								
Geographic Area	2010							Percent 65 and over
	Under 5	Percent Under 5	5 to 17	Percent 5 to 17	18 to 64	Percent 18 to 64	65 and over	
Butler	492	5.9%	1,588	18.9%	4,712	56.1%	1,603	19.1%
Fillmore	330	5.6%	1074	18.2%	3,170	53.8%	1,316	22.3%
Gage	1,386	6.2%	3,739	16.8%	12,860	57.6%	4,326	19.4%
Jefferson	426	5.6%	1,182	15.7%	4,278	56.7%	1,661	22.0%
Polk	322	6.0%	996	18.4%	3,019	55.8%	1,069	19.8%
Saline	1,006	7.1%	2,465	17.4%	8,654	60.9%	2,075	14.6%
Seward	1,021	6.1%	2,941	17.6%	10,243	61.2%	2,545	15.2%
Thayer	304	5.8%	813	15.6%	2,764	52.9%	1,347	25.8%
York	869	6.4%	2189	16.0%	8,118	59.4%	2,489	18.2%
Blue Valley Area	6156	6.2%	16987	17.1%	57818	58.2%	18431	18.5%
Nebraska	131,908	7.2%	327,313	17.9%	1,120,443	61.3%	246,677	13.5%
United States	20,201,362	6.5%	53,980,105	17.5%	194,296,087	62.9%	40,267,984	13.0%
US Census 2010								

Table 2c. Change in Age Distribution 2000-2018								
Geographic Area	2018							Percent 65 and over
	Under 5	Percent Under 5	5 to 17	Percent 5 to 17	18 to 64	Percent 18 to 64	65 and over	
Butler	494	6.1%	1407	17.4%	4537	56.2%	1629	20.2%
Fillmore	261	4.7%	858	15.4%	3157	56.6%	1298	23.3%
Gage	1275	5.9%	3521	16.3%	12400	57.4%	4399	20.4%
Jefferson	413	5.7%	1182	16.4%	3928	54.6%	1665	23.2%
Polk	263	5.0%	953	18.1%	2930	55.8%	1109	21.1%
Saline	912	6.4%	2731	19.1%	8618	60.3%	2027	14.2%
Seward	1030	6.0%	2990	17.5%	10254	59.9%	2853	16.7%
Thayer	307	6.0%	825	16.2%	2688	52.7%	1278	25.1%
York	863	6.3%	2323	16.8%	7950	57.6%	2663	19.3%
Blue Valley Area	5818	5.9%	16790	17.1%	56462	57.6%	18921	19.3%
Nebraska	67859	3.6%	404659	21.2%	1146162	60.2%	286080	15.0%
United States	10146960	3.1%	63406280	19.6%	200111209	62.0%	49238581	15.2%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates B01003								

Table 3. Veterans Demographics							
Geographic Area	Veteran Total	Non-Veteran Total	Veteran Male	Veteran Female	Percent of Population Over 18 - Total	Percent of Population Over 18 - Male	Percent of Population Over 18 - Female
Butler	573	5592	519	54	9.30%	16.70%	1.80%
Fillmore	389	4061	383	6	8.70%	17.30%	0.30%
Gage	1362	15437	1282	80	8.10%	15.50%	0.90%
Jefferson	549	5044	479	70	9.80%	17.60%	2.40%
Polk	339	3698	327	12	8.40%	16.60%	0.60%
Saline	707	9938	672	35	6.60%	12.40%	0.70%
Seward	959	12145	914	45	7.30%	13.70%	0.70%
Thayer	358	3608	341	17	9.00%	17.40%	0.80%
York	883	9730	826	57	8.30%	16.50%	1.00%
Blue Valley Area	6,119	69,253	5,743	376	8.10%	15.40%	1.00%
Nebraska	120,290	1,306,723	109,999	10,291	8.40%	8.40%	1.40%
United States	18,611,432	229,711,390	17,003,235	1,608,197	7.50%	14.10%	1.30%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (B21001)							

Table 4. Per Capita Income (dollars)										
Geographic Area	Per Capita Income 2000	Per Capita Income 2010	Per Capita Income 2011	Per Capita Income 2012	Per Capita Income 2013	Per Capita Income 2014	Per Capita Income 2015	Per Capita Income 2016	Per Capita Income 2017	Per Capita Income 2018
Butler	16,394	22,494	26,770	26,770	27,928	28,525	29,457	28,045	27,216	28,776
Fillmore	17,465	21,990	22,882	22,882	24,286	26,873	27,875	29,361	30,874	32,631
Gage	17,190	21,619	22,959	22,959	23,951	25,166	26,207	26,347	27,424	28,438
Jefferson	18,380	21,976	23,675	23,675	24,314	25,291	25,469	26,305	26,859	26,439
Polk	17,934	23,831	24,650	24,650	25,067	29,567	30,428	30,947	32,424	30,403
Saline	16,287	20,431	20,700	20,700	21,455	21,230	21,955	21,880	22,324	22,943
Seward	18,379	26,386	27,596	27,596	28,183	27,579	28,124	28,491	29,398	30,694
Thayer	17,043	21,648	22,176	22,176	23,314	27,626	29,120	30,057	31,129	28,793
York	17,670	25,412	26,565	26,565	27,582	28,271	27,646	27,962	28,298	31,577
Blue Valley Area	17,405	23,026	24,368	24,358	25,220	26,272	26,898	27,135	27,838	28,808
Nebraska	19,613	25,229	26,113	26,113	26,523	27,339	27,882	28,596	29,866	31,101
United States	21,587	27,334	27,915	27,915	28,051	28,555	28,930	29,829	31,177	32,621
Decennial Census, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (DP03)										

Table 5. Population in poverty

Geographic Area	Total Population (for whom poverty status is determined)	Total Population in Poverty	Total Percent in Poverty	Population in Poverty (under 18)	Percent in Poverty (under 18)	Population in Poverty (5-17)	Percent in Poverty (5-17)
Butler	7,883	717	9.1%	202	10.9	130	9.4%
Fillmore	5,328	474	8.9%	119	11.8	81	11.5%
Gage	21,175	2,36	11.	661	13.9	418	12.0%
Jefferson	6,974	821	11.	234	15.3	153	13.5%
Polk	5,160	441	8.5%	140	11.8	93	10.1%
Saline	13,341	1,64	12.	516	14.6	302	11.8%
Seward	15,945	1,15	7.2%	293	7.3	191	6.3%
Thayer	4,894	528	10.	167	14.8	114	13.9%
York	12,923	1,25	9.7%	374	12.0	245	11.1%
Blue Valley Area	93,623	940	10.	2,70	12.2	1,727	10.6%
Nebraska	1,875,315	205,39	11.	60,38	12.9	38,48	11.5%
United States	319,184,033	41,852,31	13.	12,997,53	18.0	8,930,15	17.0%

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Table 6a. Changes in poverty (Under 18) 2010-2018

	Population for whom poverty status is determined Under 18 (2010)	Population Under 18 Below Poverty (2010)	Percent Under 18 Below Poverty (2010)	Population for whom poverty status is determined Under 18 (2018)	Population Under 18 Below Poverty (2018)	Percent Under 18 Below Poverty (2018)	In poverty change (2010-2018)	Percent Change (2010-2018)
Butler	2,080	245	11.8	189	173	9.1	-72	-2.7%
Fillmore	1,404	160	11.4	103	121	11.7	-39	0.3%
Gage	5,125	871	17.0	465	577	12.4	-	-4.6%
Jefferson	1,608	341	21.2	159	212	13.3	-	-7.9%
Polk	1,318	116	8.8%	121	145	12.0	29	3.2%
Saline	3,471	677	19.5	357	563	15.8	-	-3.7%
Seward	3,962	91	2.3%	392	293	7.5	20	5.2%
Thayer	1,117	173	15.5	111	120	10.8	-53	-4.7%
York	3,058	98	3.2%	313	407	13.0	30	9.8%
Blue Valley Area	2314	2773	12.0	2212	261	11.8	-	-0.2%
Nebraska	459,22	68883	15.0	46359	6849	14.8	-	-0.2%
United States	74,181,46	1394611	18.8	7238264	1411701	19.5	17089	0.7%

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Table 6b. Changes in poverty (18-64)

	Population for whom poverty status is determined 18-64 (2010)	Population 18-64 Below Poverty (2010)	Percent 18-64 Below Poverty (2010)	Population for whom poverty status is determined 18-64 (2018)	Population 18-64 Below Poverty (2018)	Percent 18-64 Below Poverty (2018)	In poverty change (2010-2018)	Percent Change (2010-2018)
Butler	4727	365	7.7%	449	288	6.4	-77	-
Fillmore	3151	388	12.3	313	291	9.3	-97	-
Gage	1287	144	11.2	1232	106	8.6	-	-
Jefferson	4307	372	8.6%	391	509	13.0	13	4.4
Polk	3028	160	5.3%	292	202	6.9	42	1.6
Saline	7651	706	9.2%	782	104	13.3	33	4.1
Seward	9416	848	9.0%	909	755	8.3	-93	-
Thayer	2766	282	10.2	266	222	8.3	-60	-
York	7535	618	8.2%	715	688	9.6	70	1.4
Blue Valley Area	5545	517	9.3%	5352	505	9.4	-	0.1
Nebraska	1,073,60	11821	11.0	1,112,48	124,415	11.2	619	0.2
United States	185,890,08	2338272	12.6	194,619,60	25,692,07	13.2	230934	0.6

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Table 6b. Changes in poverty (65+) 2010-2018

	Population for whom poverty status is determined 65+(2010)	Population 65+ Below Poverty (2010)	Percent 65+ Below Poverty (2010)	Population for whom poverty status is determined 65+ (2018)	Population 65+ Below Poverty (2018)	Percent 65+ Below Poverty (2018)	In poverty change (2010- 2018)	Percent Change (2010- 2018)
Butler	1,505	151	10.0%	1506	129	8.6%	-22	-
Fillmore	1,199	126	10.5%	1171	121	10.3%	-5	-
Gage	4,150	436	10.5%	4159	441	10.6%	5	0.1
Jefferson	1,722	232	13.5%	1570	125	8.0%	-	-
Polk	1,070	87	8.1%	1028	58	5.6%	-29	-
Saline	1,860	153	8.2%	1875	193	10.3%	40	2.1
Seward	2,509	156	6.2%	2639	128	4.9%	-28	-
Thayer	1,291	165	12.8%	1156	74	6.4%	-91	-
York	2,505	178	7.1%	2502	203	8.1%	25	1.0
Blue Valley Area	17,811	1,684	9.5%	17606	14	8.4%	-	-
Nebraska	228,003	19,536	8.60%	274,166	20,8	7.6%	134	-
United States	37,400,76	3,554,29	9.50%	47,940,937	4,448,8	9.3%	89460	-

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Table 7. Poverty: Families

Geographic Area	Total Families	Families in Poverty	Percent of Families in Poverty
Butler	2,24	157	7.0%
Fillmore	1,57	141	9.0%
Gage	5,62	292	5.2%
Jefferson	1,91	121	6.3%
Polk	1,44	67	4.6%
Saline	3,51	358	10.2%
Seward	4,51	185	4.1%
Thayer	1,48	95	6.4%
York	3,66	271	7.4%
Blue Valley Area	25,98	1,688	6.5%
Nebraska	484,03	37,271	7.7%
United States	78,697,10	7,948,40	10.1%

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates

Table 8. Households in poverty

Geographic Area	Total Households (2010)	Household s in Poverty (2010)	Percent of Households in Poverty (2010)	Total Households (2018)	Households in Poverty (2018)	Percent of Households in Poverty (2018)	Percent Change in Poverty Rate
Butler	3,45	300	8.7%	3,377	278	8.2	0.5
Fillmore	2,57	365	14.2	2,510	313	12.5	1.7
Gage	9,21	1,203	13.0	9,160	961	10.5	2.6
Jefferson	3,27	419	12.8	3,283	448	13.6	-
Polk	2,23	190	8.5%	2,052	139	6.8	1.7
Saline	5,02	596	11.9	5,073	656	12.9	-
Seward	6,39	602	9.4%	6,596	561	8.5	0.9
Thayer	2,24	274	12.2	2,283	186	8.1	4.0
York	5,77	506	8.8%	5,691	674	11.8	-
Blue Valley Area	40,18	4,455	11.1	40,025	4,216	10.5	0.6
Nebraska	71177	83,119	11.7	754,06	85,990	11.4	0.3
United States	114,235,99	14,865,32	13.0	119,730,12	16,027,48	13.4	-

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (B17017)

Table 9. Poverty Brackets 2014-2018

Geographic Area	People in extreme poverty (Below 50% of the Poverty Level)	Percent in extreme poverty (Below 50% of the Poverty Level)	People in poverty (Below 100% of the Poverty Level)	Percent in poverty (Below 100% of the Poverty Level)	People in near poverty (100- 125% of the Poverty Level)	Percent in near poverty (100- 125% of the Poverty Level)
Butler	353	4.5%	717	9.1%	193	2.4%
Fillmore	206	3.9%	474	8.9%	314	5.9%
Gage	955	4.5%	2,364	11.2%	571	2.7%
Jefferson	334	4.8%	821	11.8%	252	3.6%
Polk	265	5.1%	441	8.5%	319	6.2%
Saline	681	5.1%	1,649	12.4%	728	5.5%
Seward	502	3.1%	1,155	7.2%	499	3.1%
Thayer	114	2.3%	528	10.8%	96	2.0%
York	529	4.1%	1,255	9.7%	526	4.1%
Blue Valley Area	3,939	4.2%	9404	10.0%	3,498	3.7%
Nebraska	90,684	4.8%	205,393	11.0%	87,860	4.7%
United States	19,682,659	6.2%	41,852,315	13.1%	16,566,387	5.2%

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1701)

Table 10. Children in poverty by ethnicity

County	Hispanic/Latino Population Under 18	Hispanic/Latino Population Under 18 in Poverty	Hispanic/Latino Percent Under 18 Poverty	White Alone Population Under 18	White Alone Population Under 18 in Poverty	White Alone Percent Under 18 in Poverty
Butler	86	30	34.9%	1,800	162	9.0%
Fillmore	74	10	13.5%	1,006	117	11.6%
Gage	228	49	21.5%	4,420	502	11.4%
Jefferson	101	31	30.7%	1,483	116	7.8%
Polk	106	16	15.1%	1,158	145	12.5%
Saline	1,233	376	30.5%	2,835	473	16.7%
Seward	162	3	1.9%	3,745	268	7.2%
Thayer	57	14	24.6%	1,054	116	11.0%
York	256	141	55.1%	2,916	318	10.9%
Nebraska	76,439	22,124	28.9%	382,158	46,039	12.0%
United States	17,340,240	5,127,592	29.6%	48,577,151	7,560,556	15.6%

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (B17001I and B17001A)

Table 11. Percent of children receiving free and reduced lunches

	2013-2014	2015-2016	2017-2018	2019-2020
Butler	30%	30%	33%	34%
Fillmore	28%	27%	28%	31%
Gage	41%	39%	43%	46%
Jefferson	44%	46%	44%	47%
Polk	37%	37%	36%	38%
Saline	47%	46%	52%	53%
Seward	23%	25%	23%	27%
Thayer	32%	36%	36%	37%
York	38%	38%	38%	36%
BVCA	36%	37%	38%	40%
Nebraska	41%	41%	42%	42%

Nebraska Department of Education, Free and Reduced Lunch 2013-2020

Table 12. Poverty by ethnicity

Geographic Area	Hispanic/Latino Population in Poverty	Hispanic/Latino Percent in Poverty	White alone (not Hispanic or Latino) Population in Poverty	White alone (not Hispanic or Latino) Percent in Poverty
Butler	20	10.8%	663	11.1%
Fillmore	48	24.4%	471	9.3%
Gage	75	14.7%	1,851	9.2%
Jefferson	102	39.1%	662	9.9%
Polk	27	9.6%	376	7.8%
Saline	896	26.2%	789	8.6%
Seward	15	3.7%	1,107	7.4%
Thayer	27	23.3%	379	8.1%
York	229	44.4%	874	7.4%
Blue Valley Area	1,439	24.4%	7,172	8.6%
Nebraska	42,749	21.6%	128,477	8.7%
United States	11,849,315	21.0%	19,205,816	10.0%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1701)				

Table 13a. Poverty by race

Geographic Area	White Population in Poverty	White Percent in Poverty	Black Population in Poverty	Black Percent in Poverty	Native American Population in Poverty	Native American Percent in Poverty
Butler	677	11.1%	14	35.0%	36	32.4%
Fillmore	489	9.3%	2	50.0%	8	57.1%
Gage	1,886	9.2%	43	28.3%	44	29.5%
Jefferson	719	10.5%	0	0.0%	10	23.8%
Polk	403	8.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%
Saline	1,510	12.9%	16	14.2%	0	0.0%
Seward	1,116	7.4%	12	21.1%	2	6.5%
Thayer	402	8.4%	1	9.1%	9	52.9%
York	1,091	8.8%	79	78.2%	5	38.5%
Blue Valley Area	8,293	9.5%	169	33.5%	114	26.9%
Nebraska	160,801	9.9%	23,326	27.1%	5,117	31.0%
United States	26,730,734	11.6%	9,490,587	24.2%	673,665	25.80%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1701)						

Table 13b. Poverty by race

Geographic Area	Asian Population in Poverty	Asian Percent in Poverty	Some Other Race Population in Poverty	Some Other Race Percent in Poverty	Two or More Races Population in Poverty	Two or More Races Percent in Poverty
Butler	0	0	6	15.8%	18	20.9%
Fillmore	0	0	30	100%	4	10.8%
Gage	5	4	40	35.7%	61	36.1%
Jefferson	7	100%	0	0.0%	110	76.9%
Polk	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Saline	78	17.40%	175	27.2%	19	5.6%
Seward	0	0	3	2.1%	43	16.7%
Thayer	0	0	0	0.0%	4	4.3%
York	0	0	37	56.9%	86	41%
Blue Valley Area	90	12.3%	291	26.4%	345	24.7%
Nebraska	7,718	18.20%	7,352	21%	9,191	19.6%
United States	1,989,768	11.50%	3,497,625	22.6%	1,772,296	17.5%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (\$1701)						

Table 14. Families and poverty level

Geographic Area	Families Below 50%	Families Below 100%	Families Below 125%	Families below 150%	Families below 185%	Families below 200%
Butler	4.3%	7.0%	9.7%	13.9%	19.1%	20.5%
Fillmore	2.9%	9.0%	12.1%	14.1%	19.8%	23.0%
Gage	2.7%	5.2%	7.4%	10.8%	17.8%	21.7%
Jefferson	2.9%	6.3%	8.8%	17.6%	28.5%	34.0%
Polk	3.2%	4.6%	9.4%	11.9%	17.5%	20.5%
Saline	3.3%	10.2%	13.8%	24.7%	30.4%	32.4%
Seward	1.5%	4.1%	6.9%	11.2%	15.7%	17.8%
Thayer	1.7%	6.4%	11.2%	12.9%	21.0%	21.9%
York	2.4%	7.4%	9.5%	11.3%	15.3%	17.0%
Blue Valley	2.7%	6.5%	9.4%	13.9%	20.0%	22.6%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (\$1701)						

Table 15. Percent of households receiving public assistance

Geography	2019
Butler	8%
Fillmore	8%
Gage	11
Jefferson	10
Polk	6%
Saline	11%
Seward	4%
Thayer	11%
York	8%
Nebraska	9%
Towncharts.com using US Census data	

Table 16. Families in Poverty by Number of Children				
Geographic Area		No Child	1 to 2	3 or more
Butler	All Families	1,227	718	254
		4.30%	10.40%	9.86%
	Female householder	50	178	33
		0.00%	30.90%	84.80%
Fillmore	All Families	935	460	164
		5.70%	16.10%	7.88%
	Female householder	51	92	16
		17.60%	38.00%	0.00%
Gage	All Families	3,341	1,807	473
		3.20%	4.90%	20.31%
	Female householder	150	404	57
		5.30%	9.20%	80.70%
Jefferson	All Families	1,230	462	220
		4.70%	5.00%	17.55%
	Female householder	97	99	84
		12.40%	10.10%	34.50%
Polk	All Families	867	435	146
		2.40%	5.50%	15.09%
	Female householder	36	68	20
		47.20%	32.40%	75.00%
Saline	All Families	1,734	1,136	596
		2.70%	17.20%	18.20%
	Female householder	103	219	73
		4.90%	11.00%	37.00%
Seward	All Families	2,518	1,555	439
		1.60%	5.70%	12.53%
	Female householder	142	253	52
		3.50%	16.20%	71.15%
Thayer	All Families	946	438	104
		4.50%	9.10%	11.53%
	Female householder	30	84	8
		0.00%	34.50%	100.00%
York	All Families	2,184	1,072	409
		3.40%	12.40%	15.37%
	Female householder	118	130	71
		26.30%	71.50%	50.70%
Nebraska	All Families	248,572	175,417	60,045
		3.10%	10.30%	18.84%
	Female householder	20,724	41,119	11,034
		8.00%	30.10%	50.6%
United States	All Families	41,626,321	29,439,397	7,631,385
		4.90%	13.30%	26.21%
	Female householder	5,560,027	7,660,279	1,837,874
		11.10%	32.30%	59.38%
BlueValley	All Families	14,982	8,083	2,805
		3.3%	9.2%	15.4%
	Female householder	777	1527	414
		11.2%	22.7%	54.6%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1702)				

Table 17a. Educational attainment by age 2014-2018

Geographic Area	18-24						
	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelors Degree or Above	Percent Bachelors Degree or Above
Butler	594	84	14.1	477	80.3	33	5.6%
Fillmore	361	46	12.7	267	74.0	48	13.3
Gage	1,499	183	12.2	1,171	78.1	145	9.7%
Jefferson	443	43	9.7	351	79.2	49	11.1
Polk	380	115	30.3	226	59.5	39	10.3
Saline	1,858	316	17.0	1,435	77.2	107	5.8%
Seward	2,264	108	4.8	2,003	88.5	153	6.8%
Thayer	329	60	18.2	218	66.3	51	15.5
York	1,301	247	19.0	887	68.2	167	12.8
Blue Valley	9,029	1,202	13.3	7,035	77.9	792	8.8%
Nebraska	189,779	19,603	10.3	147,552	77.7	22,624	11.9
United States	30,903,719	4,009,753	13.0	23,549,126	76.2	3,344,840	10.8

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)

Table 17b. Educational attainment by age 2014-2018

Geographic Area	25-34						
	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelors Degree or Above	Percent Bachelors Degree or Above
Butler	785	44	5.6	513	65.4	228	29.0
Fillmore	607	46	7.6	388	63.9	173	28.5
Gage	2,290	159	6.9	1,500	65.5	631	27.6
Jefferson	730	65	8.9	534	73.2	131	17.9
Polk	450	22	4.9	282	62.7	146	32.4
Saline	1,452	280	19.3	994	68.5	178	12.3
Seward	1,740	90	5.2	1,030	59.2	620	35.6
Thayer	444	22	5.0	280	63.1	142	32.0
York	1,699	93	5.5	974	57.3	632	37.2
Blue Valley	10,197	821	8.1	6,495	63.7	2,881	28.3
Nebraska	254,37	20,68	8.1	138,054	54.3	95,637	37.6
United States	44,567,97	4,313,21	9.7	24,625,583	55.3	15,629,182	35.1

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)

Table 17c. Educational attainment by age 2014-2018

Geographic Area	35-44						
	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelors Degree or Above	Bachelors Degree or Above
Butler	870	40	4.6	587	67.5	243	27.9
Fillmore	542	24	4.4	371	68.5	147	27.1
Gage	2,497	216	8.7	1,54	61.7	741	29.7
Jefferson	732	61	8.3	563	76.9	108	14.8
Polk	564	41	7.3	439	77.8	84	14.9
Saline	2,047	503	24.6	1,31	64.4	225	11.0
Seward	1,927	43	2.2	1,21	63.3	665	34.5
Thayer	504	14	2.8	396	78.6	94	18.7
York	1,417	67	4.7	828	58.4	522	36.8
Blue Valley	11,100	1,009	9.1	7,262	65.4	2,829	25.5
Nebraska	232,65	22,93	9.9	124,22	53.4	85,49	36.7
United States	40,763,21	4,762,79	11.7	21,506,62	52.8	14,493,79	35.6

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)

Table 17d. Educational attainment by age 2014-2018

Geographic Area	45-64						
	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelors Degree or Above	Percent Bachelors Degree or Above
Butler	2,288	207	9.0	1,63	71.6	442	19.3
Fillmore	1,647	74	4.5	1,25	76.1	319	19.4
Gage	6,114	560	9.2	4,43	72.6	1,11	18.3
Jefferson	2,023	155	7.7	1,57	77.7	296	14.6
Polk	1,536	112	7.3	1,11	72.3	313	20.4
Saline	3,261	320	9.8	2,37	72.7	571	17.5
Seward	4,323	136	3.1	2,99	69.2	1,19	27.7
Thayer	1,411	104	7.4	980	69.5	327	23.2
York	3,533	181	5.1	2,43	69.0	915	25.9
Blue Valley	26,136	1,849	7.1	18,792	71.9	5,495	21.0
Nebraska	469,34	36,86	7.9	293,65	62.6	138,82	29.6
United States	83,876,30	9,809,96	11.7	48,481,91	57.8	25,584,42	30.5

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)

Table 17e. Educational attainment by age 2014-2018

Geographic Area	65+						
	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelors Degree or Above	Percent Bachelors Degree or Above
Butler	1,629	147	9.0	1,287	79.0	195	12.0
Fillmore	1,298	187	14.4	935	72.0	176	13.6
Gage	4,399	636	14.5	3,155	71.7	608	13.8
Jefferson	1,665	170	10.2	1,241	74.5	254	15.3
Polk	1,109	119	10.7	762	68.7	228	20.6
Saline	2,027	279	13.8	1,467	72.4	281	13.9
Seward	2,853	374	13.1	1,795	62.9	684	24.0
Thayer	1,278	127	9.9	993	77.7	158	12.4
York	2,663	243	9.1	1,871	70.3	549	20.6
Blue Valley	18,921	2,282	12.1	13,506	71.4	3,133	16.6
Nebraska	286,08	30,25	10.6	186,577	65.2	69,25	24.2
United States	49,238,58	8,062,09	16.4	28,016,841	56.9	13,159,65	26.7

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)

Table 18. Participation in Step Up to Quality

	Total licensed	# in SUTQ
Butler	14	1
Fillmore	12	3
Gage	44	5
Jefferson	13	0
Polk	10	0
Saline	21	3
Seward	26	3
Thayer	14	1
York	26	2
Total	180	18

Nebraska Department of Education Step Up to Quality 2020

Table 19. High school graduation rate	
Graduation rate	2018-2019
Butler	94%
Fillmore	80%
Gage	86%
Jefferson	90%
Polk	97%
Saline	90-93%
Seward	94-98%
Thayer	98%
York	94%
Nebraska	88%
Nebraska Department of Education 2020	

Table 20a. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity (White)							
Geographic Area	White Alone (Not Latino)						
	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Butler	5,355	385	7.2%	3,890	72.6%	1,080	20.2%
Fillmore	3,908	292	7.5%	2,812	72.0%	804	20.6%
Gage	14,630	1,485	10.2%	10,144	69.3%	3,001	20.5%
Jefferson	4,935	359	7.3%	3,805	77.1%	771	15.6%
Polk	3,486	210	6.0%	2,521	72.3%	755	21.7%
Saline	6,760	492	7.3%	5,101	75.5%	1,167	17.3%
Seward	10,408	555	5.3%	6,756	64.9%	3,097	29.8%
Thayer	3,498	249	7.1%	2,545	72.8%	704	20.1%
York	8,747	474	5.4%	5,765	65.9%	2,508	28.7%
Blue Valley	61,727	4,501	7.3%	43,339	70.2%	13,887	22.5%
Nebraska	1,044,122	54,282	5.2%	641,083	61.4%	348,757	33.4%
United States	143,042,909	10,569,698	7.4%	82,149,273	57.4%	50,323,938	35.2%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)							

Table 20b. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity (Black)							
Geographic Area	Black						
	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Butler	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Fillmore	18	0	0.0%	18	100.0%	0	0.0%
Gage	144	41	28.5%	95	66.0%	8	5.6%
Jefferson	18	0	0.0%	18	100.0%	0	0.0%
Polk	9	6	66.7%	3	33.3%	0	0.0%
Saline	53	17	32.1%	19	35.8%	17	32.1%
Seward	30	0	0.0%	21	70.0%	9	30.0%
Thayer	17	0	0.0%	17	100.0%	0	0.0%
York	134	39	29.1%	68	50.7%	27	20.1%
Blue Valley	423	103	24.3%	259	61.2%	61	14.4%
Nebraska	51,697	7,113	13.8%	33,418	64.6%	11,166	21.6%
United States	25,962,205	3,784,442	14.6%	16,704,846	64.3%	5,472,917	21.1%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)							

Table 20c. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity (Native American)							
	Native American						
Geographic Area	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Butler	16	0	0.0%	16	100.0%	0	0.0%
Fillmore	12	0	0.0%	12	100.0%	0	0.0%
Gage	111	13	11.7%	69	62.2%	29	26.1%
Jefferson	20	0	0.0%	20	100.0%	0	0.0%
Polk	15	0	0.0%	13	86.7%	2	13.3%
Saline	28	0	0.0%	20	71.4%	8	28.6%
Seward	27	2	7.4%	12	44.4%	13	48.1%
Thayer	17	0	0.0%	17	100.0%	0	0.0%
York	30	22	73.3%	8	26.7%	0	0.0%
Blue Valley	276	37	13.4%	187	67.8%	52	18.8%
Nebraska	8,932	1,566	17.5%	6,341	71.0%	1,025	11.5%
United States	1,666,045	333,586	20.0%	1,090,354	65.4%	242,105	14.5%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)							

Table 20d. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity (Hispanic and Latino)							
	Hispanic and Latino						
Geographic Area	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Butler	122	53	43.4%	65	53.3%	4	3.3%
Fillmore	126	39	31.0%	87	69.0%	0	0.0%
Gage	240	18	7.5%	201	83.8%	21	8.8%
Jefferson	149	85	57.0%	63	42.3%	1	0.7%
Polk	124	70	56.5%	54	43.5%	0	0.0%
Saline	1,792	817	45.6%	920	51.3%	55	3.1%
Seward	241	52	21.6%	160	66.4%	29	12.0%
Thayer	62	16	25.8%	46	74.2%	0	0.0%
York	262	38	14.5%	191	72.9%	33	12.6%
Blue Valley	3,118	1,188	38.1%	1,787	57.3%	143	4.6%
Nebraska	97,295	40,086	41.2%	45,569	46.8%	11,640	12.0%
United States	32,459,649	10,485,405	32.3%	16,847,071	51.9%	5,127,173	15.8%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)							

Table 20e. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity (Some other race)							
	Some other race						
Geographic Area	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Butler	36	10	27.8%	26	72.2%	0	0.0%
Fillmore	29	0	0.0%	29	100.0%	0	0.0%
Gage	62	11	17.7%	34	54.8%	17	27.4%
Jefferson	13	10	76.9%	3	23.1%	0	0.0%
Polk	21	21	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Saline	380	235	61.8%	136	35.8%	9	2.4%
Seward	105	6	5.7%	83	79.0%	16	15.2%
Thayer	6	0	0.0%	6	100.0%	0	0.0%
York	33	12	36.4%	16	48.5%	5	15.2%
Blue Valley	685	305	44.5%	333	48.6%	47	6.9%
Nebraska	18,988	8,310	43.8%	8,964	47.2%	1,714	9.0%
United States	9,176,216	3,491,195	38.0%	4,626,476	50.4%	1,058,545	11.5%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)							

Table 20f. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity (Two or more races)							
	Two or more races						
Geographic Area	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Butler	57	2	3.5%	43	75.4%	12	21.1%
Fillmore	16	0	0.0%	16	100.0%	0	0.0%
Gage	77	14	18.2%	56	72.7%	7	9.1%
Jefferson	38	8	21.1%	17	44.7%	13	34.2%
Polk	28	14	50.0%	3	10.7%	11	39.3%
Saline	89	63	70.8%	22	24.7%	4	4.5%
Seward	134	25	18.7%	99	73.9%	10	7.5%
Thayer	47	2	4.3%	28	59.6%	17	36.2%
York	95	0	0.0%	80	84.2%	15	15.8%
Blue Valley	581	128	22.0%	364	62.7%	89	15.3%
Nebraska	17,092	2,350	13.7%	10,184	59.6%	4,558	26.7%
United States	4,346,953	522,340	12.0%	2,477,715	57.0%	1,346,898	31.0%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)							

Table 20g. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity (Asian)							
Asian							
Geographic Area	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Butler	38	6	15.8%	20	52.6%	12	31.6%
Fillmore	14	0	0.0%	3	21.4%	11	78.6%
Gage	83	0	0.0%	51	61.4%	32	38.6%
Jefferson	11	7	63.6%	0	0.0%	4	36.4%
Polk	3	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	100.0%
Saline	128	56	43.8%	68	53.1%	4	3.1%
Seward	22	10	45.5%	5	22.7%	7	31.8%
Thayer	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
York	40	5	12.5%	0	0.0%	35	87.5%
Blue Valley	339	84	24.8%	147	43.4%	108	31.9%
Nebraska	26,668	6,252	23.4%	8,050	30.2%	12,366	46.4%
United States	12,362,124	1,629,131	13.2%	4,120,756	33.3%	6,612,237	53.5%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)							

Table 20h. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity (Native Hawaiian)							
Native Hawaiian							
Geographic Area	Population	Less than High School	Percent Less than High School	High School Education	Percent High School Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Butler	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Fillmore	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Gage	23	0	0.0%	23	100.0%	0	0.0%
Jefferson	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Polk	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Saline	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Seward	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Thayer	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
York	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Blue Valley	23	0	0.0%	23	100.0%	0	0.0%
Nebraska	826	206	24.9%	513	62.1%	107	13.0%
United States	365,263	47,861	13.1%	254,110	69.6%	63,292	17.3%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (S1501)							

Table 21A. Hispanic/Latino population by age								
Geographic Area	Total Hispanic/Latino Population	Population Under 5	Percent Under 5	Population 5-17	Percent 5-17	Population 18-24	Percent 18-24	Population 25-34
Butler	261	31	11.9%	69	26.4%	39	14.9%	35
Fillmore	220	1	0.5%	91	41.4%	2	0.9%	54
Gage	517	86	16.6%	158	30.6%	33	6.4%	49
Jefferson	268	64	23.9%	37	13.8%	18	6.7%	59
Polk	282	14	5.0%	96	34.0%	48	17.0%	27
Saline	3517	411	11.7%	937	26.6%	377	10.7%	483
Seward	457	45	9.8%	123	26.9%	48	10.5%	48
Thayer	119	19	16.0%	38	31.9%	0	0.0%	0
York	691	24	3.5%	266	38.5%	139	20.1%	81
Blue Valley Area	6332	695	11.0%	1815	28.7%	704	11.1%	836
Nebraska	203281	24317	12.0%	57201	28.1%	24468	12.0%	30986
United States	57517935	5141740	8.9%	13206083	23.0%	6710463	11.7%	9110263
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (B01001I)								

Table 21B. Hispanic/Latino population by age

Geographic Area	Population 35- 44	Percent 35-44	Population 45- 54	Percent 45- 54	Population 55-64	Percent 55- 64	Population 65 plus	Percent 65 plus
Butler	44	16.9%	29	11.1%	8	3.1%	6	2.3%
Fillmore	10	4.5%	34	15.5%	7	3.2%	21	9.5%
Gage	129	25.0%	31	6.0%	20	3.9%	11	2.1%
Jefferson	16	6.0%	30	11.2%	34	12.7%	10	3.7%
Polk	44	15.6%	31	11.0%	22	7.8%	0	0.0%
Saline	858	24.4%	203	5.8%	248	7.1%	0	0.0%
Seward	114	24.9%	59	12.9%	5	1.1%	15	3.3%
Thayer	22	18.5%	10	8.4%	10	8.4%	20	16.8%
York	88	12.7%	84	12.2	3	0.4%	6	0.9%
Blue Valley Area	1325	20.9%	511	8.1%	357	5.6%	89	1.4%
Nebraska	28287	13.9%	19225	9.5%	11604	5.7%	7193	3.5%
United States	8287301	14.4%	6648870	11.6	4457641	7.8%	3955574	6.9%

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (B01001I)

Table 22. Percent Hispanic or Latino

Geographic Area	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino Population (of any race)	Percent Hispanic or Latino Population (of any race)
Butler	8,067	261	3.2%
Fillmore	5,574	220	3.9%
Gage	21,595	517	2.4%
Jefferson	7,188	268	3.7%
Polk	5,255	282	5.4%
Saline	14,288	3,517	24.6%
Seward	17,127	457	2.7%
Thayer	5,098	119	2.3%
York	13,799	691	5.0%
Blue Valley Area	97,991	6,332	6.5%
Nebraska	1,904,760	203,281	10.7%
United States	322,903,030	57,517,935	17.8%

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (DP05)

Table 23. Age of housing

Geographic Area	Total Housing Units	Median Year Built	Median Age (in 2018)
Butler	4,072	1965	53
Fillmore	2,934	1949	69
Gage	10,438	1966	52
Jefferson	3,905	1949	69
Polk	2,737	1963	55
Saline	5,826	1966	52
Seward	7,107	1971	47
Thayer	2,759	1953	65
York	6,298	1961	57
Blue Valley Area	46,076	1966	52*
Nebraska	830,749	1972	46
United States	136,384,29	1977	41

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (B25035)

Table 24. Median housing costs

Geographic Area	Occupied Housing Units	Owner Occupied Housing Units (with a mortgage)	Percent Owner Occupied Housing Units (with a mortgage)	Median Monthly Owner Costs (with a mortgage)	Owner Occupied Housing Units (without a mortgage)	Percent Occupied Housing Units (without a mortgage)	Median Monthly Owner Costs (without mortgage)	Renter Occupied Housing Units	Percent Renter Occupied Housing Units	Median Gross Rent
Butler	3377	1310	38.8	\$1,122	133	39.5	\$444	637	18.9	\$700
Fillmore	2510	809	32.2	948	108	43.4	424	501	20.0	596
Gage	9160	3078	33.6	114	319	34.9	452	266	29.1	645
Jefferson	3283	869	26.5	978	149	45.5	413	766	23.3	594
Polk	2052	750	36.5	105	892	43.5	435	343	16.7	602
Saline	5073	1700	33.5	115	183	36.2	467	139	27.4	703
Seward	6596	2641	40.0	128	210	31.9	552	173	26.2	723
Thayer	2283	675	29.6	905	112	49.1	384	427	18.7	566
York	5691	2045	35.9	114	197	34.7	472	145	25.5	685
Nebraska	75406	30334	40.2	135	19522	25.9	510	24030	31.9	805
United States	11973012	4819859	40.3	155	2824621	23.6	490	4108385	34.3	102

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (DP04)

Table 25. Change in housing tenure

Geographic Area	2000		2010		2018		2000 to 2018	
	Owners	Percent	Owners	Percent	Owners	Percent	Owners	Percent
Butler	2,598	75.8	2,59	75.3	2,643	78.3	45	2.5
Fillmore	2,003	74.5	1,98	77.3	1,898	75.6	-	1.1
Gage	6,631	71.2	6,70	72.7	6,277	68.5	-	-
Jefferson	2,683	76.1	2,62	80.1	2,364	72.0	-	-
Polk	1,743	77.2	1,67	75.1	1,642	80.0	-	2.9
Saline	3,667	70.7	3,35	66.8	3,535	69.7	-	-
Seward	4,331	72.0	4,67	73.1	4,747	72.0	416	-
Thayer	2,034	80.0	1,85	82.6	1,797	78.7	-	-
York	3,976	69.5	4,39	76.2	4,022	70.7	46	1.2
Blue Valley	29,66	72.9	29,87	74.3	28,925	72.3	-	-
Nebraska	449,31	67.4	488,03	68.6	498,567	66.1	4925	-
United States	69,815,75	66.2	76,089,65	66.6	76,444,81	0.63847597	662905	-

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (DP04)

Table 26. Housing cost burden - owner-occupied

Geographic Area	Owner Occupied Housing Units (with a mortgage)	Cost-Burdened Owner Households (with a mortgage)	Cost-Burdened Owner Households (with a mortgage)	Cost-Burdened Owner Households (without a mortgage)	Cost-Burdened Owner Households (without a mortgage)
Butler	1,310	203	15.2	162	12.2%
Fillmore	809	134	12.3	132	12.1%
Gage	3,078	686	21.4	379	11.8%
Jefferson	869	283	18.9	236	15.8%
Polk	750	141	15.8	94	10.5%
Saline	1,700	382	20.8	277	15.1%
Seward	2,641	430	20.4	216	10.3%
Thayer	675	87	7.8%	117	10.4%
York	2,045	440	22.3	182	9.2%
Blue Valley Area	13,877	2786	20.1	1795	11.9%
Nebraska	303,343	6291	32.2	23496	12.0%
United States	48,198,59	1375027	48.7	3879417	13.7%

American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (DP04)

Table 27. Housing severe cost burden - owner-occupied				
Geographic Area	Severely Cost-Burdened Owner Households (with a mortgage)	Severely Cost-Burdened Owner Households (with a mortgage)	Severely Cost-Burdened Owner Households (without a mortgage)	Severely Cost-Burdened Owner Households (without a mortgage)
Butler	154	11.8	133	10.0
Fillmore	97	12.0	99	9.1
Gage	497	16.1	284	8.9
Jefferson	190	21.9	184	12.3
Polk	87	11.6	70	7.8
Saline	256	15.1	231	12.6
Seward	271	10.3	179	8.5
Thayer	32	4.7%	106	9.4
York	366	17.9	144	7.3
Blue Valley Area	1950	14.1	143	9.5
Nebraska	4449	14.7	1775	9.1
United States	1036736	21.5	303126	10.7
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (DP04)				

Table 28. Housing cost burden - renter-occupied						
Geographic Area	Renter Occupied Housing Units	Percent Renter Occupied Housing Units	Cost-Burdened Renter Households	Cost-Burdened Renter Households	Severely Cost-Burdened Renter Households	Percent Severely Cost-Burdened Renter Households
Butler	637	18.9	227	35.6	183	28.7
Fillmore	501	20.0	104	20.8	77	15.4
Gage	2661	29.1	964	36.2	743	27.9
Jefferson	766	23.3	246	32.1	180	23.5
Polk	343	16.7	116	33.8	79	23.0
Saline	1391	27.4	497	35.7	441	31.7
Seward	1731	26.2	584	33.7	400	23.1
Thayer	427	18.7	72	16.9	67	15.7
York	1452	25.5	555	38.2	512	35.3
Blue Valley Area	9909	24.8	336	34.0	268	27.1
Nebraska	24030	31.9	9913	41.3	7915	32.9
United States	4108385	34.3	2014135	49.0	1647499	40.1
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (DP04)						

Table 29. Change in unemployment (2017-2018)					
Geographic Area	Unemployed (2017)	Unemployed (2017)	Unemployed (2018)	Percent Unemployed (2018)	Unemployment Rate Change
Butler	125	2.8%	105	2.3%	-0.5%
Fillmore	76	2.5%	78	2.5%	0.0%
Gage	374	3.4%	345	3.2%	-0.2%
Jefferson	100	2.4%	103	2.5%	0.1%
Polk	67	2.3%	68	2.3%	0.0%
Saline	223	3.0%	224	3.0%	0.0%
Seward	227	2.6%	225	2.6%	0.0%
Thayer	63	2.2%	64	2.2%	0.0%
York	183	2.5%	182	2.5%	0.0%
Blue Valley Area	1438	2.8%	1,394	2.7%	-0.1%
Nebraska	29184	2.9%	28,509	2.8%	-0.1%
United States	6982000	4.4%	6,314,000	3.9%	-0.5%
US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics					

Table 30. Current unemployment (2018)				
Geographic Area	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Percent Unemployed
Butler	4,533	4,428	105	2.3%
Fillmore	3,159	3,081	78	2.5%
Gage	10,916	10,571	345	3.2%
Jefferson	4,155	4,052	103	2.5%
Polk	2,902	2,834	68	2.3%
Saline	7,441	7,217	224	3.0%
Seward	8,730	8,505	225	2.6%
Thayer	2,866	2,802	64	2.2%
York	7,309	7,127	182	2.5%
Blue Valley Area	52,011	50,617	1,394	2.7%
Nebraska	1,020,197	991,688	28,509	2.8%
United States	162,075,000	155,761,000	6,314,000	3.9%
US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area				

Table 31. Parents in the workforce						
Geographic Area	Population with children under 6 years old	Population with children under 6, all parents in the labor force	Percent with children under 6, all parents in the labor force	Population with children under 6-17 years old	Population with children under 6-17 years old, all parents in the labor force	Percent with children under 6-17 years old, all parents in the
Butler	591	399	67.5%	1,239	975	78.7%
Fillmore	291	229	78.7%	731	603	82.5%
Gage	1,454	1,112	76.5%	3,036	2,520	83.0%
Jefferson	498	299	60.0%	1,064	765	71.9%
Polk	312	156	50.0%	888	682	76.8%
Saline	1,086	812	74.8%	2,431	2,042	84.0%
Seward	1,198	782	65.3%	2,702	2,005	74.2%
Thayer	355	262	73.8%	738	652	88.3%
York	1,042	832	79.8%	1,925	1,632	84.8%
Blue Valley Area	6,827	4,883	71.5%	14,754	11,876	80.5%
Nebraska	153,480	112,347	73.2%	298,497	22,777	79.1%
United States	22,855,584	14,993,263	65.6%	47,018,205	44,951	71.0%
American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates (CP03)						

Table 32. Crime Index Offenses by Population Group, 2018-2019

POPULATION GROUP		YEAR	Murder-Manslaughter	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Violent (Total)	Burglary	Larceny - Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson	Property (Total)	Grand Total
POLICE DEPARTMENTS	400,000 AND OVER	2018	22	403	456	1,747	2,628	1,848	11,343	3,123	83	16,397	19,025
		2019	25	379	519	1,962	2,885	1,684	12,307	3,153	0	17,144	20,029
		CHANGE	+13.6%	-6.0%	+13.8%	+12.3%	+9.8%	-8.9%	+8.5%	+1.0%	-100%	+4.6%	+5.3%
	399,999 TO 100,000	2018	6	284	162	594	1,046	1,182	6,694	431	44	8,351	9,397
		2019	5	323	166	621	1,115	988	6,566	454	43	8,051	9,166
		CHANGE	-16.7%	+13.7%	+2.5%	+4.5%	+6.6%	-16.4%	-1.9%	+5.3%	-2.3%	-3.7%	-2.5%
	99,999 TO 5,000	2018	8	360	93	638	1099	1,323	8,086	793	42	10,244	11,343
		2019	9	332	87	613	1041	1,200	7,244	800	68	9,312	10,353
		CHANGE	+12.5%	-7.8%	-6.5%	-3.9%	-5.3%	-9.3%	-10.4%	+0.9%	+61.9%	-9.1%	-8.7%
	4,999 AND UNDER	2018	1	38	7	79	125	87	546	62	4	699	824
		2019	1	29	0	67	97	49	440	36	1	526	623
		CHANGE	0%	-23.7%	-100%	-13.9%	-21.6%	-43.7%	-19.4%	-41.9%	-75%	-24.7%	-24.4%
OTHER	COUNTY AREAS	2018	8	142	16	305	471	699	2,528	408	13	3,648	4,119
		2019	8	132	17	308	465	670	2,330	426	13	3,439	3,904
		CHANGE	0%	-7%	+6.3%	+1%	-1.7%	-4.1%	-7.8%	+4.4%	0%	-5.7%	-5.2%
	STATE AREAS	2018	1	17	1	15	34	15	188	8	43	254	288
		2019	2	9	2	19	32	6	189	21	9	225	257
		CHANGE	+100%	-47.1%	+100%	+26.7%	-5.9%	-60%	+0.5%	+162.5%	-79.1%	-11.4%	-10.8%
TOTAL		2018	46	1,244	735	3,378	5,403	5,154	29,385	4,825	229	39,593	44,996
		2019	50	1,204	791	3,590	5,635	4,597	29,076	4,890	134	38,697	44,332
		CHANGE	+8.7%	-3.2%	+7.6%	+6.3%	+4.3%	-10.8%	-1.1%	+1.3%	-41.5%	-2.3%	-1.5%

Crime in Nebraska 2019 Report, ncc.nebraska.gov

Table 33. Local Crime Statistics

	Aggravated Assault	Arson	Burglary	Larceny Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Crime Rate Total Incident
Butler	0	0	1	37	9	0	1	0	46
Fillmore	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Gage	26	0	62	26	15	0	23	3	345
Jefferson	27	0	19	94	5	0	2	0	134
Polk	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Saline	34	3	21	131	9	0	13	0	172
Seward	0	0	11	39	7	0	1	0	57
Thayer	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
York	0	0	21	198	9	0	0	0	229
cityrating.com									

APPENDIX III: COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW REPORT

THE PROCESS

In November and December of 2019, nineteen community stakeholders were interviewed by consultants from Bluestem Interactive, Inc. to gain their perspectives on community needs, awareness of Blue Valley Community Action Partnership's programs and services, and opportunities for collaboration. The interviewees were chosen from a broad list representing the government, community services, business, education and faith-based sectors. At least three people were interviewed from each of the five sectors. To reflect the geography of BVCA's service area, the interviews included at least two stakeholders representing each of the nine BVCA counties. The list of questions and interviewees is included at the end of this report.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

The following community needs emerged as major themes:

- Quality affordable housing for rental and purchase – Much of the existing housing stock is old, and many properties suffer from deferred maintenance. Poor upkeep increases utility costs and can lead to serious health problems.
- Expanded local mental health and substance abuse treatment services – There are not enough providers to meet the current need. Inadequate treatment can limit a person's ability to work, increase emotional and physical stress on individuals and families, and negatively impact the potential for success.
- Linking people to jobs that pay enough to meet basic needs – Working people with low-paying jobs are unable to meet their monthly expenses. This is especially acute for single-parent households or those where only one person is working and there are additional childcare and transportation costs. There are very few middle-income job opportunities in some communities. Higher-salaried positions require advanced job skills.
- More funding for longer term assistance, larger expenses (like emergency repairs) and programs that provide case management/coaching support – While emergency assistance for one-time, small funding requests may be available, payment assistance for larger emergency expenses or longer term needs is lacking. Successful programs that help people escape from poverty provide an in-depth analysis of barriers, action planning, follow-up coaching/support, and often, financial assistance and matched savings opportunities. Currently, due to limited funding, only certain populations qualify for these more intensive services.
- Access to quality, affordable daycare – According to several interviewees, Polk and Butler counties currently lack adequate affordable daycare opportunities, while other communities may be just one provider retirement or closure away from not having enough capacity to meet current daycare needs.

Understanding Perceptions of Community Needs

Throughout the stakeholder interviews, there was agreement across sectors on the two areas of greatest need: housing and mental health.

1. Housing: Safe, decent affordable housing for rent or for purchase.

The quality of both owner-occupied and rental properties is a major concern. Much of the housing stock is pre-1950s, and many properties suffer from deferred maintenance, as people remain in their homes longer and maintenance becomes unaffordable. Lead-based paint, older plumbing and electrical systems, leaky roofs and mold are some of the issues that can seriously impact the health of the occupants. More quality affordable housing is needed for both rental and homeownership, especially in the larger communities in the service area.

Quotes:

- *We have teachers every single year who can't find a home they can afford that is decent enough.*
- *It seems like a lot of houses are available but many are in disrepair, quite a few apartments are also available but not in great condition.*
- *Housing comes up often... housing that is affordable for every level, housing that is adequate. There is a lot of conversation around slum landlords.*
- *Some of the places where families live are scary... We have families that are doubled and tripled up and living in spaces not intended to be habited - basements, porches ...living in homes divided up into four or five dwellings with sheet walls... every family gets a mattress area and has a kitchen schedule... Our home visitation teams see this.*
- *Mortgage regulations that may be intended to help certain groups of people buy a home sometimes make things worse. Some banks will avoid smaller loans because of the paperwork, or the maximum amount that can be loaned is not enough to purchase the home and families need additional sources of capital, such as an organization willing to take a second mortgage.*
- *We seem to have a large transient population that may not call themselves homeless but they don't have permanent housing. There are temporary resources for people who are homeless, but not a long-term option that is easily accessible.*

Challenges:

- In some locations, housing standards are non-existent or are not enforced.
- In the last several years, rehab projects have become less affordable for homeowners. While there are several ongoing programs that support owner-occupied rehab, including rent to own (RTO); one interviewee noted that the number of affordable housing projects supported through their bank has declined in the last two years.
- Down payment and rental assistance programs, while available across the service area, are seen as underfunded.
- Some banks limit the types of mortgages they offer because of the required paperwork and the 36% of income limitation on the size of the mortgage cuts some low-income families out of the market.
- According to one interviewee, tax credit subsidies for multi-family projects have declined and without this funding, it is difficult for affordable housing developers to make these projects work.
- More rental housing with three or more bedrooms to accommodate larger families is needed. In many communities, older homes are often the only housing options with three or more bedrooms and usually need to be upgraded.
- In some areas, single renters occupying 2-bedroom public housing units face being displaced under a new rule that gives families priority for 2-bedroom units. In at least one community, there is a shortage of 1-bedroom units to accommodate single individuals who might be asked to move under the new rule.
- Higher rents in college communities have strained the limits of affordability for some families.
- Some families also need longer-term rather than one-time assistance to cover both rent and utilities. Families struggling to pay medical expenses are often in jeopardy of losing their housing.
- Supportive services for residents in multi-family housing is also a need. Using housing as a platform to deliver other services that address the social determinants of health is a strategy that has led to positive change in many communities. Current funding for some multi-family

properties do not allow moneys to be used for supportive services. Grant funds and additional staff would be needed.

Quotes:

- *People don't realize the level of need in these communities unless you drive through them on a consistent basis. It will take years to have an impact. Still, it is getting to the point in some communities where enough work has been done that you can see positive physical change.*
- *We do have some good models for housing and I think this can only be part of the systems change - communities putting better standards in their codes and holding landlords to those standards. This has to be done at the local level. There is a great model in Fairbury right now.*
- *It may be possible to work with BVCA on projects that require matching funds (Federal Home Loan Bank projects, for example). These projects would be down payment assistance or owner-occupied rehab. We really shouldn't be competing with BVCA in this area - with better communication we could be partnering.*

Opportunities:

Possible solutions offered to address housing issues include:

- Local policy work to develop housing standards and support enforcement modeled on communities like Fairbury.
- Link funding for repair to diagnosis of housing condition issues that impact health. For example, Public Health Solutions in Crete provided free radon test kits to daycare centers and if levels were high, the center received \$1000 for mitigation. The same approach could be used for housing to address mold, insect/pest infestation, or something else.
- Follow successful development models: The York Housing Authority recently partnered with a developer to build 20 new 3-bedroom units using Low Income Housing Tax Credit funding.
- Target more rent to own (RTO) arrangements or Purchase, Rehab, Resale projects. Thayer County Bank is completing the first project of this type in that county.
- Engage in more partnerships and collaboration with SENDD and local banks.
- Five communities in the service area are participating in a state workforce housing pilot program funded through the Nebraska Opportunities Fund. Funding is for new home construction to attract new workers to the community or to enable current residents to move to a new, larger home. This is not a low-income program, but participating families selling an existing home might provide opportunities for lower income buyers.
- Spec housing – BVCA could partner with contractors – this would require bank funding.
- BVCA takes a soft second on a loan; as with rent-to-own, the main issue is the process for exiting the ownership after 15 years.
- Hebron is beginning a downtown revitalization project that might eventually include upper story housing. This could be an opportunity for a partnership with BVCA.
- More collaboration on homeownership projects with partner organizations rather than competition for the same funds.

2. Mental Health and Addiction: Need for more treatment and counseling capacity locally and transportation to treatment in other communities.

Like housing, there was considerable agreement among interviewees on the need for expanding mental health and substance abuse treatment services locally. According to several interviewees, the suicide rate is high in some communities and trending up. Those populations cited as most in need of services include families with young children, individuals released from inpatient treatment, seniors who are socially (and physically) isolated, individuals diagnosed later in life, and families who are uninsured or lack adequate coverage for mental health.

Quotes:

- *There just aren't enough providers - whoever is on the waiting list, they are not being served.*

- *We have a lot of people who are unable to access services. It could be a money issue or barrier with time or stigma, for whatever reason they are not seeking help, they aren't connected to the community.*
- *I don't get a lot of buy-in from families for the behavioral services that are available - don't know why - if they don't understand the value or are just too overwhelmed by the crisis.*
- *There does seem to be more infrastructure in place for those who were diagnosed younger, but for those diagnosed later with drug abuse, bi-polar issues, etc. there is not enough help available; People don't know how to reach out for help later in life.*
- *Trauma and addiction are common among victims of assault on top of the current violence. Plus, they are only allowed 3-6 sessions with a therapist or counselor. Until they can address the addiction, it is hard to assist victims in getting to a safe place.*

Challenges:

- An insufficient number of licensed mental health providers locally, particularly providers with expertise in trauma and substance abuse. Waiting lists are long.
- Turnover in therapists at existing clinics.
- A lack of bilingual providers is an issue in some communities.
- Inadequate number of beds for longer-term treatment.
- Lack of community support services for individuals in recovery.
- Benefit limits on the number of covered provider visits – treatment is not sufficient to address the real problems.
- Lack of transportation from rural areas and small communities to larger communities that offer treatment and support.
- Difficulty in identifying families who need mental health intervention and services, particularly families with infants and toddlers that are not in contact with a caseworker or program.
- Financial access – Medicaid expansion would help with this gap.
- There is no single accessible resource for helping families determine eligibility for financial assistance for mental health and substance abuse services. Young adults newly eligible for SSI or Development Disability also need this service.
- The application process is very complex and requires a level of expertise.
- Reluctance among people of all ages to seek help.
- Lack of collaboration and communication among service providers.

Quote:

- *We need all the providers to come together and form a district-wide coalition—some of us are doing the same things, we need a comprehensive environmental scan to show what services are being provided by whom—we to identify the gaps so all of us can help communities leverage their resources.*

Solutions/Opportunities:

Several programs that address some of these needs are either in place or seeking support:

- Fillmore Central School District has a partnership with a hospital to provide a therapist in the schools three times a week. Similar programs are operating in Henderson, Sutton, and Exeter-Milligan. This arrangement helps to identify school-aged kids and families that need counseling. The school therapist also helps families with financial access.
- Public Health Solutions District Health Department has submitted a HRSA grant app for a behavioral health coalition/environmental scan. The Department is taking foundational steps to bring partners together in ways that haven't been done before, including the potential for collaborative needs assessments involving the health department and hospitals.
- The York County Health Coalition is supporting the Four Corners District Health Department's online resource directory, encouraging partners to input and keep their own information up-to-date - a benefit for residents of Polk, Butler, York and Seward counties.

- In a pilot program in York, public health nurses work with hospital case managers to identify behavioral health issues and social determinants of health to connect participants to community resources.
- Crete Connects is a one-day “one-stop shop” coming in April to connect people in poverty with service providers. It is based on a Lincoln model that has proven successful in effectively serving clients and building stronger connections between service agencies.

Other suggestions from interviewees are described below:

- Form a district-wide coalition to leverage resources and improve access.
- Partner with agencies to do community outreach about the value of care and the importance of addressing issues early.
- Designate a resource agency for determining financial eligibility and access for services.
- Training to help BVCA staff identify client behavioral health needs and make appropriate referrals.
- Strengthen communication between BVCA programs (for example: WIC, immunization) to help identify families in need of mental health services.
- Identify how and where consumers look for information about mental health and addiction counseling. Do they reach out to churches or look online? Knowing more will help develop partnerships and target communications more effectively.
- Consider home-based mental health counseling for families lacking transportation; publicize existing telehealth counseling services to reach target individuals more effectively.

3. Jobs: Linking people to jobs that pay enough to meet basic needs

Jobs with adequate pay ranked behind housing and mental health services in the number of key informants who believe it is a priority need. Many working people holding low-paying jobs cannot meet their monthly expenses, especially if childcare and transportation must be factored into the mix. Single-parent households or families where only one person is working (even multiple jobs) can be hit the hardest.

Interviewees noted limited mid-level-income job opportunities in many communities. Business closures have reduced opportunities; for example, 40 workers lost their jobs in Geneva recently with the downsizing at the Youth Rehabilitation Center.

Higher-paying positions require advanced job skills. According to one Thayer County stakeholder, larger employers seem to be always advertising for skilled positions, which might be an indication of the difficulty in finding qualified applicants to fill openings. The community college is a good resource for employers seeking individuals with special training and certification. One employer trains new hires internally, while another partners with an external training program.

Quotes:

- *We don't have a lot of mid-level jobs. We have a couple of large employers that employ a very well educated population that is highly-specialized and then we have couple of large employers whose employees have more of a base level income.*
- *There just aren't a lot of employers in the county. No manufacturing. There are some jobs available at the hospital, at Casey's, etc. I'm not sure why they aren't being filled. Maybe it's the work ethic of young people or that they can't afford to work there and pay for childcare.*
- *I think that some people aren't taking jobs because of the fear that they will jeopardize other benefits. You can't fault families because things are complicated.*
- *I look at our young people graduating from school and there are not enough life-sustaining jobs in this community - we have minimum wage and more professional jobs but we don't have the middle group - so kids are graduating and leaving the community.*

Challenges:

- Individuals may lack the education and/or skills for a better paying job.
- Individuals may not be motivated to work or may have mental health or substance abuse issues that need to be addressed.
- There are additional costs associated with working: transportation, childcare and jobs might not pay enough to afford these costs.
- Sometimes accepting a job means losing other benefits.
- Communities are losing smaller, locally owned businesses.

Opportunities:

- Stronger partnerships with employers, economic development and job training partners to address local job needs (for example, job creation linked to new housing and mental health provider challenges, the need for more case managers and better paid childcare providers).

4. Emergency assistance and longer-term support: More funding for larger expenses (like emergency repairs) and programs that provide case management/coaching

While one-time funding for small emergency needs is usually available, several interviewees said that for most people, there is little to no funding available to help with a major expense (like a car repair or purchase, medical bills, or costly home repairs). Some community financial assistance programs require that any prior support must be repaid before the person is eligible again. A few programs in the area provide longer-term support, coaching assistance, and even a savings match, but they are restricted to specific populations and have limited funding. Consequently, many people who might benefit from the types of assistance that could really help them build a better future cannot access it.

Quotes:

- *In situations where there is domestic abuse, clients do not come with transportation - they leave it behind or only had one vehicle or vehicles are not reliable. We provide assistance to clients to help buy a car, maintain a car, get gas vouchers. So we help them start over, which includes transportation issues - we advocate for many things and collaborate with other organizations and programs.*
- *There is a need for resources to acquire and maintain vehicles. We don't have a pot of money specifically for this, but they can tap into donation pot based on individual needs.*
- *Car repairs typically take the rent money. But they need to get to work or they have no money so I work with them on paying the missed rent in installments.*
- *I feel like we are seeing a lot of second and third generation of people in need. Nobody has taught them to make a budget. Their parents didn't know how to do it and didn't teach them, then comes the 2nd generation and now we're seeing third generation poverty. We need education to break that cycle - there is some of that education going on in the schools, but it's not always available.*
- *There are a lot of misconceptions out there about poverty and it's not well understood. Which is a huge barrier...Educating people is a big part...*
- *We are working to lay the groundwork for the community to be on the same page for what poverty and needs look like in our area. We have good leadership across the board with our agencies... School superintendents are excellent and want to help families beyond the classroom. We have a good group that wants to see change.*

Challenges:

- Educating the general public about the cycle of poverty and what it takes to break the cycle.
- Finding funding and establishing programs to serve broader populations based on successful models that currently target specific populations (i.e., victims of domestic abuse, foster care youth aging out of the system). A new Community Response Program in York may offer an example of a program model with broader eligibility criteria.

Quotes:

- *We have gotten a couple of calls through our Community Response program - where we can help families with children with immediate funding and related issues, where we meet with them and can offer coaching up to 3 months. We have helped in the past with car repairs, legal issues and housing; they are pretty flexible funds.... Some are not aware of how to fully take advantage of programs. Individuals come to get immediate crisis solved, but sometimes have difficulty thinking long-term to take advantage of the availability of coaches to help them.*
- *We take each family participant on a case-by-case basis. This is our first year doing it.*

Opportunities:

- Collaborate with other agencies to establish or support a funding pool for larger expenses.
- Partner with the York County Health Coalition and other organizations to use “Bridges Out of Poverty” or similar materials to promote education about poverty throughout the service area.
- Advocate with other agencies to identify additional resources to broaden eligibility requirements and serve more clients through the Community Response model or other Nebraska Children and Families Foundation-funded programs and models.
- Partner with banks and other businesses with financial expertise to offer clinics/coaching on balancing a budget, how to build and maintain credit, home buying or car buying. (Bank of the West is interested in exploring options in Gage County)

5. Childcare: Access to quality, affordable childcare

Interviewees cited the dwindling number of childcare slots in some communities, quality issues, and an environment where adequate jobs, transportation, and childcare needs all be met to sustain a healthy family. According to several interviewees, Polk and Butler counties currently lack adequate affordable childcare opportunities, while other communities are just one provider retirement or closure away from not having enough capacity to meet current childcare needs. Polk and Butler County interviewees said that having quality, affordable childcare would allow people who want to work to do so “if we could also make sure they have the transportation they need to get to work and the jobs are there in the first place.” There is also a need for affordable childcare available during all hours of the day.

Quotes:

- *We have a lot of people who don’t have transportation, have low-paying jobs, work more than one job, can’t afford childcare - a lot of important things that help people to thrive are missing ...if we can provide things in the community like high quality childcare at low cost - that would help.*
- *I believe that good early childhood services are needed in all counties. We have some bright shining stars but more is needed that is affordable - and available in off hours, not just during “normal” work hours.*
- *There have been several daycares that have recently closed down in David City because one of the parochial schools have started providing services - - there may be a need for affordable childcare that is not being filled. Angel Mayberry at ESU #7 would be a good person to contact to explore it further.*
- *While there are several quality improvement initiatives, providers are unable to determine which initiative is the right one for them. Some are perceived as more punitive than others and this makes providers apprehensive about participating. Some providers view any initiative as being a lot of extra work for few, if any, additional benefits.*

Challenges:

- Limited relationships with school personnel in Polk and Butler counties.
- Few licensed providers in the service area are part of a quality initiative.

Opportunities:

- Collaboration with ESU #7 and the schools to address daycare gaps in Polk and Butler counties.
- A coordinated campaign with key partners targeting providers with information and messaging about the various quality initiatives and the benefits.

6. Additional community needs mentioned in the interviews:

- Transportation: (Specifically in Fairmont and Stromsburg) In Fairmont there is no grocery store—they need to go out of town for groceries. Disabled tenants cannot drive, for others the barrier is financial. They can't afford a car and tenants with cars are often burdened with helping others all the time.
- Healthier environments (for chronic disease prevention) – focus on physical activity and reducing obesity
- Better information and referral networking
- Uninsured and underinsured - not accessing healthcare early
- Developing or promoting opportunities for everyone to be productive and give back to the community

ANTICIPATED EVENTS/TRENDS

Stakeholders were asked to name anticipated events or trends that might impact BVCA's future work in their communities. Along with those mentioned in other parts of this report, they cited:

- The potential for more flooding that would strain community resources.
- Saline County economic development activities: construction of a new hotel, talk of Orscheln's moving, and a rumor of adding another line at Smithfield which would bring in more worker's families when there is already overcrowding at schools.
- Interest in the revitalization of downtown Beatrice.
- 40-50 Costco chicken houses being built on farms throughout Polk and Butler counties creating more jobs, but also the potential need for increased services.
- Special populations falling through the cracks: specifically, people without children and immigrants. Related issue: difficulty hiring enough bilingual staff to help immigrant families.
- Less of a tendency to help neighbors and more of a focus on self and own family.

Quotes:

- *I'm concerned that flooding is only going to get more and more severe - and communities and counties are not equipped for that.*
- *Because the pay is higher, schools often get the bilingual hires instead of Head Start and Early Head Start. This can lead families who speak English as a second language to feel that BVCA cannot serve them effectively if they don't have sufficient interpreters and translators.*
- *I'm feeling a shift in this country and within the state to a very "take care of my own" philosophy - to focus on yourself versus others in the community which leads to people not having interest or buy-in.*

AWARENESS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the questions about community needs, stakeholders were asked their perceptions about community awareness of BVCA's work – both among individuals and families who might qualify for BVCA services, and in the community at large. Interviewees were also asked to talk about the potential for strengthening community partnerships. Major themes that emerged were:

1. Awareness – Blue Valley Community Action's food programs, thrift stores and emergency services are more visible in some communities than the agency's other programs designed to provide longer-term solutions. As a result, clients may not be accessing all of the services that might be available to help them and community support for agency activities may not be as high as it could be.
2. Partnerships – Strong participation in community coalitions along with enhanced communication with partners and community stakeholders could lead to better client referrals and outcomes, more effective service delivery, increased collaboration, and greater community impact.

Understanding Perceptions about Awareness

Quotes:

- *In our county (Gage) there appears to be a core group of resource "super-users" and then another group that doesn't know where to go. There is no central hub for information.*
- *Some people know they are struggling, but think that is how life is. They don't know they might be eligible for services. Need to target communications to these groups: "Are you in this situation? We can help...Call..."*
- *I think that people are aware of the BVCA building in Osceola, but to what extent they are aware of services available, I'm not sure. There are no offices in other towns in the county. I think there is a lot that people don't know. It needs to be better advertised – I never see it in the Polk County news.*
- *I don't believe that BVCA is well-known with newer people to community. Maybe to those who have been around a long time because BVCA has been around a long time, but programs have changed. Not sure everyone understands everything they are involved in.*
- *The people involved in the initial collaboration have turned over. I think there needs to be more community meetings, breakfast downtown - - meet with city liaison and get information in front of the people who could be doing referrals - meet with administrators and guidance counselors in the building. More people need to know what is available.*
- *We try to not to overlap and we refer people over to Blue Valley – but sometimes we don't close the loop, we don't know if they went. Closing the loop is important.*

Challenges:

- In some communities, BVCA is seen as a food pantry and/or resale clothing store. There is a need to broaden that perception.
- In communities where there is no physical BVCA building presence, there may be a perception that no services are available.
- BVCA's programs and eligibility criteria can be complex and always changing and are not the same in every county.
- Personnel changes among partner organizations require constant monitoring and consistent communication.
- Follow-up for client referrals can be difficult with confidentiality requirements.

Opportunities:

- Develop communication tools (monthly e-newsletter and annual "thank you partners" open house) for all personnel who serve in referral/case manager role to build a clear understanding of BVCA programs and a direct referral line to appropriate BVCA program staff.
- Where there is an office or thrift store, assure that information on all available BVCA programs are promoted to all customers all the time.
- Do succinct overview presentations about community needs and BVCA mission, goals and program areas for leadership personnel in schools, hospitals, senior centers/transit programs, economic development entities, chambers of commerce organizations and with other service providers to explore collaborative opportunities.
- Have a spokesperson for Rotary, Elks and other service clubs, emphasizing community impact and collaborative potential.

- Strengthen relationships with school personnel in counties with limited reach and use the schools as the first informational line to reach families with basic information about services available.
- Advertise wider variety of services in newspapers with success stories.
- Increase visibility for all programming in social media. Link to other service providers and stakeholders on Facebook when appropriate.
- Be an active participant in community and service provider coalitions.

Specific Opportunities for Partnerships:

- Banks and other financial institutions - Help in breaking the generational poverty cycle with classes on balancing a budget, what to do to build and maintain credit, home buying, car buying. Opportunities for partnering to fund housing rehab projects.
- Service Providers/Health Departments/ Hospitals/ESU's/Schools – Support the need for more case managers to do referrals and provide better navigation to get people to the services they need, collaborative programming and community needs assessments, community education about poverty, and advocacy to support policy, environment, and systems change.
- Housing organizations, economic development organizations, employment and job training programs and employers – Through homebuyer education, housing quality inspections, housing studies, matching funds for Federal Home Loan Bank projects, collaborative rehab and housing development, downtown revitalization projects, targeted job training programs and advocacy to support policy, environment, and systems change.

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

What would you say are the top three needs in your community/service area that are not currently being met or where the current level or type of service needs to be greatly enhanced?

For each need, can you talk a bit about who needs the service(s), the underlying reasons why the need is not being met or service is inadequate, and if you know of anything that is being done to address the issue.

If not addressed above:

Do you feel there is the need for more affordable early childhood education services in your county or counties? Explain.

Is there a need to help people fund emergency or one-time home repairs or car repairs? Are there resources currently available? Do people who need the services qualify?

Do you feel there are enough emergency services available to help families in crisis? Explain.

Is youth homelessness a growing, unmet problem in your area?

What are some current or anticipated events, projects or trends that could change the need for certain services in your community?

Do you see opportunities or benefits to strengthening your organization's relationship with Community Action? Explain.

Do you believe that the majority of people who could benefit from Community Action's programs are aware of services that are available?

Do you think that community stakeholders who could support the agency are well informed about its work?

If awareness is not as high as it should be, how could this be improved?

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWEES		
County – Sector(s)	Organization	Contact
Jefferson – Business, Community Service	Jefferson Community Health and Life	Lana Likens (Also Fairbury Rotary)
Gage – Business, Community Service	Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center	Gina Heckey, Senior Executive
York – Community Service	York County Health Coalition	Erin Sams, Coordinator
Jefferson, Fillmore, Gage, Saline, Seward, York, Thayer – Community Service	Hope Crisis Center	Carmen Hinman, Executive Director
Butler – Community Service	Rotary Club, David City	Amy Salma, Rotary President
Gage, Jefferson, Thayer - Education	ESU 5	Sarah Roesler, Speech Language Pathologist and Early Childhood Coordinator
Saline – Education	Crete Public Schools	Diane Bruha, Special Program Director
Seward, York, Saline, Fillmore - Education	ESU 6	Michele Rayburn, SPED Supervisor
Polk - Education	Retired Title I Teacher, Osceola	Roxie Paige
Jefferson - Faith-based	American Lutheran Church, Fairbury	Pastor Brian Julin-McCleary
Gage - Faith-based, Community Service	Beatrice Community Food Pantry	Karen Mains, Coordinator
Butler, Polk - Faith-based	Salvation Army, Columbus Outpost	Charlene Wilson, Corps Officer
York - Government	York Housing Authority	Cindy Naber, Director
Saline, Thayer, Gage, Jefferson, Fillmore - Government	Public Health Solutions, Public Health Department	Kim Showalter, Director
Seward, York, Butler, Polk - Government	Four Corners Public Health Department	Laura McDougal, Director
Thayer - Business	Thayer County Economic Development Alliance	Patrick Kenner, CEO of Thayer County Bank and Chair of Thayer County EDA
Gage - Business	Bank of the West	Lisa Hill, Branch Manager
Gage, Polk, York, Seward, Thayer, Fillmore, Saline, Jefferson - Business	Southeast NE Development District	Jim Warrelmann, Housing Director
Fillmore - Business	Fillmore County Development Corporation	Kacee Thompson, Director

APPENDIX IV: COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

Between September and December 2019, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA) gathered input from current clients about needs, use of services and behaviors. Paper surveys were distributed to client by staff during client encounters, including home visits and customers shopping in the thrift stores, in the nine county service area. Thrift store customers are counted as 'non-clients' if they so identified on the survey. Clients are those individuals who listed services received from BVCA. The survey was available in both English and Spanish. A total of 479 individuals completed the survey.

SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY

BLUE VALLEY community Action
PARTNERSHIP
Helping People. Changing Lives.
Visit us at www.bvca.net

Service Needs Survey
Please help us learn more about your needs! Complete this short survey before December 16 and enter a drawing to win a \$25 VISA gift card. You must complete the survey to be eligible to win a gift card. One entry per household please. Ten winners will be selected!

1. County where you live _____ 2. What is your gender? ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

3. What is your age? ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65 or older

4. Including yourself, how many adults age 18 or older live in your household? ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three or more

5. How many children under age 18 live in your household? ☐ None ☐ 1-2 ☐ 3-4 ☐ 5 or more

6. Are you: ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino 7. Are you a Veteran? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Do you: ☐ Rent your home ☐ Own your home ☐ Live with family or someone else

9. How would you describe the overall condition of your home or apartment/the place where you live?
☐ My home is in good condition and needs no repairs, **GO TO Q10**
☐ My home needs one or more repairs as follows: Check all that apply

☐ Roofing ☐ Heating or cooling ☐ Plumbing or electrical
☐ Water heater ☐ Siding or painting ☐ Mold cleanup
☐ Weatherization ☐ Windows, doors, porches ☐ Driveway or sidewalks
☐ Appliance(s) ☐ Foundation ☐ Other _____

10. The next questions are about housing. For each of the following, please check whether the issue is a 'major concern,' a 'minor concern,' 'not a concern at all' or 'does not apply' to you.

	Major concern	Minor concern	Not a concern	Does not apply to me
Finding affordable housing that fits my family's needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Qualifying to buy a home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting financial help for home maintenance or repairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting financial help with rent payments or deposits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding my credit score and how to improve it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. The following questions are about work and transportation. Please check whether the problem is a 'major concern,' a 'minor concern,' 'not a concern at all' or 'does not apply' to you.

	Major concern	Minor concern	Not a concern	Does not apply to me
Getting education or training for the job that I want	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding a permanent full-time job that will support me and/or my family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowing what jobs are available in my community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having dependable transportation to and from work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting financial help to buy or repair a vehicle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

GO TO NEXT PAGE

12. In the last 12 months, how frequently did the following happen in your household:

	Often	Sometimes	Never	Don't know or does not apply
Used credit cards to pay monthly expenses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paid mortgage or rent late	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paid utility bills late	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Used payday loan services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Took money from savings to pay day-to-day expenses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Threatened with repossession or eviction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paid only the required minimum amount on a credit card bill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Followed a written budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Put money in savings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did not have enough food for you/your family until the next pay day	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did not see a doctor when needed because of the cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please answer Q13 if you have one or more children age 5 or younger living with you. Otherwise, SKIP TO Q14.

13. Please check whether the problem is a 'major concern,' a 'minor concern,' or 'not a concern at all.'

	Major concern	Minor concern	Not a concern
Finding childcare for preschoolers (ages 3-5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding childcare for babies or toddlers (under age 3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting financial help with childcare costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Are you currently receiving services through Blue Valley Community Action? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what types of services are you currently receiving through Blue Valley Community Action? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Head Start/Early Head Start ☐ Housing (rental, home-buying, or repair/weatherization)
☐ Budgeting/Money Management ☐ Emergency Financial Assistance (housing, utilities, medical, car repair)
☐ Health Services ☐ Food Programs
☐ Transportation ☐ Teen or Young Adult Services
☐ Senior Services ☐ Veteran's Services
☐ Job Preparation/Training ☐ Other Please describe _____

15. What additional services or assistance, if any, do you need at this time?

For entry into the drawing to win one of ten \$25 VISA gift cards, please provide contact information below.
Drawing to be held at the end of December.

Name _____ Address _____
City and Zip _____ Phone _____

BVCA COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY RESULTS—JUNE 2020

Responses by County	Number (all surveys)	Percent	Number (BVCA clients)	Percent
Saline	113	22.7%	81	24.9%
Polk	13	2.6%	11	3.4%
Fillmore	50	10.0%	39	12.0%
Gage	137	27.5%	77	23.7%
York	103	20.7%	58	17.8%
Seward	16	3.2%	10	3.1%
Jefferson	12	2.4%	11	3.4%
Thayer	21	4.2%	15	4.6%
Butler	14	2.8%	7	2.2%
Other	19	3.8%	16	4.9%
Total	498	100.0%	325	100.0%

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	60	12.3%
Female	425	87.4%
Other	1	0.2%
Total	486	100%

Age	Frequency	Valid Percent
Under 18	4	0.8%
18-24	68	13.8%
25-34	190	38.5%
35-44	103	20.9%
45-54	31	6.3%
55-64	28	5.7%
65 or older	70	14.2%
Total	494	100%

Number of adults in household	Frequency	Valid Percent
One	195	39.9%
Two	229	46.8%
Three or more	65	13.3%
Total	489	100%

Number of children in household	Frequency	Valid Percent
None	104	21%
1 to2	204	41.2%
3 to 4	153	30.9%
5 or more	34	6.9%
Total	495	100%

Are you Hispanic or Latinx?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	112	24.1%
No	353	75.9%
Total	465	100%

Do you rent or own the place where you live or something else?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Rent	314	62.8%	64.1%
Own	135	27%	27.6%
Live with family or someone else	41	8.2%	8.4%
Total	490	98%	100%
Missing	10	2%	
Total	500	100%	

How would you describe the condition of your home /apartment?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Good conditions/needs no repairs	290	61.6%
Needs one or more repairs	181	38.4%
Total	471	100%

Breakout by rent v. own

Rental needing repair	35.7%	No sign diff
Owner needing repair	45.9%	
Rental good condition	64.3%	
Owner good condition	54.1%	

Areas needing repair	Percent
Windows, doors, porches	56.0%
Weatherization	44.9%
Siding or painting	32.9%
Foundation	31.9%
Plumbing or electrical	29.5%
Roof	25.6%
Heating or cooling	24.2%
Driveway or sidewalk	21.3%
Appliances	18.8%
Mold	12.1%
Water heater	10.6%
Other	8.8%

Concerns	% of respondents answering the question			
	Major	Minor	Not a concern	Number of responses
Finding affordable housing	28.5%	24.4%	32.4%	344
Qualifying to buy a home	29.6%	26.6%	43.9%	301
Help with home maintenance or	36.1%	34.3%	29.6%	108 <i>homeowners only</i>
Help with rent or deposits	20.7%	33.1%	46.3%	242 <i>renters only</i>
Understanding credit score	16.2%	26.9%	56.9%	383

Concerns	% of respondents answering the question			
	Major	Minor	Not a concern	Number of responses
Getting education for a job	14.3%	20.8%	64.9%	342
Finding a permanent job	17.6%	21.6%	60.8%	352
Knowing jobs available	12.4%	27.0%	60.6%	355
Having dependable transportation to work	17.5%	17.5%	64.9%	365
Getting help to buy or fix a vehicle	23.4%	27.9%	48.8%	402

Financial behaviors	Often	Sometimes	Never	Number responding
Use credit to pay monthly bills	13.4%	27.6%	59.0%	366
Paid mortgage or rent late	9.6%	29.6%	60.7%	405
Paid utility bills late	13.2%	35.4%	51.4%	418
Use payday loans	3.5%	11.7%	84.7%	367
Used saving to pay day to day bills	14.2%	33.5%	52.2%	379
Repossession or eviction	3.2%	13.3%	83.6%	377
Paid minimum on credit card	23.0%	23.3%	53.6%	330
Followed a written budget	23.6%	33.7%	42.6%	406
Put money in savings	9.0%	44.5%	46.5%	409
Not enough food	13.9%	32.3%	53.8%	431
Did not see dr. because of cost	19.6%	32.9%	47.6%	429

Childcare	Often	Sometimes	Never	Number responding
Finding childcare for preschoolers	8.6%	18.0%	73.4%	338
Finding care of infants	10.9%	17.1%	72.1%	340
Getting financial help for childcare	12.5%	22.3%	65.2%	336

Currently receiving BVCA services	Number	Percent
Yes	326	66.7%
No	163	33.3%
	489	

Services	Number	% of receiving
Head Start	136	41.8%
Money management	4	1.2%
Health	11	3.4%
Transportation	9	2.8%
Senior Services	20	6.2%
Job training/prep	0	
Emergency assistance	18	5.6%
Food programs (WIC, Food Pantry, Youth	134	41.4%
Veterans	2	0.6%
Other	23	7.2%
	357	

Food security	Often	Sometimes	Never	
Did not have enough food				
BVCA clients	15.6%	27.4%	56.9%	Sig at .005
Non-clients	9.6%	43.0%	47.4%	

Differences by Latinx and non-Latinx	Latinx	Non-Latinx	
Age	N=109	N=352	
Under 18	0.9%	0.6%	Sig at .000
18-24	18.2%	13.4%	
25-34	50.5%	36.9%	
35-44	24.8%	20.5%	
45-54	2.8%	7.1%	
55-64	9.0%	6.8%	
65 or older	1.8%	14.8%	
Total			

Finding housing that fits my family's needs	Latinx	Non-Latinx	
Major	18.2%	31.2%	Sig at .028
Minor	22.7%	24.9%	
No concern	59.1%	43.9%	

Getting education for the job that I want	Latinx	Non-Latinx	
Major	23%	11%	Sig at .022
Minor	18%	22%	
No concern	59%	67%	

Knowing jobs that are available	Latinx	Non-Latinx	
Major	16%	11%	Sig at .06
Minor	33%	25%	
No concern	51%	65%	

Financial help to buy or repair a vehicle	Latinx	Non-Latinx	
Major	17%	26%	Sig at .055
Minor	23%	29%	
No concern	60%	46%	

What additional services do you need?

- ADC
- *Ayuda con la renta o pagos de bill*
- *Budgeting and money management, housing repairs*
- *Budgeting, money management*
- *Can't think of anything right now*
- *car fixed, alternator broke off and tires are bad; windshield is badly cracked, need new battery*
- *car repair*
- *Childcare assistance, food service help*
- *Childcare subsidy*
- *Clean and maintain the park we have*
- *Concern for a handrail. The wind is so strong here and with no windbreak it is dangerous. A visitor was knocked over and broke her wrist. Concern for the ice on the driveway - getting to the care and getting out.*
- *Early HeadStart*
- *Electric bill, rent, weatherization*
- *Emergency financial assistance*
- *energy assistance, food programs*
- *financial assistance for monthly bills and car repair*
- *Financial assistance with bills - ?? credit cards*
- *food, gifts*
- *foodstamps*
- *Getting current on bills*
- *Getting/having enough gas to get to and from College, fixing my home (I am renting to own), budgeting-staying above water*
- *Give many thanks to Julie for helping and being a GREAT support!*
- *Health insurance*
- *help finding housing, deposit*
- *help getting a reliable car, also getting and education*
- *Help paying electric and water bill due to myself and my husband being out of work for 6 weeks or more for medical reasons*
- *Help paying light bill*
- *Help with finances to repair house and car*
- *help with gas money for back and forth to work and help on a little rent*
- *Help with propane*
- *Help with rent, eviction today*
- *Help with utilities*
- *Homebuying (housing) health services*
- *Housing*
- *Housing*
- *Housing is rent to own arrangement, needs weatherization assistance*
- *Housing repair - weatherization*
- *Housing, teen services, help with car*
- *I have a doorknob that needs replaced. It is on the main door. Key sticks in the door and won't come out. I called emergency number on the 6th but have not heard anything back so far.*

- *I need beds for my baby.*
- *In Project FIRST*
- *In Project FIRST*
- *Just Christmas toys for the kids*
- *Major health issues - afraid that if all my bills come due and rent goes up I will not be able to handle it.*
- *May need help paying water due to disconnect 12/31/19*
- *medical*
- *moved because of health and financial reasons. Can't fix things once broken and my health is bad forced to move to an apartment*
- *need a reliable vehicle*
- *Need food and clothing assistance. Didn't receive SNAP this month.*
- *Need help finding a place to live and car*
- *Need help paying deposits when I find a place to live. Because of bedbug problems we are leaving most of what we have so we will need furniture and clothes that fit everyone. Also since the boys are in school, they will need internet to do some of their assignments.*
- *Need help with gas to get my son to school and me and son to work/school. Need help registering my car- can't afford tags.*
- *none*
- *none*
- *none*
- *none*
- *Once baby is born, I do not qualify for paid maternity leave. I am the sole income in my household. Assistance from Feb-March would help.*
- *Once helped me with a deposit payment. On Medicaid*
- *Permanent, full-time job*
- *Persons to contact for short term, low hour help after an illness or surgery, that doesn't cost \$30 per hour/ This could help keep seniors in their homes.*
- *Small amount of help with mortgage/utility bills, or care credit -credit card*
- *to actually have the ability to have vehicle repair assistance programs*
- *Transportation*
- *Truck repairs from time to time; help with alternative health to help with breathing - have a severe allergy to 1st, 2nd, 3rd hand smoke, my days are a real struggle to survive. None of the government agencies are able to help*
- *Utilities and food sometimes*
- *Utility bill assistance*
- *Utility bills*
- *vehicle repair - major concern with winter*
- *weatherization*
- *Win the lottery*
- *Would like to get my rent reduced*
- *Would like to see first choice address some issues with the duplex - doors issues, inside painting, refrigerator issues, window well covers, roof looked at*

APPENDIX V: CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

Between the months of September and December 2019, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA) staff distributed paper surveys to participants of Community Action programs. The one-page survey asked customers to identify agency program(s) in which they currently participate, allowed customers the opportunity to rate the quality of services received, their level of satisfaction with services and treatment by staff. The survey also consisted of standard demographic questions (age, gender, and ethnicity). The survey was available in both English and Spanish. A total of 356 customers completed the survey.

BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP CUSTOMER SURVEY

BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP CUSTOMER SURVEY

Program: _____ County: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for taking the time to tell Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) Partnership how we are doing so that we can provide the best services possible to meet your needs.

1. Overall, how would you rate the quality of services received as part of this program?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor
2. To what extent have the services provided through this program met your needs?
☐ Almost all of my needs have been met ☐ Only a few of my needs have been met
☐ Most of my needs have been met ☐ None of my needs have been met

If you have needs that are not being met, please describe them here: _____

3. Did staff members offer you additional information about other programs that might help you and your family?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
4. How would you rate staff members' knowledge of BVCA Partnership's programs and services?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

5. Please mark your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree
Staff members treat me with respect.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel welcome when I visit the facility.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The facility is clean and comfortable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Because of BVCA Partnership's help, I have improved my situation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Would you recommend this program or service to others?
☐ Definitely yes ☐ Probably yes ☐ Probably no ☐ Definitely no
7. How did you first hear about this program or service?
☐ Family or friends ☐ Referral from program not part of BVCA Partnership
☐ Internet ☐ Referral from another BVCA Partnership program
☐ Other: _____
☐ Not sure
8. What does your family struggle with the most? _____
9. What language do you speak at home? ☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Another language: _____
10. What is your age? ☐ 18-23 ☐ 24-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75 or older
11. What is your gender? ☐ Male ☐ Female
12. Are you Hispanic or Latino? ☐ Yes ☐ No
13. What is your race? ☐ African American ☐ White
☐ Asian or Pacific Island ☐ Native American
☐ Other: _____

If you have anything else you want us to know, please use the space below. If you wish to be contacted, please **PRINT** your name & contact information. Thank You!

CONSUMER FEEDBACK REPORT—FY 2019

October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019 | Total Responses: 574

CONSUMER SATISFACTION

I was treated with respect.

99.65% Agreed

The services and/or information were adequate for my needs.

99.48% Agreed

The facility was adequate for my needs.

98.95% Agreed

I would recommend this service to others.

99.65% Agreed



WHAT DOES YOUR FAMILY STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST?



SURVEYS BY COUNTY		
County	Number Responding	Percent
Butler	4	1.1%
Fillmore	77	21.6%
Gage	91	25.6%
Jefferson	4	1.1%
Polk	4	1.1%
Saline	53	14.9%
Seward	20	5.6%
Thayer	0	0%
York	84	23.6%
Other Areas	18	5.1%
Total	356	100%

SURVEYS BY PROGRAM		
Program	Number Responding	Percent
Foster Grandparents	69	19.4%
Head Start and Early HS	31	8.7%
CSFP	0	0%
Rental Housing	37	10.4%
Housing Counseling	2	0.6%
FCS Centers	96	27%
WIC	121	34%
SSVF	0	0
Total	356	100%

OTHER QUESTION PERCENTAGES						
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
Overall quality of services		77.5%	20.5%	1.1%	0	
Rate staff knowledge		72.8%	22.5%	1.1%	0	
		Almost all	Most	Few	None	
Extent service needs met		62.4%	30.1%	2.8%	0	
		Yes	No	Not sure		
Additional info provided		76.7%	9.3%	9.0%		
		Strongly agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Strongly Disagree	
Staff members treat w/respect		92.1%	5.6%	0.3%	0	
I feel welcome		87.4%	6.5%	0.6%	0	
Facility is clean		86.5%	7.9%	0	0	
I have improved my situation		76.4%	16.0%	0.3%	0	
		Definitely yes	Probably yes	Probably no	Definitely no	
Would recommend to others		83.1%	14.0%	0	0	
		Family or friends	Internet	Outside referral	Internal referral	Other or not sure
How did you hear about BVCA?		67.1%	3.4%	3.7%	4.8%	19.6%
		English	Spanish	Other		
Language		89%	12.6%	0.8%		
	18-23	24-34	35-44	45-64	65-74	75+
Age	8.7%	29.8%	13.8%	16.5%	14.6%	14.9%
		Male	Female			
Sex		11.2%	86.8%			
		Yes	No			
Hispanic		16.3%	82.0%			
		African American	White	Asian or Pacific Is.	Native American	Other
Race		1.7%	82.3%	1.1%	0.3%	7.9%

APPENDIX VI. AGENCY SERVICE DATA

BVCA Partnership Client Demographics

Module 4, Section C: All Characteristics Report - Data Entry Form

Goal 1: Individuals and Families with low-incomes are stable and achieve economic security.

Name of CSBG Eligible Entity Reporting:

A. Total unduplicated number of all INDIVIDUALS about whom one or more characteristics were obtained:

B. Total unduplicated number of all HOUSEHOLDS about whom one or more characteristics were obtained:

C. INDIVIDUAL LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Gender	Number of Individuals
a. Male	4264
b. Female	4504
c. Other	2
d. Unknown/not reported	211
e. TOTAL (auto calculated)	8981

Section C.1 Status

2. Age	Number of Individuals
a. 0-5	1809
b. 6-13	1437
c. 14-17	478
d. 18-24	635
e. 25-44	1899
f. 45-54	517
g. 55-59	250
h. 60-64	356
i. 65-74	533
j. 75+	441
k. Unknown/not reported	626
l. TOTAL (auto calculated)	8981

Section C.2 Status

3. Education Levels	Number of Individuals
	[Ages 14-24] [Ages 25+]
a. Grades 0-8	215 192
b. Grades 9-12/Non-Graduate	308 692
c. High School Graduate/ Equivalency Diploma	228 1880
d. 12 grade + Some Post-Secondary	41 624
e. 2 or 4 years College Graduate	5 396
f. Graduate of other post-secondary school	5 111
g. Unknown/not reported	311 101
h. TOTAL (auto calculated)	1113 3996

Section C.3 Status

4. Disconnected Youth	Number of Individuals
a. Youth ages 14-24 who are neither working or in school	190

5. Health	Number of Individuals
	Yes No Unknown
a. Disabling Condition	1477 4818 2686
	Yes No Unknown
b. Health Insurance*	5251 1470 2260

*If an individual reported that they had Health Insurance please identify the source of health insurance below.

Health Insurance Sources

c.1. Medicaid	1951
c.2. Medicare	997
c.3. State Children's Health Insurance Program	968
c.4. State Health Insurance for Adults	7
c.5. Military Health Care	189

6. Ethnicity/Race	Number of Individuals
a. Ethnicity	
a.1. Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origins	1835
a.2. Not Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origins	6798
a.3. Unknown/not reported	348
a.4. TOTAL (auto calculated)	8981

Section C.6a Status

b. Race	Number of Individuals
b.1. American Indian or Alaska Native	70
b.2. Asian	43
b.3. Black or African American	159
b.4. Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	19
b.5. White	8111
b.6. Other	0
b.7. Multi-race (two or more of the above)	222
b.8. Unknown/not reported	357
b.9. TOTAL (auto calculated)	8981

Section C.6b Status

7. Military Status	Number of Individuals
a. Veteran	353
b. Active Military	2
c. Unknown/not reported	0
d. TOTAL (auto calculated)	355

Section C.7 Status

8. Work Status (Individuals 18+)	Number of Individuals
a. Employed Full-Time	835
b. Employed Part-Time	306
c. Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker	3
d. Unemployed (Short-Term, 6 months or less)	609
e. Unemployed (Long-Term, more than 6 months)	210
f. Unemployed (Not in Labor Force)	926
g. Retired	999
h. Unknown/not reported	743
i. Total (autocalculated)	4631

Section C.8 Status

Module 4, Section C: All Characteristics Report - Data Entry Form
Goal 1: Individuals and Families with low-incomes are stable and achieve economic security.

Name of CSBG Eligible Entity Reporting:

#REF!

- c.6. Direct-Purchase
- c.7. Employment Based
- c.8. Unknown/not reported
- c.9. TOTAL (auto calculated)

665
635
3578
8981

Section C.5 Status

D. HOUSEHOLD LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS

9. Household Type	Number of Households
a. Single Person	1269
b. Two Adults NO Children	264
c. Single Parent Female	385
d. Single Parent Male	47
e. Two Parent Household	563
f. Non-related Adults with Children	20
g. Multigenerational Household	134
h. Other	26
i. Unknown/not reported	897
j. TOTAL (auto calculated)	3605

Section D.9 Status

10. Household Size	Number of Households
a. Single Person	1269
b. Two	482
c. Three	326
d. Four	278
e. Five	201
f. Six or more	152
g. Unknown/not reported	897
h. TOTAL (auto calculated)	3605

Section D.10 Status

11. Housing	Number of Households
a. Own	661
b. Rent	1687
c. Other permanent housing	147
d. Homeless	206
e. Other	1
f. Unknown/not reported	903
g. TOTAL (auto calculated)	3605

Section D.11 Status

12. Level of Household Income (% of HHS Guideline)	Number of Households
a. Up to 50%	696
b. 51% to 75%	382
c. 76% to 100%	557
d. 101% to 125%	557
e. 126% to 150%	231
f. 151% to 175%	113
g. 176% to 200%	59
h. 201% to 250%	84
i. 250% and over	22

13. Sources of Household Income	Number of Households
a. Income from Employment Only	367
b. Income from Employment and Other Income Source	82
c. Income from Employment, Other Income Source, and Non-Cash Benefits	156
d. Income from Employment and Non-Cash Benefits	468
e. Other Income Source Only	471
f. Other Income Source and Non-Cash Benefits	854
g. No Income	30
h. Non-Cash Benefits Only	277
i. Unknown/not reported	900
j. TOTAL (auto calculated)	3605

Section D.13 Status

Below, please report the types of Other income and/or non-cash benefits received by the households who reported sources other than employment

14. Other Income Source	Number of Households
a. TANF	28
b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	311
c. Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)	325
d. VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation	44
e. VA Non-Service Connected Disability Pension	31
f. Private Disability Insurance	4
g. Worker's Compensation	4
h. Retirement Income from Social Security	790
i. Pension	69
j. Child Support	162
k. Alimony or other Spousal Support	3
l. Unemployment Insurance	11
m. EITC	0
n. Other	48
o. Unknown/not reported	0

Section D.14 Status

15. Non-Cash Benefits	Number of Households
a. SNAP	1132
b. WIC	794
c. LIHEAP	85
d. Housing Choice Voucher	142
e. Public Housing	532
f. Permanent Supportive Housing	0
g. HUD-VASH	42
h. Childcare Voucher	21
i. Affordable Care Act Subsidy	2
j. Other	14
k. Unknown/not reported	0

Module 4, Section C: All Characteristics Report

BVCA Partnership Services

	BUTLER	FILLMORE	GAGE	JEFFERSON	POLK	SALINE	SEWARD	THAYER	YORK
Blue River Child Care & Preschool <i>High quality, early childhood education and care program for children six weeks through twelve years of age. Provides developmentally age appropriate educational activities in all care settings and nutritionally approved meals to all children in a licensed facility.</i>						●			
Bridge to Care <i>Provides breast health education and limited financial assistance to low-income and minority populations for clinical breast exams, mammograms and diagnostic mammograms. Developed to bridge language and other barriers clients may experience in receiving health education and services.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) <i>Government purchased food commodities are distributed to income eligible individuals age 60 and older to foster good health and nutrition.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Compassionate Projects <i>Volunteers, community groups & local businesses donate time, materials, food, toys, skills & love which are used in a variety of seasonal holiday projects, especially at Christmas, benefiting low-income individuals & families.</i>	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Diversity Education <i>Provides training to staff and communities. Raising awareness of cultural differences within our society. Focusing on differences in race, religion, ethnicity and socioeconomics.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Early Head Start <i>A home-based program that provides pregnant women and children, birth to three, with family centered services and activities.</i>		●	●	●		●		●	●
Early Head Start - Childcare Partnership Program <i>BYCA partners with child care providers who agree to meet the Head Start Program Standards which includes comprehensive and continuous services to low-income infants, toddlers and their families. The partnerships increase quality care and education to a center-based option while parents are working or going to school.</i>				●		●			
Emergency Assistance <i>Donated funds are used to assist low-income people with small emergencies.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Emergency Solutions Program <i>Assists individuals and families who are literally homeless or imminently at risk of homelessness by providing housing relocation and stabilization services to help quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Family & Youth Involvement Center—FYI Center <i>Provides a safe, supervised pro-social environment for youth in 1st-12th grades during after and out of school time. Serves as a venue for academic support, youth leadership opportunities, computer technology, health and fitness, service learning, civic engagement, and substance abuse prevention education.</i>				●					
Focused Youth on Rehousing, Empowerment & Stability (FYRES) <i>Works with youth who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Works together with youth to identify and obtain housing, work on retaining that housing, connect to supports and resources, & to address the issues which led them to the homeless situation.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Food Security Programs <i>Individuals and families who are facing a shortage of food are assisted through the generosity of donations by individuals, communities, organizations and businesses. There are various options for securing food.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Foster Grandparent Program <i>Provides opportunities for low-income persons, 55 years & older, to give supportive person-to-person service to help alleviate the physical, mental, or emotional problems of children having exceptional or special needs.</i>		●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Head Start <i>A nationally renowned child development program for preschool children ages 3 to 5, which stresses parent involvement, education, social services and health.</i>		●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Homeownership Opportunity Program (HOP) <i>Provides down-payment assistance for first-time homebuyers as well as homebuyer education.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Housing Development <i>Construction of affordable rental housing units &/or lease-to-own units.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Housing Counseling <i>Provides housing counseling services to potential homebuyers. Services consist of pre-purchase workshops and one-on-one case management. Individuals enrolled in the program will agree to make a 6-24 month commitment to get them "mortgage ready".</i>	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
Housing Rentals <i>Affordable rental housing and lease-to-own properties are available to income eligible families.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
<i>Lease-to-own homes</i>		●	●			●			●
<i>Rental Duplexes</i>		●							
<i>Apartments</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
<i>Elderly Apartments</i>	●		●						

Also:
 Johnson,
 Nemaha,
 Pawnee,
 Richardson

If a needs
 assessment
 indicates
 a need.

	BUTLER	FILLMORE	GAGE	JEFFERSON	POLK	SALINE	SEWARD	THAYER	YORK
Infant/Toddler Quality Early Childhood Initiative Program <i>Provides professional development and support to home-based, center-based, and child care staff to improve quality care.</i>			•	•		•			
Information and Referral Services <i>Local staff provides needed information regarding services, make appropriate referrals to community organizations, agencies and other resources, and complete follow-up services.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Opportunity Passport <i>Assists young people with purchasing assets that are critical to their success as they transition into adulthood. The program is a matched savings, asset-building program which includes financial literacy education and asset-specific training. Only youth enrolled in the Rural Southeast Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative are eligible for this program.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Also: Cass, Otoe, Johnson, Nebraska, Pawnee, Richardson
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation <i>Low & moderate income homeowners are offered low-interest loans &/or forgivable loans to rehabilitate homes to meet health & safety needs, limited by type or extent of work needed.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Project FIRST (Families in Residence with Support in Transition) <i>Homeless families engage in family development process to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing. Transitional housing is provided in scattered site rental units.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rural Southeast Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative <i>Unconnected young people are provided opportunities to connect to services, offered coaching services, and youth leadership development opportunities. Eligibility requirements are youth ages 14-24, who have experienced foster care, or have had juvenile justice involvement and/or have experienced homelessness or are at risk of homelessness, and have no family support.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Also: Cass, Otoe, Johnson, Nebraska, Pawnee, Richardson
Rural Transportation <i>County-wide transportation services within and out-of-the-county are available for a small fee for general public, with elderly and handicapped residents given priority.</i>		•							
Scholarship Opportunities <i>As part of a competitive application process, scholarships are available to income-eligible individuals planning to attend college. Scholarships can be used for tuition, books and fees associated with enrollment.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SNAP Outreach <i>BVCA is partnering with the Food Bank for the Heartland to increase awareness, provide education, and increase participation in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). BVCA staff will assist applicants with the online SNAP application.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SOAR (SSI/SSDI OUTREACH, ACCESS & RECOVERY) <i>Soar is a program developed to assist people through the process of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Also: Sawaders, Lancaster, Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster, Nebraska, Cass, Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Richardson Also: Cass, Otoe, Johnson, Nebraska, Pawnee, Richardson, Douglas, Sarpy NE, Pottawattamie, IA
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) <i>The goal of the SSVF is to promote housing stability among very low-income Veteran families who reside in or are transitioning to permanent housing. Through provision of outreach and case management, assistance is given to obtain VA benefits and other public benefits.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Thrift Stores <i>Community donations of clothing and household items are recycled and made available for a small handling fee.</i>	•	•			•		•	•	•
Vaccines for Children & Private Vaccines (VFC) <i>Vaccines are provided free by the Nebraska DHHS through BVCA's Immunization Program to uninsured infants 2 months or older, and children. Insured or private pay vaccine is also available.</i>		•		•		•	•		
Volunteer Opportunities Friends of Blue Valley <i>Volunteer opportunities for individuals wishing to share their time and talents with BVCA and other organizations.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weatherization <i>Provides no cost weatherization of homes to income eligible families. This may include: weather-stripping; patching damaged areas of homes; heating and cooling systems tuned and cleaned or replacement; insulation of attics, walls and foundations; and windows and doors repaired or replaced.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Women, Infants & Children (WIC) <i>A health/nutrition program for at-risk breastfeeding, pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children to age 5. After medical and nutritional screening, eWIC cards are given to certified individuals for food from local stores.</i>	•	•			•	•	•		•
WIC Peer Counseling Program <i>Provides education and support for pregnant and post-partum women to ensure a successful breast-feeding experience.</i>	•	•			•	•	•		•

APPENDIX VII: BVCA STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS SURVEYS

STAFF STAY INTERVIEW RESPONSES—2019

1. When you travel to work each day, what things do you look forward to the most?

- Being able to work with people that are friendly and make you laugh throughout the day. Which makes a great work place.
- For my part, I have strong belief in helping others achieve their financial goals. After working in the corporate world of finance and insurance, it is refreshing to be able to take the time to help educate people about their finances. In the corporate world, I felt as though I was “rubber-stamping” applications without the opportunity to fully assess or assist clients.
- What I think about most on my way to work is just how blessed I am to have had the opportunity to serve God and people in every aspect of my life now. Before BVCA, I was looked at weird, mocked and sometimes even made fun of for my faith. That is not the case here and I couldn't be more grateful for that. It probably helps that I listen to K-Love radio pretty much non-stop when I'm driving, so I am able to have a lot of reflection going on. I actually wake up each day excited to come to work. I always look forward to who I am going to have a positive impact on today.
- Working with the families, I serve.
- Morning hugs from the kiddos.
- I look forward to seeing and interacting with the children, families and my staff. I love being able to hear the children all day long and the hugs aren't too bad either.
- Depends on the day, either I look forward to talking to co-workers about their day or depends on my visit schedule I look forward to seeing those families.
- Seeing my coworkers, completing tasks, making a difference whenever possible.
- Working with dedicated people who also put the fun in work.
- Seeing staff, a new day, collaboration staff.
- Activities & playtime with the kids.
- Opportunities to connect with staff, children, and families.
- I look forward to seeing the children. As stressful, as they can be I love getting to spend time with them every day.
- The teamwork environment. Everyone works together as a team. There is always someone there to help if you need. And, the appreciation and value I feel as a team member.
- I look forward to seeing coworkers, completing tasks (crossing them off my list) and hopefully making some sort of a positive impact
- Working in a relaxed environment.
- I look forward to starting my day and see what different things I'm introduced to.

2. What do you like most about your job?

- The ever changing tasks that I am given and the ability to come and go as needed to run my children to their never-ending activities.
- I think the promise, mission and vision of BVCA are something that everyone should aspire to. I enjoy the people who work here and most everyone that I interact with, are passionate about what they do. Ryan is an incredible supervisor. She is supportive, insightful, dedicated, and very hard working. I couldn't ask for a better boss!
- The flexibility for me to be able to do family events with my child and take off whenever I am needed at home at a drop of a hat.
- Working here I have felt a camaraderie that was absent in the competitive, corporate world. I know that my supervisor and co-workers are caring and compassionate about others as whole person.
- My team and the people I serve.
- Putting smiles on people's faces. Helping in any way that I can.

- I like interacting with people of all ages. I like the flexibility of my job. I'm going to be completely honest and say that my husband and I are old fashion in the way that his job is to be the provider and mine the caretaker. We both feel that I am responsible for our children, which includes getting them to where they need to be, doctor's appointments, etc. If my job did not allow me to take time off to care for my family, I wouldn't be able to continue to work here.
- The flexibility and the pay is the most I have ever made with a job so that's nice and the excitement on the child's faces when they see me. The relationships with the parents are getting better.
- I love that the SSVF grant allows us to make really significant changes in veteran's lives.
- That we truly do help people and change lives
- Encouraging my staff, supporting staff and friends anyway I can!
- Interactions with the kids, having conversations with them.
- Flexibility in my schedule and that I am not doing the same thing every day.
- I like the children the most about my job. Honestly, the extra paper work since we started CCP can be a little overwhelming at times.
- I appreciate that BVCA allows the flexibility of hours to deal with family health issues.
- I love that BVCA is family friendly and compassionate. I am able to flex hours if need be if I have a sick child or medical appointment. Co-workers and supervisors are very understanding and compassionate about my family and my well-being.
- Knowing I'm part of a team that helps people who have similar challenges that I had as a child and young adult. I also like that I get to be creative and innovative.
- I like my co-workers, boss, and relaxed environment.
- I love the providers and the insight they give me on early care.

3. If there was one thing you could change about your job, what would it be and why?

- I look forward to coming to work each day. I like what I do and enjoy being with my co-workers. With all I have going on in my personal life, my job keeps me sane.
- At this point, I wouldn't change anything. I definitely can't wait to grow and become a leader through BVCA, but that all takes time and I have all the time in world to learn and grow.
- Better communication. Wished everyone was on the same page as far as requirements go. Also, I would like to see the performance standards change on the length of the EHS visits. Most of our families frown upon the long visit but they understand that it is a requirement.
- More of a team effort instead on 1 person doing so much
- No thoughts at this time
- After getting PAT training, it has gotten better, just more options and ideas with that.
- The biggest challenge we have right now is affordable housing. If we had more availability of affordable units, we could house our clients much faster.
- The way we sometimes laugh at or cave to the whiners, complainers, and negative people or those not doing their jobs well and then the good people are stressed and sometimes leave. I would love to see drama creators and negativism, even when disguised as humor, be discouraged or at a minimum ignored.
- Hiring my evaluations done (haha) or changing the due dates.
- Better pay
- I would change the way evaluations are done. I think sometimes the wrong people are doing other peoples evaluations that don't necessarily see or hear about things on a daily basis.
- Increase in pay and increasing the cap on allowed leave hours. We have a good number of individuals in BVCA that have babies while employed. In order to increase financial stability during maternity leave, increasing the cap on allowed leave time may help alleviate the financial burden. Making it easier for moms/dads during times like this would show support for the importance of families and mental health.
- The stress caused by coworkers. Sometimes the attitudes from some coworkers can be so toxic that it is draining, but I have tried to remind myself that I can't control how others behave I can only control how I react to it.

- Fewer form changes and if there are changes that they be all right before school starts, when we are making up orientation and first home visit packets.
- I took a rather large pay cut between employment this past year and have struggled with revising my budget on my current income to the point that I have considered seeking a second job. I wish this position was more than an entry-level position but, hoping with time, I can advance within the agency!
- Gossip-It drains my energy.
- I would encourage people to be more simplistic when encountering obstacles, because I've watched people make challenges become much larger than they need to be.

4. Are we utilizing your talents? (If not would you be willing to share what your talent is and how it could be utilized within the agency)

- I am motivated by a desire to continue to work as long as I can, not just to ensure financial stability but to stay mentally, socially and physically active.
- Two respondents replied "Yes"
- Absolutely!
- Don't really have any hidden talents. Helping people and making lots of laughter is my goal each day!
- Yes for the most part.
- I believe my best characteristic is that I am a people person and can interact and work with a large variety of people.
- I am not sure what my talents are, but I like helping people, making them feel like someone is listening and there for them. I like lesson planning and pretty good at last minute planning and implementing.
- I believe so. I love what I do and I think it shows 😊
- Yes, I think we do a good job of building strengths and using the different talents of people...e.g. I like to write and have had the opportunity to help with grants, write stories for social media and R7HSA Sand Box magazine (another article to be published this winter)!
- I think everyone at BRFC know what I am able to do and if they need help, they find me.
- I believe BVCA is utilizing my talents with my Business Degree but, not quite yet to the fullest extent. With me being new and still learning, I believe this will come with time.
- Yes, I actually think BVCA has helped me gain talents. I have had a lot of coworkers and supervisors who have helped me become a better professional. Always room to grow!
- I would say yes, but sometimes it isn't used to its full potential.
- I am attention detailed and self-starting; I could handle more challenges.

5. What makes for a great day at work?

- When there isn't negativity coming from next door.
- The same thing that makes for a great day is the same thing that keeps me motivated. Helping people, changing lives. When I can help someone get the resources they need to improve their lives, I have a great day and feel motivated to do it again!
- A great day at work starts with a positive attitude. 9 times out of 10 if a person comes to work happy and excited, then they are going to have a good day regardless of what needs to be done.
- Seeing the satisfaction of the families, I serve when I have visited with them or helped them in any way. Love that the kiddos are so excited to see me on my visits. My job is extremely rewarding even if it's just the small things that I do.
- Haha well no fits or poopy pants ha! But seriously when everything runs smooth and you can focus on all the kids and not just a couple that are having a hard day.
- A great day at work would be a couple of things. It's always a great day when all the staff actually show up and work their assigned shifts. It's also a great day when I don't have to listen and/or deal with staff drama. I love days when the sun is shining, people are in good moods and the children are able to spend some time outdoors!

- When all visits hold or at least reschedule.
- A great day occurs when we are all on the same page. Common goals and efforts to reach those goals while supporting each other make for a great team.
- When people say "thank you", when people who once thought I was hard to work with get it that I'm here to help them be successful and I'm not that bad, when colleagues are successful, a bunch of things!
- Everybody is at work! Teamwork-we have great teamwork here in Crete, and I always brag about my team about this.
- No major behaviors, kids happy and interacting with each other.
- Being able to see successes with the families, we serve or with the staff, we support.
- A great day at work is when coworkers come in on time and are happy to be at work, the children are happy, the weather is nice so we can go outside.
- The Environment! The friendliness, teamwork and appreciation for everything everyone does!
- Accomplishing a task, seeing the centers do great things, visiting a classroom, having a successful Policy Council meeting, watching a staff member accomplish something.
- When I can come to work and get majority of the tasks done on my to-do-list for the day.
- When someone smiles because I have made a difference in his or her day.

6. What is it that keeps you motivated?

- I am hoping that I can study to become a Certified Housing Counselor.
- God, my family, my team and the families we serve.
- My families.
- Hugs and I love you Ms. Lories. Being able to be a place of safety and calm in their lives.
- I feel that I stay motivated for the children and my staff. I like to be busy and I like to do things in advance, whenever possible.
- Making a difference in families lives. I love when they say they look forward to seeing me, or excited I'm coming. Every day is different for sure!
- Helping others is and has been my greatest motivator for the last 25 years. While social work is not for everyone, I love it.
- The positive, dedicated people and knowing that we are making a difference.
- Seeing the kids learn on a day-to-day basis, having kids remember you from being in EHS or the parents, staff moving up in positions or being passionate about the work they do. Working for BVCA, how it is family friendly, it offers opportunities for staff to move up within the company, making new and long-term friendships. And that someone gave me the opportunity to work for this company-knowing that I don't interview well (I don't like to brag about myself) they still gave me that opportunity-and look at me I'm still here!
- Seeing improvements/changes in the kids
- Support from colleagues/supervisor and knowing how you are impacting the children, we serve.
- Seeing how the children are always, changing and that I am really making a small difference in their lives.
- Being appreciated, feeling valued and the great feeling of completing a task knowing that it helped benefit our agency and people of the community in need.
- Our vision and mission! When I make a mistake, but learn from it. It takes a while after I beat myself up over it, but then I feel good when I get it right the second time. When I hear a staff member, who struggled is now doing better.
- Knowing that I work for a great company and wouldn't want to lose my job.
- Learning

7. What is something you would like to learn this year?

- A great day at work is when my clients are willing to meet with me and do not reschedule or miss appointments.

- This year my professional development plan goals are to become a certified Safe with You Trainer and a certified CPR trainer. I would also like to grow into becoming part of the leadership team.
- More self-care techniques.
- How to deal better with special needs kids, autism.
- I would like to learn how to use Excel!
- Confidence building! I'm working on that but feel like I need to not be so shy sometimes still.
- I am always wanting to get more proficient at Excel! It's challenging.
- Where Beatrice staff will be located...ahahahaha had to put that in and know you're working on it!
- How to better support classroom staff or how to do everything they do-coaching, self-reflection.
- I would LOVE to learn more about baby circle time.
- I would like to learn more on our GMS/Accounting system and the programs we offer. I set this as a goal in my evaluation. I believe with being fairly new to the agency, this will come with time. I would also like to learn how I can become more involved within our agency and the community.
- How to lead leaders.
- More aspects of Early Childhood Education.

8. What would make your job more satisfying and rewarding?

- As retirement looms in the years ahead, I hope to stay on, perhaps in the role as a foster-grandparent.
- The continued ability to float around. By that, I mean the ability to help with Shelly or Rachel one day and go on to help with CSFP the next or Jumpstart or even the Dental Varnish day I was able to attend and help Penny with in Crete. I love being available to help anywhere I am needed.
- More success stories. Seeing more of the families I serve thrive at the highest.
- I would like to be able to "treat" my staff more. I always personally buy all my staff Christmas gifts and often bring food to work to say, "Thanks, I appreciate your hard work and dedication." I guess I would like to be able to offer the holiday parties and meals, like the home office does. But since we always have children to care for, that isn't possible.
- I like getting random emails from people above me saying we are doing a good job. Just hearing good job once in a while is great. Or maybe little challenges once in a while to keep things interesting in the office, like I got put on the community resource group and felt like I was helping more where I was needed.
- Reaching "Functional Zero" will be a great day! Nebraska will become the 4th state to achieve this. It has been my goal since starting this job with BVCA and much progress is being made.
- If people would talk with each other, not about each other. Increased professionalism and decreased drama and gossip.
- Well of course \$\$\$, but I am very satisfied with my job at this point-as I have the time and support to "vent" when needed.
- Possibly more variety.
- I don't know if this is the right answer but I find my job in rewarding in itself but I think I would be nice if the other parts of Blue Valley really understood what we do every day and how important it is. Granted I would be more satisfied and rewarded if I got paid more ☺
- To continue to feel valued and appreciated.
- Being able to give the staff a higher compensation for the work, they do.
- Having more appreciation from the people that it directly effects.
- If I can move, up and grow.

9. Do you feel you have the necessary tools to perform your job successfully and productively?

- Five respondents replied "Yes"
- Absolutely!
- Yes and when I need something that is necessary to do my job, we are able to purchase the items to extent.

- If I could change anything about my job, it would be to have my office in Beatrice. I don't mind the commute in the spring, summer and fall but I do not like winter weather driving.
- I think I do
- Yes I do
- We have great opportunities for training, coaching, and follow up...thank you!
- Yes, just having the time to use it correctly!
- A challenge in my role is staff turnover and positions that take time to fill. For example: One position, Education Officer that I usually work closely with has been open for almost a year. This then affects my role and my supervisor.
- I think sometimes it gets difficult when we are at the end of the fiscal year and are running low on supplies but have to wait until the next round of money comes in to make purchases.
- Absolutely
- Yes, still learning.
- Yes, now I do

10. Do you feel we recognized you? If not, what kind of recognition would be meaningful for you?

- Yes, I do. I am kind of bummed the Employee of the month thing stopped though.
- Three respondent replied "Yes"
- Yes and No. I feel like I go beyond to do my job the best that I can. I always meet the deadlines before they are due. I have built great relationships with the families in our county, and I go the extra mile to help them any way I can. However, I am also the type of person that is not afraid to bring up difficult conversations and issues and because of this, I don't feel like I get the recognition that I deserve. A lot of times, it is brushed aside or it's said every county is different etc...
- I feel like I am recognized occasionally. I'm not one that needs praise or recognition from my supervisor to keep performing my duties. I get lot of recognition from staff, and that keeps my smiling.
- Employee of the Month was nice. The shout outs are good too. I see a lot of names on there that I don't know who they are yet, so that's a good way to find out more people who work here. Wellness day is a great day to be recognized in our organization or meet people to tell them what you do.
- Ryan Bailey does a really good job of expressing appreciation.
- I'm fine with how we are doing things and recognizing each other. I think to describe what a person does and how it is an example of one of the core values would enhance and better clarify what we are looking for, e.g. in shouts out-so and so did abc and that was a great example of integrity, respect (or whatever)
- Yes, in an email or on paper is fine with me!
- Yes, I prefer not to be called out in front of others. I like the one on one recognition.
- Not enough to feel appreciated. A thank you or checking on every once in a while.
- I don't really think recognition is near as important as appreciation, which I do feel appreciated.

11. Do you have other career opportunities you'd like to pursue or consider within our Agency?

- Nope, I am happy with what I am doing. There are some days that it may seem I am overwhelmed but truthfully, I like it when there is more than enough to do than nothing to do.
- Yes, I don't even know where to begin with that but I do know I have already skipped a few steps in my journey with BVCA. I am used to and in-fact have always started a job from the very bottom and consistently climbed my way to the top or as far as I could actually go beings, I don't have the necessary requirements and education for some things.
- Two respondents replied "No".
- I am soon transferring to CCP sub. and am looking forward to that
- I was looking at the Education Officer, I really liked Jamie when she was mine as a teacher. BVCA has a lot of opportunities; I learn new ones all the time when people talk about their job titles. I

enjoy my position now but when an opportunity opens, I would like to pursue that as I would like to move up some day. Depends on the position.

- Not at this time. For as long as the SSVF grant is in place, I would like to remain in Omaha.
- Not really for a change of careers, but I love to write articles when something awesome happens so if Ben would like help (and I do send him things at least once a month) I would be happy to help him if he has an idea that needs more info, editing, pics, etc.
- Maybe.
- Possibly administrative work.
- I am not sure if this opportunity would be available within our agency. I would like to pursue my Masters and then a mental health provider license to be able to provide services to the families we serve through the programs in our agency. For example: Instead of contracting with mental health consultants for Head Start, being able to provide those services.
- I love working with the children on a daily basis, but I could see myself at some point maybe moving to a more coaching role.
- I would like to continue with my Business/Accounting career both with the agency and schooling by re-enrolling to earn my Bachelor's Degree.
- No, I see myself in my role for a long time. I love to grow professionally and could see myself growing in the agency or even in larger capacity in Head Start (Office of Head Start Director) in years to come.
- Yes if the correct one would become open.
- Yes, I am pondering my direction at this time

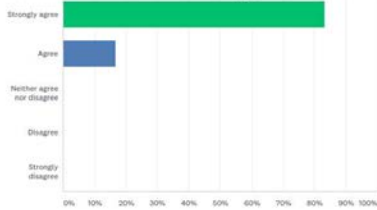
12. If you changed your role completely, what would you miss the most?

- The payroll. I love working with numbers and just the whole payroll part.
- My team/BVCA immediate family.
- The families and some of my co-workers.
- If I changed my role completely I believe I would miss being able to share my working knowledge of finance and the importance of financial well-being.
- Once again, the hugs and I love you's and Hi Ms. Lories when I see them in the store and also just knowing that you are helping them feel confident and safe.
- I would miss the children the most.
- I really enjoy the flexibility.
- I really enjoy being in a position to add construct to a program. I like being involved in the planning process for new projects and being an active member in our CoC. I would miss those things the most.
- I have changed roles several times and though I sometimes miss certain aspects (e.g. singing with children as a van driver or watching a CDA candidate receive their CDA when I was Ed. Off.), mostly I just look on to what I'm doing now and what I want to do next.
- All the wonderful people I have met, the kids and families!
- The kids
- It depends on what would be changed. Two of my favorite parts of my role are getting to spend time in the classrooms and facilitating Circle of Security classes.
- I would miss the children and the connection I have with them and the families.
- If I changed positions, I would miss the families the most. Some of them you really get a bond with.
- Working side by side with the Fiscal team!
- The challenge and the kids and staff.
- I really enjoy the flexibility.
- The challenge of stepping out of my comfort zone.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELF-ASSESSMENT—2020

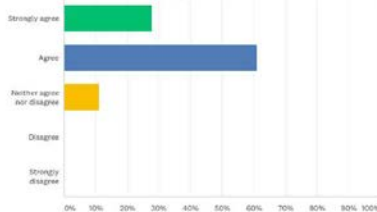


Q1: I understand and support the mission and vision of BVCA.



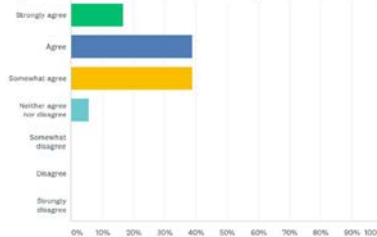
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	83.33%	15
Agree	16.67%	3
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		18

Q2: I am knowledgeable about BVCA's programs and services.



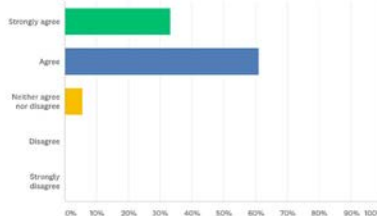
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	27.78%	5
Agree	61.11%	11
Neither agree nor disagree	11.11%	2
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		18

Q3: I follow trends and important developments related to BVCA.



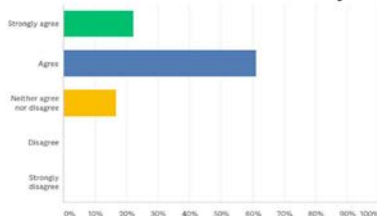
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	16.67%	3
Agree	38.89%	7
Somewhat agree	38.89%	7
Neither agree nor disagree	5.56%	1
Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		18

Q4: I promote the work of BVCA in the community.



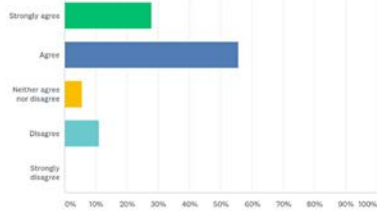
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	33.33%	6
Agree	61.11%	11
Neither agree nor disagree	5.56%	1
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		18

Q5: I am aware of the contents of BVCA's annual report and I can provide examples of how this information is shared with the broader community.



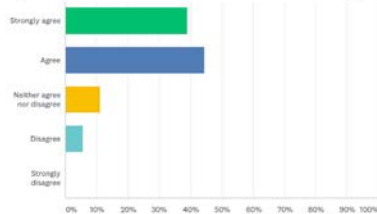
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	22.22%	4
Agree	61.11%	11
Neither agree nor disagree	16.67%	3
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		18

Q6: I have read and understand BVCA's financial statements.



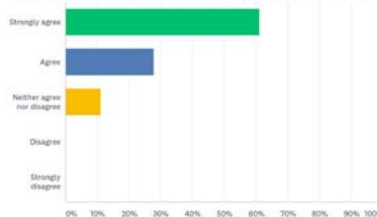
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	27.78% 5
Agree	55.56% 10
Neither agree nor disagree	5.56% 1
Disagree	11.11% 2
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q7: I am familiar with BVCA's strategic plan.



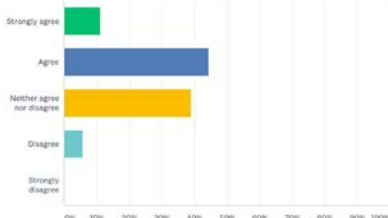
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	38.89% 7
Agree	44.44% 8
Neither agree nor disagree	11.11% 2
Disagree	5.56% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q8: I have a good working relationship with BVCA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).



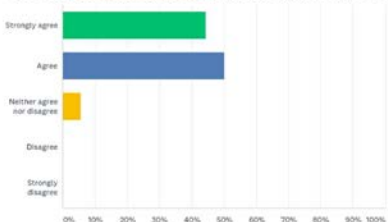
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	61.11% 11
Agree	27.78% 5
Neither agree nor disagree	11.11% 2
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q9: I recommend individuals for service to BVCA's Governing Board of Directors.



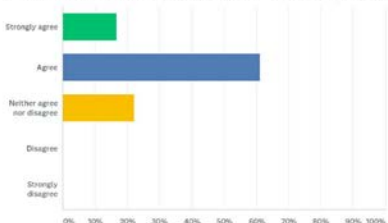
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	11.11% 2
Agree	44.44% 8
Neither agree nor disagree	38.89% 7
Disagree	5.56% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q10: I prepare for and participate in Board Meetings and Committee Meetings.



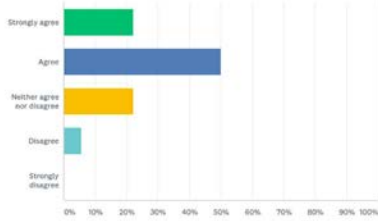
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	44.44% 8
Agree	50.00% 9
Neither agree nor disagree	5.56% 1
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q11: I can explain how BVCA's Board of Directors and Head Start Policy Council work together to safeguard federal dollars and provide oversight and direction to the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.



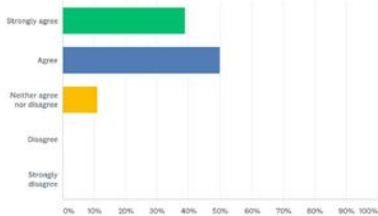
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	16.67% 3
Agree	61.11% 11
Neither agree nor disagree	22.22% 4
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q12: I speak on behalf of BVCA and community partners and stakeholders, and I create connections with resource providers who can benefit the organization and its programs.



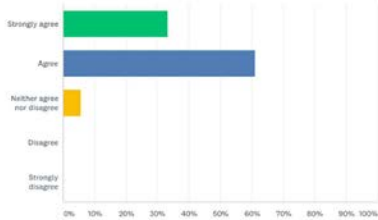
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	22.22% 4
Agree	50.00% 9
Neither agree nor disagree	22.22% 4
Disagree	5.56% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q13: I participate in the self-assessment and community needs assessment process.



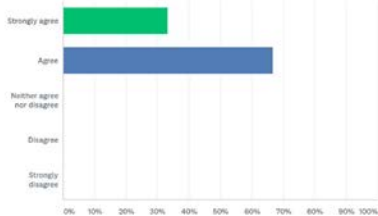
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	38.89% 7
Agree	50.00% 9
Neither agree nor disagree	11.11% 2
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q14: I am made aware of the results of various agency assessments (i.e. Community Needs Assessment, Head Start Self-Assessment, and the Agency-wide Risk Assessment).



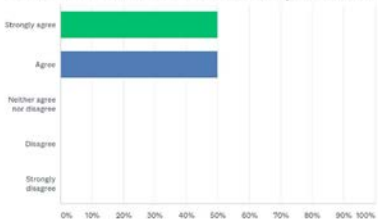
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	33.33% 6
Agree	61.11% 11
Neither agree nor disagree	5.56% 1
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q15: I am familiar with what is in BVCA's Bylaws and governing policies.



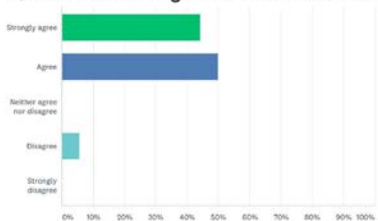
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	33.33% 6
Agree	66.67% 12
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00% 0
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q16: I am aware of what is expected of me as a member of BVCA's Board of Directors.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	50.00% 9
Agree	50.00% 9
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00% 0
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q17: I find serving on BVCA's Board to be a satisfying and rewarding experience.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	44.44% 8
Agree	50.00% 9
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00% 0
Disagree	5.56% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	18

Q18: Comments:

- *I have been on the board for a few years now, i am very pleased with the direction the board has gone, since I've been here. I feel better educated and more prepared now than I ever used to.*
- *I feel better educated and connected with BVCA over the last couple years.*
- *I have enjoyed and learned a lot from being on the Board of Directors. I have been involved with BVCA since my children were in Head Start 30+ years ago. Glad to help out any way possible.*
- *BVCA is a big organization, with a very wide range of programs. As a board member who participates once/month, it takes quite a bit of time to come up to speed enough to contribute meaningfully to the board. I don't know how to get around that reality, but the complexity can be daunting to new members.*
- *I am very proud to be a BVCA board member and all that we do in serving our various communities!*
- *In the comment where I have disagreed, such as #9, I haven't recommended anyone to the board yet, because I am a new board member.*

Q19: If you attended the February Board Meeting, please tell us what you thought of the new meeting format. We are also interested to hear from those of you who were unable to attend, but may have comments. The new format is as follows: Committees will meet on an "as needed" basis. If a committee has business, a committee meeting will be called from 6:00pm-6:30pm. (Still, on occasion, a committee may need to meet outside of regularly scheduled board meetings.) The regular board meeting will begin at 6:30pm (instead of 7:00pm). Items that were presented to committees in the past that do not require committee review will be presented to the full board.

- *Excellent new format! Please keep.*
- *I feel the new format is more efficient and easier to navigate. I feel like having the committees meet on an "as needed" basis saves a lot of redundancy.*
- *I felt the new style worked very well in February. I liked starting a little earlier, and felt the structure didn't have a negative impact in anyway. I like that our board is willing to step out and try something different. If it didn't work well we could always change back to what we used to do.*
- *Good idea.*
- *Ok for the winter time but would like to see a later start time for summer.*
- *I agree. The February meeting was the way I envision the Board to function. It was a more efficient use of the Board and Staff's time.*
- *I am happy with the new structure of the committees.*
- *I like the new format - starting earlier gives time for discussion and business without getting too late - having committees meet as needed keeps tasks relevant and everyone can be involved as needed.*
- *It was a big improvement. Well done.*
- *I think it is very good.*
- *Was a bit of a shock as I was not totally prepared that it had changed. But that would be my fault as to not looking before hand at the agenda and getting ready. I like it as more direct and the information of the group i participate in can be reviewed before hand and if i have any questions i can get ahold of them and get them answered prior to the meetings. Feel we got the things accomplished in a more orderly and timely fashion with this new style of meeting. Look forward to the next one in Seward.*
- *I liked the new format. Made the meeting run smoother.*
- *I loved it!*

APPENDIX VIII: COMMUNITY RESOURCES BY COUNTY

The following categories were identified for referral, programming, funding and outreach:

- Meeting Basic Needs (i.e. Food, Clothing, Emergency Utilities/Rent, Disaster, Transportation, Health & Wellbeing)
- Helping People Grow (i.e. Schools, Job Training Programs, Money Management Programs, Early Childhood Education, Daycares, After School/Adult Ed programs)
- Improving Community Assets (i.e. Chambers, Economic Development orgs, Housing Orgs, City/County Governments)
- Donor Businesses and Organizations
- Community Outreach (i.e. Media, Libraries, Service Organizations)

BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- Salvation Army – Columbus Outpost
- Lincoln Food Bank Mobile Pantry
- Simon House, Columbus
- Genesis House, David City
- Red Cross (disaster)
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Dales and Dieders Grocery Stores – Christ Kitchen Cupboards
- Methodist Church Food Connection
- Butler County Veteran's Services
- Busy Wheels, David City
- Aging Partners Area Agency on Aging
- Four Corners Public Health Department
- Butler County Health Care Center
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health
- Butler County Wellness Center
- Redeemer Lutheran (financial assistance)
- Butler County Sheriff's Department (temp financial assistance)

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #7
- David City Public Schools
- East Butler Public School District
- Rising City Public Schools
- Aquinas & St. Mary's Catholic Schools
- Region V Services
- UNL Extension
- Butler County TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- David City Housing Authority/Sunshine Court (only assists with Sunshine Court, not David City as a whole)
- Pleasant View Retirement Village
- Butler County Chamber of Commerce
- Butler County Board of Supervisors
- Gillespie Apartments (low income housing)

- Pinnacle Apartments (low income housing)

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- Knights of Columbus 11652
- Bellwood Elementary
- Brainard Community Club
- East Butler Public Schools
- Stara Earthmoving
- Aquinas
- Butler County Health Care Center
- E Street Discount Pharmacy
- Timpfe
- St. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church
- St. Anthony's Catholic Church
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- St. Luke's Methodist Church
- St. Mary's Catholic Church/Aquinas School
- First English Lutheran Church
- United Methodist Church

Community Outreach:

- David City Banner Press, Columbus
- Hruska Memorial Public Library
- Ulysses Township Library
- Dwight Legion Post 110
- American Legion Post 125, David City
- David City Rotary
- Knights of Columbus

FILLMORE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- Fillmore County Ministerial Association
- Lincoln Food Bank Mobile Pantry
- Stock our Shelves – First Congregational United Church of Christ in Geneva
- Hope Crisis Center (refer to)
- Red Cross (disaster)
- Meals on Wheels through Senior Center
- Backpack programs: Geneva North School; Shickley Public Schools; Exeter-Milligan Public Schools
- Fillmore County Senior Services
- Fillmore County Veteran's Services
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health
- Fillmore County Hospital
- Public Health Solutions

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #6
- Fillmore Central Public Schools
- Exeter-Milligan Public Schools
- Shickley Public Schools

- Geneva North School
- Geneva Activity and Education Department
- Region V Services
- UNL Extension
- Fillmore Central CASA
- Fillmore Central TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- SENDD
- Fillmore County Development Corporation
- Fillmore County Chamber of Commerce
- Fillmore County Board of Supervisors

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- Exeter-Milligan Public School
- Grant Built Transportation, LLC
- Abate of Nebraska District 7
- Ashby Trust
- Fillmore Central High School
- Fillmore Central School
- Fillmore County Hospital
- Geneva Mother's Club
- Geneva Rotary
- Shickley Public Schools
- Geneva Women's Club
- Natural Image
- V.F.W. Samuel J Marsh Post 7102
- Milligan Insurance Agency, Inc.
- St. Stephen's, Exeter
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church
- United Methodist Church
- St. Helena's Catholic Church
- St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
- United Methodist Church
- Salem Mennonite Church
- Shickley United Methodist Church
- Zion Lutheran Church

Community Outreach:

- Nebraska Signal (weekly)
- Geneva Public Library
- Virgil Biegert Public Library, Shickley
- Fairmont Public Library
- American Legion Fillmore County Riders
- Geneva American Legion Post 68
- Exeter American Legion
- VFW Post 7102
- Geneva Rotary

GAGE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- Salvation Army
- Lincoln Food Bank (Mobile Pantry & SNAP Partner)
- Community Food Pantry
- Hope Crisis Center
- Red Cross (disaster)
- Gage County Financial Assistance
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Food 4 Hope
- Wymore Food Pantry
- Warren's Community Dinner Table
- Backpack programs: Cedar Elementary; Beatrice Public Schools; St. Joseph's Catholic School; St. Paul's Lutheran School
- First Baptist Church, Beatrice
- Mother-to-Mother Ministries
- Gage County Veteran's Services
- Sisters Emporium
- The Bargain Box
- Blue Rivers Agency on Aging & Transit
- Family Health Services
- Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health Public Health Solutions
- Restoration Center/Youth Restorative Justice

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #5
- Beatrice Public Schools
- Freeman Public Schools
- Diller/Odell Public Schools
- Southern School District
- Little Raiders Preschool
- Little Giggles
- ResCare
- Voc Rehab
- National ABLE
- Beatrice Workforce Development
- Region V Services
- Southeast Community College
- UNL Extension
- Beatrice YMCA TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- Beatrice Housing Authority
- Wymore Housing Authority
- Mosaic Housing, Beatrice
- Beatrice State Development Center (housing)
- Good Samaritan Center
- Beatrice Habitat for Humanity
- CrownPointe
- Parkview and Homestead Village
- Carstens Gardens
- Sunridge

- SENDD
- NGAGE (Gage Area Growth Enterprise)
- Gage County Board of Supervisors
- Beatrice Chamber of Commerce

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- Scheer Quality Furniture
- Ashley's Home Store
- Maxim's
- Sunmart
- Exmark
- Modern Woodman of America
- Gage County United Way
- Security First
- First National Bank
- Pinnacle Bank
- McDonalds
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 27
- Beatrice Board of Education
- Beatrice Public School
- Beatrice Education Association
- Building Tech, Inc.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aux 531
- Harman-Wright Mortuary, Inc.
- Midwest Livestock Systems, Inc.
- Nebraska Title Company
- Network Consulting Services, Inc.
- Norris Power
- Goodwill Fund
- SCC Ag Club
- VanBorkum Company
- Muletrain Trucking Company

Community Outreach:

- Beatrice Daily Sun
- KWBE Radio
- Arbor State Weekly, Wymore
- KNBE, Beatrice
- 10/11 News
- KTGL, Beatrice
- Odell Public Library
- Beatrice Public Library
- Wymore Public Library
- VFW/American Legion #27
- Homestead Early Risers
- Beatrice Kiwanis
- Beatrice Rotary
- Beatrice Eagles
- Southern Gage Kiwanis
- Beatrice Kiwanis

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- Lincoln Food Bank Mobile Pantry
- Hope Crisis Center
- Red Cross (disaster)
- American Lutheran, Fairbury
- “E” Street Thrift
- Jefferson County Veteran’s Services
- Blue Rivers Agency on Aging
- Fairbury Handi-Bus
- Family Health Services
- Jefferson Community Health and Life
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health
- Public Health Solutions

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #5
- Fairbury Public Schools
- Meridian Public Schools
- Tri-County Schools
- Kids Connection
- Region V Services
- UNL Extension
- Southeast Nebraska CASA
- Fairbury TeamMates
- Tri-County Schools TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- Fairbury Housing Authority
- City of Fairbury, Community Development Department
- SENDD
- Fairbury Chamber of Commerce
- Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- Grace Lutheran, Fairbury
- United Methodist Church, Fairbury
- Meridian Public Schools
- Diller 3-D Club
- Sandman Family Foundation
- 3rd Street Body & Glass
- American National Bank
- Fairbury Jr/Sr High School
- First National Bank
- FPM Incorporated
- Globe Rexall Drug Store, Inc.
- Heritage Care Center
- Jefferson Community Health & Life
- Kiwanis Foundation Fund
- VFW Ladies Auxiliary
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Daykin
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Daykin
- United Methodist Church, Daykin

- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Diller
- United Methodist Church, Endicott
- American Lutheran Church, Fairbury
- Faith Lutheran Church AFCL, Fairbury
- First Christian Church, Fairbury
- First Church of God, Fairbury
- First United Presbyterian Church, Fairbury
- Grace Lutheran Church, Fairbury
- United Methodist Church, Fairbury
- Zion Countryside Church, Fairbury
- Jansen Bible Church, Jansen
- St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Jansen
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Jansen
- Zion Lutheran Church, Harbine & Jansen
- Peace Lutheran Church, Plymouth
- Peace United Methodist Church, Plymouth
- St. Paul's Lutheran (WELS), Plymouth
- Presbyterian Church, Steele City

Community Outreach:

- Fairbury Journal News
- KUTT Radio
- KGMT, Fairbury
- Fairbury Public Library
- Plymouth Library
- VFW Post 3113, Fairbury
- Fairbury American Legion Post 24
- Fairbury Kiwanis
- Fairbury Rotary
- Fairbury Elks

POLK COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- Salvation Army – Columbus Outpost
- Lincoln Food Bank Mobile Pantry
- United Methodist Church, Osceola & Shelby
- Red Cross (disaster)
- Polk County Veteran's Services
- Aging Partners Area Agency on Aging
- Busy Wheels Volunteer Taxi, Stromsburg & Osceola
- Annie Jeffrey Memorial Hospital
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health
- Four Corners Health Department
- Polk County Health Department

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #7
- Osceola Public Schools
- Cross County Community Schools
- High Plains Community Schools
- Shelby Public Schools
- Region V Services

- Central Community College – Osceola Learning Center
- UNL Extension
- Osceola TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- York Housing Authority (for vouchers in Stromsburg)
- Good Samaritan Society, Osceola
- Midwest Covenant Home, Stromsburg
- Pleasant View Retirement Village, Osceola
- SENDD
- Stromsburg Chamber of Commerce
- Polk County Board of Commissioners

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- St. Vincent Catholic Church, Osceola
- Cavalry Lutheran Swede Home Church
- Rising City/Shelby School
- Pinnacle Bank
- High Plains Community School
- Arborville Congregational
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Shelby

Community Outreach:

- Polk County News
- Osceola Public Library
- Polk Public Library
- Stromsburg Public Library
- American Legion Post 91, Osceola
- Osceola Lions Club

SALINE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- Lincoln Food Bank Mobile Pantry
- Crete Cares
- Hope Crisis Center Red Cross (disaster)
- United Church of Christ, Crete
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Crete
- United Methodist Women
- Backpack program: Crete Schools; Dorchester
- Saline County Veteran's Services
- New Beginnings Thrift Store, Crete
- Blue Rivers Agency on Aging/Saline County Area Transit
- Saline Elder Care, Wilber
- Family Health Services (not WIC)
- Friend Community Healthcare System/Warren Memorial Hospital
- Crete Area Medical Center/Wilber Medical Center
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health Public Health Solutions

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #6
- Sixpence
- Crete Public Schools

- Dorchester Public Schools
- Friend Public Schools
- Tri-County Public Schools
- Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools
- Region V Services
- Doane University
- UNL Extension
- Crete TeamMates
- Wilber-Clatonia TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- Wilber Housing Authority
- Friend Housing Authority
- Crete Housing Authority
- PDS Rentals
- SENDD
- City of Crete Economic Development
- Crete Chamber of Commerce
- Wilber Chamber of Commerce
- Saline County Board of Commissioners

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- Dorchester United Methodist
- Nestle-Purina
- Smithfield Foods
- United Church of Christ, Crete
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Crete
- United Methodist Women
- Cornhusker United Way
- Crete Rotary Club
- Pinnacle Bank
- Stop N Shop
- Farmers' Cooperative
- Drake Refrigeration
- Grace United Methodist Church
- Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church
- United Methodist Church, Friend

Community Outreach:

- Doane Owl (college newspaper)
- Crete News
- Friend Sentinel
- Wilber Republican
- KDNE (college radio)
- KFLB, Wilber
- KIBZ, Crete
- Dvoracek Memorial Library, Wilber
- Crete Public Library
- Struckman-Baatz Public Library, Western
- Gilbert Library, Friend
- Dorchester Library
- VFW/American Legion
- Wilber Crete Rotary
- Friend Rotary Crete Eagles

SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- Lincoln Food Bank Mobile Pantry
- Food Nets: United Methodist Church, Seward; Beaver Crossing Methodist Church, Milford (next to Subway)
- Hope Crisis Center/Victims Assistance Center
- Red Cross (disaster)
- St. Vincent de Paul, Milford
- St. Johns Hope Fund
- Foster Friends
- Et-Cetera Gift and Thrift
- Backpack programs: St. John's Lutheran; Seward Public Schools; Milford Public Schools; Our Redeemer Lutheran School
- Seward County Veteran's Services
- Seward County Public Transit
- Seward County Aging Services
- Seward Memorial Hospital
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health
- Four Corners Health Department

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #6
- Seward Public Schools
- Milford Public Schools
- Centennial Public Schools
- Sixpence Early Learning Program
- St. Paul Lutheran in Utica
- St. John's Lutheran School, Seward
- Arc of Seward
- Region V Services
- Southeast Community College, Milford
- UNL Extension
- Concordia
- Southeast Nebraska CASA
- Seward & Milford TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- Seward Housing Authority
- Habitat for Humanity
- SENDD
- Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership
- Seward County Housing Corporation
- Seward County Board of Commissioners

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- Seward County Sheriff's Posse
- Stop N Shop
- 3rd Thursday Card Group; c/o Rotary Club of Seward #226
- Concordia University
- Cub Scout Pack 256
- Great Plains Pest Management

- Hackbart Chiropractic
- Hughes Brothers
- Jones National Banks & Trust
- Memorial Health Care Systems
- Pac N Save
- Ridgewood Rehab Care Center
- School District of Seward
- Seward Dairy Queen
- Seward High School
- Seward Jr. Women's Club
- Seward Youth & Community Club
- Southeast Nebraska CASA
- Sparetime Lounge
- Tenneco
- The Optimist Club of Seward VFW Auxiliary Post 4755
- Friedens United Church of Christ, Goehner
- Grace Missionary Church, Milford
- Cross of Life, Inc., Seward
- Faith Lutheran Church, Seward
- Friedens United Church of Christ, Seward
- Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church, Seward
- Immanuel Lutheran, Seward
- LCMS District Office, Seward
- Living Word Lutheran Church, Seward
- Mighty Fortress Evangelical Lutheran Church, Seward
- Seward County Ministerial Association, Seward
- Seward County Thrivent Financial, Seward
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seward
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Seward
- St. Vincent de Paul, Seward
- The Rock, Seward
- United Methodist Church, Seward
- United Methodist Women, Utica

Community Outreach:

- Milford Times
- Seward County Independent
- The Sower (college paper)
- KFGE Froggy Radio
- KZKX Radio
- Seward Kiwanis
- Milford Kiwanis
- Seward Rotary
- Concordia University Rotary
- Utica Heritage Library
- Beaver Crossing Community Library
- Seward Memorial Library
- Webermeier Memorial Library, Milford
- VFW 4755, Seward
- American Legion Post 33, Seward
- American Legion, Milford
- Seward Helping Hands Kiwanis

THAYER COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- Lincoln Food Bank Mobile Pantry
- Hope Crisis Center (refer to)
- Central Market Grocery
- Red Cross (disaster)
- Backpack programs: Bruning Davenport USD; Deshler Public Schools; Thayer Central Community Schools
- Thayer County Veteran's Services
- Blue Rivers Agency on Aging
- Family Health Services
- Thayer County Health Services
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health
- Public Health Solutions

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #5
- Thayer Central Community Schools
- Deshler Public Schools
- Bruning Davenport USD
- Advanced Services, Inc., York
- York Career Center
- Region V Services
- Southeast Community College Learning Center, Hebron
- UNL Extension
- Thayer Central TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- Deshler Housing Authority
- SENDD
- Thayer County Chamber of Commerce
- Thayer County Economic Development Alliance
- Thayer County Board of Commissioners

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- Bruning Davenport High School
- Bruning State Bank
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 352
- Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc.
- Girl Scout Troop 422 & 947/941
- Hebron Quilt Guild
- Thayer Central Elementary
- Thayer Central High School Fun Club
- Thayer County Bank
- Thayer County Health Services
- Presbyterian Church Alexandria
- United Church of Christ, Belvidere
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Bruning
- United Methodist Church, Bruning
- St. Paul Christian Outreach Fund, Byron
- St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Byron
- Tri-Saints Lutheran Parish, Byron
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Chester

- United Methodist Church, Chester
- First United Methodist Church, Davenport
- St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Davenport
- Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler
- St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Deshler
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gilead
- First Presbyterian Church, Hebron
- Grace Lutheran Church, Hebron
- Hebron Bible Church & Club, Hebron
- New Life Assembly Church, Hebron
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Hebron
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Hebron
- United Methodist Church, Hebron

Community Outreach:

- Hebron Journal-Register
- Deshler Hustler, Hebron
- Secrest Library
- Deshler Public Library
- Davenport Public Library
- American Legion Post #180, Hebron
- Hebron Rotary

YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs:

- York County Ministerial Alliance
- Lincoln Food Bank Mobile Pantry
- Living Waters Rescue Mission
- Hope Crisis Center (referral only)
- Red Cross (disaster)
- York County General Assistance
- Goodwill
- The Trading Post (donation)
- Marla's Choice Consignment
- Schools with backpack programs: York Public Schools; St. Joseph Catholic; Emmanuel Lutheran
- York County Veteran's Services
- York County Aging Services (Senior Centers for meals)
- York Busy Wheels
- York General Hospital
- Blue Valley Behavioral Health
- Four Corners Health Department
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, York
- Henderson Community Hospital

Helping People Grow:

- ESU #6
- Sixpence
- Epworth Village (childcare program)
- Preschool Learning Academy of York
- York Public Schools
- Heartland Community Schools
- McCool Junction Public Schools

- St. Joseph's Catholic School (preschool too)
- Emmanuel Lutheran School
- Waco Lutheran School
- Nebraska Job Services, York
- ResCare Workforce Services, York
- York County Development Corporation
- Region V Services
- SCC Learning Center, York
- York College
- UNL Extension
- CASA for York County
- York County Coalition
- York TeamMates

Improving Community Assets:

- York Housing Authority
- Gresham Housing Authority
- Henderson Housing Authority
- Mosaic Housing, York
- York Leisure Home
- SENDD
- York County Board of Commissioners
- York County Development Corporation
- York Chamber of Commerce
- Henderson Chamber of Commerce

Donor Businesses and Organizations:

- The Trading Post
- Marla's Choice Consignment
- United Way of York County
- Elks
- Eagles
- Black Hills Energy (Black Hills Cares)
- Walmart (food)
- Midwest Bank
- York State Bank
- Cornerstone Bank
- Henderson State Bank
- York Public Schools St. Joseph's
- York General Hospital
- C-A-B Show Team
- A Cut Above
- Angle, Murphy & Campbell, PC, LLC
- Callahan Chiropractic
- York Chiropractic Center
- Derr, Inc.
- Grand Central Foods
- Kopcho's Sanitation, Inc.
- McCormick's Heating & Air Conditioning
- The Pour House
- York County Community Health Coalition
- York Elementary School
- York General Health Care Services
- York Rotary Club

- Benedict Community Sunday School, Benedict
- United Methodist Church, Bradshaw
- Presbyterian Church, Gresham
- Henderson Bethesda Mennonite Church, Henderson
- First Lutheran Church, McCool Junction
- Arbor Drive Community Church, York
- Arborville Missionary Society, York
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church, York
- Emmanuel Lutheran School, York
- First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), York
- First Evangelical Lutheran ELCA, York
- First Presbyterian Church, York
- First United Methodist Church, York
- Living Water Rescue Mission, York
- New Heights Assembly of God Church, York
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church, York
- Peace Lutheran Church, Waco
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Waco

Community Outreach:

- Henderson News
- York News-Times
- KTMX Radio
- KAWL York
- Kilgore Memorial Library, York
- Fairmont VFW
- York VFW
- York Rotary
- York Elks
- York Eagles

ADDENDUM I: HEAD START NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community Assessment

Children Services Department

Head Start Birth to Five

***Blue Valley Community Action Partnership
Central Office
P.O. Box 273
620 5th Street
Fairbury NE 68352***

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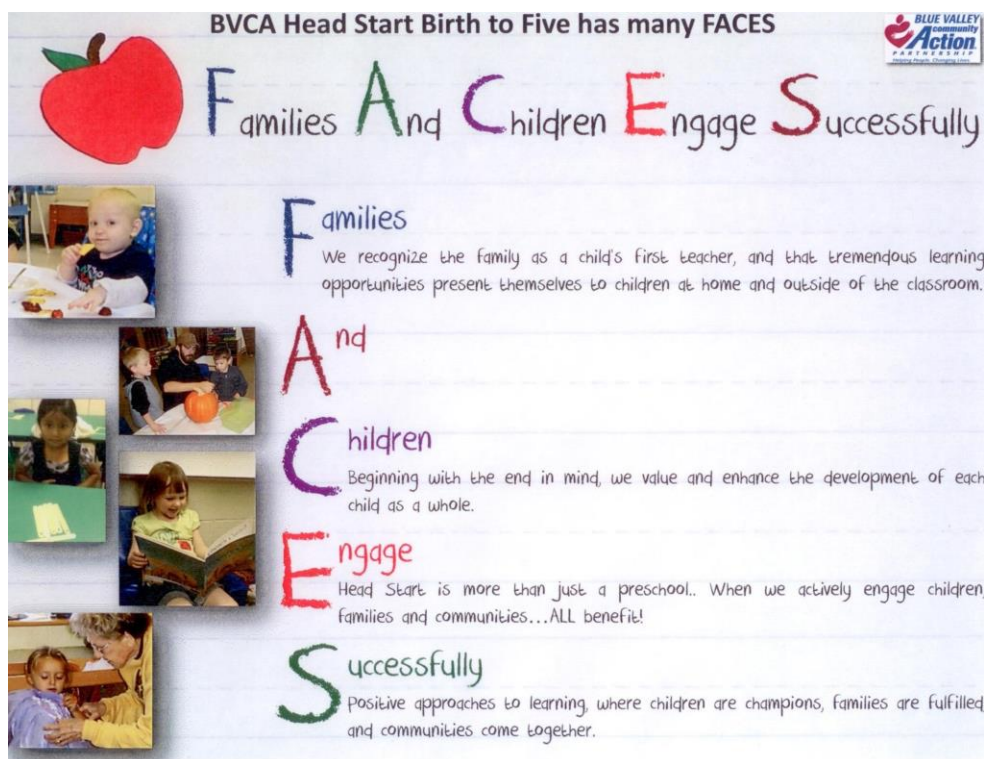
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Blue Valley Community Action Partnership

Founded in 1966, Blue Valley Community Action Inc. (BVCA) is a private nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation serving children, families, and communities in Nebraska. The first program operated by BVCA was a summer Head Start program. Today, the corporation has five departments – Administration, Blue Valley Crisis Intervention, Family and Community Services, Housing and Rural Development, and Children and Youth Services. The Head Start, Early Head Start and Blue River Family Resource Center programs are part of the Children Services Department.

In addition to Head Start and Early Head Start, Blue Valley Community Action operates 30 programs designed to meet the diverse needs of people living in the service area. This area includes nine Nebraska counties (Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, and York) and covers 5,310 square miles. Programs include emergency services (food pantries, homeless shelters), transitional services (transitional housing and case coordination), and support services (housing, transportation, nutrition, health care access, case coordination, and information and referral). Such services make BVCA an initial one-stop to eligible Head Start and Early Head Start families.

Purpose



I. Demographic Composition of Head Start Eligible Children and Families

A. Estimated Number of Children

BVCA Head Start serves children in 12 sites in eight towns in seven counties. Table 1 below identifies the number of children ages 0-5 in each of county service area, the number of children under the age of 5 in poverty, the number of children enrolled in BVCA Head Start 0-5 programs or school services and the number of children *not* served is noted as well. The *U.S. Census* indicates that in 2008, 11% of children under the age of 5 are in poverty in the BVCA service area compared to 9% in 2011, 13% in 2012 and most recent estimates of 15% in 2015.

Table 1, Sources: U.S. Census Bureau www.factfinder.census.gov and Nebraska Department of Education Data, <http://www.education.ne.gov>

County	Children in Service Area Under 5 2015	Children Under 5 in Poverty in 2015		Children 0-5 Enrolled in Head Start and Public School Services 2015				Children NOT Served by free or reduced Pre-K. 2015
				EHS	HS	School	Total	
Fillmore	262	43	16%	10	17	89	116	146 / 56%
Gage	1,213	194	16%	20	69	280	369	844 / 70%
Jefferson	319	56	14%	30	31	138	199	120 / 38%
Saline	959	120	12%	44	44	265	353	606 / 63%
Seward	1,006	146	14%	0	17	114	131	875 / 87%
Thayer	284	65	23%	10	10	104	124	160 / 56%
York	892	132	15%	20	51	164	235	657 / 74%
Total	4,935	756	15%	134	239	1,154	1,527	3,408 / 70%

BVCA Head Start 0-5 Programs were funded to serve 322 children ages birth to five during 2013-2014 and 329 in 2014-2015 through the present. BVCA has Head Start 0-3 programs in six out of the nine counties that it serves. In 2014-2015, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and York counties each served 20 children birth to three years of age while Fillmore and Thayer shared 10 enrollment slots for a total of 90 Head Start 0-3 enrollment slots. The Head Start 3-5 program has 239 enrollment slots in eight out of the nine counties in the BVCA service area.

In March of 2015, BVCA received an Early Head Start-Childcare Partnership Grant award to serve 44 infants and toddlers, 24 in Blue River Family Center in Crete and 20 in Kids Connection in Fairbury. At that point, BVCA considered multiple sources of data to then maintain the EHS Home Base services to 20 in each Gage, York, and Saline, reduce Jefferson Home Base to 10 and split Fillmore/Thayer, allowing 10 each for those two counties.

In July of 2015, BVCA received a Sixpence Grant award to serve 24 infants and toddlers in Seward County. Sixpence is a home based program, similar to Early Head Start, and is in coordination with Seward, Centennial, and Milford Public Schools.

Enrollment Reports, including waitlist and eligibility information, is maintained by the Outcomes Officer and distributed to management, supervisors, BVCA Board and Policy Council. The wait list has demonstrated the needs for more services for children by program option, by county and for the agency. Trends from year to year are analyzed and used in option and placement decisions.

B. Geographic Location

The following table identifies the land area in square miles, the total population by county, and the number of towns, public and private schools in each county. Transportation is a financial challenge in the areas that are so widely spread and sparsely populated, however has been necessary in Fillmore County to provide transportation in order to meet funded enrollment requirements. In many of these rural areas our small schools are being forced to consolidate in order to operate effectively. Many public and private schools have either closed or consolidated with another school since 2000. According to Blue Valley Community Action's 1999 Program Information Report there were 60 Local Education Agencies (LEA's), in comparison to 27 Local Education Agencies that were reported in the 2007 Program Information Report. In spring, 2017, MOU's were made with 15 School Districts and 2 ESUs.

Table 2, Sources: US Census Bureau www.factfinder.census.gov 2016 American Community Survey and BVCA Data

County	Land Area Sq. Miles	2007 Population	2011 Population	2013 Population	2016 Population	Number of Towns*	Number of Public Schools, 2016	Number of Private Schools, 2016
Fillmore	575	6,051	5,866	5,698	5,676	8	4	1
Gage	851	23,291	22,031	21,864	21,778	14	4	2
Jefferson	570	7,516	7,519	7,560	7,345	9	3	1
Saline	574	13,873	14,345	14,416	14,356	8	4	2
Seward	571	16,546	16,703	17,089	17,113	11	3	4
Thayer	574	5,163	5,160	5,189	5,163	11	3	2
York	573	14,370	13,726	13,883	13,842	9	3	4
Total	4,288	86,810	85,350	85,699	85,273	76	28	16

*Number of Towns includes those towns with population of more than 100 residents.

The following chart identifies the population trends from 2007 to 2011 and the population projections for the year 2020 by county for all persons and for children ages 0-5 years estimated by the *UNL Bureau of Business Research*. These projections indicate an expected increase in the zero to five-year-old population by the year 2020 in five of the eight BVCA counties served by Head Start. The most significant increases in the zero to five-year-old population is expected for the counties of Gage, Saline and York. It is interesting to note 2020 projections below show increases, but the table above shows decreases in most counties' populations in the last 3-6 years.

Table 3, Sources: UNL Bureau of Business Research <http://cba.unl.edu/outreach/bureau-of-business-research>

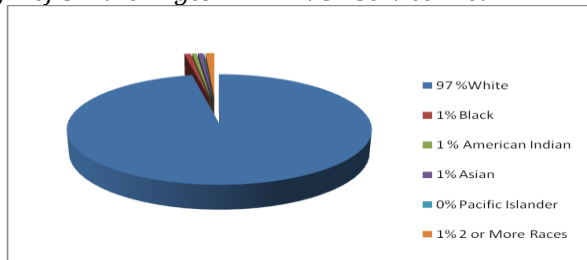
County	Total Population			Population Age 0-5		
	2007	2011	2020	2007	2011	2020
Fillmore	6,051	5,866	5,969	324	311	400
Gage	22,794	22,031	24,763	1,364	1,322	1,676
Jefferson	7,516	7,519	7,437	378	399	426
Saline	13,873	14,345	17,125	931	1,033	1,170
Seward	16,554	16,703	18,298	978	985	912
Thayer	5,163	5,160	4,949	235	273	310
York	14,370	13,726	15,660	924	892	1,044
Total	86,321	85,350	94,201	5,134	5,215	5,938

C. Racial and Ethnic Composition of Children

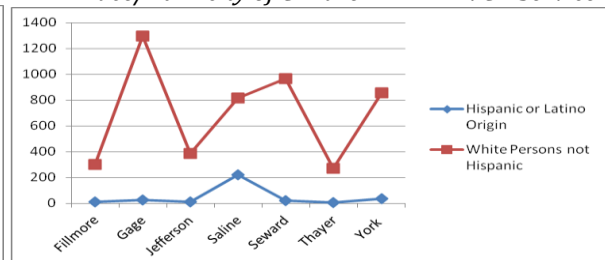
Chart 1, below, identifies the number of children in each racial category based on total population data from the *US Census Bureau*. Chart 2, below, uses the *US Census Bureau* data to depict the number of children who are of Hispanic or Latino Origin and those who are white not Hispanic. Saline County notably has the largest number of children who are of Hispanic or Latino Origin. Six percent of the children in BVCA's service area are of Hispanic or Latino Origin.

Charts 1 and 2, Source: U.S. Census Bureau www.factfinder.census.gov

Origin of Children Ages 0-5 in BVCA Service Area



Race/Ethnicity of Children 0-5 in BVCA Service Area



Further noted in Table 4 is the percentage of minority population in each county. The data being compared is from the *U.S. Census Bureau* and the *Department of Education School Report*. The data from the Department of Education once again shows a higher minority population than that noted in the U.S. Census. Fillmore, Jefferson, Saline and York counties experienced the largest percentage increase in the minority population from 2009 to 2014 according to the Department of Education School Report.

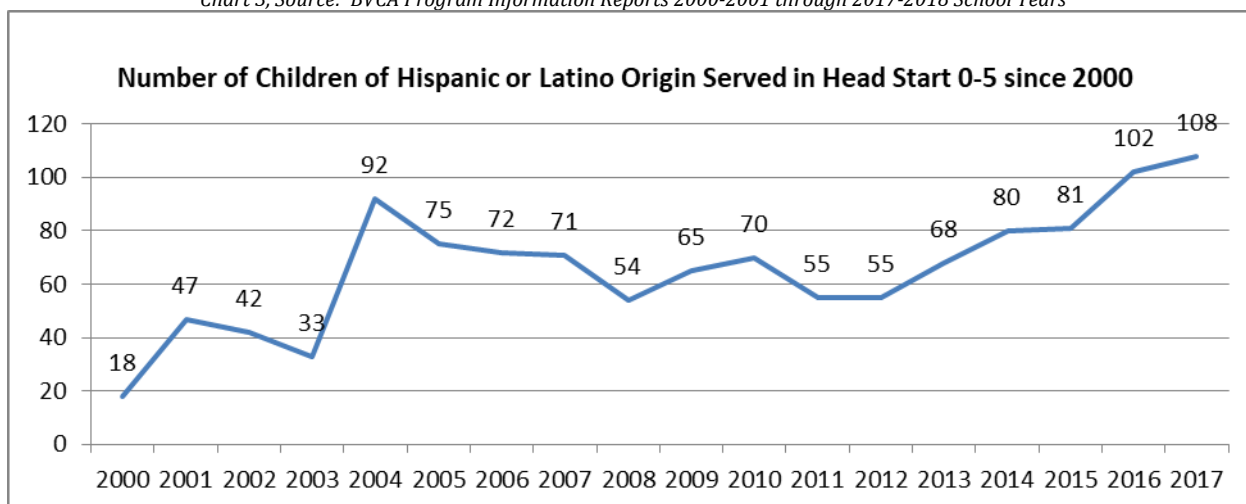
Table 4, Sources: U.S. Census Bureau www.factfinder.census.gov,

County	Percentage of Minority Population U.S. Census	Percentage of Minority Population American Community Survey	
	2011	2012	2017
Fillmore	2.0%	3.0%	3.3%
Gage	2.6%	1.1%	3.4%
Jefferson	2.3%	1.2%	3.3%
Saline	5.6%	6.6%	9.6%
Seward	2.4%	2.5%	3.8%
Thayer	1.8%	1.9%	2.4%
York	3.4%	5.3%	4.7%

In the 2017-2018 school year, BVCA served 30 children of non-Caucasian race (CP Report 2175) and 108 children of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. BVCA's Head Start 0-5 program experienced a significant rise in the number of

children of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity since 2000. The graph below depicts the number of children served by BVCA who of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Chart 3, Source: BVCA Program Information Reports 2000-2001 through 2017-2018 School Years



In 2019 the most recent report, *2016 Nebraska Vital Statistics Report – Births by Place of Residence*, showed there were a total of 988 births in BVCA's service area. The report by Hispanic or Latino origin is no longer available in 2019 but in 2015 91% were identified as White and 11% of the births, were recorded as being of Hispanic/Latino origin. In 2015 it also indicated 71% of Hispanic/Latino births were in Saline County.

D. Homelessness *2018 Kids Count not available until February 1, 2019

According to *2017 Kids Count in Nebraska*, there are 6,598 homeless individuals and 1,596 at risk of homelessness. Of those 1,842 are homeless children ages 18 and under and 746 children ages 18 and under at risk of homelessness. In the BVCA service area, there are 257 homeless individuals and of those 90 are children 18 and under. Using this information, BVCA estimates that approximately 25 children ages 0-5 and 2-3 prenatal mothers are homeless.

E. Foster Care/State Wards

According to *2017 Kids Count in Nebraska*, there are 6,681 children who are state wards. Fillmore has 14, Gage has 69, Jefferson has 15, Saline has 56, Seward has 29, Thayer has 7 and York has 54 for a total of 244. According to www.fosterclub.com 39% of foster children are under age 5, so BVCA estimates that 95 children under 5 are in foster care in the BVCA service area.

II. Other Child Development and Child Care Programs in Service Area

A. Child Care Availability

The following table shows the availability of Child Care slots by county in comparison to the number of children 0-13 years of age. The Family Child Care Homes I and II and the Child Care centers have slots available for children 6 weeks to 13 years of age while the Preschool slots are available for children 3-5 years old. A Family Child Care Home I is a program that is in the home of the provider with a maximum capacity of eight children of mixed ages and two additional school age children during non-school hours. A Family Child Care Home II is a program that is in the home of the provider or another site with a maximum capacity of twelve children with two providers. Child Care Centers are programs licensed for at least 13 children while Preschools are programs that provide educational services where children do not nap and are not fed a meal.

The ratio of children to licensed childcare slots for all BVCA counties was 1:1.80 in 2016 and in 2017 the ratio is 1 : 2:03. The total number of licensed child care slots has dropped considerably since 2009. Gage County experienced the most significant decrease in licensed child care slots while Seward County experienced an increase. In summary of those children with all available parents working, less than half in the BVCA service area have access to childcare from licensed providers.

Table 5, Sources: NDHSS Child Care Division <http://dhhs.ne.gov>, U.S. Census Bureau www.factfinder.census.gov

County	Number of Family Child Care Home I & II Slots			Number of Child Care Slots			Total Number Licensed Child Care Slots			Children under 5 with All Available Parents Working	Ratio of Slots to Children
	2009	2012	2017	2009	2012	2017	2009	2012	2017	2017	2017
Fillmore	50	60	44	122	100	82	172	160	126	301	1 : 2.38
Gage	528	412	282	551	399	217	1,079	811	499	1,320	1 : 2.66
Jefferson	152	152	60	138	137	120	290	289	180	429	1 : 2.38
Saline	379	276	142	400	458	288	779	734	430	839	1 : 1.95
Seward	200	228	156	222	296	487	422	524	643	870	1 : 1.35
Thayer	142	142	72	119	100	30	261	242	102	211	1 : 1.86
York	312	298	162	295	281	239	607	579	401	874	1 : 2.17
Total	1,763	1,568	918	1,847	1,771	1,463	3,610	3,339	2,381	4,844	1 : 2.03

The following table shows the number public or private Pre-K slots available in the BVCA area. Since 2010, there has been a significant increase in preschool opportunities, from 998 to 1,560 in the 2016-2017 school year. School districts (public) serve children 0-5 while private preschools serve only 3-4 year olds. It is to be noted that since 2010-2011 school year, the number of school district preschool slots in Gage County has more doubled and for the BVCA area, the number has increased significantly.

Table 6, Source: Nebraska Department of Education Data, <http://www.education.ne.gov>

School Districts in Each BVCA County	Number of Preschool Slots 2010-2011	Number of Preschool Slots 2013-2014	Number of Preschool Slots 2015-2016	Number of Preschool Slots 2017-2018
Exeter-Milligan	16	8	15	22
Fillmore Central	52	61	49	62
Shickley	13	18	25	32
Grace Lutheran	6	6	3	6
Fillmore County Total	87	93	89	122
Southern	20	31	27	43
Beatrice	55	153	191	227
Freeman	17	39	48	29
Diller-Odell	27	25	14	17
St. Joseph	27	27	36	36
St. Paul	40	63	51	56
Gage County Total	186	338	367	408
Fairbury	93	86	93	116
Tri County	34	36	35	31
Meridian	11	9	10	14
St. Paul	23	20	25	21
Jefferson County Total	161	151	163	182
Crete	178	186	198	218
Dorchester	1	3	2	30
Friend	23	35	30	29
Wilber-Clatonia	30	32	35	31
St. James	19	12	16	13
Zion Lutheran	6	7	0	0
Saline County Total	257	275	281	321
Milford	21	17	24	32
Seward	23	33	41	76
Centennial	34	45	49	56
Our Redeemer	5	14	13	11
St. Paul	22	6	19	15
St. Vincent	18	9	11	29
Seward County Total	123	124	157	219
Deshler	27	26	20	29
Thayer Central	39	39	47	75
Bruning-Davenport	21	17	37	31
Thayer County Total	87	82	104	135

York	61	124	133	115
McCool	5	0	7	6
Heartland	21	25	24	27
St. Joseph	0	30	38	25
York County Total	87	189	202	173
BVCA Area Total	988	1,252	1,363	1,560

B. Eligible Children Being Served

Table 7 compares the number of preschool slots, Head Start slots, and the number of children ages 3-5 in 2016.

Table 7, Sources: Nebraska Kids Count, <http://voicesforchildren.com> BVCA Statistics

County	Number of School District Preschool Slots	Total Number of Children Ages 3 and 4	Total Number of Children Ages 3 and 4 in Poverty	Total Number of Head Start Slots
Fillmore	89	160	18	17
Gage	367	544	71	69
Jefferson	163	182	25	31
Saline	281	347	21	44
Seward	157	364	29	17
Thayer	104	147	22	10
York	202	344	48	51
Total	1363	2,642	306	239

C. Licensed Childcare

The table below lists the childcare licensed by the States of Nebraska that were operating in the BVCA counties in January 2019.

Table 8, Source: Nebraska Health and Human Services Child Care Licensing www.nebraska.gov/LISearch/search.cgi

	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Saline	Seward	Thayer	York
Child Care Center	3	6	2	6	7	1	4
Family Child Care Home I	4	22	7	7	14	11	16
Family Child Care Home II	3	11	1	9	3	2	5

The Nebraska Department of Education designed an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant Program that awards state funds to schools or Educational Service Units to assist in the operation of early childhood programs. These programs are intended to support the development of children from age four to kindergarten through the provision of comprehensive center-based programs.

The Nebraska Department of Education funded 68 ECE Grant Programs in 2008-2009. Currently there are over 77 ECE Grant Programs in Nebraska serving over 3,200 children. The Department of Education funded 2 new ECE Grant Programs in the 2012-2013 program year and expanded nine existing programs. While, NDC continues to fund ECE grants, none have been awarded to districts within the BVCA area since 2012-2013.

There are ten schools within our service area that are operating ECE Grant Programs. At this time, BVCA has existing Early Childhood Education Grant Program collaborations with the following public Schools: Beatrice and Southern (Gage County), Fairbury (Jefferson County), Crete (Saline County), and Thayer Central (Thayer County). Together BVCA and the public schools offer integrated child development programs by combining existing resources with state grants. BVCA has limited partnerships with Tri County School District (Gage, Jefferson, and Saline counties), Diller/Odell School District (Jefferson and Gage counties), and Wilber/Clatonia School District (Saline), Centennial School District (Seward) Deshler School District, (Thayer County), York (York County) and TYKE which is an ESU Early Childhood Program serving children in several school districts in Fillmore, Saline, and York counties.

III. Children with Disabilities

A. Number of Children Zero to Five Years of Age With Verified Disabilities by County

The information shared in table 9 encompasses statistics for children ages 5–15 with disabilities; statistics for children 0-5 are not available. The Nebraska Department of Education informed BVCA that there is a federal law, entitled the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prohibits the release of personally identifiable student/child information. The information that was acquired was from the *U.S. Census data*.

During the 2017-2018 program year, BVCA served a total of 96 (26% of enrollment) children 0-5 years of age who had verified disabilities. Since 2010, BVCA's data indicated a decrease in the number of children with disabilities being served for four years and then an increase again the last four years.

Table 9, Sources: U.S. Census www.factfinder.census.gov, BVCA data

County	Number of Children 5-15 with Disabilities	Percentage of Children 5-15 with Disabilities Census
Fillmore	39	3.7%
Gage	163	4.7%
Jefferson	90	7.3%
Saline	72	3.3%
Seward	69	2.6%
Thayer	51	5.5%
York	158	6.7%
Total	642	4.82%

The *Data Accountability Center* (ideadata.org) has state statistics available for children birth through age two and ages three through age five but does not have county statistics available. The *Data Accountability Center* indicates that Nebraska has 1,485 children birth through age two receiving early intervention services. The *Data Accountability Center* also indicates that 5,379 children ages 3 through 5 in Nebraska receive services under the IDEA Part B.

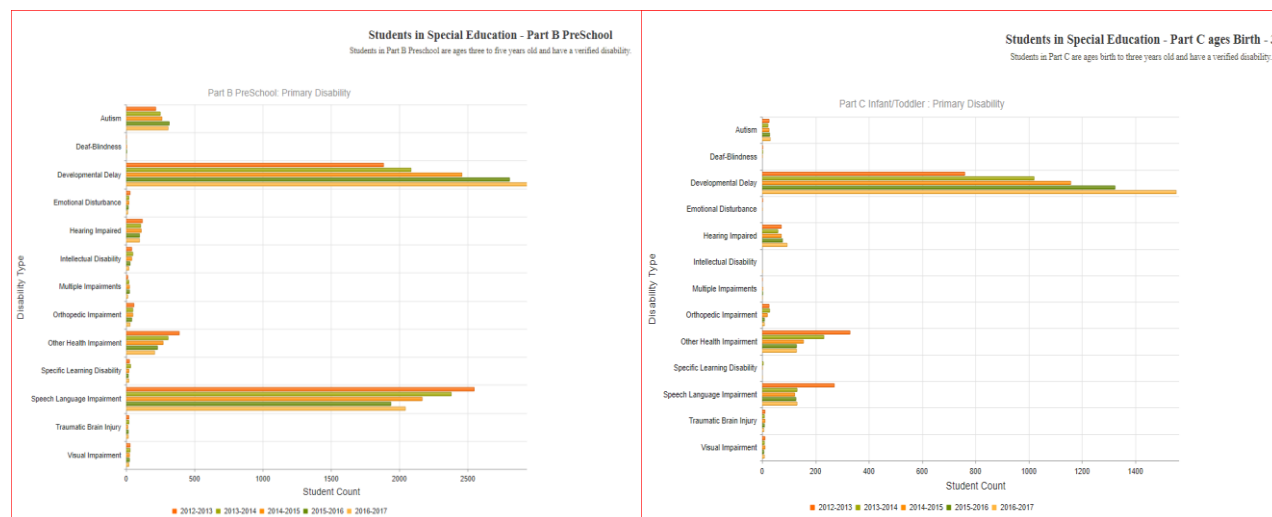
B. Types of Disability

In 2011 and 2012, according to the *Data Accountability Center*, the most common type of disability in the Nebraska was Speech/Language Impairment. The most common type of disability of the children served by BVCA's Head Start and Early Head Start in 2017-2018 was Developmental Delay followed by Speech/Language. The *U.S. Census* indicates state percentages by types of disabilities for children ages 5 to 15 as follows:

Charts 4 and 5, Sources: <http://nep.education.ne.gov/State>

Chart 4-three to five year olds.

Chart 5-birth to three year olds



C. Resources to Assist Children and Families of Children with Disabilities

BVCA Early Childhood Programs collaborate with Early Intervention Services Coordination, Educational Service Units, local school districts, and medical professionals in each Head Start and Early Head Start community to address needs of children with disabilities and their families. All children with verified disabilities have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) completed with professional and parental input to assure the child's best interest are met. BVCA staff work as strong advocates for families who have children with disabilities; staff support the parents by attending IEP and IFSP meetings, implementing supportive and scaffolding activities in lesson plans, and finding supportive information and resources for families.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services provides various programs such as:

- **Early Development Network** – a program that provides services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, transportation, vision services and special instruction to children birth through age three who are not developing typically or have been diagnosed with a health condition that will affect their development.
- **Early Intervention Medical Waiver** – a program that provides respite services for families of infants and toddlers with disabilities or medical conditions. This program is designed to prevent out-of-home placement of the child by providing temporary relief to the usual caregiver from the continuous care of an infant and toddler with a disability.
- **Disabled Children's Program** – a program that serves the needs of children with disabilities by paying for non-medical services. These services need to be related to the child's disability.
- **Medically Handicapped Children's Program** – a program that provides specialized medical services for families with children with disabilities or ongoing health care needs. Services may include services coordination/case management, specialty medical team evaluations, access to specialty physicians, and payment of treatment services.
- **PTI (Parent training and Information) Nebraska** – a program to provide training, information, and support to parents in Nebraska who have a child birth through twenty six with special needs.

IV. Education, Health, Nutrition, and Social Service Needs of Head Start Eligible Children and Their Families

A. Education

1. Attainment Levels

The following table exhibits the percentage of education attainment levels of adults 18 years of age and older for each county that BVCA Head Start Birth to Five serves in Nebraska. An average of 39% of the residents in the BVCA service area are high school graduates as shown on the table compared to 31% in Nebraska. An average of 30% of the residents in the BVCA service area have some college or an Associates Degree, an average of 11% have a Bachelors Degree and an average of 4.5% have a Masters Degree . There is a great deal of similarity in education level in all of the counties served by BVCA.

A critical issue for many rural counties is education; the younger highly educated adults migrate from the small communities to live in more urban settings leaving the adult workforce in small communities to be less educated. The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship is helping rural America realize its entrepreneurial potential while helping to sustain educated individuals in small communities. The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship has created various grant funded programs such as Center for Rural Affairs, Heartland Center for Leadership Development, and Youth Entrepreneur Program to encourage growth in small communities.

Table10, Source: U.S. Census, www.epodunk.com (2000 Census Data)

County (all adults 18 and over)	Less Than High School Degree	High School Degree or GED	Some College or Associate Degree	Bachelor Degree	Master Degree
Fillmore	12%	42%	30%	12%	4%
Gage	18%	39%	28%	11%	4%
Jefferson	16%	41%	29%	10%	4%
Saline	19%	38%	28%	10%	5%
Seward	12%	32%	33%	15%	8%
Thayer	19%	37%	29%	11%	4%
York	12%	38%	33%	12%	5%

BVCA's 2016-2017 Program Information Report shows that of the 414 total adults served by Head Start and Early Head Start, 145 parents (35%) have less than a high school diploma, 142 parents (34%) have a high school diploma, and 32 parents (9%) have some college education, vocational school, or an Associate Degree, and 90 parents (22%) have a Bachelor Degree or a Master Degree.

2. High School Dropout Rates

According to the 2011-2012 *Nebraska Education State of the Schools Report* 1,968 students across Nebraska dropped out of high school. This was a decrease of 322 dropouts from the previous school year. The highest dropout rates occur with Black and Latino students which may be linked with higher rates of poverty and level of segregation.

The dropout rate in BVCA's service area is very difficult to analyze as the number of students who dropout in our rural areas is very low and is therefore not reported in order to protect the identity of the student. By 2018, none of the school districts have a high enough dropout rate to be reported as shown in Table 11. Since 2012-2013, the

Nebraska Department of Education did not make dropout rates available by county. The state dropout rates are as follows by school year in Table 12.

Tables 11 and 12, Source: Nebraska Education State of the Schools Report and <http://nep.education.ne.gov/State?DataYears=20162017>

County	Dropout Rate 2007-2008	Dropout Rate 2011 - 2012	Dropout Rate 2017-2018
Fillmore	0.00%	0.00%*	0.00%*
Gage	1.02%	1.85%	0.00%*
Jefferson	1.61%	0.00%*	0.00%*
Saline	2.70%	3.09%	0.00%*
Seward	0.00%	0.00%*	0.00%*
Thayer	1.06%	0.00%*	0.00%*
York	1.74%	0.00%*	0.00%*

School Year	Nebraska Dropout Rate
2008-2009	1.60%
2010-2011	1.38%
2012-2013	1.05%
2014-2015	1.09%
2016-2017	1.26%
2017-2018	0.51%

* Data masked to protect the identity of students using the following criteria: All students were reported in a single group.

3. Home Language

In 2018, Nebraska had 11.2% of its population speaking a language other than English at home according to data from US Census Quick Facts. The percentage of English Language Learners in BVCA counties are as follows: Fillmore-3.4%, Gage-2.7%, Jefferson-3.8%, Saline-23.0%, Seward-3.0%, Thayer 2.5%, and York 4.8%. Over the past 16 years, Spanish is the main other language spoken in homes.

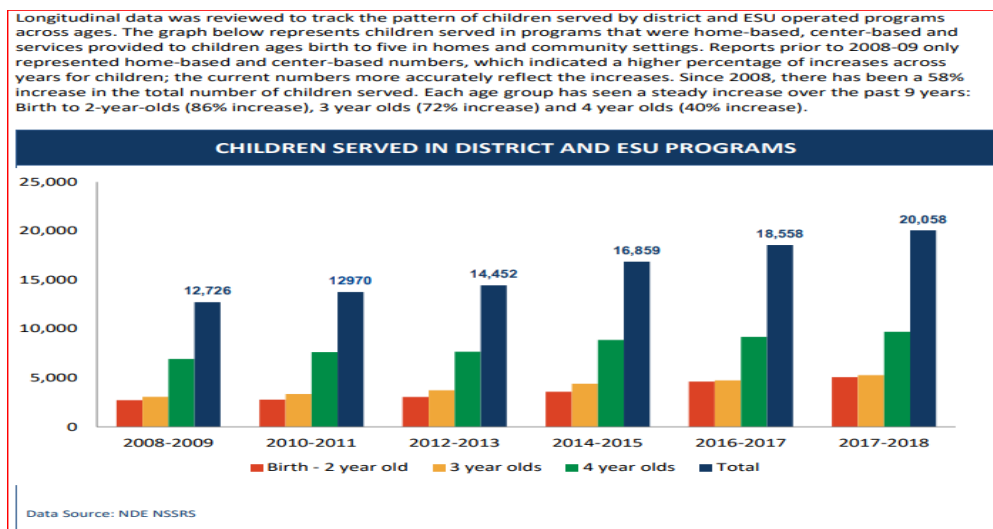
4. Child Education

The State of Nebraska continues to move toward a stronger emphasis on early childhood programming. The Nebraska Department of Education began funding regional training and technical assistance projects in 1997 to improve the quality of care and education services provided by private childcare workers throughout the state. In response to the Governor's identification of early childhood as a state priority, the legislature has introduced LB 350 to provide for inclusion of pre-kindergarten program in the state aid formula and LB 577 to include early childhood education programs within the state aid formula, which would appropriate additional funds to expand the number of State Early Projects.

LB 759, enacted in the 2001 Legislative Session, revised the Early Childhood Act originally passed in 1990 (79-1101 through 1104 R.R.S.) that enabled the funding of pilot Early Childhood Projects. The purpose of Nebraska's Early Childhood Education Grant Program is to provide a high quality early childhood program setting and to assist children to reach their full potential and increase the likelihood of children's later success in school. Major emphases in LB759 (revised Early Childhood Act) include:

- Support for inclusive, integrated programs/services that include categorically and economically diverse groups of children. The intent is to help communities move away from categorical to inclusive service delivery models.
- A strong emphasis on family participation, in recognition of the critical role of parents in assuring that children grow up in positive supportive environments that encourage their early development and learning.
- Attention to research-based elements of effective programs. These include: teachers trained to work with young children, optimum adult/child ratios and group size, sufficient intensity and duration of programs, a curriculum based on knowledge about child growth and development, including an emphasis on age-appropriate language and early literacy experiences, and ongoing program improvement processes.

The information below is from NDE's 2017-2018 State Report and shows the increase in services:



In the BVCA area, Beatrice and Southern are the only schools with some full day options available for 4 year olds only. However, their “full day” still does not meet the HSPPS requirement of 1,020 hours for extending service duration. Rule 11 now requires a minimum of 450 hours for Pre-K programs. Legislation is now being proposed that school districts, by 2019/2020 must offer 1032 hours of instruction for kindergarten through elementary. It is anticipated that school districts will need all available funds for 1,032 hours of kindergarten since many are not meeting that, thus making partnerships more difficult with some current or future collaboration districts.

In 2006, the Nebraska Legislature passed *LB 1256*, establishing Sixpence to address gaps in services for “at risk” children birth through age 3 not being served by Early Head Start or Early Intervention.

Sixpence, a collaborative funding structure involving the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Department of Education and private sector investors, has issued grants to community partnerships statewide since 2008, now totaling 34 communities, reaching a total of over 1700 at-risk infants and toddlers.

In 2014-2015, BVCA wrote a Sixpence grant with Milford, Seward, and Centennial Schools in Seward County. BVCA administers that grant very similarly to the Early Head Start Home Visit program for 24 children in Seward County.

5. Child Education Curricula

BVCA Children Services follow and implement child education curricula that are research-based and have been proven to have significant impacts on children’s educational success. BVCA employs two full time Education Officers and one full time Behavioral Health Officer, whose responsibilities include ongoing professional development, coaching, and staff training related to the child education curricula.

Head Start and EHS CCP uses *The Creative Curriculum*, which rests on a foundation of more than 75 years of scientific research about child development and learning theory that leads to specific instructional strategies based on how young children learn best. *The Creative Curriculum* takes what has been learned from theorists such as Erik Erikson, Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, and Howard Gardner, as well as recent research studies about language, literacy, and math development and clearly and simply explains how to apply this information in a classroom. The schools in the collaboration projects as well as the majority of the other school partners also use Creative Curriculum and/or TS GOLD for ongoing assessment. This adds to the continuity of services and ongoing assessment of children served and enhances communication with parents of dually enrolled children.

Parents As Teachers, Born to Learn is a national program used by Early Head Start home base. Through personal visits, parent meetings, linkage to resources, and periodic developmental screening tools, trained parent educators bring the latest neuroscience research findings to parents and provide practical ways to encourage learning and interact with their children birth-years.

6. Parenting Education

BVCA continues to provide numerous opportunities for parents to learn about child development, discipline, communication, nutrition and health, family budgeting, and family goal development, among many other topics of interest. Each Head Start and Early Head Start center is allotted money in order to host trainings locally. The parent groups determine what training is needed and who will conduct the training. Parents from all Head Start and Early Head Start centers are invited to attend the trainings. Funds are also made available to parents who have children with special needs. Parents are provided the opportunity to receive financial support to attend local training opportunities that may assist them in learning more about their child’s disability.

BVCA uses *Parents As Teachers (PAT)* for Early Head Start home base parent curriculum and *What You Do Matters* (from PAT) as the curriculum for parents enrolled in Head Start or EHS CCP.

BVCA operates the program Project FIRST (Families in Residence with Support in Transition) which engages homeless families in the family development process to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing. BVCA also offers the program Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP). HPRP is designed to give temporary housing assistance to individuals and families to provide a bridge to long-term housing stability. BVCA provides outreach services to families in need. These services include family development case management, home visitation, education, information and referrals.

Nebraska has very few parent education programs available on a regular basis. Some training opportunities are offered by varying agencies and churches throughout the year. The Even Start Family Literacy Program which were available to qualifying families in Gage and Saline Counties in Nebraska ended in 2010-2011 due to funding cuts.

In 2009, Adult Basic Educational Opportunities are available in the following counties within BVCA’s service area: Fillmore, Gage, Saline, Seward, and York. In 2014 to present, Gage, Saline, and York were the only counties.

Individuals living in counties that do not have programs available have to travel to attend Adult Basic Classes in the counties mentioned above.

Rooted in Relationships is an initiative that partners with communities to implement evidence based practices that enhance the social-emotional development of children, birth through age 8. One part of this initiative supports communities as they implement the *Pyramid Model*, a framework of evidence-based practices that promote the social, emotional, and behavioral competence of young children. BVCA had staff participate in Circle of Security (CoS) Facilitator Training. The CoS sessions were offered to parents in two counties in 2014-2015, 4 in 2015-2016 and now (and sometimes more than once a year) all counties since 2017-2018. The Annual Self-Assessment continues to show a need for more CoS in the BVCA for parents as well as for staff.

7. Child Mobility

The child mobility information was collected by the Nebraska Department of Education. Student mobility reflects the percentage of youth who transition in and out of the school system during any given school year and is believed to result in lower student achievement. For Nebraska, it is defined as a child who has enrolled in two or more schools within a school year and was at a rate of 4.5% in the 2017 Kids Count.

ChildPlus report 2215 indicates in 2017-2018, 78 of 373 enrollment slots turned over (21%) the largest number of turnover in York, Gage (Beatrice) and then Jefferson.

B. Health Status Needs

According to the <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/NE>, Nebraska was ranked the tenth state for being relatively healthy in 2014. In 2018, Nebraska was fifteenth. The following information about Nebraska.

America's Health Rankings from United Health Care Foundation shows the following for Nebraska:

Strengths

- **Low drug death rate**
- High percentage of high school graduation
- High immunization coverage among children

Challenges

- **High prevalence of excessive drinking**
- High prevalence of obesity
- High incidence of pertussis

Highlights

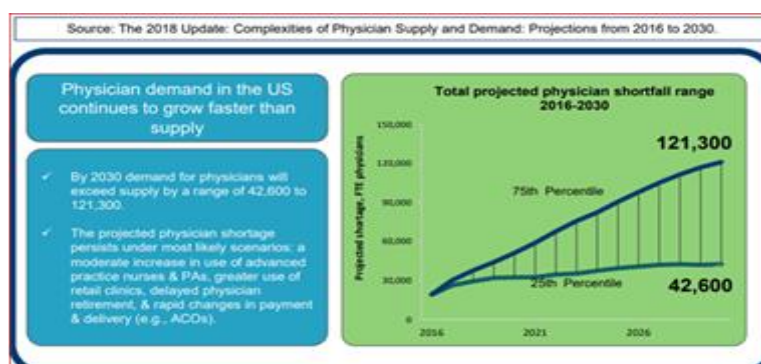
- **In the past three years, drug deaths decreased 7% from 7.3 to 6.8 deaths per 100,000 population**
- In the past five years, violent crime increased 18% from 259 to 306 offenses per 100,000 population
- In the past three years, Tdap immunization increased 12% from 82.2% to 92.3% of adolescents aged 13 to 17
- In the past five years, cancer deaths increased 3% from 182.2 to 187.4 deaths per 100,000 population
- In the past five years, diabetes increased 25% from 8.1% to 10.1% of adults
- In the past three years, infant mortality increased 20% from 5.0 to 6.0 deaths per 1,000 live births

The health status of the state's growing minority population is a major concern. Historically, most racial/ethnic minority groups as compared to the white population have a significantly higher infant mortality rate. There are also major concerns with various socioeconomic conditions and the physical environment. Many people in Nebraska have incomes below the poverty level and live in substandard housing.

Table 14, Source: County Health Rankings <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/nebraska> (compare counties)

	Nebraska	Fillmore (FI), NE X	Gage (GA), NE X	Jefferson (JE), NE X	Saline (SA), NE X	Seward (SE), NE X	Thayer (TH), NE X	York (YO), NE X
Health Outcomes		62	49	67	29	8	72	42
Length of Life		77	55	74	26	9	75	50
Premature death	5,900	9,900	7,200	8,900	6,000	4,800	9,100	6,800
Quality of Life		5	48	52	36	10	58	47
Poor or fair health	13%	12%	12%	13%	14%	10%	12%	13%
Poor physical health days	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.3	3.0	2.9
Poor mental health days	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.9
Low birthweight	7%	4%	6%	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%
Health Factors		28	67	54	51	5	31	25
Health Behaviors		34	76	63	68	9	26	38
Adult smoking	17%	15%	18%	15%	16%	15%	15%	15%
Adult obesity	30%	33%	34%	36%	33%	29%	30%	34%
Food environment index	7.6	7.9	7.6	7.9	8.0	8.1	7.5	7.7
Physical inactivity	22%	26%	27%	28%	31%	22%	27%	23%
Access to exercise opportunities	80%	49%	52%	32%	54%	48%	34%	60%
Excessive drinking	20%	18%	20%	17%	23%	20%	17%	19%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	36%	33%	62%	67%	36%	6%	50%	23%
Sexually transmitted infections	401.3	140.4	201.2	79.4	305.2	58.5		180.1
Teen births	29	19	31	34	28	10	23	31
Clinical Care		13	16	33	36	17	43	25
Uninsured	11%	10%	9%	11%	14%	7%	10%	8%
Primary care physicians	1,330:1	1,130:1	1,350:1	1,470:1	1,780:1	1,560:1	1,310:1	1,270:1
Dentists	1,390:1	1,400:1	1,460:1	2,420:1	2,380:1	2,140:1	5,160:1	1,260:1
Mental health providers	440:1	940:1	730:1	2,420:1	1,790:1	810:1	2,580:1	770:1
Preventable hospital stays	47	53	41	46	44	47	61	63
Diabetes monitoring	87%	89%	84%	87%	91%	86%	82%	85%
Mammography screening	62%	67%	58%	48%	58%	57%	62%	62%
Social & Economic Factors		34	67	52	47	5	30	29
High school graduation	87%		89%	89%	87%	94%		95%
Some college	70%	64%	71%	55%	54%	77%	62%	73%
Unemployment	3.0%	2.9%	3.6%	2.7%	2.9%	2.9%	2.4%	2.9%
Children in poverty	16%	13%	15%	17%	13%	8%	15%	14%
Income inequality	4.3	3.8	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.4	3.9
Children in single-parent households	29%	21%	21%	30%	21%	20%	11%	24%
Social associations	14.1	30.0	19.8	27.3	15.4	20.4	28.7	23.0
Violent crime	267		363		105	57	103	29
Injury deaths	57	101	93	110	72	54	85	77
Physical Environment		39	66	47	17	65	51	33
Air pollution - particulate matter	8.2	8.9	9.2	9.0	9.3	9.3	8.8	9.0
Drinking water violations		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Severe housing problems	13%	6%	11%	10%	12%	9%	10%	7%
Driving alone to work	81%	80%	80%	77%	71%	80%	80%	79%
Long commute - driving alone	18%	19%	24%	20%	24%	35%	11%	11%

Adequate health care in rural Nebraska is an ongoing problem. Many of the primary care physicians are not located in the rural areas making health care a challenge for the small communities. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, <https://www.aamc.org> 2012, Over a third of all physicians in Nebraska are older than 50 years and are likely to retire in the next 10 to 15 years. According to 2018 data, Nebraska ranked 41st in the country in regards to having physicians over 60 years old.



When the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act was passed in May 2001, 16 new multi-county health departments were created. As a result, all Nebraska counties are now covered by a local health department. The Office of Community Health Development provides technical assistance to all local public health departments and monitors the funds that are distributed under the Act. The increase in obesity is sighted for Nebraska. Nebraska notes the use of PHHS Block Grant Funds to support the reduction of health disparities among minority populations.

Table 15, Source: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org> and <http://dhhs.ne.gov>

County	# of Physicians	# of Dentists	# of Optometrists	# of Mental Health Centers	# of Hospitals	# of Health Dept.	# of Medical Facilities
Fillmore	4	3	1	0	1	*1	3
Gage	14	14	4	1	1	*1	7
Jefferson	5	3	1	0	1	*1	1
Saline	8	6	1	0	2	*1	1
Seward	11	8	3	1	1	*1	2
Thayer	5	2	4	0	1	*1	4
York	11	9	2	4	1	*1	6
Total BVCA	58	45	16	6	8	*2	24

*Four Corners Health Dept. serves Butler, Polk, Seward, and York. Public Health Solutions serves Fillmore, Gage, Saline, Jefferson, and Thayer.

1. Dental Health

The BVCA service area has seen a change in the number of dental providers that will accept Medicaid children. Increased paperwork, reimbursement rates paid at a lower rate than a non-Medicaid patient, and the number of missed visits have led some dental professionals not willing to accept Medicaid patients. A very low percent of enrolled families have dental insurance therefore; grant funds and community resources must be used to assist our children.

The lack of dental providers who provide oral health care to children under three is a real concern. Dental professionals in will not provide a screening or care for children under three unless there is a problem. Families with children who need extensive dental work or are under three must travel to a larger city where there are dental professionals who will provide the necessary services. The cities that have dental professionals willing to serve children under the age of three are sixty to ninety miles away from our small communities. This means time off from work for families who are struggling to meet their needs.

The BVCA Head Start/Early Head Start service area has two communities, Fairbury and Seward, that fluoridates their public water supply. Community water fluoridation remains the safest, most cost effective and socially equitable method of reducing tooth decay in a community. Many of enrolled children are from small towns or farms and lack the benefit of fluoride application.

For several years, Blue Valley Community Action and Public Health Solutions were partnering to provide fluoride treatments two times a year to preschool children and EHS children in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer Counties. Four Corners Public Health was providing fluoride treatments to families enrolled in the WIC program in York and Seward Counties. Some, but not all Head Start children also receive WIC in York and Seward. In the fall of 2018, Crete and Fillmore are still receiving services from PHS and York and Seward from Four Corners. Due to the loss of funding at PHS, Gage Jefferson, and Thayer no longer are provided fluoride treatments.

2. Mental Health

Mental Health service providers are limited in rural Nebraska; it has been difficult to locate a mental health provider that specializes in children birth to age five. For the current school year, we are contracted with Jill Timmons (FPS), Tami Lang, and Fillmore County Hospital. Tami services Saline, Seward, York, and Gage. Fillmore County Hospital serves Fillmore and Thayer. It can be a struggle to find providers in the area that have the time to provide services (lack of providers that are already stretched thinly). Another continued concern is finding providers that have early childhood knowledge. Experience providing services to parents in the home and working with the school system is also an area of need. The mental health professionals conduct classroom and home observations focusing one-on-one consultations with families who have concerns for the child's mental well-being. The mental health professional can assist with referrals for mental health services, when needed, and provide training at parent meetings. BVCA uses the Ages and Stages: Social-Emotional screening tool to assess the enrolled children's social emotional well-being. The Head Start centers occasionally partner with the public school system to utilize the school's Psychologist and other professionals to better support the child and the family.

3. Physical Health

a. Immunizations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) aims for 90% of all children to receive the primary immunization series by age three. In 2014, 80.2% of Nebraska children had received the series by age three. This dropped in 2016 Kids Count to 73.8% and rose again in 2018 to 80.6% (<http://voicesforchildren.com> Kids Count in Nebraska). This is higher than the national average of 70.7% (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/immunize.htm>)

Each of the counties in which BVCA provides Head Start and Early Head Start has Immunization Clinics with the exception of Fillmore. Those families must travel to Saline, Thayer or York counties.

The BVCA ChildPlus 3330 Report for 2017-2018 indicated that 41% children served by Head Start Birth to Five were up-to-date on **all** immunizations for their age; 42% had been determined by a health care professional to have received all immunization possible at this time, but who have not received all appropriate to their age; 2% met state guidelines for exemption; leaving 15% behind or lacking immunizations appropriate for their age.

b. Blood Lead Levels

According to *2017 Kids Count in Nebraska*, 34,813 Nebraska children's blood levels were tested. Of those, 411 had elevated blood lead levels representing 1.2% of all children tested, a decrease from 1.9% in 2013.

According to the 2007-2008 Program Information Report two hundred ninety four children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start were tested for high lead levels. All children who were tested passed the evaluation compared to the fourteen children who failed the evaluation in 2005-2006. BVCA saw a decrease over the years; then in 2012-2013, four children had high lead levels, in 2013-2014, eleven had high lead levels, in 2014-2015 one had high led levels and zero in 2017-2018.

c. Prenatal Health

According to the *Nebraska Health and Human Services 2015 Vital Statistics* (the most current available in January 2019) the number of resident live births in Nebraska was 26,678. The 2011 figure is the lowest number of live births in Nebraska in any single year since 2005. Nebraska's lowest year, 2011, live birth count translates into a rate of 14.0 live births per 1,000 population.

Table 16, Source NDHHS 2013 Vital Statistics http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/pages/ced_vs.aspx

Year	Population	Births
2005	1,758,163	26,142
2006	1,768,311	26,723
2007	1,774,571	26,935
2008	1,783,432	26,992
2009	1,796,619	26,931
2010	1,826,341	25,916
2011	1,842,641	25,722
2012	1,855,525	25,939
2013	1,868,516	26,094
2014	1,881,503	26,794
2015	1,896,190	26,678
2016	1,907,116	26,594

Prenatal care obtained in the first trimester is ideal for more positive maternal health and birth outcomes. Adequate prenatal care primarily consists of initiating prenatal care in the first twelve weeks of pregnancy as well as receiving at least thirteen visits during the course of a full term pregnancy. The table below shows a slight decrease in the rate of inadequate prenatal care from 2006 to 2011 and evening out in 2016. Nebraska had 15.6% of babies receive inadequate prenatal care. Two of BVCA's counties are higher than the state average-Saline and York.

Table 17, Sources: *Nebraska Vital Statistics Report* http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/pages/ced_vs.aspx

County	2006 Rate of Inadequate Prenatal Care	2011 Rate of Inadequate Prenatal Care	2016 Rate of Inadequate Prenatal Care
Fillmore	15.0	11.5	13.3
Gage	14.9	9.7	9.0
Jefferson	14.5	16.9	14.4
Saline	20.7	20.1	20.5
Seward	10.5	10.2	10.3
Thayer	11.1	11.3	9.4
York	18.8	20.0	18.8

The 2007 Nebraska Vital Statistic Report indicated 87 teen pregnancies in BVCA's service area while the 2016 Nebraska Vital Statistic Report indicates a decrease in the number of teen births to 40*. Jefferson, Saline and York counties exceeded the state percentage of teen births.

Table 18, Source: Nebraska Vital Statistics Report http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/pages/ced_vs.aspx

County	Teen Births	Total Births	% Teen Births
Fillmore	*	60	*
Gage	10	244	4.1%
Jefferson	9	97	9.3%
Saline	12	191	6.3%
Seward	*	175	*
Thayer	*	54	*
York	9	167	5.4%
Nebraska	1, 227	26,594	4.6%

*Teen Births are not provided if there were less than five for any given county for reasons of confidentiality.

The following table shows BVCA counties' data for unmarried mothers. The risk of having children with adverse birth outcomes, such as low birth weight and infant mortality, are greater for unmarried mothers than for those who are married. Children born to single mothers are also more likely to live in poverty than children born to married couples. This is the most current data available as of the 2019 update for Table 19, 20 and 21.

Table 19, Source: DHHS http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/pages/ced_vs.aspx

Births to unmarried mothers	2016 Numbers	2016 Rate
Fillmore	15	25%
Gage	79	32%
Jefferson	37	38%
Saline	70	37%
Seward	26	15%
Thayer	16	30%
York	44	26%
Nebraska	8,598	32%

The average incidence of very low birth weight (<1500 grams) among BVCA service area residents is lower in all counties except Saline. The average incidence of low birth weight (<2500 grams) babies born in the service area is lower than the state's.

Table 20, Sources: Nebraska Vital Statistics Report http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/pages/ced_vs.aspx

County	VLBW<1500 grams		LBW<2500 grams	
	Number	Rate/1000	Number	Rate/1000
Fillmore	0	0.0	1	16.7
Gage	2	8.2	17	69.7
Jefferson	0	0.0	8	82.5
Saline	4	20.9	13	68.1
Seward	3	17.1	16	91.4
Thayer	0	0.0	7	129.6
York	5	29.9	12	79.9
Nebraska	337	12.3	1,874	70.5

Infant mortality rates are frequently used as an indicator of overall human well being in a community. According to the Nebraska Health and Human Services System Vital Statistics Report – Infant and Neonatal Deaths by Place of Residence. Infant deaths are defined by Nebraska Health and Human Services System as the “death of a person less than one year of age” and neonatal deaths are defined as the “death of a person less than 28 days of age. The infant death rate for Nebraska decreased from 6.3% in 2008 to 5.8% in 2015 (most current available).

Table 21, Sources: Nebraska Vital Statistics Report, http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/pages/ced_vs.aspx

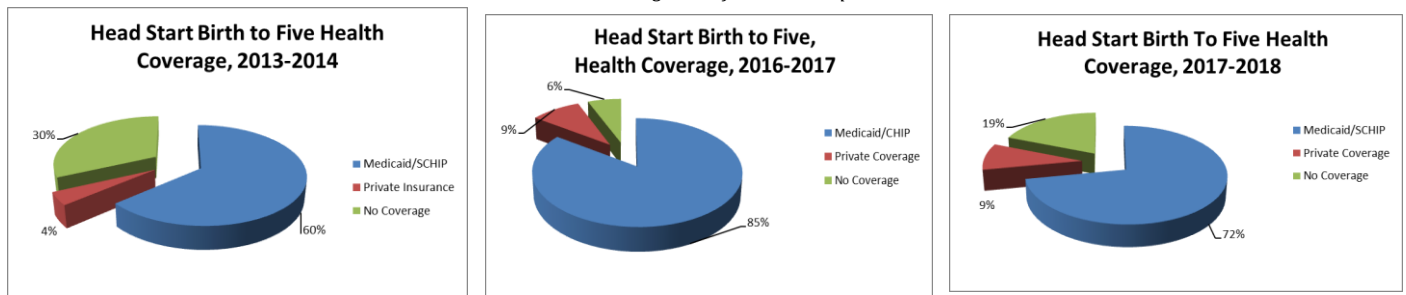
County	Infant Deaths	Rate/1000	Neonatal Deaths	Rate/1000
Fillmore	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gage	0	0.0	0	0.0
Jefferson	0	0.0	0	0.0
Saline	0	0.0	0	0.0
Seward	1	5.7	1	5.7
Thayer	0	0.0	0	0.0
York	2	12.0	1	6.0
Nebraska	166	6.2	104	3.9

d. Medical Insurance

According to the 2017 Kids Count, 5922 children in BVCA's service area are enrolled in Medicaid programs.

The following charts show Health Coverage has changed for the BVCA Head Start Birth to Five children since 2013

Chart 6, Source: Program Information Report ChildPlus.



e. Child Abuse Reports/Substantiation

According to the latest Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services – Child Abuse or Neglect Annual Report, in 2015, 21.6% of the children involved as substantiated victims were one years of age and younger, and 47.7% were five or younger. The following chart shows the numbers and percentages of children under 17 by county in the BVCA service area. This is the most current information as of the 2019 update of BVCA Community Assessment.

Table 22, Source: http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/jus_reports.aspx

Incident County	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Accepted for Assessment	Substantiated	Unfounded	Unable to Locate	Dependent Child	Alternative Response	DHHS Assessment In Process	Law Enforcement In Process
Fillmore	96	38 40%	3 8%	33 87%	0 0%	2 5%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Gage	378	155 41%	18 12%	117 75%	2 1%	7 5%	4 3%	0 0%	7 5%
Jefferson	133	53 40%	8 15%	43 81%	1 2%	0 0%	1 2%	0 0%	0 0%
Saline	185	73 39%	13 17%	49 64%	1 1%	8 10%	2 3%	0 0%	4 5%
Seward	172	77 45%	18 18%	59 59%	2 2%	14 14%	0 0%	3 3%	4 4%
Thayer	81	29 36%	2 7%	25 86%	0 0%	0 0%	1 3%	0 0%	1 3%
York	252	128 51%	14 11%	97 76%	0 0%	1 1%	3 2%	0 0%	13 10%

C. Nutrition Status

1. WIC Program Participation

Table 23, Source: USDA Annual Report, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018 preliminary
Nebraska	45,267	42,727	39,211	38,125	35,835

BVCA 2017 Annual Report indicates 1,222 individuals were served: 333 women, 522 children, and 367 infants.

2. Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Table 24, Source: USDA Annual Report, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/food-distribution-program-tables>

	2012	2014	2016	2018 preliminary
Nebraska	11,896	10,185	9,006	7,837

All BVCA Counties as well as Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson Counties; Permanent distribution sites at David City, Fairbury, York, Hebron, Beatrice, and Humboldt; Tailgate distribution sites at Crete and Wilber. The CSFP program offers nutritious food packages to income qualifying women, infants, and children, and senior citizens. The BVCA 2017 Annual Report, contains more information and data.

3. Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services distributed Food Stamps to a monthly average of 119,421 persons or 51,146 household in 2006. Food Stamps are cards provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to aid families that have incomes at or below 130% of poverty in order to maintain a low-cost and healthy diet. The table below indicates Nebraska information from 2013-2016. (Information for 2017 not available yet)

Table 25, Source: <https://www.kff.org/state-category/demographics-and-the-economy/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program/>

Location	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
	Average Monthly SNAP Participants	Average Monthly SNAP Participants	Average Monthly SNAP Participants	Average Monthly SNAP Participants
Nebraska	179,711	173,530	174,092	175,851

In 2006, the average payment was \$201.73 per household or \$86.40 per person. In FY 2015, the average per household was no longer available but it was \$115.88 per person. It dropped to \$114.05 in 2016.

4. Food Pantry Use

According to the latest information from Feeding America, (http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/?_ga=1.40049762.1755095871.1423762272) in 2017, Nebraska had a 12.3% overall food insecurity rate. BVCA offers food and dry goods to persons in need within the service area. BVCA sponsors pantries in Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, and York counties. The BVCA Annual Report, indicates the number of individuals and households receiving food and dry goods.

5. Child and Adult Care Food Program

According to 2017 Kids Count in Nebraska, 146,012 or 42.1% of students were eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program for reduced or free meals. BVCA's counties are as follows: Fillmore 267 or 21.4%, Gage 1,397 or 42.0%, Jefferson 759 or 48.9%, Saline 1,412 or 59.6%, Seward 776 or 27.0%, Thayer 317 or 34.1%, and York 941 or 41.3%.

D. Social Service Needs

1. Income and Poverty Status

a. Aid to Dependent Children

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) focuses on non-cash resources and education to foster self-sufficiency among program recipients. Nebraska's Employment First Program was created to assist parents in acquiring and sustaining self-sufficiency within 48 months. Medicaid coverage, child care services and subsidies, and job support are all provided through Employment First.

The *2017 Kids Count In Nebraska* shows that in Nebraska the monthly average number of families participating in is 12, 119.

Refer to Table 1 for the number of children in poverty under age five living in each BVCA service area county. Fifteen percent (15%) of children under five in BVCA counties live in poverty (according to most current data).

b. Poverty Status

Data from the *US Census Bureau*, January 2017 shows Seward with the lowest poverty rate and Jefferson with the highest in the BVCA area. Seward has the highest median income and Jefferson the lowest.

Table 26, Source: *US Census Bureau's County Poverty Estimates* www.census.gov/quickfacts

County	Percentage of Persons of All Ages below Poverty, 2015	Percentage of Persons of All Ages below Poverty, 2017	Median Income, 2015	Median Income, 2017
Fillmore	8.8%	9.8%	45,970	52,318
Gage	12.0%	10.2%	46,145	50,010
Jefferson	13.7%	12.3%	43,407	43,008
Saline	15.6%	10.0%	46,434	51,738
Seward	6.8%	7.5%	60,676	59,662
Thayer	11.0%	10.2%	43,077	45,741
York	10.0%	10.1%	47,220	51,802
Nebraska	12.0%	12.6%	51,381	52,997

2. Employment-Types and Typical Work Schedules

The following table shows the unemployment rate for the BVCA service area from 2000 to 2014. Data was taken from *The Bureau of Labor Statistics – Local Area Unemployment Statistics*. Five counties (Fillmore, Gage, Saline, Seward and York) in the Nebraska service area had unemployment rates higher than the state average in 2017. Gage county had the highest unemployment rate of 3.4 while Fillmore and Thayer County had the lowest.

Table 27, Source: *Bureau of Labor Statistics* <http://www.bls.gov/lau/tables.htm>

County	2000	2005	2008	2011	2014	2016	2017
Fillmore	2.6	3.3	2.9	3.6	2.6	2.8	2.9
Gage	3.0	4.5	4.6	5.4	3.7	3.5	3.4
Jefferson	3.2	3.9	3.8	4.2	2.9	2.7	2.6
Saline	2.6	3.4	3.4	4.0	3.2	3.1	2.8
Seward	2.3	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.0	3.1	2.8
Thayer	2.5	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.4	2.8	2.4
York	2.5	2.9	4.9	4.5	2.9	2.9	2.8
Nebraska	2.8	3.9	3.3	4.4	2.9	3.4	2.7

The table below shows the employment numbers single and two parent families, employment, job training or school status, and education levels.

Table 28, Source: *BVCA Program Information Data 2017-2018*

Families			Employment					Job Training or in School					Education			
2016-2017 PIR	Two parents	One Parent	Two parents employed	One parent employed	Two parents unemployed	One parent unemployed	One Parent unemployed	Two parents in school	One Parent in school	Two parents none	One parent in school	One parent none	Advanced Degree	Some College/ Assoc.	HS Grad or GED	Less than HS Grad
HS 259	129	130	18	80	26	63	63	2	32	92	27	99	53	22	92	89
EHS 102	59	43	9	32	17	14	28	2	16	38	7	35	25	6	34	35
CCP 53	27	26	4	18	5	16	10	0	8	18	6	20	12	4	16	21

Most BVCA residents continue to make less money than residents statewide and nationwide. Fillmore and Thayer (smallest in population) are the only BVCA counties which exceeded the statewide per-capita income. Saline County has the lowest per-capita of BVCA's Nebraska counties. Table 26 shows the per-capita dollar amounts for the BVCA counties as of July, 2017.

Table 29, Source: *U.S. Census Bureau* <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045217>

County	Per-Capita Personal Income
Fillmore	\$29,361
Gage	\$26,347
Jefferson	\$26,305
Saline	\$21,880
Seward	\$28,491
Thayer	\$30,057
York	\$27,962
Nebraska	\$28,596

In 2018, The Nebraska Department of Labor reported eight closings in BVCA's service area of businesses employing 1-8 people. The only larger business closing was of Shopko, laying off 12 people, in Crete, Saline County. This report is by no means all-inclusive as many companies or businesses quietly close or lay off workers to avoid a poor public image or fear that they may lose business over the concern they are about to close. Nor does it include the numerous very small businesses, restaurants, or stores opening and closing. The following shows the top ten types of employment in each county, total earnings per year, and break down of male and female earnings compared to the total earnings.

Table 30, Source: www.towncharts.com using most recent information from Census/American Community Survey.

Fillmore County Detailed Job Categories	# of People	Total Annual Earnings	Male Annual Earnings	Female Annual Earnings
Management	473	\$49,327	\$50,521	\$43,250
Office and administrative support	374	\$27,434	\$46,964	\$26,979
Construction and extraction	245	\$37,273	\$40,769	\$0
Production	245	\$32,500	\$34,500	\$23,500
Sales and related	224	\$34,167	\$41,458	\$17,361
Transportation	165	\$44,886	\$45,625	\$0
Education, training, and library	164	\$44,643	\$42,857	\$48,750
Personal care and service	151	\$23,182	\$0	\$21,500
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	114	\$37,708	\$39,583	\$12,250
Food preparation and serving related	112	\$22,813	\$0	\$30,096
Gage County Detailed Job Categories	# of People	Total Annual Earnings	Male Annual Earnings	Female Annual Earnings
Office and administrative support	1,303	\$32,634	\$36,250	\$31,250
Management	1,216	\$46,976	\$48,125	\$46,471
Sales and related	1,004	\$40,308	\$42,381	\$35,917
Production	881	\$35,641	\$37,227	\$27,009
Material moving	700	\$25,417	\$30,588	\$15,000
Education, training, and library	619	\$43,333	\$62,596	\$37,232
Construction and extraction	535	\$45,870	\$45,000	\$62,778
Installation, maintenance, and repair	508	\$41,708	\$41,875	\$0
Food preparation and serving related	497	\$17,841	\$16,964	\$18,523
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	492	\$61,010	\$101,548	\$46,827
Jefferson County Detailed Job Categories	# of People	Total Annual Earnings	Male Annual Earnings	Female Annual Earnings
Management	567	\$50,299	\$51,188	\$43,750
Office and administrative support	409	\$31,354	\$30,833	\$32,542
Sales and related	398	\$35,024	\$40,263	\$20,905
Production	398	\$32,295	\$36,125	\$25,481
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	245	\$22,188	\$25,625	\$21,726
Construction and extraction	214	\$31,500	\$31,775	\$13,875
Food preparation and serving related	187	\$16,167	\$0	\$16,000
Personal care and service	171	\$17,398	\$0	\$17,049

Saline County Detailed Job Categories	# of People	Total Annual Earnings	Male Annual Earnings	Female Annual Earnings
Production	1,200	\$33,525	\$34,157	\$32,183
Office and administrative support	658	\$31,462	\$35,461	\$30,944
Management	650	\$44,198	\$43,913	\$52,321
Material moving	589	\$31,210	\$32,366	\$9,308
Sales and related	499	\$28,800	\$33,173	\$27,850
Education, training, and library	416	\$50,938	\$65,000	\$46,823
Personal care and service	376	\$16,250	\$6,311	\$23,409
Installation, maintenance, and repair	341	\$38,021	\$37,212	\$0
Construction and extraction	316	\$35,827	\$35,864	\$0
Health technologists	273	\$32,578	\$0	\$32,578
Seward County Detailed Job Categories	# of People	Total Annual Earnings	Male Annual Earnings	Female Annual Earnings
Management	1,086	\$52,140	\$62,188	\$39,583
Office and administrative support	964	\$30,063	\$41,923	\$27,302
Sales and related	663	\$41,146	\$43,550	\$25,625
Production	631	\$42,105	\$45,667	\$37,125
Installation, maintenance, and repair	543	\$55,164	\$55,164	\$0
Education, training, and library	503	\$46,786	\$57,857	\$37,097
Transportation	476	\$55,417	\$55,486	\$0
Construction and extraction	471	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Food preparation and serving related	406	\$20,833	\$16,625	\$27,656
Healthcare support	323	\$26,528	\$0	\$26,493
Thayer County Detailed Job Categories	# of People	Total Annual Earnings	Male Annual Earnings	Female Annual Earnings
Management	460	\$52,580	\$53,989	\$9,844
Office and administrative support	343	\$32,031	\$40,625	\$31,094
Sales and related	194	\$39,750	\$43,750	\$21,875
Production	188	\$35,000	\$36,053	\$33,824
Construction and extraction	143	\$32,250	\$32,500	\$0
Healthcare support	135	\$27,188	\$0	\$28,438
Education, training, and library	134	\$35,625	\$48,125	\$31,167
Transportation	99	\$46,250	\$50,341	\$0
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	97	\$48,929	\$110,625	\$48,393
Food preparation and serving related	92	\$19,167	\$0	\$19,583

York County Detailed Job Categories	# of People	Total Annual Earnings	Male Annual Earnings	Female Annual Earnings
Management	1,042	\$49,638	\$56,281	\$39,583
Office and administrative support	995	\$31,875	\$61,324	\$30,019
Sales and related	599	\$38,846	\$45,774	\$29,028
Education, training, and library	531	\$40,547	\$43,750	\$38,393
Transportation	350	\$49,057	\$49,269	\$0
Construction and extraction	347	\$39,167	\$40,000	\$0
Food preparation and serving related	335	\$15,938	\$0	\$15,938
Production	331	\$38,000	\$46,190	\$31,757
Material moving	307	\$26,900	\$30,882	\$11,786
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	291	\$24,688	\$35,750	\$16,908

Head Start eligible families, who are employed, are typically working in the categories of Production (meat packing and dog food industry in Saline and various factories in all counties), Personal Care and Services (e.g. nursing facilities, home health, CNAs), and Food Preparation and Serving Related (fast food, restaurants, catering). In all of these categories, there is no typical work schedule for families. They involve morning, evening, and sometimes night shift work as well as weekends. For those families in job training or school, typical schedules are 8-5, however evening and weekend classes are also available and more individuals are doing classes on-line at various times..

3. Crime and Public Safety

According to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice definitions of Violent Crimes are Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. Property crimes are Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson.

In 2006, the Crime Commission had break downs of Violent Crimes by county, but no longer publishes information by county, just by the state as in the table 32. The Crime Commission does have information on Domestic Violence by county (2017 is the latest) as illustrated in Table 31.

Aggravated Assault: An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

Simple Assault: Includes all assaults which do not involve the use of a firearm, knife, cutting instrument, or other dangerous weapon and in which the victim did not sustain serious or aggravated injuries.

Domestic: applies to family or household members and includes: spouses or former spouses, children, persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past, persons who have a child in common whether they have been married or have lived together at any time, other persons who are related by consanguinity or affinity, and persons who are presently involved in a dating relationship with each other or who have been involved in a dating relationship with each other.

Table 31, Source: <https://ncc.nebraska.gov>

County	Aggravated Domestic Assaults	Arrests for Aggravated Domestic Assaults	Simple Domestic Assaults	Arrests for Simple Domestic Assaults
Fillmore	4	8	2	1
Gage	14	8	51	38
Jefferson	19	17	24	14
Saline	17	15	15	11
Seward	3	8	24	21
Thayer	2	0	9	7
York	0	0	26	16

Table 32, Source: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice,
https://ncc.nebraska.gov/stat-reports#Crime_in_Nebraska_Series

Crime Index Offenses, 2015 - 2016				Crime Index Offenses, 2016 - 2017			
Crime Index Offenses	2015	2016	% Change		2016	2017	% CHANGE
Violent Crimes	4,791	5,193	8.4%	VIOLENT CRIMES	5,224	5,675	+8.6%
Murder - Manslaughter	65	51	-21.5%	Murder-Manslaughter	51	44	-13.7%
Forcible Rape	658	801	21.7%	Forcible Rape	812	1,053	+29.7%
Robbery	991	935	-5.7%	Robbery	940	953	+1.4%
Aggravated Assault	3,077	3,406	10.7%	Aggravated Assault	3,421	3,625	+6.0%
Property Crimes	41,841	42,367	1.3%	PROPERTY CRIMES	42,538	43,380	+2.0%
Burglary	6,239	6,265	0.4%	Burglary	6,287	6,311	+0.4%
Larceny-Theft	31,413	31,224	-0.6%	Larceny-Theft	31,357	31,649	+0.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,908	4,650	19.0%	Motor Vehicle Theft	4,663	5,194	+11.4%
Arson	281	228	-18.9%	Arson	231	226	-2.2%
Total	46,632	47,560	2.0%	COMBINED TOTAL	47,762	49,055	+2.7%

* Part of the increase is due to the broadened definition required by the FBI.

4. Housing Status

Current information can be found on housing, ownership, rental, homelessness, and client sheltering in the BVCA Annual Report. BVCA offers various the following programs to assist clients with their housing needs.

First-Time Home Buyer Assistance Project – Down-payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.

Homeless Assistance – Homeless individuals/families can both obtain emergency food, clothing, shelter and/or transportation. Other services may include locating permanent housing and referrals to other agencies.

Housing Development – Construction of affordable rental housing units.

Housing Rentals – Affordable rental housing properties are available to income eligible families. In some locations, Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Thayer, and York counties, Lease-To-Own is an option.

a. Affordable Rental Housing

Data can be found in the BVCA Annual Report on affordable rental units, including lease-to-own homes. These rentals are designed to make safe, quality housing available to income eligible individuals and families. Funding sources included are Low Income Housing Tax Credit, USDA Rural Development and HOME assisted units.

Housing Rehabilitation Services – Low and moderate income homeowners are offered low-interest loans and/or forgivable loans to rehabilitate homes to meet health and safety needs, limited by type or extent of work needed.

Temporary Emergency Shelter – Mini-shelters are available for displaced persons who suffer loss of homes due to fire, tornadoes, transience, domestic disputes or homelessness. Shelters are guarded and locations are confidential. Emergency Shelter is available in Gage, Jefferson and York counties.

Weatherization – Home from lower income families are tightened from heat and cold at no charge. Available in all Nebraska counties.

b. Weatherization Services

BVCA also provides energy saving measures to homeowners and renters who qualify under federal income guidelines. The BVCA Annual Report indicates information on homes weatherized.

IV. Education, Health, Nutrition, and Social Service Needs of Head Start Eligible Children and Families as Defined by Families and Other Service Providers

A. Head Start 0-5 Parent Surveys

Each year BVCA conducts a parent survey to determine parent perception of program effectiveness across areas of assistance and support. BVCA received 63 Customer Satisfaction Surveys from EHS and HS families. Agreement or satisfaction was checked by 96-100% on four major questions. The specific survey results and comments can be found in electronic files of the Director and Outcomes Officer.

Surveys were distributed to all families in the spring of 2017. The Table below indicates the numbers and percentages returned. Overall the surveys indicated very positive responses about the health services, staff relationships, parent engagement, and program satisfaction. Surveys are shared with staff and stored at the Home Office.

County/Enrollment by Program Option	Number Returned	Total Returned out of total possible	Percent Returned
Fillmore EHS HB 10 HS 17	7 12	19/27	70%

Gage-Beatrice EHS HB 20 HS 55	12 22	34/75	45%
Gage-Wymore HS 14	8	8/14	57%
Jefferson EHS HB 10 EHS CCP 20 HS 31	6 6 8	22/61	36%
Saline EHS HB 20 EHS CCP 24 HS 44	3 17 24	44/88	20%
Seward HS 17	7	7/17	41%
Thayer EHS HB 10 HS 10	9 10	19/20	95%
York EHS HB 20 HS 51	14 44	58/71	82%
BVCA EHS HB 90 EHS CCP 44 HS 239	51 17 135	203/373	54%

B. Blue Valley Community Action Self-Assessment and Strategic Planning

BVCA continues an Agency Self-Assessment and Strategic Planning process yearly. During this process Key Stakeholders and partners were asked to complete interview questions in regard to the services that BVCA provides, future opportunities and needs in the community, threats and barriers the agency should be aware of as well as input future strategies the agency should consider. The process focuses on needs of persons served, the communities in BVCA's service area, and the organization itself.

The most recent Community Survey Results can be found in the BVCA Annual Report. Other Community Survey Results are in previous annual reports. www.bvca.net

The Children Services Department has a Strategic Planning Committee as well, which organizes training, planning, Head Start Self Assessment, and the Head Start Strategic Planning Goals-Five Year Plan. The Five Year Plan is reviewed and updated at least quarterly with progress toward goals and is used in the annual Self Assessment.

Summary

BVCA's service area is currently experiencing increases in local school districts providing preschool and infant/toddler services. In addition, the Nebraska Family Foundations have awarded several new or expansion Sixpence grants to provide services for infants and toddlers in the BVCA area. Although there are many contributing factors to the problems seen in the service area, BVCA continues to see under-employment as a barrier to success for its residents. The abundance of needs in the communities can be directly correlated to ability to be self-sufficient.

Beatrice Public School is the only district to provide "full day" for approximately 27 of the 55 Head Start enrollment slots there. However, they do not meet the number of hours needed to be considered for Duration Extension. BVCA anticipates challenges in meeting the 1,020 hours needed for duration in several of its centers in direct collaboration. In summary 4 classes enrolling 17 each, or 68 children, are providing full day (1,020 hours). This is 28% of enrollment. BVCA has 171 children spread out over 40 other classrooms in collaborations. As indicated on pages 11 and 12, BVCA does not anticipate school districts or the State of Nebraska to work toward 1,020 hours for preschool within the foreseeable future. BVCA has developed strong collaborations, blended and braided funding and resources (staff, dollars, facilities, equipment) with schools, and appreciates that children are in inclusionary settings with other children in their communities. BVCA will continue to explore options for Duration Extension, without dismantling collaborations built over the years, and will maintain its commitment to eliminate poverty. At the time of this 2019 update, BVCA has written for Expansion Duration for Head Start to increase hours for approximately 40 children and Early Head Start Childcare Partnership Expansion to increase numbers served by approximately 24.

**ADDENDUM II: COVID-19 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT & CARES
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**



COVID-19 Community Assessment Update



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This update to the Blue Valley Community Action Partnership Community Assessment was completed

May 28, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

I. Background

This Community Assessment Update is in response to a global health pandemic that has not only affected every community in the United States but has also led to the most significant economic disruption since the Great Depression. This assessment is an initial effort to capture some of the emerging needs in the community as well as to forecast how those needs may evolve over the coming weeks and months.

In December 2019, the novel coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19) was discovered to be the causative agent for acute respiratory and flu-like symptoms and began infecting increasing numbers of people in the Wuhan Province of China. The first case in the United States was confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on January 22, 2020. Despite efforts to contain the virus, by March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. By March 17, 2020, all 50 US States had confirmed cases of the virus.

Because of the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, the alarmingly high rate of fatalities associated with it and the lack of a vaccine or treatment, the only effective way to prevent mass illness is through restricted travel, physical distancing, frequent hand washing, coughing in elbows, not touching the face, and staying at home. By mid-March 2020, with the virus clearly past the stage of effective isolation and contact tracing, local, state and federal public health officials recommend extreme measures to minimize a public health catastrophe: mass quarantine, physical distancing, and a virtual lockdown of all public gatherings and economic activity.

While all types of people are getting sick from the disease, older adults and people of any age who experience serious underlying medical conditions, many which are more prevalent in African American communities, and, to some extent, Latinx and Native American communities, are at increased risk for severe symptoms from COVID-19. Persons of color, immigrants, and women are also disproportionately impacted by underlying health conditions linked to poverty, face discrimination in medical care, and are more likely to work jobs that require them to leave their homes. In addition, persons with disabilities or chronic conditions are more vulnerable to COVID-19 due to their inability to isolate themselves (need for hands-on care), physical impairments, environmental barriers, or

interrupted services. The following additional populations experience differential exposure and extensive corresponding implications as a result of the pandemic: frontline workers, persons experiencing homelessness, gig-economy workers, low-income communities under quarantine, especially in urban settings, rural communities, tribal communities, incarcerated persons and returning citizens.

Children, families, individuals, and Community Action Agency staff may experience heightened stress, anxiety, and trauma as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Loss of income, growing childcare needs, heightened food insecurity, housing and energy instability, lack of access to transportation, lack of basic supplies, and increased domestic violence are growing factors as the crisis unfolds.

Because of the urgent and widespread needs affecting all sectors of the community, this Community Assessment update is intended to provide some initial information to describe the scope of this crisis on our community and to support the many different responses that will be required to address emerging, evolving needs. It is likely that as needs evolve, some of those needs will not be captured in this update and therefore some necessary community responses may not connect to the needs identified in this document.

The community assessed in this document, related to the below information, is defined as the following nine Nebraska counties of Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, and York.

The needs assessed will inform services to those affected by the crisis. It is significant to note that Congressional action will permit FY20 and special supplemental CSBG funding to serve families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (as defined by [the US Census Bureau](#)). Specific programs or strategies will target the demographic groups most affected. Given persons of color are being disproportionately affected by both the health crisis and by the resulting economic disruption, an equity lens must be used to view current and emergent needs related to this crisis.

II. Local public health response

On March 6, Governor Pete Ricketts announced Nebraska's first resident presumptive case, a 36-year-old woman from Omaha who had recently returned from travel in Europe. The first COVID-19 diagnosis in the BVCA service area was reported on March 30, 2020, when Four Corners Health Department confirmed its first case of COVID-19 as a man in his 50's in York County. That case was determined to be travel-related. On April 2, 2020, Public Health Solutions (PHS) reported its first confirmed COVID-19 case within the district, a female in her 90's with multiple underlying health conditions, who was a resident of an assisted living facility in Gage County and had succumbed to the virus on March 31. On April 3, Four Corners Health Department reported a second lab confirmed COVID-19 case in York County. On April 4, the first positive case in Seward County was reported. On April 5, Public Health Solutions (PHS) reported seven new cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Gage County and all seven cases were related to the same assisted living facility within the county. On April 9, the first positive case was confirmed in Polk County and on April 14, the first case was announced in Saline County. The first case was reported in Butler County on April 17 and the first case in Fillmore County was reported on April 22. On April 26, the first case was reported in Jefferson County.

To date, Saline has been the county most affected, with almost 500 cases reported, and most linked to the Smithfield meatpacking plant. Butler and Gage counties both report more than 40 cases, with York at over 30, Seward over 25, and Fillmore, Jefferson, Polk and Thayer all under 10 cases.

Rather than implement a statewide stay-at-home order, Nebraska employed a framework of "Directed Health Measures" (DHM), which included enforceable restrictions on public gatherings of more than 10 people, elective medical procedures, restaurants (restricted to take-out service only), schools (must close to students, no

extracurricular activities), and social distancing. These measures were phased in on a county-by-county basis based on active infections among the regions.

The first Directed Health Measure (DHM) affect the BVCA service area was issued by Governor Pete Ricketts on March 28 and included the BVCA counties of Butler, Polk, Seward, and York counties, all served by the Four Corners Health Department. On April 3, all other counties not yet under a DHM became subject to one. This included the five BVCA counties served by Public Health Solutions District Health Department. On April 24, it was announced that the statewide DHM would be superseded on May 4 by nineteen _ new DHMs effective through May 31. These new measures would be administered by Nebraska's local health departments and contain some loosening of prior restrictions. Elective medical procedures would be allowed to resume (with limited capacity at hospitals), and places of worship would be allowed to operate with social distancing between household groups.

In the counties served by the Four Corners Health Department, some restrictions were further loosened at this time. Restaurants were allowed to offer dine-in service at half capacity (with a maximum of six patrons per-party, no self-service or buffets, and alcohol only served to those with an intent to dine), and personal care facilities could re-open, provided both employees and customers would wear face coverings. Bars, cinemas, bottle clubs, and gentleman's clubs remain closed through May 31. Public Health Solution's District DHM was updated as of May 18 and extended to run until May 31.

Beginning on June 1, 2020, all the BVCA counties will follow the latest DHM, identified as Phase II and providing new reopening guidelines. End dates for Phase II are unknown at this time.

- The new guidelines allow limited opening of some sports activities (baseball, softball, volleyball, rodeos and pools). Schools gyms and weight rooms are permitted to follow gym, fitness centers/clubs, health clubs, and health spas DHM requirements.
- Restaurants - Remain open for dine-in and bars can reopen limited to 50% of rated occupancy maximum at a time with a maximum of six individuals in a party. Patrons will be required to be seated while on the premises unless they are placing an order or using the restroom. Six feet separation must be maintained between seating of different parties and between entertainers, performers, dancers, and patrons. Games such as pool, darts, arcade games, etc. are prohibited.
- Gyms, Fitness Centers/Clubs, Health Clubs, & Health Spas - Will be limited to the greater of 25 people (excluding staff) or 50% of rated occupancy and must ensure a minimum distance of six feet be maintained between all patrons.
- Childcare Facilities – Will remain at not more than 15 children per room/space.
- Salons, Barber Shops, Massage Therapy Services, & Tattoo Parlors/Body Art Facilities – Will be limited to the greater of 25 people (excluding staff) or 50% of rated occupancy. Chairs/stations must remain at least six feet apart. Both workers and patrons are required to wear masks at all times.
- Gatherings will be limited to the greater of 25 people (excluding staff) or 25% of rated occupancy (not to exceed 3,000) for gatherings held at Indoor or Outdoor Arenas; Indoor or Outdoor Auctions; Stadiums; Tracks; Fairgrounds; Festivals; Zoos; Auditoriums; Large Event Conference Rooms; Meeting Halls; Indoor Theaters; Libraries; Swimming Pools;, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. Groups shall be no larger than six individuals. Six feet separation between groups must be maintained. Dance recitals are permitted but must follow the Gathering requirements. Plans for reopening must be submitted to the local health departments and approved for all indoor and outdoor locations/venues that hold 500 or more individuals (1,000 or more in counties over 500,000 population).

- Wedding & Funeral Reception Venues – Will be limited to the greater of 25 people (excluding staff) or 50% of rated occupancy. Six feet separation between seating of different parties. Maximum of six individuals in a party (groups larger than six will need to split into multiple tables). Self-serve buffets and salad bars are prohibited. Venue staff must serve food directly to all individuals. No dances or other social events that require guests to gather outside of their respective tables are permitted.
- Parades, carnivals, midways, dances and street dances, and beer gardens are prohibited through June 30 and may be extended. Parades where patrons remain in their vehicles and the public does not line the streets are permitted.

As a result of this unprecedented public health crisis, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership is updating its Community Assessment because there is currently a significant impact on the community, and a number of short-, intermediate- and longer-term impacts are expected.

III. Immediate impacts on the community

The immediate impacts of COVID-19 have been felt across all sectors of society. In particular, some of the greatest impacts relevant to the Community Action Network have been in the areas of health, education, employment, human services provision, and community resources. In the BVCA nine-county service area, the virus has impacted some counties much harder than others, especially related to the health impacts. We have developed this chart identifying several types of vulnerability variables (demographics, health, economics) to compare county risk and impact. (Data current as of May 26, 2020.)

Counties	Saline	Gage	Butler	York	Seward	Polk	Jefferson	Fillmore	Thayer
Cases	482	44	45	35	27	9	6	5	0
Cases per 100K	3358.9	204.7	558.5	254.1	155.9	170.5	84.5	90.5	0
Pop	14350	21493	8058	13772	17318	5278	7097	5527	5039
Med. Age	35.8	44	43.9	40.2	37.9	45.2	45.7	47.7	47.0
Deaths	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Deaths per 100K	7	14	0	0	5.8	0	0	0	0
Households	5073	9160	3377	5691	6596	2052	3283	2510	2283
Disabled	11.4	15.4	11.5	14.0	10.7	12.6	16.9	15.8	15.2
Licensed Beds	43	25	20	38	24	16	17	20	17
Staffed Beds	43	25	20	38	24	16	17	20	17
ICU Beds	7	3	3	6	4	3	3	3	3
Typical Bed Utilization Rate	9.8	43.6	20.7	21.2	34.9	6.8	13.9	21.2	18.7
ICU Beds per 100K	48.8	14	37.2	43.6	23.1	56.8	42.3	54.3	59.5
Pop in Pov	13.5	9.8	7.5	10.2	7.5	7.8	12.0	10.0	8.4
Uninsured Pop	11.1	4.8	4.8	6.8	5.4	10.8	5.7	7.9	4.8
Broadband Use	16.7	30.7	5.5	41.8	29.6	2.7	14.6	13.8	5.0

Houses w/o Internet	21.1	19.3	21	14.8	15.4	15.4	24.5	22.5	22.7
Unemployed	4.9	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.7
Med. House Income	51,143	51,662	55562	59779	67591	61962	43295	55625	50,734
GDP	939	1139	287	836	739	275	1039	340	474
Smoker	16.3	17.3	16	16.4	14.1	15.0	15.9	16.0	13.6
HBP	52.6	57.9	48.9	45.5	42.4	53.1	47.8	55.7	52.1
Diabetes	23.9	22.2	21.3	21.1	21.1	22.8	22.5	22.4	22.9
Hi Cholest	35.4	29	23.8	27.8	23.1	32.5	22.0	36.9	29.1
Asthma	3.9	3.8	2.8	4.8	3	3.9	2.4	4.5	3.3
Cardio Dis.	23.5	26.6	21.2	25.1	23.5	24.7	20.6	27.1	25.9
Wkplace Mob.	-31	-10	0	-18	-12	0	0	0	0
% Age 65 or Older	14.2	20.4	20.2	19.3	16.7	21.1	23.2	23.3	25.1

Source: Engagement Network's Vulnerability Footprint tool, <https://engagementnetwork.org/covid-19/>

Nationwide, early data suggest that the following groups have experienced disproportionately higher rates of infection and/or complications/death as a result the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Males
- Individuals 60+ years old (*Our area has a higher proportion of residents 65+ compared to Nebraska, especially Thayer, Jefferson and Fillmore Counties.*)
- People of color, particularly African Americans
- People with underlying health conditions, especially, lung disease, asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, liver disease, severe obesity, and individuals with immunocompromised conditions. (*Most BVCA counties have a higher percentage of adults who are obese compared to Nebraska as a whole - 7 of 9 counties.*)

In Nebraska and other Plains states, one additional group shown to be vulnerable are people working in meatpacking plants. Saline County is home to the Smithfield meatpacking plant with 2100 employees.

Community Input

To assess the current impact on our communities, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership conducted two surveys in May 2020 (May 14-May 22). Staff members contacted clients by phone and community members were invited to answer the same set of questions via an online survey with the public link promoted by BVCA partner agencies, schools and other organizations and posted on websites and social media. A total of 133 clients responded and 487 community members completed the online survey. As a group, client respondents were slightly younger and had lower incomes than community respondents. There were also a higher proportion of Hispanic residents who participated in the client survey. Client respondents were randomly selected from several BVCA programs including: housing (mix of homeowners and renters), emergency services, Head Start/ Early Head Start, and youth services. The surveys will be repeated in the future to track changes in community impact and progress. The survey questions addressed the following potential need areas: employment, health insurance, food

security, housing/utility payment assistance, internet access for students and daycare. The survey also asked for general information on the impact of the pandemic on household income.

The biggest needs for clients were nutritious foods (38%); rent (26%) and utility assistance (21%); childcare payment (15%); shopping and grocery delivery (13%); emergency repairs (12%); finding childcare (12%); mental health services (11%); job search placement (10%). The biggest needs for community members were nutritious food (12%); utility payments (9%); mental health (9%); rental, emergency repair, shopping & grocery delivery (all about 6%).

The following chart outlines the survey findings (**highlighted findings emphasize current and emerging needs**):

Metrics	Client Survey	Community Survey
Gender	85% Female	78% female
Age	58% under age 35	22% under age 35
Households	114 of 133 households included children	431 of 487 included children
Origin	79% not Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin	98% not Hispanic Latino or Spanish origin
Disability payments	80% not receiving disability	91% not receiving disability
March 1 adult employment	52% one adult employed; 25% two adults employed	28% one adult employed; 58% two adults employed
Since April 1, jobs impacted	51% yes	37% yes
Lost health insurance	10% lost health insurance due to impact	7% lost health insurance due to impact
Household income changed due to pandemic	88% income declined	77% income declined
Confidence in employment in 4 weeks	55% Somewhat confident or not at all confident	54% somewhat or not at all confident
Household food in last seven days	28% Sometimes or often not enough food	13% sometimes or often not enough
Reason for not enough food	84% could not afford it	61% could not afford; 44% afraid to go out
Free groceries in last 7 days	43% received free groceries	15.3% got free groceries
Where free food came from	77% school program; 33% food bank	80% school; 21% food bank
Confidence in enough food in next month	17% somewhat or not at all confident	16% somewhat or not at all confident
Housing	74% rent; 14% have mortgage	53% own with mortgage; 19% rent
Ability to pay rent or mortgage last month	87% could pay	91% could pay
Confidence in paying next month	18% either not very or only somewhat confident	12% not very or only somewhat confident
Confident in paying next month's utilities on time	24% either not very or only somewhat confident	15% either not very or only somewhat confident

Lack medical attention for non-COVID issue	9% did not get care	15% did not get care
Lack of medicine in last 4 weeks	7% Not able to get medication	13% not able to get medication
Mental health issues	31% more than half or nearly every day	30% more than half or nearly every day
Home safety	98.5% somewhat or very safe	96%
Internet access	8% do not	4%
Quality of internet access	20% fair or poor	18% fair or poor
School-aged children in household	59% Yes	53% Yes
Computer access for school	15% no	7% no
Source of computer	50% provided by school	42% provided by school
Need help purchasing school computer	21% yes	12%
Help paying for internet access	11.5% yes	12% yes
Self currently a student	8% yes	5%
Need help purchasing computer or internet access for school	36% yes	18% yes
Children currently attending daycare	15% yes	9% yes
Need daycare in next 4 weeks	27% yes or unsure	15% yes or unsure
Confidence in finding affordable daycare	58% only somewhat or not at all confident	41% somewhat or not at all
Household income before taxes	54% less than 25,000; 24% 25-35K; 11.5% 35-50K	13% less than 25K; 64% over 50K
Race	83% white	96% white (4% receiving BVCA services)

Along with the survey, staff visited with key stakeholders in BVCA counties to identify a variety of local impacts felt thus far related to multiple or specific counties (county identified in parentheses):

Healthcare (including hospitals and nursing homes/assisted living centers)

Community health resources may be stretched thin as resources devoted to those sick with COVID-19 could limit resources available to others.

Individuals in the health care field are at high-risk of exposure to COVID-19 and are under tremendous stress due to additional work hours and challenging work conditions. In particular many of those workers with close, frequent contact with vulnerable individuals are lower-wage individuals. Particularly at risk are those who work in care facilities, like CNAs and LPNs. The future for those facilities is now at risk. Several stakeholders expressed concern about the abilities of organizations that currently provide those services to continue to do so.

Specific known healthcare impacts in our BVCA counties (counties identified in parentheses):

- Hospital and nursing home facilities are locked down. (Fillmore)
- Beatrice Community Hospital is allowing only one visitor per patient and everyone entering the building must be screened and their temperature taken. All employees must wear a mask and office desks must be at least six feet apart. No delays reported in surgeries or hospital procedures. None of the satellite offices has closed. Hospital has seen fewer patients since March 12. Revenue is down by 40% due to

cancellation of elective procedures and wellness visits. Telehealth is being utilized. The hospital is short on PPE, especially face masks and hand sanitizer. ICU and Isolation space capacities were expanded from 4 beds to 8. Only three ICU beds have been needed so far. BCH is now opening back up and providing wellness and elective procedures. (Gage)

- Good Samaritan of Beatrice is not allowing visitors and all who need to visit the business office must be met at the door. No visitors allowed inside the business office. All employees must wear a mask. Residents are required to maintain social distancing during meals, all activities are canceled and residents are to stay in their rooms. All Facetime visits must be scheduled by the Activities Coordinator and by appointment only. Nurses have advised me that the lack of visitors has caused a downturn in the mental and physical health of many of their residents. Maintaining social distancing for mealtimes has added additional stressors for the staff and residents. (Gage)
- Nursing homes and assisted living are shut down to the public with visits only via the windows. All staff are screened daily. Hospital is "non-stop" busy. There are high stress levels with both staff and patients. All care facilities are running out of medical supplies, masks, and PPE. There is a shortage of staff in care homes. Residents are experiencing depression, as they are not able to have guests or leave room. (Saline)
- No known hospital issues at this time. The nursing homes are still in lock down; visits with families only exist if there is an outside area they visit in while following COVID-19 restrictions or they have window visitations and visits via technology. (Seward)
- The hospital is busy and has limited staff; they are seeing patients by Zoom appointments. There is a shortage of staff in the care homes. There is also a shortage of masks and PPE. Residents are experiencing depression, as they are not able to have guests or leave room. (Jefferson)

Food Security Programs

According to the organization Feeding America, "food insecurity describes a household's inability to provide enough food for every person in the household to lead an active and healthy life." Food insecurity can threaten individual health and the ability of children to learn and grow. Participation in programs such as SNAP may move a person from being food insecure to being counted as food secure. *Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2019*

The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch has increased in most of the BVCA communities since the 2013-2014 school year:

- 40% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch in 2019-2020.
- In 2019-2020, 78% of those eligible students qualified for a free lunch, the rest paid a reduced price.

Specific known food security impacts in our BVCA counties:

- SNAP household size increased from 2.5 to 3.4. Applications are up 35% in March-April and May has leveled out likely due to receipt of unemployment benefits after long wait. The state is expecting a spike in SNAP needs and applications this summer when people go back to work with full hours and unemployment assistance stops. (All BVCA counties)
- School lunches were provided from March 23 – May 21. Two local restaurants supply free breakfast and lunches to kids on Mondays and Wednesdays. Fillmore Central schools provided FREE lunches to any child 1-19 years of age. Head Start delivered 23 of those lunches to BVCA families daily, along with a \$200 dollar weekly food budget for EHS/HS families. Fillmore Central ended lunch services on May 20, Head Start \$100.00 weekly budget was ended May 22. BVCA will continue providing food for Early Head Start

families with a \$100.00 weekly budget. BVCA is open by appointment only for Feeding America food with curbside services. (Fillmore)

- St. James & Crete Public Schools will serve meals until June 29. Crete Public Schools provide pick up meals for the week and a gallon of milk. St. James is providing evening meals, which are open to the public. (Saline)
- Seward Public School offered lunches March 23 through May 14. Seward Head Start offered weekly food boxes, which replaced the food for the preschool child for 4 days; the food boxes included breakfast, lunch and snack. (Seward)
- Fairbury Public School provided hot meals for breakfast and lunch through end of May and will continue with hot meals every day throughout the summer. Sometimes there are not enough volunteers to distribute the food and parents do not always have ways to pick up food. (Jefferson)
- York Public School distributed weekdays and weekends through May 15. (York)
- Thayer Public Schools provided breakfast and lunch for kids through the month of May. (Thayer)
- Schools are doing the backpack program weekly. (Butler)
- School lunches still being provided. Must be picked up at drop-off locations. (Saline)
- Significant increase in food pantry distribution. Many items have to be purchased at Walmart/grocery stores due to Lincoln Food Bank restrictions. (Thayer)

Mental Health

Resources will need to be available in new and increased ways to deal with the many different stressors/traumas caused by the pandemic, especially its impact over an extended time period. Youth in several BVCA counties had a very high risk of suicide ideation and attempts before COVID-19 (esp. Saline, Jefferson, Thayer and Gage). Many mental health care challenges exist in our counties and were identified in 2019-20 Community Needs Assessment stakeholder interviews. These include:

- Not enough providers
- High turnover
- Lack of bilingual providers
- Inadequate beds for long-term treatment
- Lack of community support services for people in recovery
- Benefit limits on covered provider visits
- Lack of transportation to communities with services
- Difficulty identifying families in need – reluctance to seek help
- Complex application process - no single accessible resource to help
- Lack of communication and collaboration among service providers

Specific known mental health impacts in our BVCA counties (continued below in section on Senior Citizens):

- From Hope Crisis Center staff (domestic violence) *“Client numbers may be down a little. Shelter stays seem to be down. The fear is that this will impact us when our world returns to more of the ‘normal.’ COVID-19*

is not stopping domestic violence. In fact, we know that it is absolutely heightening the violence happening in homes. However, if partners are not getting any break from each other (meaning one or the other is not working, etc.) there is little to no time for calls or for someone to get to an office to seek assistance. As far as the Hope Crisis team, most are carrying on as usual. Other than a few employee childcare issues, where we had to alter schedules/allow to work remotely when can, etc., staff have remained in office. We have moved all face-to-face staffing to Zoom meetings.” (Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties)

- There are obstacles in medical care provision for cases of sexual assault. There are challenges getting appointments for medical needs, mental health needs, court hearing, and protection order hearings making safety a large concern. Judges are allowing offenders lower bond due to COVID-19. (Gage)
- There is an increase of need/clients at Blue Valley Behavioral Health Center. The Center is utilizing telehealth as much as possible. (Multiple BVCA counties.)

Senior Citizens

Individuals over 60, especially those with underlying health conditions, have been shown to be at particular risk for severe health implications from COVID-19. The first case reported in our service area was from a nursing home in northern Gage County, which eventually suffered an outbreak of cases. While people who live in nursing homes and other care facilities are particularly vulnerable to getting the disease and dying from it, the fear of the unknown and social isolation due to mitigation efforts are affecting seniors who live in their own residences as well.

Specific known impacts to senior citizens in our BVCA counties:

- Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging had suspended their Handibus transportation but as of June 1 they will begin allowing one rider on their buses at a time for essential services only, e.g. for doctor visits or trips to the grocery store. (Jefferson, Gage, Thayer)
- BVCA services for food are curbside or volunteers deliver food when possible. (Fillmore)
- The senior citizen center in Beatrice is not open for meals. However, meals continue to be delivered to homes. (Gage)
- No meals on wheels for the elderly in Crete and has not been offered for a while. “Mom’s Meals” available to all counties through Saline Eldercare, \$5.77 a meal can also get on the website to get meals. DeWitt’s Senior Center is offering meals; Friend Hospital is also providing meals. Wilber delivers meals to elderly in town. (Saline)
- Senior Center is delivering food curbside and to Housing Authorities. (York)
- Senior Center is not providing transportation at this time. Hot meals are cooked and delivered daily. No one is allowed inside. No communication/friendship between people inside. Seniors are isolated in their homes. (Gage)

Additional impacts to transit services:

- Senior Centers are still closed. Impacts Transit - fewer rides (Fillmore County)
- Services are running on a limited schedule and limited number of people that can ride. (Saline County)
- Transportation shut down impacted people getting to doctor/hospital for required, life-saving treatments like infusions, chemotherapy, etc. Free grocery and errand services-few-available. (Gage)
- BRAAA shut down - no transit, no senior meals. (Thayer)
- Transit available, no shut downs. (York)

- Seward Transit still operating, but a big decrease. Doing a lot of food delivery and Rx deliveries. (Seward)
- Transit program currently not doing out of town trips. Approx. 85% decrease in ridership. (Fillmore)

Education and Daycare Services

Schools in the BVCA service area were shut down by decree of the Governor/Nebraska Department of Education as of March 23 and did not reopen the remainder of the school year. The closings of public schools in the Community Assessment area are having an immediate impact on children's education. Children with less access to resources (broadband internet, computers/tablets, technology expertise, language barriers, etc.) are most at-risk for suffering learning loss during a potentially protracted period of school closure.

Individuals in the educational field – especially teachers and assistants in Head Start and Early Head Start as well as other early childhood care settings – are working remotely due to school shutdowns. Lower-wage workers in these fields are more vulnerable to layoffs and/or may lack the technology resources in their home to work remotely.

Caregivers of school-age children must secure day care arrangements for their children or sacrifice employment to care for their children. These same caregivers are also expected to be primary teachers for their children during the period of the closure. Parents with limited resources face numerous challenges as a result of this situation.

Specific known impacts on education in our BVCA counties:

- Loss of business due to remote workers staying home with their children, shutting down completely to take care of their own families. (All BVCA counties)
- One center did close (planning to reopen in June), two other centers remained open. (Fillmore)
- One daycare combined two of their buildings, a couple of other daycares closed and reopened after a deep cleaning. Some childcare facilities shut down indefinitely until outbreak is contained. (Saline)
- Closures of in-home day cares. (Seward)
- Some childcare facilities shut down, leaving people without jobs and others without daycare. (Jefferson)
- YMCA slowing opening up. Includes daycare. Will be increasing to 15. Summer Day Camp starting soon--limited to 15. Closed daily from 1-3pm for deep cleaning. No pool yet. When it does open, will be laps only. Impacted financially--many members cancelled or put their memberships on hold. YMCA applied for PPP. (Gage)

Issues with internet service providers in our BVCA counties:

- Finding hot spots for families to complete homework is an issue. With summer school this has improved. Internet service poor - overloaded. (Saline)
- Internet service poor - many complaints. System is overloaded. (Jefferson)
- Local internet provider having issues-internet is overloaded and is very slow. (Fillmore)
- Internet service slow, bogged down. Windstream office in Beatrice closed March 25 due to COVID-19. (Gage)

Employment

Individuals in many sectors of the economy – but particularly the service sector, the retail sectors, gig economy, and others most affected by quarantine policies – are currently experiencing sudden and unexpected

unemployment. Some are unaware of resources available to them and their families as they are experiencing unemployment for the first time.

Specific known impacts on employment in our BVCA counties:

- Gas stations cut back in hours. (Fillmore)
- Retail businesses closed due to COVID-19 and laid off employees to be recalled when restrictions are lifted. Big layoffs: Kawasaki in Lincoln laid off for 4 weeks. Tenneco in Seward furloughed some employees to stay within COVID-19 guidelines. Head Start has families who work at both of these employers. Businesses reopening slowly. (Seward)
- Businesses reopening slowly. No factory shut downs. (Butler)
- No layoffs known. (York)
- Local plant laid off for entire month of May. One Head Start family was laid off for two weeks due to contacting virus at Crete meat packing plant. (Fillmore)
- Some businesses closed and did a deep cleaning and put up plexi-glass and 6ft markers on the floors, and have re-opened. Most places require a mask to enter their place of business. Hair salons nail salons, barbershops just starting to open in Crete; in other towns of Saline County, some are still not open. In Crete most of the positive cases are coming from Smithfield-either both parents work at the plant and have other family members so if both test positive, the problem is how to take care of the rest of the family. Getting the information to all residents about the importance of being safe and following the measures put in place-even if it is available in their language some may not read and don't have kids in the home that can read the bigger words to explain it to the parent. Having enough food to go around or afford to get food, pay rent, utilities, gas, minutes for cell phone. Daycares not taking any new families and parents still have to go to work. Protests at Smithfield-Farmland. Tense environment in community. (Saline)

Community Resources

The impacts of COVID-19 on community resources are numerous and include a reduction in the availability of resources (access to group activities, commercial services), a scarcity of some resources (health care, food and emergency supplies) and/or needs for resources that have not previously been required in this community in any significant capacity.

The broad impacts of COVID-19 on this community have created an even more urgent need for coordination and collaboration of resources among the public sector, the public health sector, first responders, educators, the business community, the faith community and many others. Blue Valley Community Action Partnership plays an important role partnering with organizations to support families.

Input from Local Officials

Five County Commissioners/Supervisors responded to a series of emailed questions about the COVID-19 impact on their communities. Respondents and the counties they represent are: Mark A. Schoenrock, Jefferson; John K Culver, Seward; Wade Sluka, Fillmore; Mike Boss, Polk; and John Hill, Gage.

Their answers are detailed below.

What do you feel are the most pressing health concerns facing your communities because of the coronavirus?

- *Most pressing health concerns: keeping the curve flattened; obtaining adequate testing capacity; protecting our seniors and other vulnerable populations; getting other delayed (non-COVID) health issues addressed (delayed surgeries, dental processes, etc.); address mental health and social issues caused by lack of social interaction.*
- *I feel that my community and the others in Polk County are actually feeling fairly safe from COVID. With that being said, everyone is being cautious. Some of our concerns for summer are being able to have baseball/softball and opening the pools for the kids. Everyone seems to agree that these are things the kids need to maintain some normalcy to their life.*
- *First off, there are no pressing health concerns directly impacting any communities in Seward County. We do have a few cases of the COVID Flu and those people are staying home and did not interact with anyone really around the county other than maybe their family. It seems even that has not impacted them as the counts have stayed very low. The Four Corners Health Department only keeps like the State and Federal do a count since day one as I feel to inflate the fear factor. I guess you could say if anything has come from this that really has impacted Seward County and many others is just that. The overkill of the danger associated with this virus. It has not come even close to the levels of death and disruption that have been projected. With well over 99% recovery and most cases that have been positive only last a week or so then test negative. I also look at the ratio in Seward County we have over 17,000 residents and only ten or so at any time since keeping track are actively testing positive.*
- *From what I have seen and understand, I feel our most pressing health concern would be the impact on nursing homes and the elderly. With our low count of cases in Fillmore County (4 total, 3 active) I do not feel we have anything in a critical stage. The safety of hospitals and nursing/long term facilities would be the thing that comes to mind though.*
- *Care facilities, Nursing homes, Assisted Living, BSDC, Mosaic, Region 5*

What do you feel are the most pressing economic concerns facing your communities because of the coronavirus?

- *Most pressing economic concerns: severe individual, family and business income disruptions due to COVID; supply chain disruptions caused by COVID; agricultural livestock and grain market disruptions; assisting small business to stay viable; developing healthy and safe re-opening strategies that optimally balance health and economic concerns.*
- *Our area like many others is concerned with the fact that many of the small businesses had to shut down, disrupting their cash flow. I personally know several businesspersons that have applied for and received the Government Small Business Loans. They will be a big help and keep several businesses going. The best thing that can happen for our economy is to get it opened up and running again. Yes, we need to be cautious but we can't live in our little bubble much longer without serious economic damage.*
- *The feeling of being oppressed by the government to be able to work and live our lives in a free country probably would be a factor. As my business is outside of Crete and my interaction in the county is limited I probably do not get a feel from others what their concerns might really be. My thoughts are mostly my own from my own observation in two counties of what I see going on around me. I get reaction from a few of the employees of the county and even most of them have similar beliefs like mine and a few have a deep fear if we open up for business they will die. So to answer in a nutshell I do not see a big health impact only a financial.*
- *The economic concerns are a scary thought. I feel our small businesses (lets face it, most businesses in Fillmore are small) will be hit hard. Our restaurants and salons, and so on will feel this impact for months.*

I'm glad that today, finally, our businesses can start to open doors and follow the regulations as set forth. Fillmore County Development Corporation (FCDC) along with Lazy Horse Brewing & Winery put together a well-written letter to the governor, asking to let us start opening up as we see fit. I personally signed it as a small business owner. I just hope these businesses are able to keep their doors open.

- *Increased expenses due to COVID-19, less revenue due to economic factors causing downturn in economy, including agricultural, resulting in decreased valuations, increase in delinquent taxes.*

IV. Anticipated near- and long-term impacts

The needs above are already established through initial data and anecdotal reports from customers, staff, board members and community stakeholders. Based on these already-observed events, it is likely that there will be near-term (1-3 months) and longer-term (greater than 3 months) impacts that that require immediate planning. A partial, but not complete, list of the anticipated impacts include:

- *Prolonged service disruptions*

The disruptions in service delivery to customers are expected to continue for a substantial time. This is likely to lead to ancillary challenges for customers that may become long-term issues.

- This could be especially critical for our community healthcare organizations, specifically nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Already under stress, the long-term viability of many of these organizations is questionable. Also under stress are area agencies on aging senior centers and associated transit services. The health impacts (physical and emotional) on clients and staff members of organizations focused on the health and well-being of seniors could be profound.
- These same types of impacts could be felt in the educational sector if schools and daycares cannot return to pre-pandemic service delivery in the fall. While online education was implemented in the spring, it was not successful for all ages and types of learners. Since many teachers are also parents, they were often juggling two very difficult jobs at the same time.

- *Prolonged employment issues*

Sudden layoffs and other employment disruptions are being addressed by emergency response measures; however, it is anticipated that long-term recovery efforts will be required to help customers reconnect to the workforce, particularly those for whom employment assistance has not previously been required.

- If job layoffs are extended for area residents, the need will increase for emergency assistance to meet rent, mortgage, utility and unexpected repair needs (home and vehicle). If layoffs become terminations and small businesses close, clients may need additional help navigating the employment assistance resource network.

- *Prolonged agency capacity issues*

Policies limiting in-person staff/customer interactions may be in place for an extended period of time and agencies will need to maintain remote work and remote customer-interaction infrastructure to be responsive to these needs in a more sustainable capacity.

- As the potential for in-person service delivery continues to be challenged, BVCA could help increase client access to emergency, employment, and physical and mental health services by strengthening the agency's Internet capacities. Through the acquisition of the appropriate hardware and software, the agency could connect more clients to programs

and services like case management, telehealth, and online applications for benefits, jobs and training.

- Food security is the number one priority in our counties. While the schools provided food for families with school-aged children from March – May, these services will not continue in many of our counties this summer. Another deeply affected population has been our counties’ senior citizens who have faced senior center closures and transit shutdowns. Agency capacity to meet food security needs is limited by staffing at this time. Additional staff focused solely on food security activities could provide much-needed support for family development partners currently working in each county as critical frontline staff. These family development partners help clients address housing, food, employment, health, and money management needs. New staff could not only provide direct services to meet client needs for food, but could also help build community partnerships to increase family development partners’ effectiveness through networking, training and communication activities.
- *Prolonged community resource/coordination issues*

The short-term community coordination needs cited in this Assessment are presumed to continue into the long-term. Current conditions may persist for an extended period; recovery efforts will require coordination; ongoing community preparedness to guard against a future outbreak will also require ongoing convening and new community readiness strategies based on what is shown to be effective during the current crisis.

 - BVCA will continue its coordination efforts with its many community partners in public health and healthcare, education, housing, emergency services, and economic development.

V. Addressing Equity Implications

Though immediate data may not yet be easily obtained regarding the demographics of those most impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic, previous Community Assessments, as well as countless government and academic studies have established that structural racism, xenophobia, sexism, stigmatization and othering persist – and are often exacerbated – in times of crisis. Community Action recognizes the obligation to ensure that the barriers of structural race, gender, and other inequities are addressed during this time of crisis and beyond. Therefore, it is with this lens that communities are invited to use the equity lens and the question, “why”, to understand the specific needs of the diverse populations served.

The impact of COVID-19 has been most pronounced among populations in our counties for whom English is their second language. Immigrants comprise a large percentage of the employees at the Smithfield plant in Crete and other similar facilities in Lancaster County. These plants have been the hardest hit by the virus. There are many obstacles to overcome in order to provide these populations with effective information about the avoidance and control of the virus. Language and cultural barriers, illiteracy, a lack of social networking within these immigrant communities – all are barriers that have long blocked successful public health education efforts. BVCA has recently formed new partnerships with local gatekeepers who may be able to help open doors to more effective communication with these populations through informal social networks, especially within the Latinx population.

VI. Priority Needs and Actions

When our local elected officials were asked to identify the best use of federal funds from their perspectives, they provided the following responses:

- *“Replace lost income due to COVID; assist with essential life expenses such as housing, food, clothing, medical expenses; keeping employees viable to return to their employment; education/training to improve skills to improve sustainable income potential long-term (teach people how to fish, not just to give them a fish)”.*
- *With any assistance funds or services I think would best serve those that have been impacted with loss of job due to their business being forced to close. Mortgage companies and credit card companies along with other loans holders seem to be open to work with people and allow late payments or delay payments so that impact is minimal. The only ones I see that seem to not be open to help are local governments in water, electric and bills of that nature to help people out. I would like to see a big push for families impacted by loss of job assistance with that. I know also a lot of them still have not received the help they were promised with the federal checks and unemployment checks. It would be great if we could offer some assistance with aiding in the pop-up expenses of utilities, and maybe some help with day care provision. Seems to be a plethora of places helping with food so not really seeing problems there.*
- *As for potential funding. I feel the funds need to be directed to pay bills or mortgages. The government handing out checks and letting people spend as they see fit might help to boost the economy, but this also leads to errant spending. If someone truly needs help, I hope the funds go to pay bills or put food on the table.*
- *Help to those affected by the pandemic, not to everyone regardless of employment status.*

In consideration of these perspectives, and incorporating the feedback obtained from other community stakeholders along with the clients and residents responses to the recent needs assessment surveys, we have identified the following priorities and key actions:

Food Security

BVCA will utilize CARES funding along with existing programs and staff to stabilize food insecurities for individuals and families. A Community Resource Coordinator will be hired to develop a Food Voucher Program with local grocery stores. The Food Voucher Program will allow clients to purchase fresh and nutritious foods while supporting local businesses in the rural communities. The Community Resource Coordinator will also work closely with clients assisting them to enroll in the appropriate food security programs (CSFP, WIC, SNAP) based on their demographics. The Community Resource Coordinator will be available to deliver food to rural communities and homebound individuals as needed and will assist with CSFP Clinics. The Community Resource Coordinator will work closely with the following community partner organizations: WIC Vendors (Grand Central Foods, Walmart, Crete Foodmart, Dale's Food Pride, Didier's Grocery, Osceola Food Mart, Pac N Save, Geneva Superfoods), Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging (CSFP deliveries), Food Bank of the Heartland, Lincoln Food Bank, all local Housing Authorities, Crowne Point Management, Neighbor to Neighbor, Senior Services, UNL Extension, other local food pantries operated by Ministerial Alliances, Feeding America, Public School Lunch Programs, Senior Meals on Wheels Programs, and more.

Rent, Mortgage, Utility Payment and Emergency Repair Assistance

Existing Emergency Services programs have limited funds to assist individuals with housing stabilization services restricting the number of individuals that can receive help. Using CARES funds, BVCA will assist individuals with utility, rent or mortgage payments, developing eligibility criteria and guidelines similar to BVCA's existing Emergency Services programs. Along with rent, mortgage, and utility payment assistance, clients will have the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with the cost of one time expenses such as vehicle repairs, replacement of water heater, furnace or air conditioner, and minor home repairs. BVCA will utilize private unrestricted funding to support this program and help to sustain the program beyond COVID-19 pandemic. BVCA will also seek foundation funding to support the longevity of the services. Community partners will include: Local Ministerial Alliances, NE Department of Health and Human Services, NHAP, VA-SSVF, HUD, Salvation Army and others.

Health Services

Specialized medical care and mental health services are limited in BVCA's rural communities. Travel distances to specialists are a common barrier for low-income individuals who lack reliable transportation. Medical clinics have limited services and have restricted medical appointments during the pandemic. With CARES funding, BVCA will create virtual consultation/counseling rooms by purchasing the necessary equipment and software for eight BVCA locations. Individuals will be able to utilize the virtual rooms for medical and mental health appointments with medical primary care providers and specialists, as well as mental health providers. The virtual rooms will provide an opportunity for individuals who do not have reliable transportation or have health limitations that restrict their ability to travel a distance for medical or mental health care. Community partners will include local medical providers and hospitals, public health departments, Lutheran Family Services, Blue Valley Behavioral Health and more. When not in use for healthcare, the rooms will also be available for virtual case management and financial counseling services.

Educational Services

Some families indicated that they did not have the technology or internet access necessary for their children to effectively participate in the online education that was provided by the school systems. Others were limited to one computer for several children to use which presented additional educational challenges. In other cases, parents working from home had to share their computer with their children, which made completing employment responsibilities difficult. With CARES funding, BVCA will purchase Chromebooks and hotspots for families to utilize through a check out system for educational use. Key community partners: local public schools.

Self-Sufficiency/Employment

Currently, BVCA does not have its own program(s) for employment training or placement. It refers clients to Workforce Development and other employment-related programs. However, BVCA will continue to complete surveys to assess client and community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic to determine if additional services are required. If adjustments need to be made, BVCA will request an amendment to develop a Job Training Program. The proposed program would begin with the development of MOUs with local businesses to allow BVCA to place selected clients as temporary employees in the local businesses. BVCA would pay the

employee's wages up to a maximum of 500 hours. During this time, BVCA would provide case management services to build the client's employment skills while they are receiving on the job training. The goal of the program would be for the client to become employed full-time by the local business after the successful completion of the 500 hours. Community partners would include Workforce Development, Able Works, and local employers.

See attached work plan for details.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)
CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES)
ACT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

FY2020

	Date Completed	Provided Copy to State CSBG Office?	Results Internally Communicated? How?	Results Externally Communicated? How?
CARES Update to the Community Needs Assessment	5/28/2020	6/1/2020	Yes, results were communicated during Leadership zoom meetings, in CEO's Weekly Message to all staff, Department Directors share results with staff through emails and on zoom meetings. The results were also shared with the Board of Director's Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee	Yes, results will be shared through BVCA's social media, during County Commissioner Annual visits. The full Assessment and COVID Needs Survey results will be shared with collaborative partners such as the Public Schools, medical providers, and with all BVCA Board Members.

Describe any other assessment activities that the agency completed. (If applicable)

BVCA conducted one on one interviews by phone with randomly selected clients who are enrolled in Early Childhood Programs, Youth Programs and Housing Programs. BVCA staff were able to connect with over 100 currently enrolled clients. BVCA conducted a Community Survey by posting the survey on BVCA's Website and sharing the survey with Public Schools and Churches. Over 400 individuals completed the Community Survey. BVCA also contacted Elected Officials who serve on BVCA's Board of Directors and asked three specific questions in regard to the effects that the COVID pandemic has specifically had on the communities in their county. Five elected officials replied to the questions.

What counties and/or areas in your SDA have lower numbers of service counts, have barriers to service, or have other issues present?		
County/Area	Issue	Plan to Address
Saline County	Significantly higher number of positive COVID-19 cases compared to the rest of BVCA's service area largely due to Smithfield Foods meatpacking plant.	BVCA will hire a Community Resource Coordinator to take the lead role in navigating services for clients throughout BVCA's service area focusing at least one day a week in Saline County as it has the highest number of positive COVID-19 cases. The Community Resource Coordinator will focus on food security, emergency services, one time needs and educational needs of Saline County clients. The Community Resource Coordinator will also build partnerships with other local agencies and connect clients to other local services.
Butler and Polk Counties	BVCA does not offer as many programs and services in Butler and Polk Counties which reduces the number of potential clients that are aware of BVCA's services. Both Butler and Polk are located by other counties that have larger communities in which many individuals travel to receive services that meet their needs.	BVCA will increase outreach efforts in both Butler and Polk Counties informing individuals and families of services available. The newly hired Community Resource Coordinator will connect with other local agencies educating them on what services BVCA provides in their communities and will develop a formal referral process.

Detailed Description of Needs and/or Gaps in Service Identified <i>Please include all needs, even if agency is not able to address them.</i>	Type of Need <i>Individual/Family Community Agency</i>	Area(s) and/or County(ies) Where Need Exists	How Need Was Identified <i>Community Needs Assessment, Public Health, Other Assessments, Community Discussions, etc.</i>	CSBG Act Domain(s) <i>Employment Education Income Management Housing Emergency Services Nutrition Self-Sufficiency Health Services for Youth Services for Senior Citizens</i>	List any Available Community or Agency Programs Already Responding to Each Need	Does the Agency Plan to Utilize CARES Act Funding to Address this Need? Why or Why Not? <i>Can either be through agency program or through partnership</i>	Agency's Role in Addressing Need	Agency Program(s) to Address Need	Partners Helping to Address this Need
Food Security - Families and Individuals do not have adequate food supply due to lack of transportation, they are uncomfortable leaving their home during the pandemic or have vulnerable health concerns, are self-quarantining because of symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19 or do not have enough money. A large number of families were receiving meals through public schools; many of those opportunities will be ending in June therefore increasing the need for nutritious food.	Individual/Family	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Community Needs Assessment	Nutrition	CACFP, WIC, Emergency Services, Head Start, Other local food pantries operated by Ministerial Alliances, Feeding America, Public School Lunch Programs, Senior Meals on Wheels Programs, CSFP	Yes, BVCA will utilize existing programs and staff to stabilize food insecurities for individuals and families. BVCA will develop a Food Voucher Program to meet food insecurities.	A Community Resource Coordinator will be hired to develop a Food Voucher Program with local grocery stores. The Food Voucher Program will allow clients to purchase fresh and nutritious foods while supporting local businesses in the rural communities. The Community Resource Coordinator will also work closely with clients assisting them to enroll in the appropriate Food Security Programs (CSFP, WIC, SNAP) based on their demographics. The Community Resource Coordinator will be available to deliver food to rural communities and homebound individuals as needed and will assist with CSFP Clinics. The purchase of a vehicle is included in the budget; the vehicle will be utilized to deliver food throughout BVCA's nine county service area as needed by home bound clients.	CSFP, WIC, Emergency Services, Head Start	WIC Vendors (Grand Central Foods, Walmart, Crete Foodmart, Dale's Food Pride, Didier's Grocery, Osceola Food Mart, Pac N Save, Geneva Superfoods), Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging (CSFP deliveries), Food Bank of the Heartland, Lincoln Food Bank, All local Housing Authorities, Crowne Point Management, Neighbor to Neighbor, Senior Services, UNL Extension, Local Ministries
Utility and/or Rent/Mortgage Assistance - Families and Individuals do not have adequate income to pay housing costs due to layoffs, reduction in hours worked or inability to work due to COVID-19 signs, symptoms or positive test results.	Individual/Family	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Community Needs Assessment	Emergency Services	Emergency Services Program, SSVF, NHAP, Project FIRST, Connected Youth Initiative, Project FYRES, Local Ministerial Alliances	Yes, BVCA will utilize the existing Emergency Services programs to assist individuals with utility, rent or mortgage payments. The existing Emergency Services programs have limited funds to assist individuals with housing stabilization services restricting the number of individuals that can receive help.	For CVI/CR - Individuals/Families would apply through an existing application process. This process includes working with a coach and completing a budget. The coach makes the recommendation to provide the assistance or refers the individual to another program for services or resources. Follow up is conducted with the client or another provider within 30 days after the first contact and/or after assistance is provided. For emergency services provided through Family and Community Services, the existing intake and assessment processes will continue to be utilized. Coordinators will work directly with the household to determine the level of intervention that is needed, and use the assessments to determine which Emergency Assistance program would serve them best. This decision would be made based on the length of time the support would be needed, the financial amount needed, and the level of case management and engagement required to achieve stability. Those enrolled in this program will receive case management services, resources and referrals to all available resources for a period of	Emergency Services Program, SSVF, NHAP, Project FIRST, Connected Youth Initiative, Project FYRES, Community Response Program	Local Ministerial Alliances, NE Department of Health and Human Services NHAP, VA-SSVF, HUD, Salvation Army, Region V Systems, ResCare, NDOL, Public Health Solutions, Southeast Nebraska Collaboration.

<p><u>One Time Needs Assistance</u> - families and individuals are unable to pay for emergency home and vehicle repairs and necessary medical needs due to employment layoffs, reduction in hours worked or inability to work in relation to COVID-19 signs, symptoms or positive test results. .</p>	Individual/Family	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Community Needs Assessment	Emergency Services	Emergency Services Program, Connected Youth Initiative (both have very limited funds)	Yes, BVCA will design a program similar to the existing Emergency Services programs which assist individuals with utility, rent or mortgage payments. The existing Emergency Services programs have limited funds to assist individuals with housing stabilization services.	BVCA's Community Resource Coordinator will develop eligibility criteria and guidelines similar to BVCA's existing Emergency Services programs. Clients will have the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with the cost for one time expenses such as vehicle repairs, replacement of water heater, furnace or air conditioner, and minor home repairs. BVCA will utilize private unrestricted funding to support this program and help to sustain the program beyond COVID-19 pandemic. BVCA will also seek foundation funding to support the longevity of the services.	Emergency Services Program, SSVF, NHAP, Project FIRST, Project FYRES, Connected Youth Initiative	Local Ministerial Alliances, NE Department of Health and Human Services NHAP, VA-SSVF, Nebraska Children and Families, HUD, Salvation Army
<p><u>Medical and Mental Health Needs</u> - Individuals are experiencing higher levels of anxiety due to the pandemic and are unable to access medical care due to medical provider restrictions.</p>	Individual/Family	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Community Needs Assessment	Health	WIC, Head Start, IAP, Blue Valley Behavior Health, Public Health Departments, Local Medical Providers and Hospitals	Yes, specialized medical care as well as mental health services is limited in BVCA's rural communities. The travel distance to specialist is a barrier for low income individuals as well as reliable transportation. Medical clinics have limited services and have restricted medical appointments during the pandemic also making it difficult for individuals to receive appropriate medical care.	With CARES funding, BVCA will create virtual rooms by purchasing the necessary equipment and software for eight BVCA locations. Individuals will be able to utilize the virtual rooms for medical and mental health appointments with medical providers, specialist and mental health providers. The virtual rooms will provide an opportunity for individuals who do not have reliable transportation or have health limitations that restrict their ability to travel a distance for medical or mental care.	Head Start - limited services, Other BVCA programs provide referrals	Local Medical providers and hospitals, Public Health Departments, Lutheran Family Services, Blue Valley Behavioral Health
<p><u>Education and Technology Needs</u> (materials/services) - Some families have limited access to adequate technology and internet services preventing their ability to provide educational opportunities for their children during the closure of schools.</p>	Individual/Family	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Community Needs Assessment	Education	Head Start, CASTLE Program, Public Schools	Yes, some families indicated that the did not have the technology or internet access necessary for their children to effectively participate in online education that was provided by the school systems. Some families did not have any technology or internet access while others were limited to one computer for several children to use which presented challenges for the families in educating their children. In other cases parents working from home had to share their computer with their children which made completing employment responsibilities difficult while ensuring that their children were receiving educational instruction.	Yes, With CARES funding BVCA will purchase Chromebook and hotspots for families to utilize through a check out system for educational use.	Head Start, CYI	Public Schools

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Describe the Program, Service or Strategy	Is this a New Program?	Program Changes or Anticipated Changes <i>This would include any changes during the past fiscal year or anticipated changes during the next fiscal year.</i>	How Will Agency Ensure Services are Not Duplicated in Order to Leverage Resources?	Partners Connected to this Program	CSBG Act Domain(s) <i>Employment Education Income Management Housing Emergency Services Nutrition Self-Sufficiency Health Services for Youth Services for Senior Citizens</i>	Area(s) or County(s) Where Program Offered	Service Delivery Type(s) <i>Case Management One Time Service Emergency Service Education Enrichment Activities Contracted Service Provision Referral Partnership (Or any other types)</i>	Eligibility Determination Type(s) <i>Basic Intake Form Limited information application Specific program application Other - please provide short description</i>	Income Level <i>How will the agency ensure the income for the client income/population being served is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level?</i>	Eligibility Criteria <i>How will the agency ensure the client/population being served is eligible and was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic??</i>	Funding Source(s) of Program	Individuals Served/Impact of Service <i>Estimate the number of individuals that will be served/impact of the services that will be provided.</i>	Outcome(s)/ Feedback Tool(s) Used to Measure Effectiveness	System Used for Tracking	Able to Unduplicated Counts? <i>Yes or No If no, please provide brief explanation</i>
Food Security Programs - enroll clients in food security programs to ensure that they have healthy and nutritious foods. The money saved from not having to purchase food can then be used for other living expenses.		CARES funding will assist with the existing CSFP program and Emergency Services programs. Funds will also be utilized for a new Food Voucher Program.	BVCA anticipates the need for more in-home food delivery to COVID-19 vulnerable populations and rural communities that are not receiving food security services. BVCA also anticipates a decrease in food donations made to the Food Pantries leading to the need of the Food Voucher Program.	Feeding America; Wal Mart; local churches; civic groups; schools; individuals	Nutrition, Health, Self Sufficiency	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Emergency Service; Partnerships	Basic Intake Form; Income Verification Form	Income Verification Form and proof of income required. If zero income, Zero Income Certification Form required.	Basic Intake form and assessment discussions during completion of form	Community Donations; Feeding America; Walmart	300 individuals; 100 households	Client surveys conducted at least annually. Monthly reports from SNAP detailing enrollment, financial impacts to the community and to households, increased health and nutrition verified by WIC (for WIC clients)	Food Pantry Issuance forms; BiFocus-Clarity; The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) forms; SNAP confirmation numbers and follow-up reports	Yes
Utility and/or Rent/Mortgage Assistance - Families and individuals who do not have adequate income to pay housing costs due to layoffs, reduction in hours worked or inability to work due to COVID-19 signs, symptoms or positive test results will receive assistance and case management.		No. BVCA operates the following Emergency Services Program, SSVF, NHAP, Project FIRST, Connected Youth Initiative, Project FYRES	BVCA anticipates increased demand for emergency rent, mortgage, and utility assistance based on layoffs, reduced hours, or inability to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that more families and new families will be seeking services due to this situation which is out of their control. However, they will be anticipating return to work within a short time, typically within three months.	Local Ministerial Alliances, NE Department of Health and Human Services NHAP, VA-SSVF, HUD, Salvation Army	Employment; Housing; Income and Asset Building	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Emergency Service; Partnerships	Basic Intake form, Emergency Assistance application; Assessment completed with COVID-related impact questions	Income Verification Form and proof of income required. If zero income, Zero Income Certification Form required.	Basic Intake Form, COVID-19 specific questions to verify need based on COVID-19 income verifications; need, verification of bill/invoice that is due, signed contract with landlord	NHAP, VA, HUD	150 households for up to 3 months	Case Management-goals set in HMIS; Matrix in HMIS, Case notes	BiFocus - Clarity	Yes
One Time Needs Assistance - families and individuals who do not have sufficient funds to pay for emergency home repairs, vehicle repairs or necessary medical needs due to employment layoffs, reduction in hours worked or inability to work in relation to COVID-19 signs, symptoms or positive test results will receive services or a revolving loan dependent upon their eligibility for the one time needs.	Yes	No changes as this is a new program.	BVCA's Community Resource Coordinator will work one on one with individuals to assess their needs as well as discuss other options to financially cover the cost of the need. All options will be considered before enrolling clients into the One Time Needs Assistance Program. Eligibility Criteria will be developed to determine if the cost of the one time need will be waived or if the individual will qualify for a small revolving loan with minimal payments over an extended period of time. BVCA will provide a short Financial Literacy program to clients who qualify for the revolving loan.	BVCA does not have any partners at this time as this will be a new program. BVCA will develop partnerships with local lenders and seek foundation funding to continue the growth of this program over time.	Emergency Services, Income Management	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	One Time Services, Emergency Services	Basic Intake Form as well as a specific application that will be developed for this new program.	Clients must be at or below 200% poverty level and proof of income will be required.	Basic Intake Form; income verifications; need, COVID-19 specific questions will be included in the application process	CSBG, will be also requesting CSBG Discretionary Funding to help support the start of this new program, private donations, foundation funding	50-75 individuals; the One Time Needs Assistance Program will help cover the cost of unforeseen expenses that are difficult to plan for and sometimes affect the individuals ability to remain safe in their home, or travel to their employment or to look for employment for example. The assistance with the one time need/expense relieves some of the financial burden that the individual or family is already facing on a daily basis.	Consumer Feedback, Revolving Loan Repayment Plan	BiFocus - Clarity	Yes
Medical and Mental Health Needs - Individuals who are experiencing higher levels of anxiety due to the pandemic or are unable to access medical care due to medical provider restrictions will have access to space that provides opportunities for virtual appointments. This space will also be utilized by staff so that they can meet with clients virtually when needed. Software will be purchased allowing required documents to also be signed virtually.	Yes	No changes as this is a new program.	The Community Resource Coordinator will contact all medical and mental health providers as well as Public Health Departments and Hospitals to assess what services they have available that can be conducted virtually. The Community Resource Coordinator will develop MOUs with the providers so that a virtual room can be developed at BVCA's facilities.	BVCA does not have any partners at this time as this will be a new program. BVCA will develop partnerships with local medical and mental health providers as well as Public Health Departments and hospitals.	Health, Services for Youth, Services for Senior Citizens	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Emergency Services, Enrichment Activities, Partnership	Basic Intake Form	Clients must be at or below 200% poverty level and proof of income will be required. Once the virtual rooms are established and the COVID-19 pandemic subsides BVCA's goal would be to make the virtual rooms available to all individuals regardless of their income level with priority to use the room given to those with low income.	Basic Intake Form; income verifications; need, COVID-19 specific questions will be included in the application process	CSBG, private donations, foundation funding, County Support	Initially 150-250 individuals however, overtime BVCA believes this number will grow as more people become aware of the service. The virtual rooms will help clients receive medical and mental health services which will lead to improved health and mental well-being.	Consumer Feedback, Case Management notes,	BiFocus - Clarity	Yes

Education and Technology Needs (materials/services) - families who have limited access to adequate technology and internet services will be provided chromebooks or hotspots so that their children can participate in online educational opportunities during the time in which schools are closed due to the COVID pandemic. The chromebooks and hotspots could also be used by adults who are working remotely from home due to COVID.	Yes	No changes as this is a new program.	BVCA will work closely with the Public Schools to ensure that each family has at least one device for educational purposes. Larger families may receive two devices in order for everyone to have the appropriate screen time to complete their classes.	Public Schools and NCS (Network Consulting Services	Education	Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Education, Enrichment Activities	Basic Intake Form	Clients must be at or below 200% poverty level and proof of income will be required.	Basic Intake Form; income verifications; need; COVID specific questions will be included in the application process	CSBG, Public Schools, Private Donations, Administration for Children & Families - Head Start	40-50 Individuals; the loaning of technology equipment will allow children to participate in online educational instruction helping the to grow developmentally.	Consumer Feedback, Student's Grades, Feedback from School Partners	BitFocus - Clarity	Yes
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Please note that some columns may include multiple options or options not necessarily listed.
 Please make sure every program that correlates to a need on the Planning - Needs to Strategies tab is reflected on this tab.

BUDGET

FY2021 Community Services Block Grant CARES Annual Budget

Subgrantee: _____

Date _____

CATEGORIES	BUDGET
Total Personnel Expense	\$118,011.00
Salaries and Wages	\$83,696.00
Retirement Plans	\$1,674.00
FICA	\$2,511.00
All Other Benefits	\$30,130.00
Total Operations Expense	\$32,333.00
Rent - Real Property	\$3,600.00
Rent- Office Equipment	
Rent- All Other	
Utilities	
Office Supplies	\$500.00
Legal Services	
Janitorial and Security Services	
Insurance/Bonding	
Repair and Maintenance	
Dues/Membership Fees	
Indirect Costs	\$27,733.00
Printing	\$250.00
Freight Postage	
Advertising	\$250.00
Accounting/Auditing Services	
Consultant/Management Services	
Subscriptions	
Other Operating Expense	
Total Employee Travel Expense	\$4,600.00
Lodging	
Food	
Commercial Transportation	
Mileage	\$4,600.00
Conference/Training Registrations	
Other Travel Expense	
Total Board Expense	\$0.00
Per Diem	
Mileage	
Other Board Expense	
Total Capital Expense	\$77,000.00
Building Improvements	
Office Equipment	\$49,000.00

\$1,500 -New
Employee and
\$40,000 - Virtual
Offices and
Equipment and
\$7,500 - Software

BUDGET

Motor Vehicles	\$28,000.00
Client Assistance	\$203,951.57
Client Assistance (e.g. rent, utility, housing financial assistance, etc.)	\$203,951.57
Total Discretionary Expense	\$0.00
Discretionary - Special Project 1	
Discretionary - Special Project 2	
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSE	\$435,895.57

\$100,000 -
Emergency
Assistance (\$75,000
FCS and \$25,000
CYI); \$50,000 - Food
Vouchers; \$30,000 -
One Time Needs;
\$23,951.57 -
Chromebooks and
hotspots for clients

OPERATING EXPENSE

List all rent other than real property and office equipment paid with CSBG funds during this reporting period

RENT, ALL OTHER	AMOUNT CHARGED TO CSBG

List all other operating expenses paid with CSBG funds during this reporting period.

OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	AMOUNT CHARGED TO CSBG

EMPLOYEE TRAVEL EXPENSE

List all other employee travel expenses paid with CSBG funds during this reporting period.

OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSE	AMOUNT CHARGED TO CSBG

BUDGET

BOARD EXPENSE

List all other board expense paid with CSBG funds during this reporting period.

OTHER BOARD EXPENSE	AMOUNT CHARGE TO CSBG

Describe your agency's processes for CARES data collection, reporting, and analysis. This should include how often data will be reviewed.

Please note: CSBG CARES Act data must be able to be reported separate from other data

Data collection will be completed on a daily, weekly or monthly basis depending upon the program. Each funding source has different requirements and data standards, therefore, we will adhere to these standards. Most data standards require data to be entered into the assigned data system within 7 working days. However, HUD homeless programs require data entered almost in real time or within 24 hours in order to be "counted" on the All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry List, which is the state-wide tracking system for homeless individuals, youth, and families. Data is reviewed monthly at a minimum for all programs, and analyzed by data staff and program directors. Some programs have minimum data quality requirements that must be met. Reports are generated, reviewed, and then sent to the appropriate directors to analyze and determine if there are any data quality issues that need to be addressed with staff. If data quality issues do arise, staff are given the information and are tasked with correcting the information before the next report is run. Follow up is done by the Data Specialists and/or program directors. BVCA does understand that CARES Act data must be reported separately from other data and will ensure that the data tracking system allows for separate tracking.

Strategies used to communicate agency activities <i>Examples below</i>	How Often	Audience	Purpose <i>What is being communicated?</i>
"Weekly Update" Email from the CEO	Weekly	BVCA Staff and Board Members	Updates on programs, funding, strategic plan, upcoming events, benefit changes, staff recognitions
Leadership Meetings	Bi-weekly	Leadership Team	Review finances, strategic plan progress, staffing, board meeting agendas and results of meetings, training needs, upcoming event needs, grant applications and planning
Supervisor's Networking Meetings	Quarterly	BVCA Supervisory Staff	Agency changes, education on programming, review of policies and procedures, review of strategic plan and progress made, event planning, training
Board of Director's Meetings	January, February, March, April, June, August, October, November	Board of Directors and Leadership Team	Review finances, strategic plan progress, staffing, upcoming events, grant applications and planning, programming decisions
Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)	Daily	BVCA Service Area	Promotion of programs and events, client, staff and board member recognition, employment opportunities, meeting notices
Newspaper, radio and television	As needed	BVCA Service Area	Promotion of programs and events; client, staff and board member recognition; employment opportunities; meeting notices
County Commissioner Meetings	Annually	County Commissioners	Review of annual report to include: client demographics, program results, staff demographics, financial review and agency needs
Agency Newsletter	Quarterly	BVCA Service Area, Partners, Funders, Civic Groups	Updates on programs, funding, strategic plan, agency changes, upcoming events, staff recognitions

Examples of strategies could include but are not limited to: participation at meetings or committees, newspaper, radio, television, Community Action of Nebraska, social media, newsletter, advertising, fundraising events, website, etc.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Required Document	Date Submitted to State CSBG Office
CARES Community Needs Assessment	6/1/2020

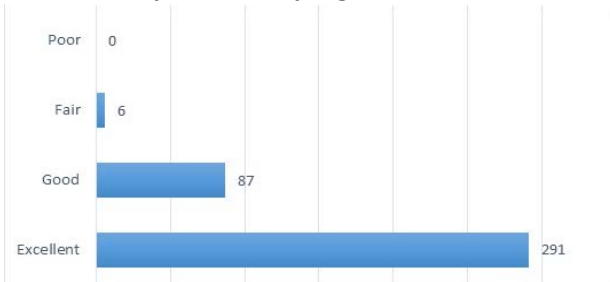
ADDENDUM III: 2020 CONSUMER FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

Update to Community Needs Assessment approved by BVCA Board of Directors on April 20, 2021

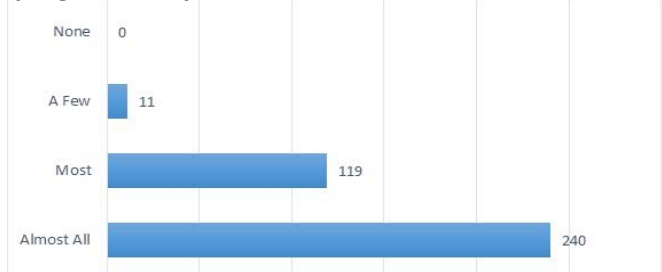
CONSUMER FEEDBACK REPORT—FY 2020

October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020 | Total Responses: 387

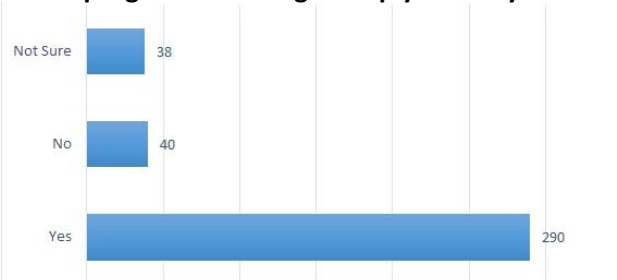
Overall, how would you rate the quality of services received as part of this program?



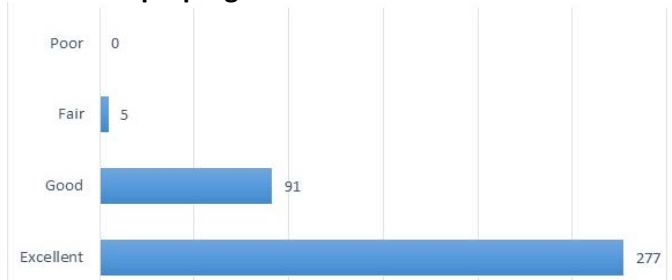
To what extent have the services provided through this program met your needs?



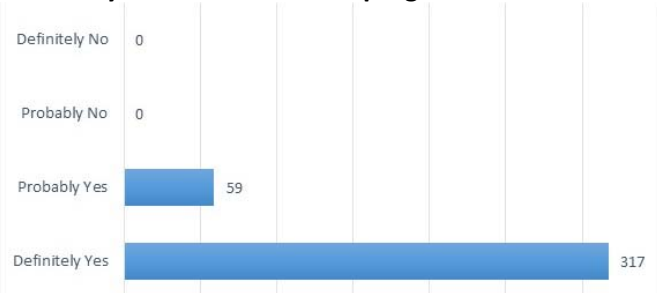
Did staff members offer you additional information about other programs that might help you and your family?



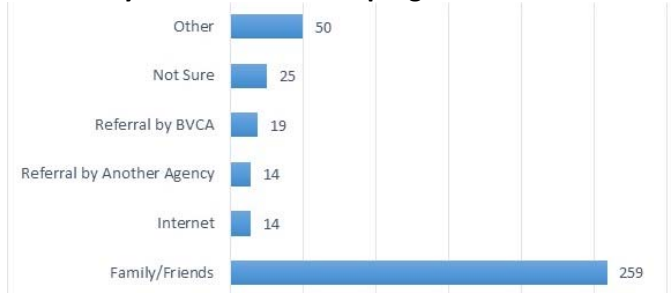
How would you rate staff members' knowledge of BVCA Partnership's programs and services?



Would you recommend this program or service to others?

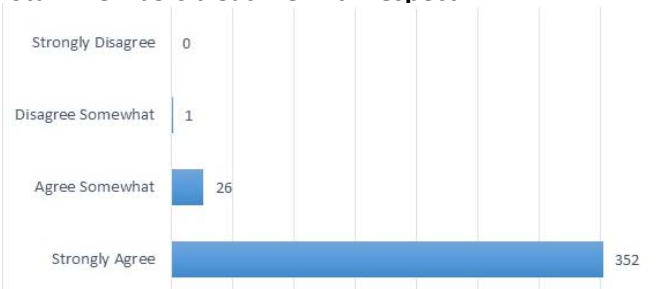


How did you hear about this program or service?

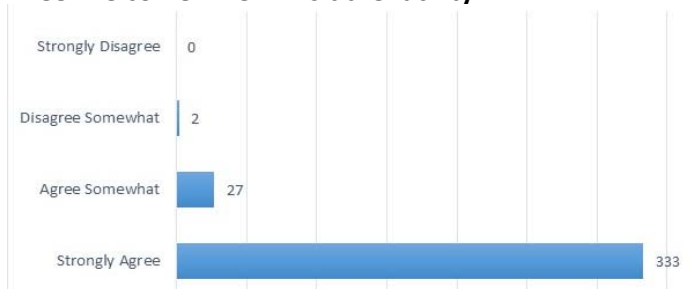


Please mark your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

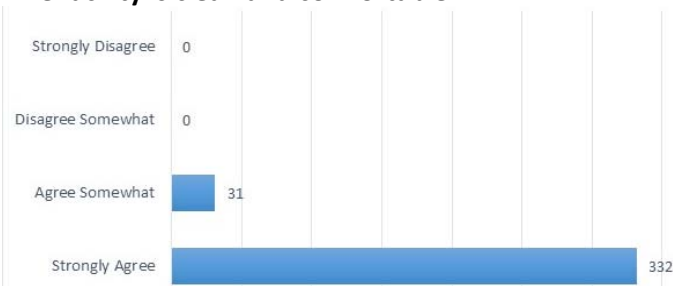
Staff members treat me with respect.



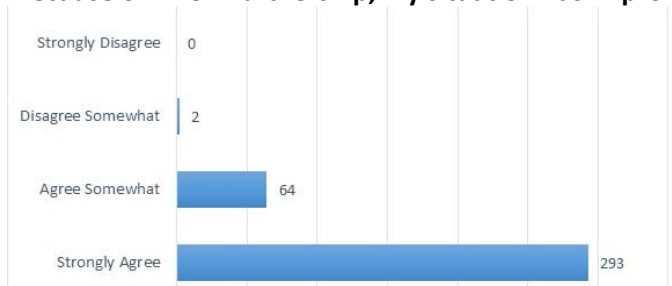
I feel welcome when I visit the facility.



The facility is clean and comfortable.

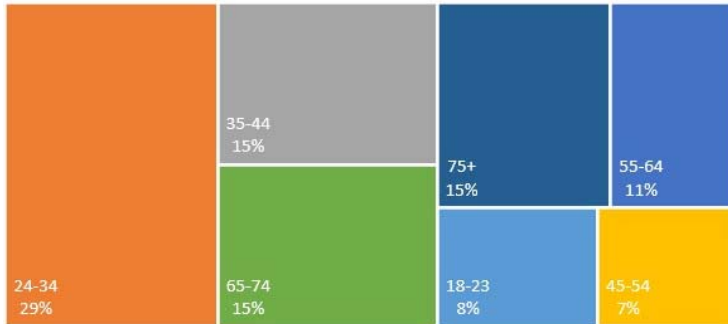


Because of BVCA Partnership, my situation has improved.



DEMOGRAPHICS OF THOSE COMPLETING SURVEY

AGE



GENDER



RACE

■ African-American ■ White ■ Asian/Pacific Islander ■ Native American ■ Other



ETHNICITY



PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN HOME



WHAT DOES YOUR FAMILY STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST?



ADDENDUM IV: 2021 EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

Update to Community Needs Assessment approved by BVCA Board of Directors on April 20, 2021

2021 EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

In March 2021, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA) conducted an Employee Survey to gauge staff satisfaction and gain input and suggestions for change. One hundred and six employees completed the survey.

BVCA utilized the same Employee Survey that was conducted in 2017 in which 76 employees completed the survey. The results of the 2017 Employee Survey are being utilized as a baseline for the comparison of the 2021 results. The Employee Survey engages staff input on communication; compensation; performance; resources; professional and career development; leadership and management; teamwork and collaboration; and work/life balance.

The overall results of the 2021 Employee Survey were very similar to the 2017 results. The following areas had either a variance increase or decrease of 5% or more.

- Sufficient effort is made to get the opinions and ideas of the employees.
 - ✓ 2021 – 91% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 84% neutral or above
- The benefits at BVCA are competitive to that of similar organizations.
 - ✓ 2021 – 95% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 89% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2021 – 5% disagreed
 - ✓ 2017 – 10% disagreed
- When looking at the entire compensation package (pay plus benefits), I receive fair compensation for the work I do.
 - ✓ 2021 – 85% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 73% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2021 – 16% disagreed
 - ✓ 2017 – 26% disagreed
- I understand how my performance is appraised.
 - ✓ 2021 – 94% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 89% neutral or above
- Employee evaluations are fair and appropriate.
 - ✓ 2021 – 96% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 91% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2021 – 4% disagreed
 - ✓ 2017 – 9% disagreed

- I am satisfied with the career advancement opportunities within the organization.
 - ✓ 2021 – 92% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 98% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2021 – 9% disagreed
 - ✓ 2017 – 1% disagreed

- My supervisor is available to me when I have questions or need help.
 - ✓ 2021 – 94% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 89% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2021 – 6% disagreed
 - ✓ 2017 – 11% disagreed

- I am satisfied with the level and amount of supervision I receive.
 - ✓ 2021 – 86% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 97% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2021 – 9% disagree
 - ✓ 2017 – 4% disagree

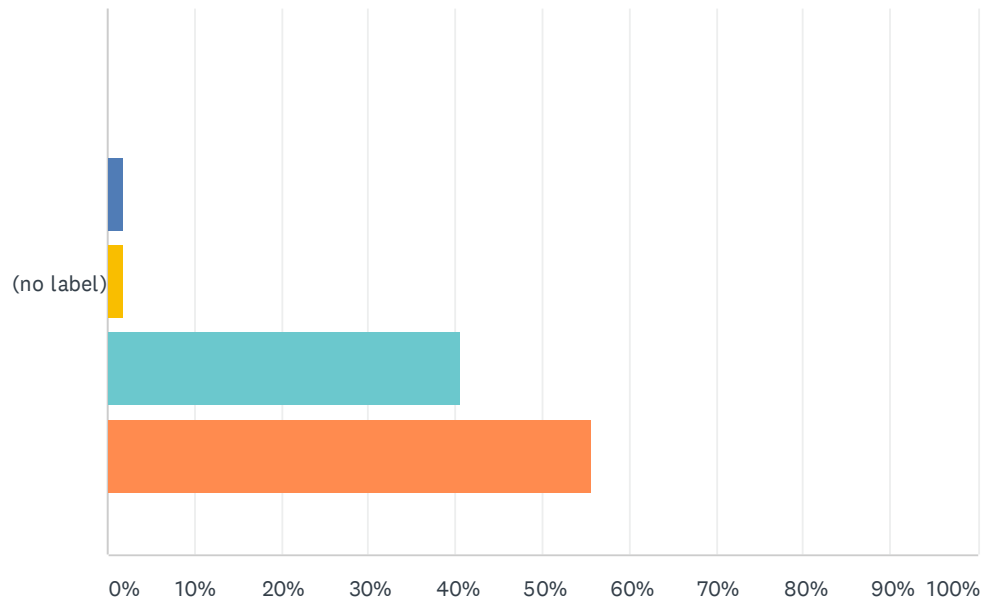
- I feel valued at work.
 - ✓ 2021 – 93% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 88% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2021 – 7% disagree
 - ✓ 2017 – 12% disagree

- The amount of work I am expected to do is reasonable.
 - ✓ 2021 – 94% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2017 – 88% neutral or above
 - ✓ 2021 – 6% disagreed
 - ✓ 2017 – 12% disagreed

(See complete survey results on the following pages.)

Q1 I have a good understanding of the mission and goals of this organization.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

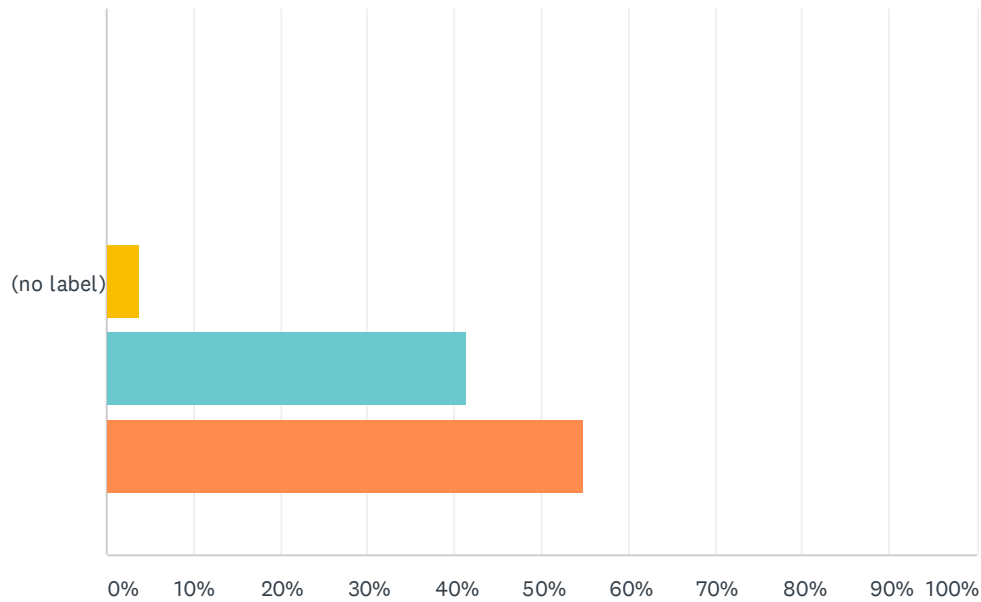


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00% 0	1.89% 2	1.89% 2	40.57% 43	55.66% 59	106	4.50

Q2 I understand how my work directly contributes to the overall success of the organization.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

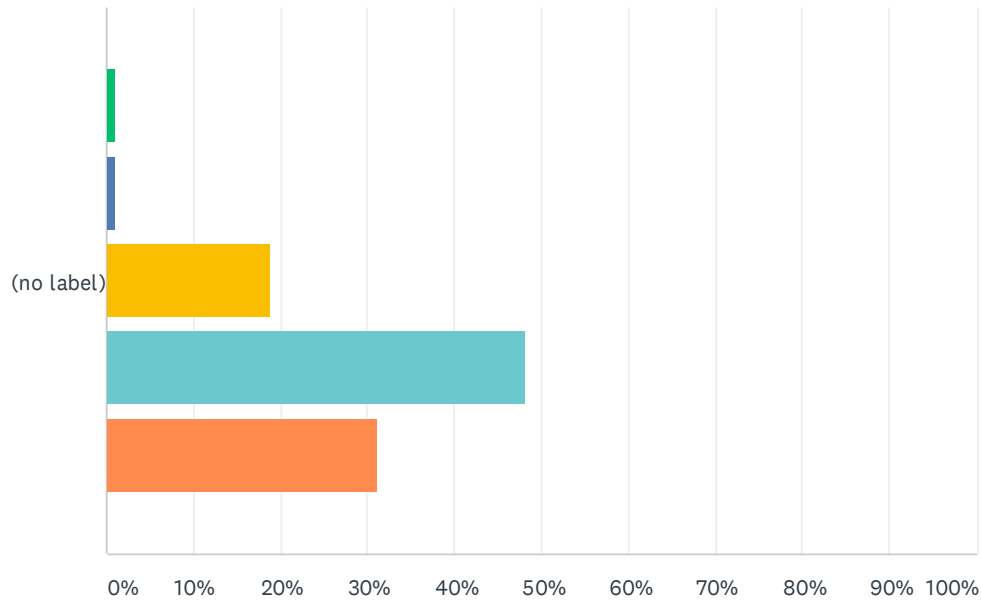


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.77% 4	41.51% 44	54.72% 58	106	4.51

Q3 The agency communicates its direction and goals to me.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

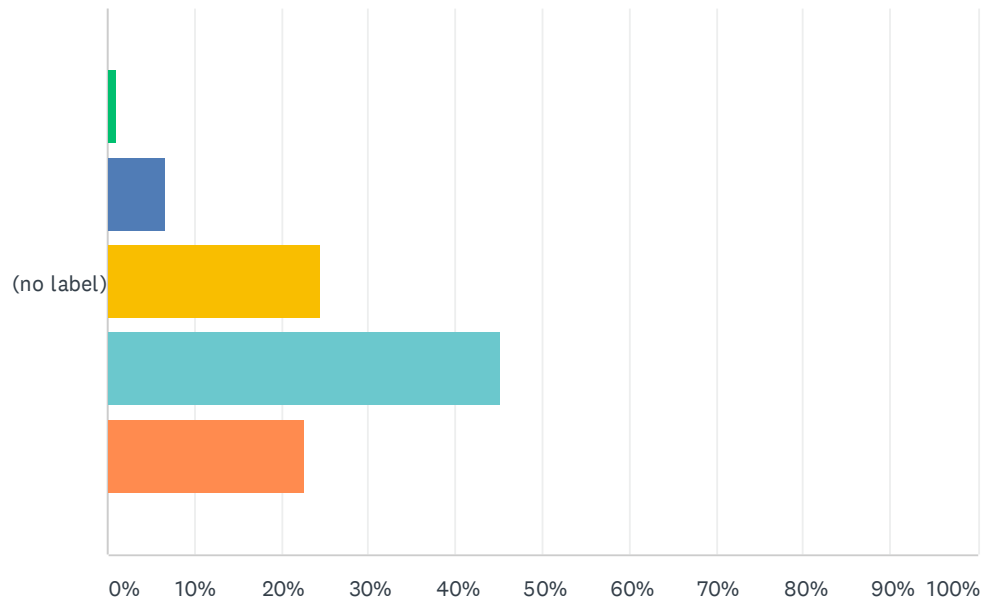


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94%	0.94%	18.87%	48.11%	31.13%	106	4.08
	1	1	20	51	33		

Q4 I generally feel informed about issues that affect me within the organization.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

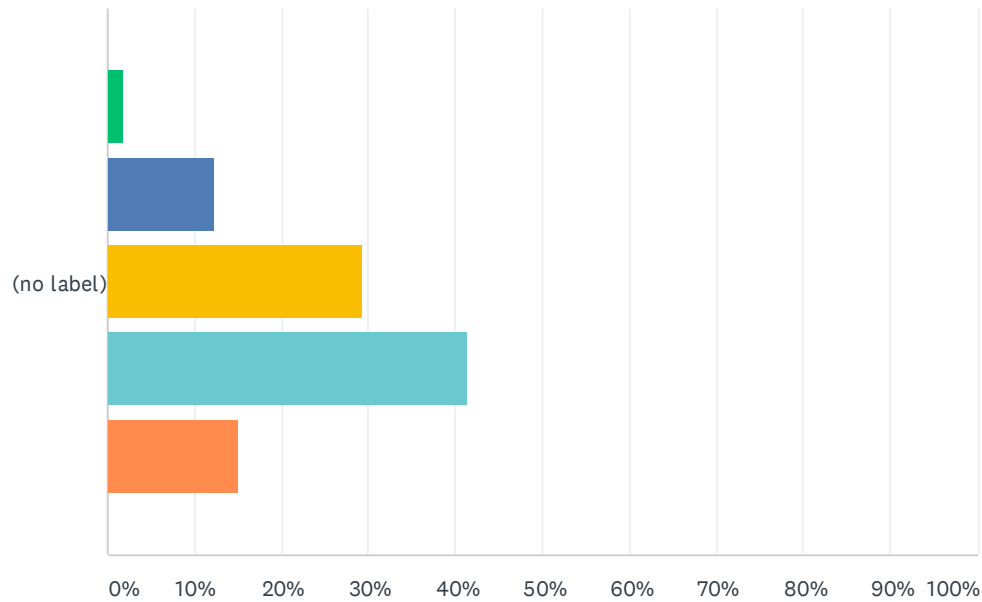


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94% 1	6.60% 7	24.53% 26	45.28% 48	22.64% 24	106	3.82

Q5 Sufficient effort is made to get the opinions and ideas of the employees.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

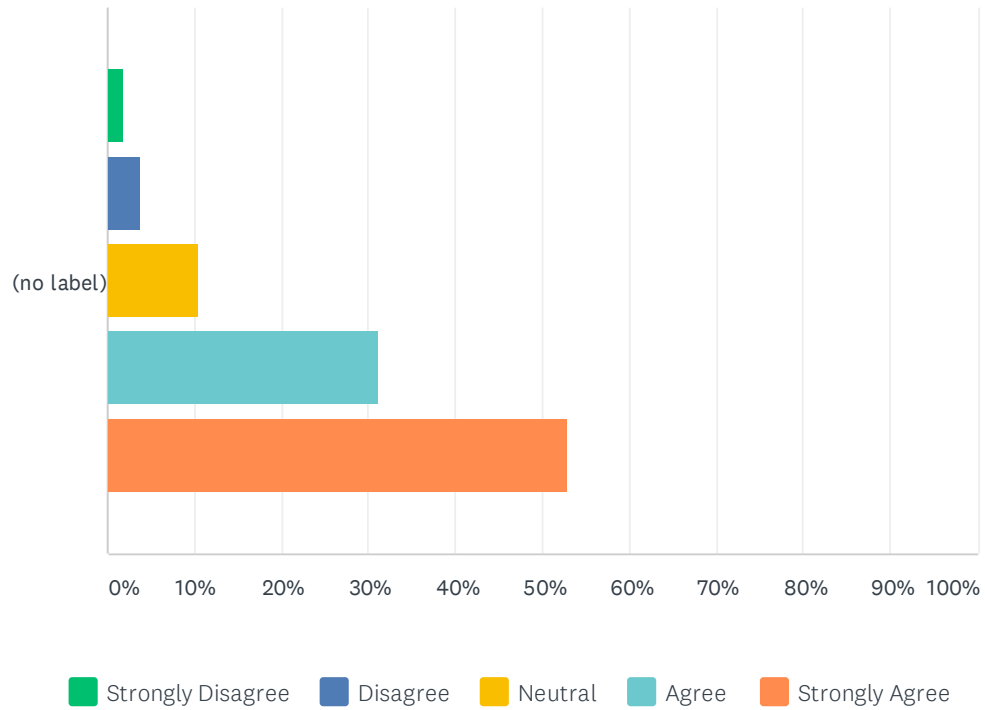


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.89% 2	12.26% 13	29.25% 31	41.51% 44	15.09% 16	106	3.56

Q6 There is good communication between me and my supervisor.

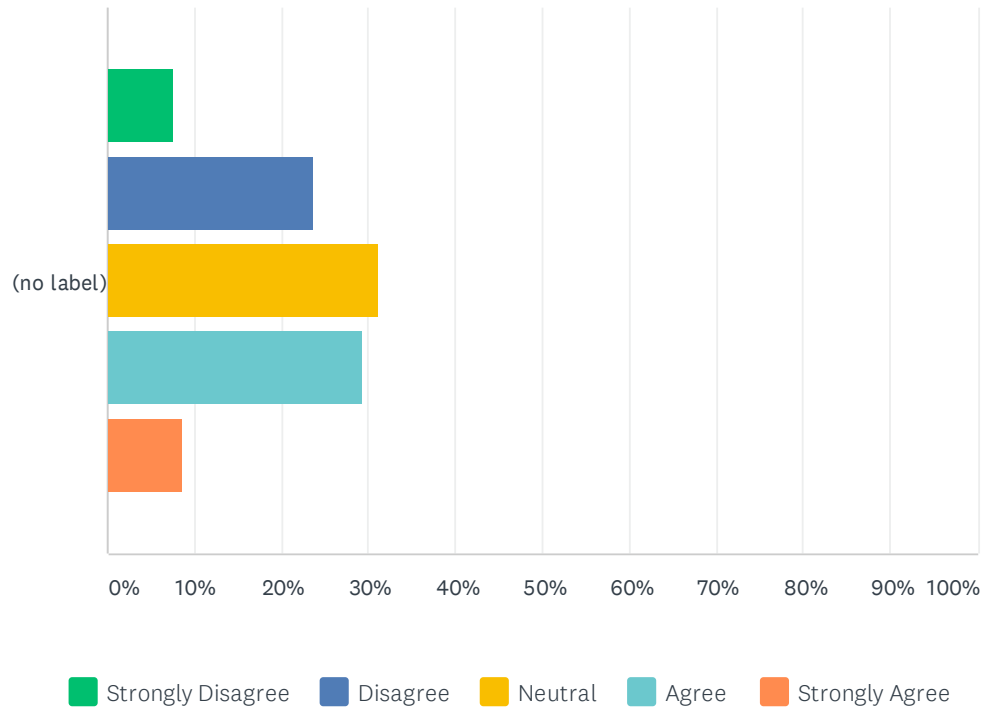
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.89% 2	3.77% 4	10.38% 11	31.13% 33	52.83% 56	106	4.29

Q8 The pay at BVCA is competitive to that of similar organizations.

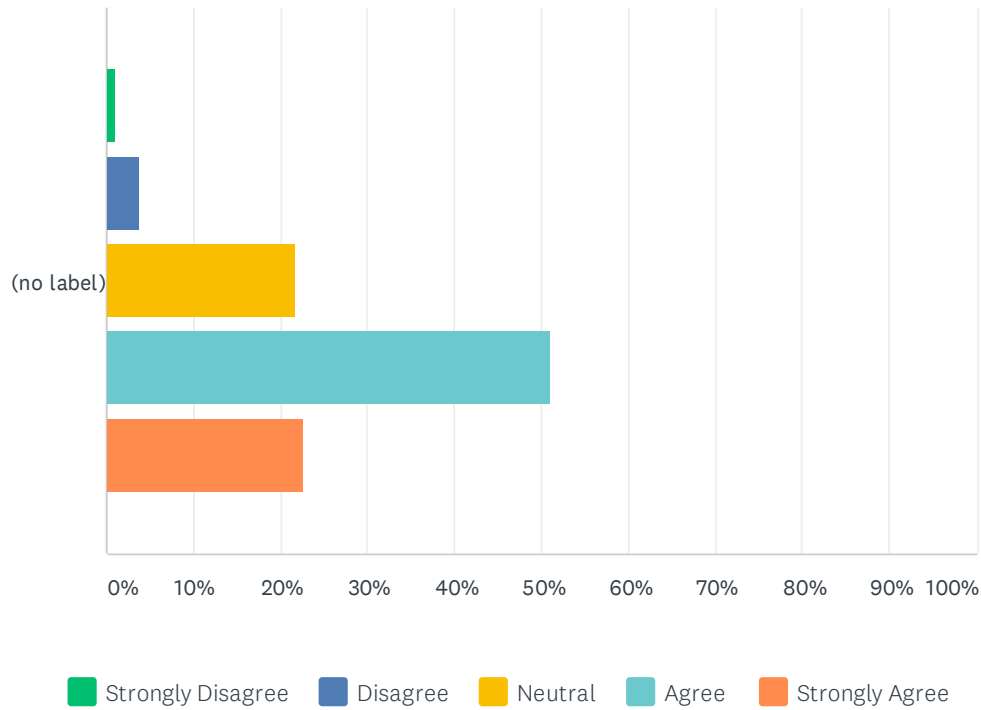
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	7.55% 8	23.58% 25	31.13% 33	29.25% 31	8.49% 9	106	3.08

Q9 The benefits at BVCA are competitive to that of similar organizations.

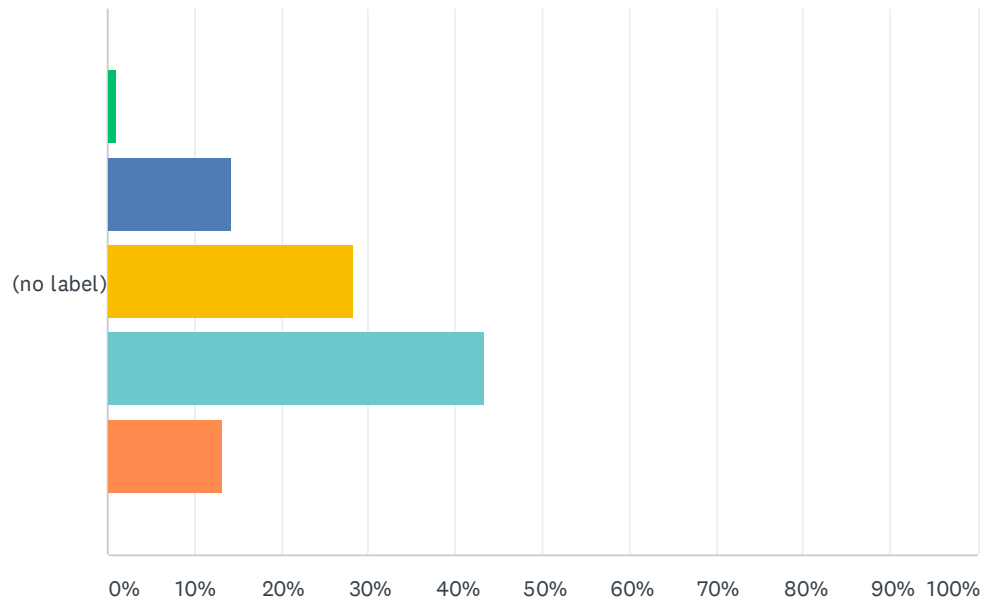
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94%	3.77%	21.70%	50.94%	22.64%	106	3.91
	1	4	23	54	24		

Q10 When looking at the entire compensation package (pay plus benefits), I receive fair compensation for the work I do.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

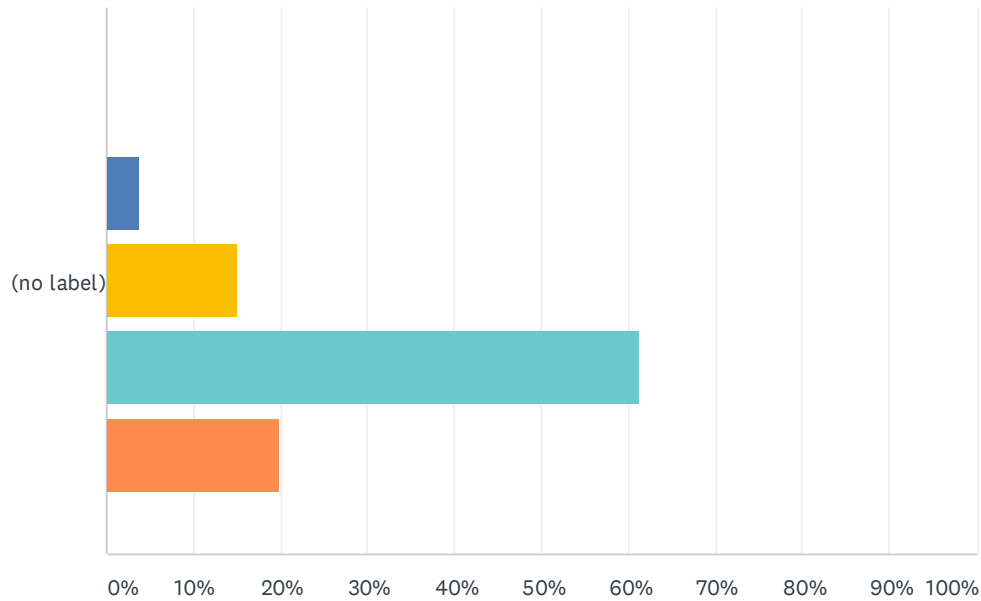


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94%	14.15%	28.30%	43.40%	13.21%	106	3.54
	1	15	30	46	14		

Q11 I understand my benefits package.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

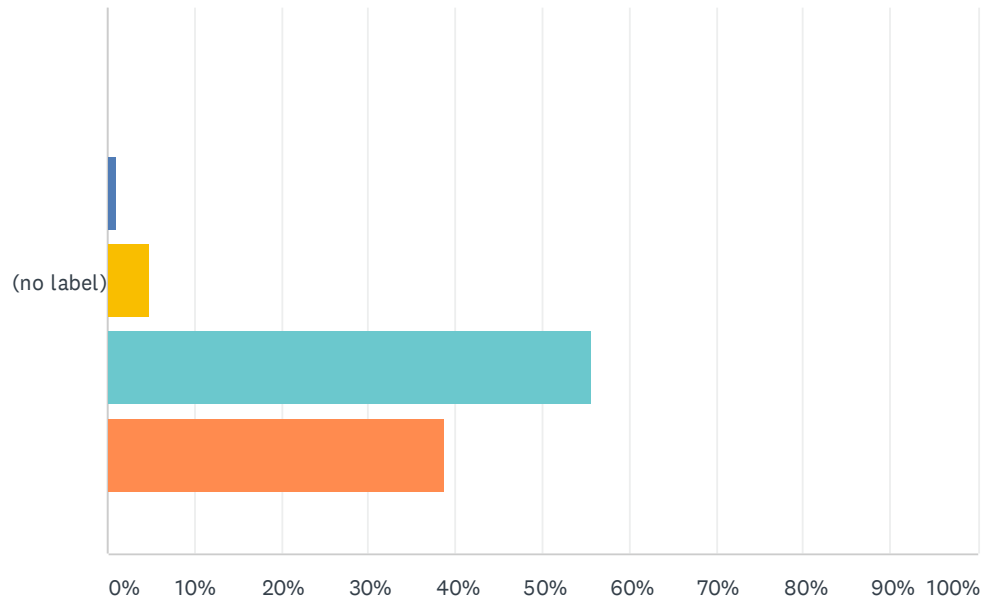


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00%	3.77%	15.09%	61.32%	19.81%	106	3.97
	0	4	16	65	21		

Q13 I know what is expected of me in my job.

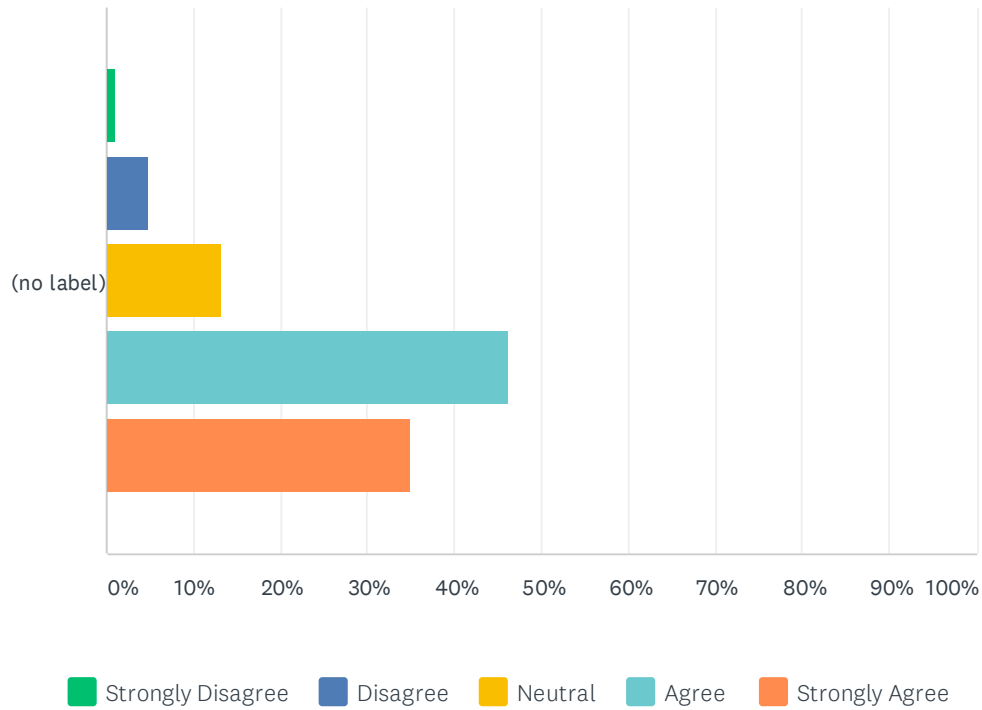
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00% 0	0.94% 1	4.72% 5	55.66% 59	38.68% 41	106	4.32

Q14 I understand how my performance is appraised.

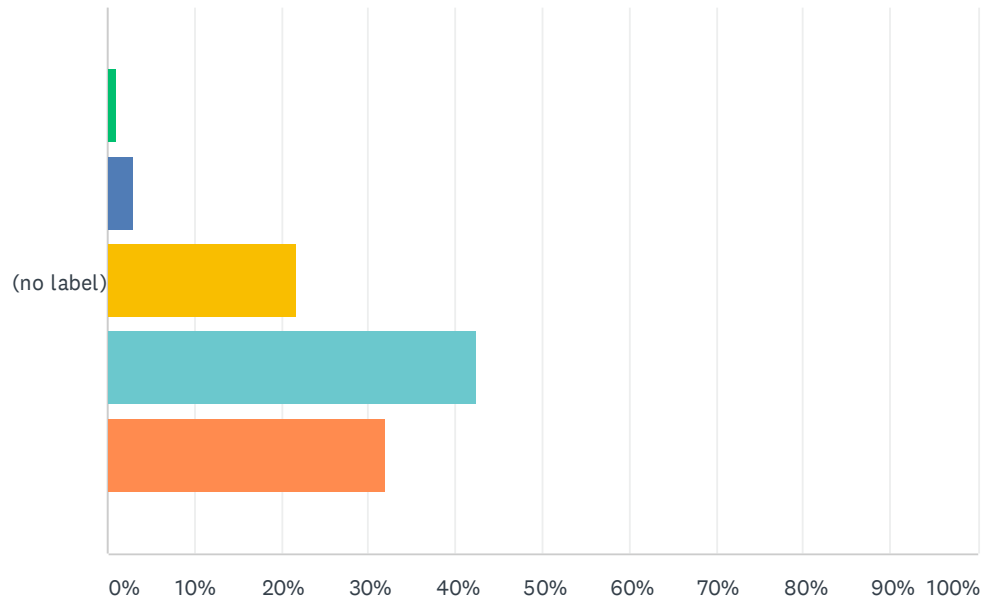
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94% 1	4.72% 5	13.21% 14	46.23% 49	34.91% 37	106	4.09

Q15 Employee evaluations are fair and appropriate.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

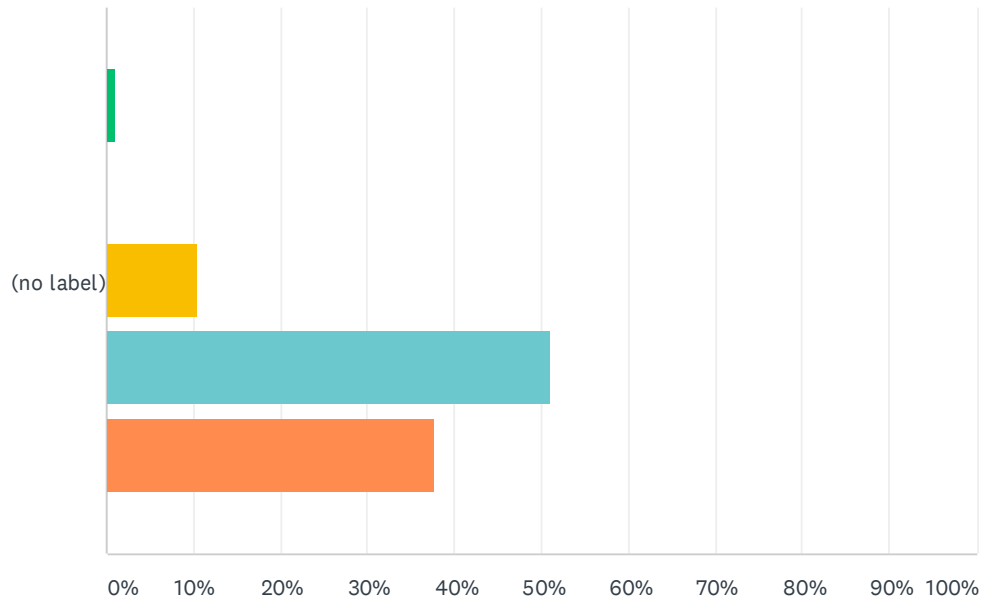


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94% 1	2.83% 3	21.70% 23	42.45% 45	32.08% 34	106	4.02

Q16 I am encouraged to learn from my mistakes.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

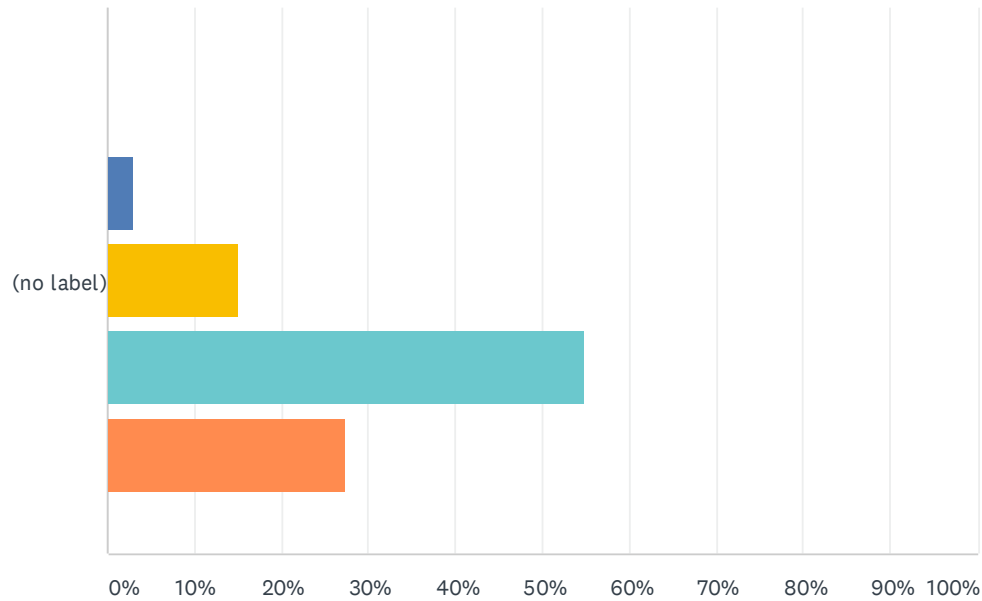


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94% 1	0.00% 0	10.38% 11	50.94% 54	37.74% 40	106	4.25

Q18 I have the tools/equipment/technology to do my job well.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

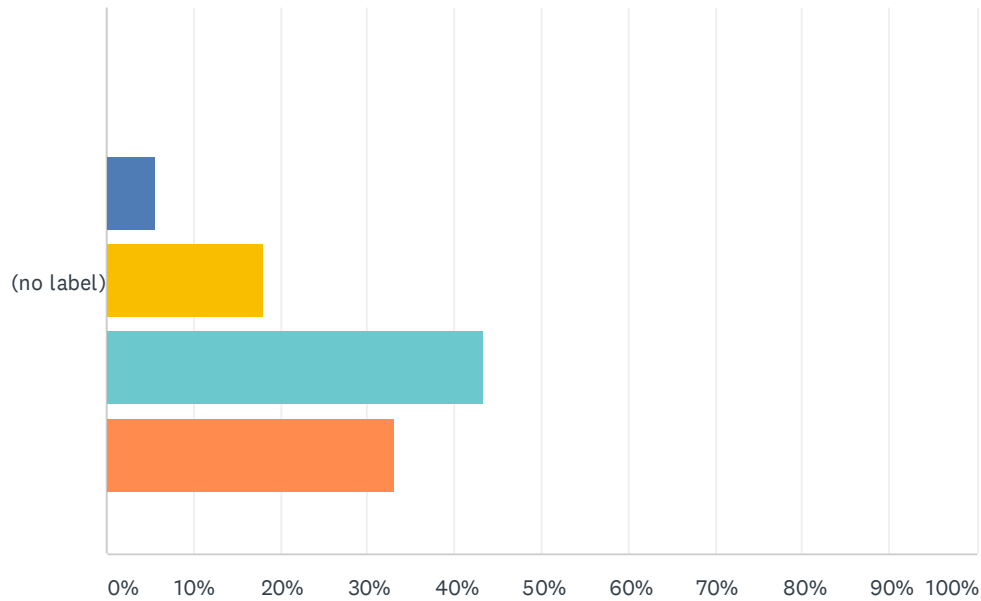


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00%	2.83%	15.09%	54.72%	27.36%	106	4.07
	0	3	16	58	29		

Q19 I receive the training I need to do my job well.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

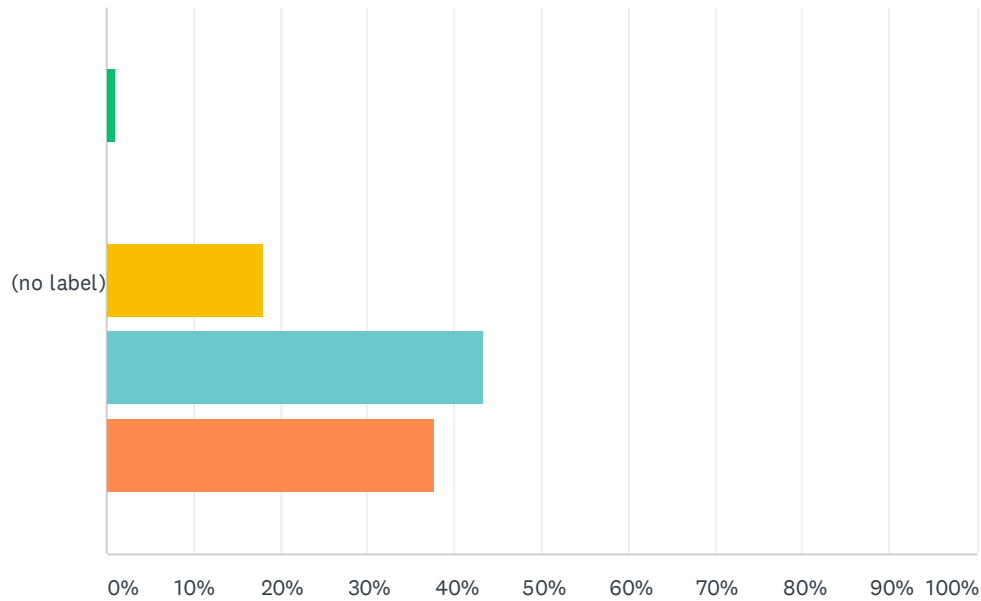


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00% 0	5.66% 6	17.92% 19	43.40% 46	33.02% 35	106	4.04

Q21 The agency encourages and supports my professional development.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

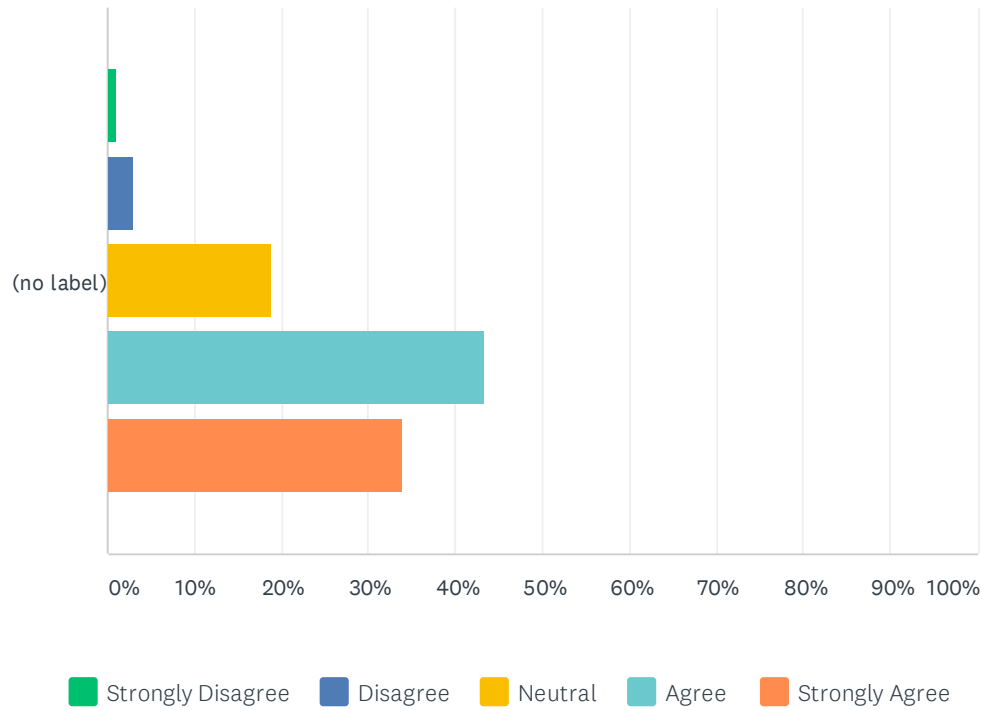


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94%	0.00%	17.92%	43.40%	37.74%	106	4.17
	1	0	19	46	40		

Q22 I am satisfied with my opportunities for professional growth.

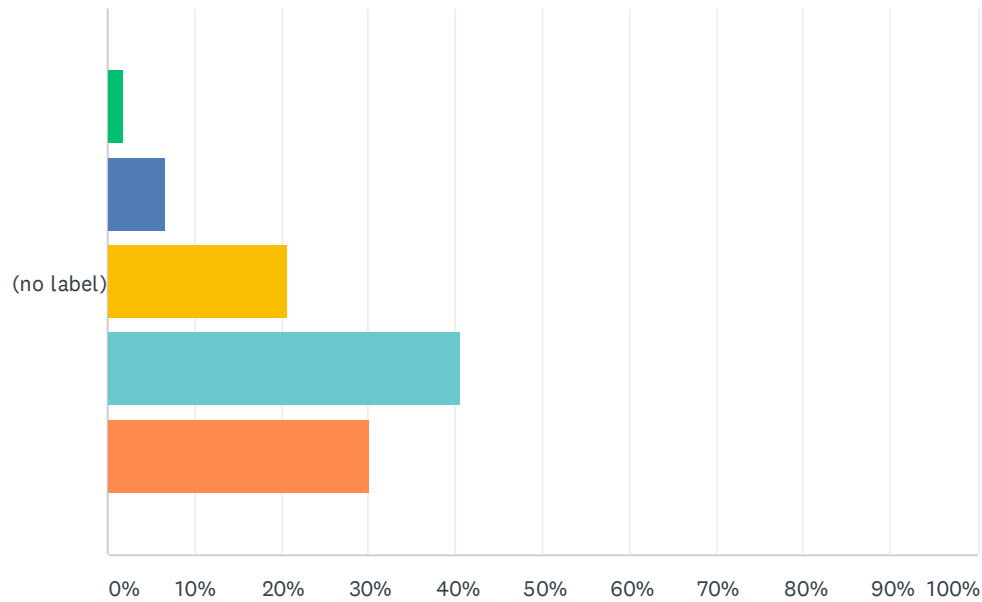
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94% 1	2.83% 3	18.87% 20	43.40% 46	33.96% 36	106	4.07

Q23 I am satisfied with the career advancement opportunities within the organization.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

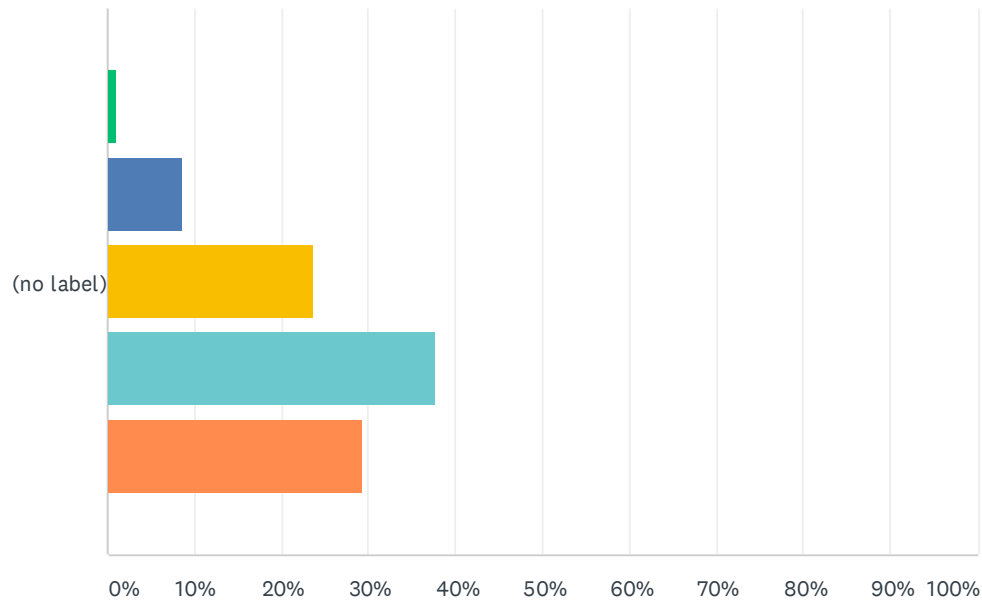


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.89% 2	6.60% 7	20.75% 22	40.57% 43	30.19% 32	106	3.91

Q25 Supervisors show fairness and respect in their interactions with employees.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

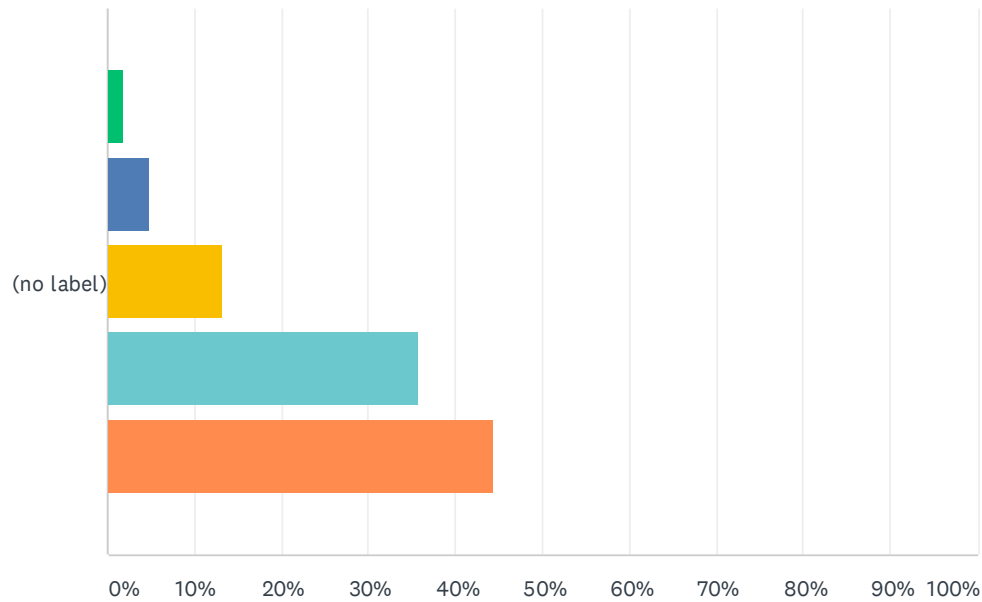


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94% 1	8.49% 9	23.58% 25	37.74% 40	29.25% 31	106	3.86

Q26 My supervisor helps me understand my strengths and areas for development.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

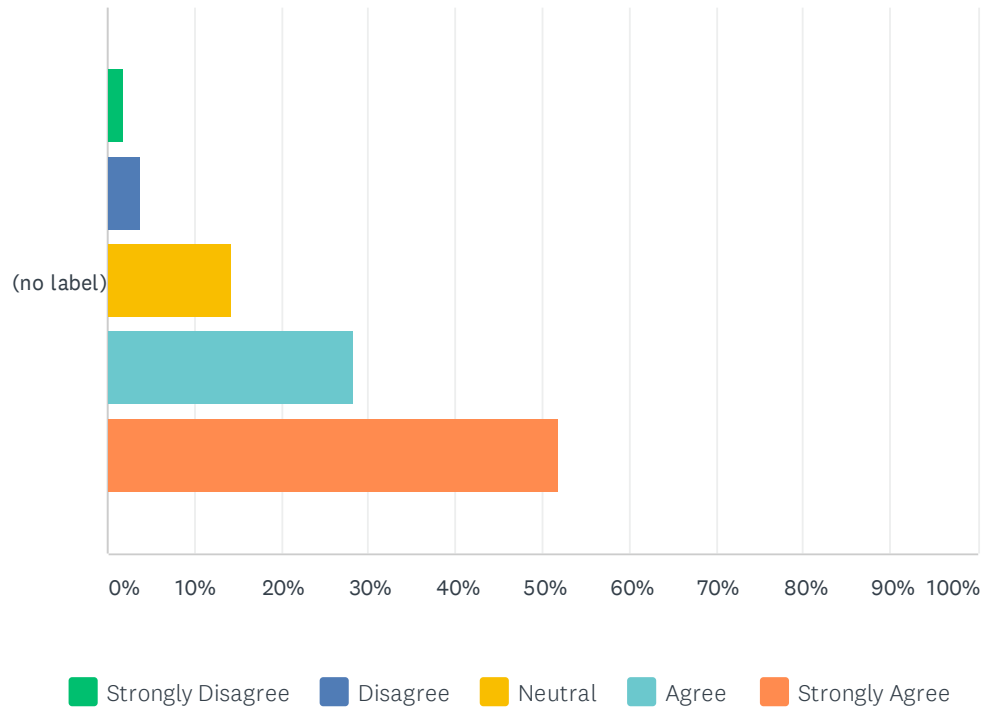


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.89% 2	4.72% 5	13.21% 14	35.85% 38	44.34% 47	106	4.16

Q27 My supervisor is available to me when I have questions or need help.

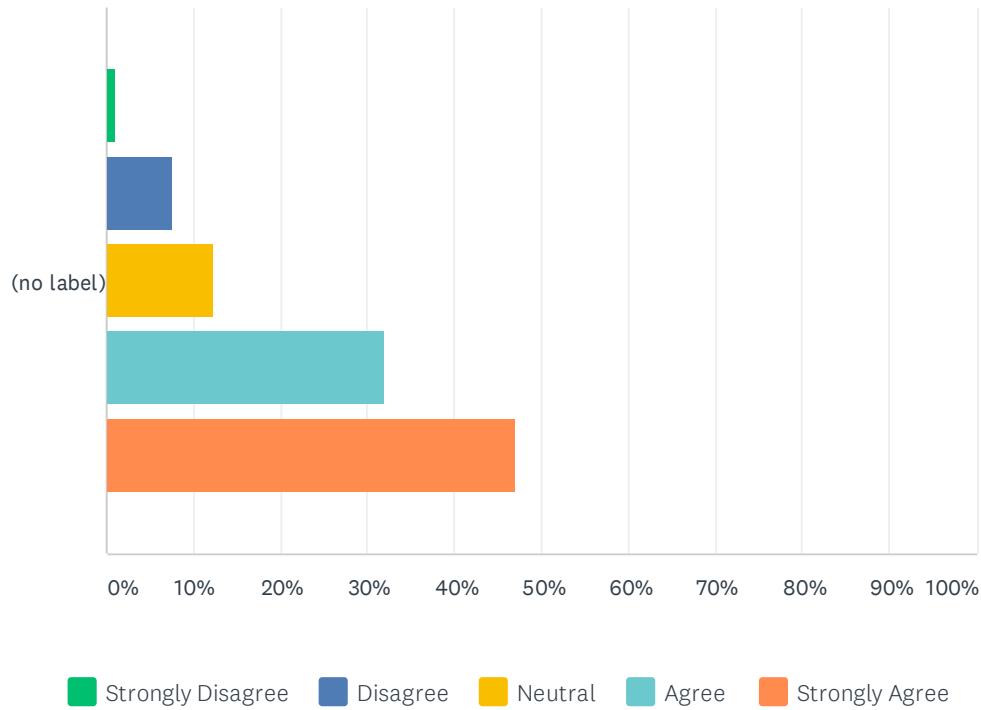
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.89% 2	3.77% 4	14.15% 15	28.30% 30	51.89% 55	106	4.25

Q28 I am satisfied with the level and amount of supervision I receive.

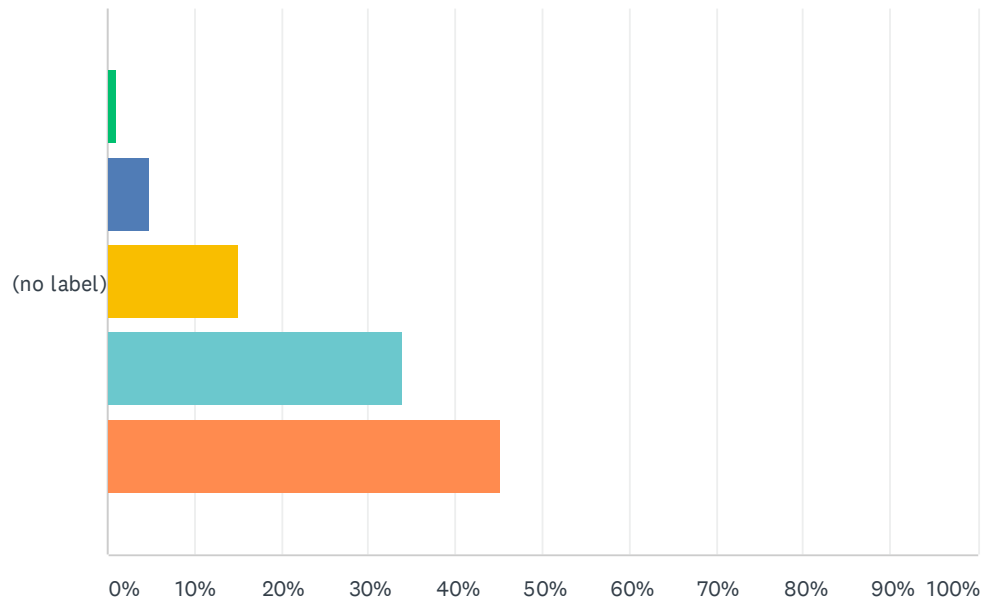
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94%	7.55%	12.26%	32.08%	47.17%	106	4.17
	1	8	13	34	50		

Q29 My supervisor has a positive attitude when new changes are implemented.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

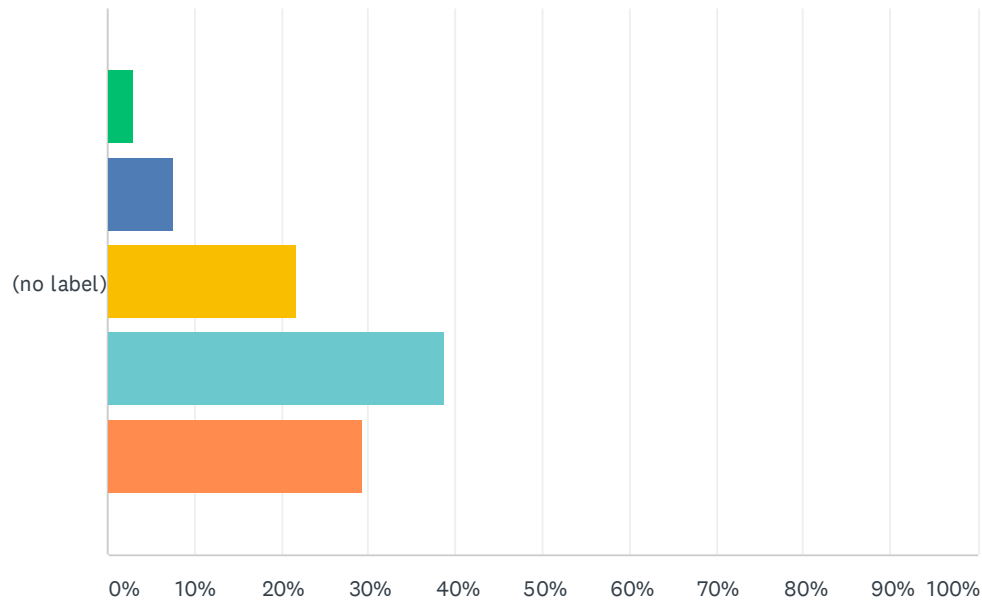


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94% 1	4.72% 5	15.09% 16	33.96% 36	45.28% 48	106	4.18

Q30 Management within my organization recognizes strong job performance.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

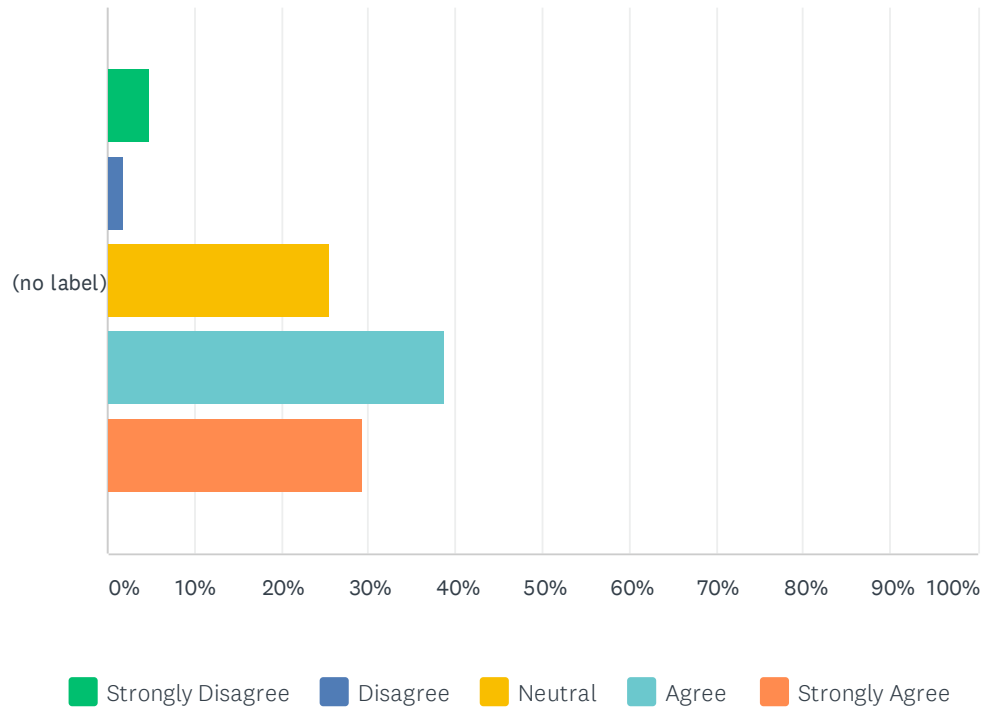


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	2.83% 3	7.55% 8	21.70% 23	38.68% 41	29.25% 31	106	3.84

Q31 I feel valued at work.

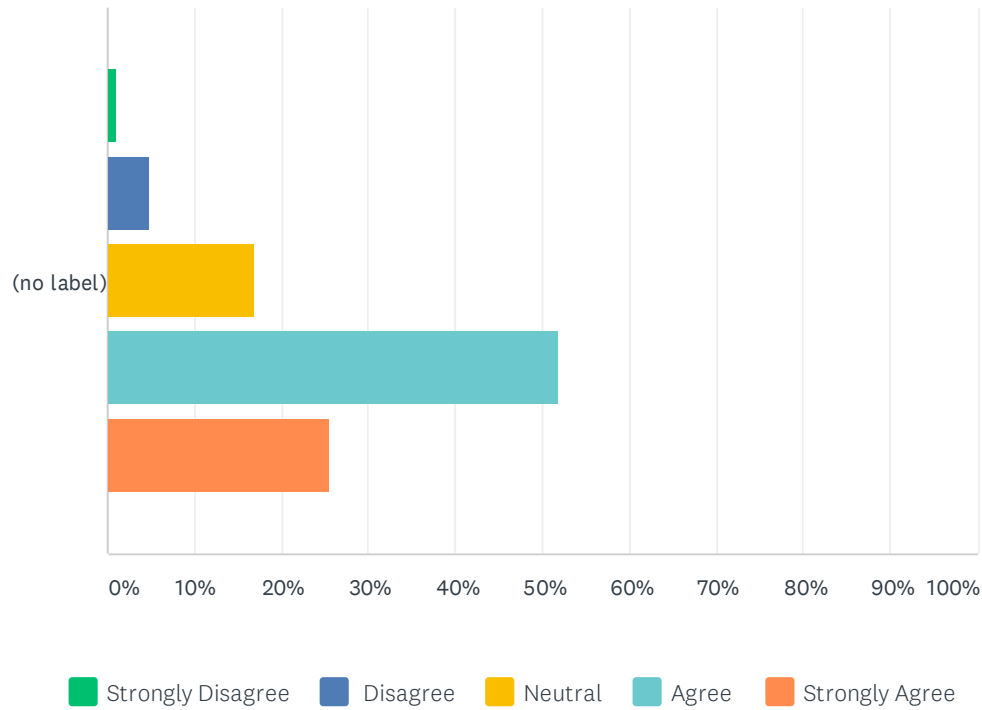
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	4.72% 5	1.89% 2	25.47% 27	38.68% 41	29.25% 31	106	3.86

Q33 Teamwork is encouraged and practiced in the agency.

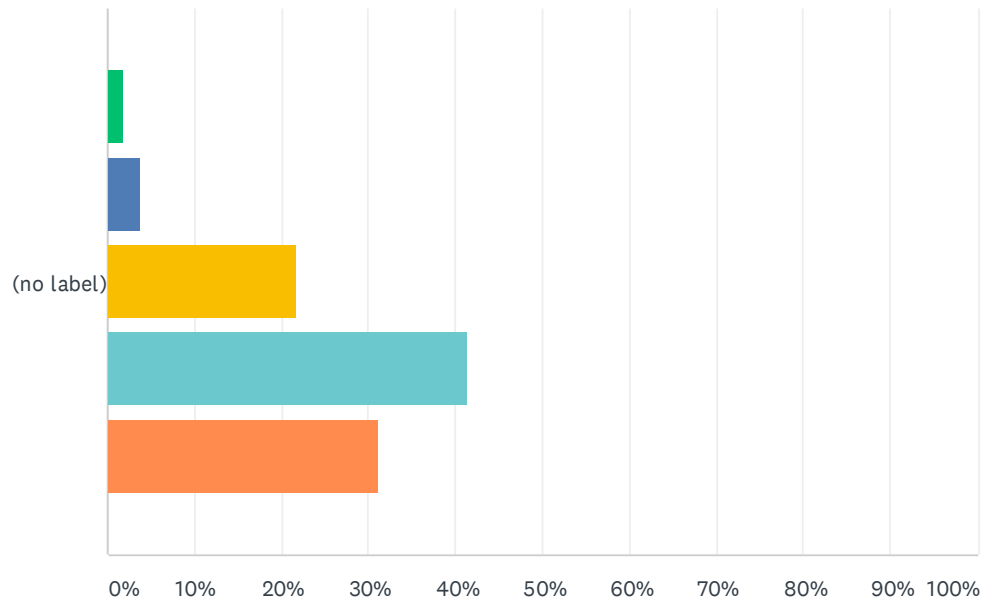
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94%	4.72%	16.98%	51.89%	25.47%	106	3.96
	1	5	18	55	27		

Q34 I feel encouraged to come up with new and better ways of doing things.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

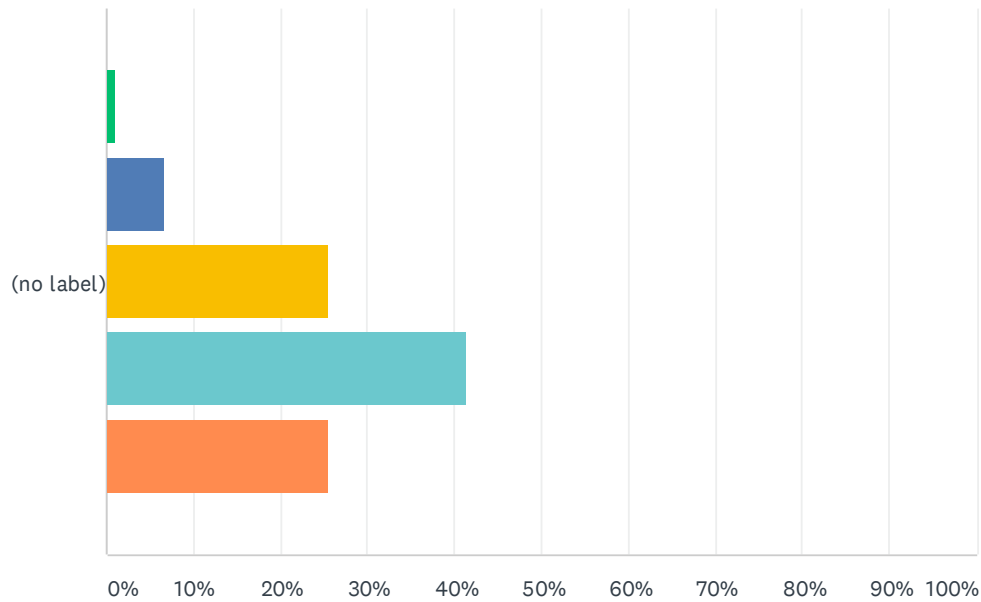


Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.89% 2	3.77% 4	21.70% 23	41.51% 44	31.13% 33	106	3.96

Q35 Employees take the initiative to help other employees when the need arises.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

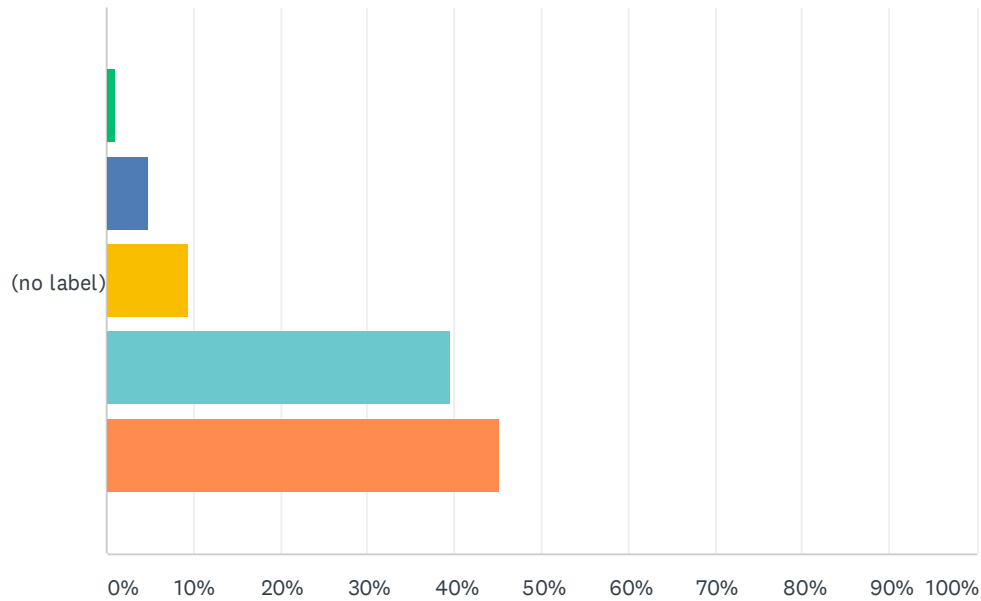


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94% 1	6.60% 7	25.47% 27	41.51% 44	25.47% 27	106	3.84

Q37 This agency is supportive of balance between work and personal life.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

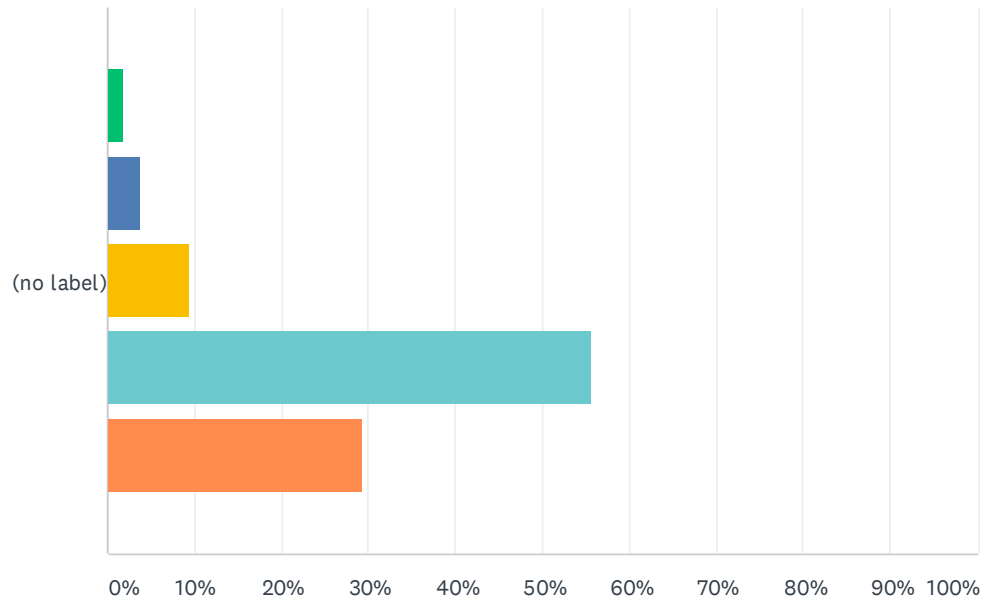


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.94%	4.72%	9.43%	39.62%	45.28%	106	4.24
	1	5	10	42	48		

Q38 The amount of work I am expected to do is reasonable.

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

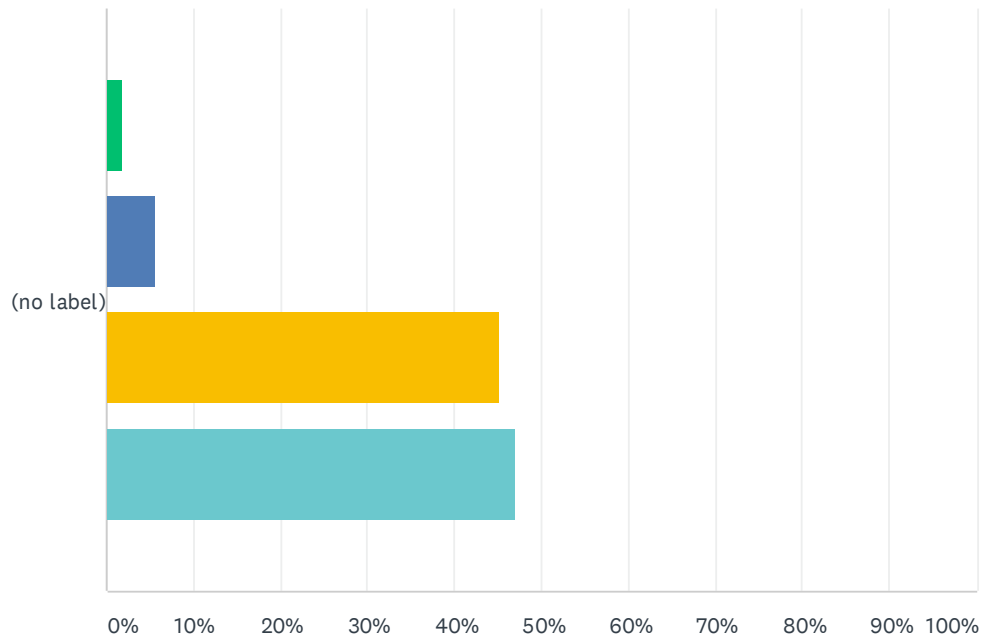


■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.89%	3.77%	9.43%	55.66%	29.25%	106	4.07
	2	4	10	59	31		

Q40 On a scale of "Excellent" to "Poor", how would you rate your overall employment with Blue Valley Community Action Partnership?

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

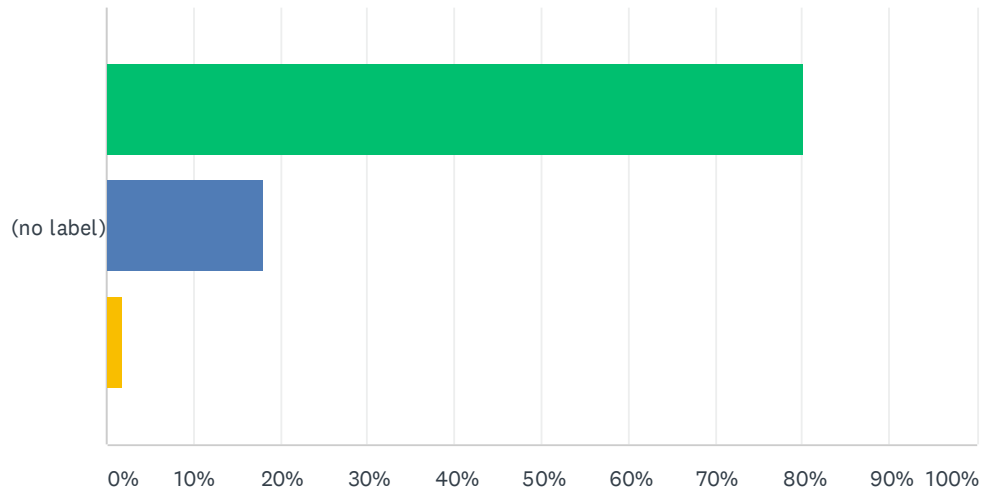


■ Poor
 ■ Average
 ■ Good
 ■ Excellent

	POOR	AVERAGE	GOOD	EXCELLENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.89%	5.66%	45.28%	47.17%		
	2	6	48	50	106	3.38

Q41 Would you refer others who are seeking employment to BVCA?

Answered: 106 Skipped: 0

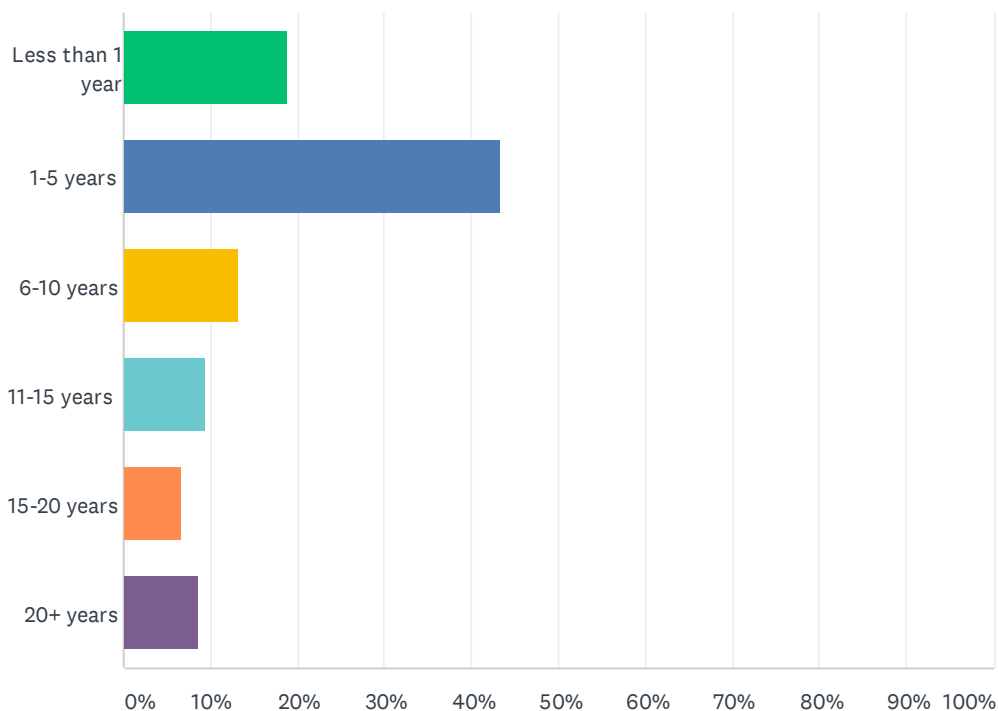


Yes Maybe No

	YES	MAYBE	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	80.19%	17.92%	1.89%		
	85	19	2	106	2.78

Q42 Please select a range that best represents the time you have been employed with Blue Valley Community Action Partnership.

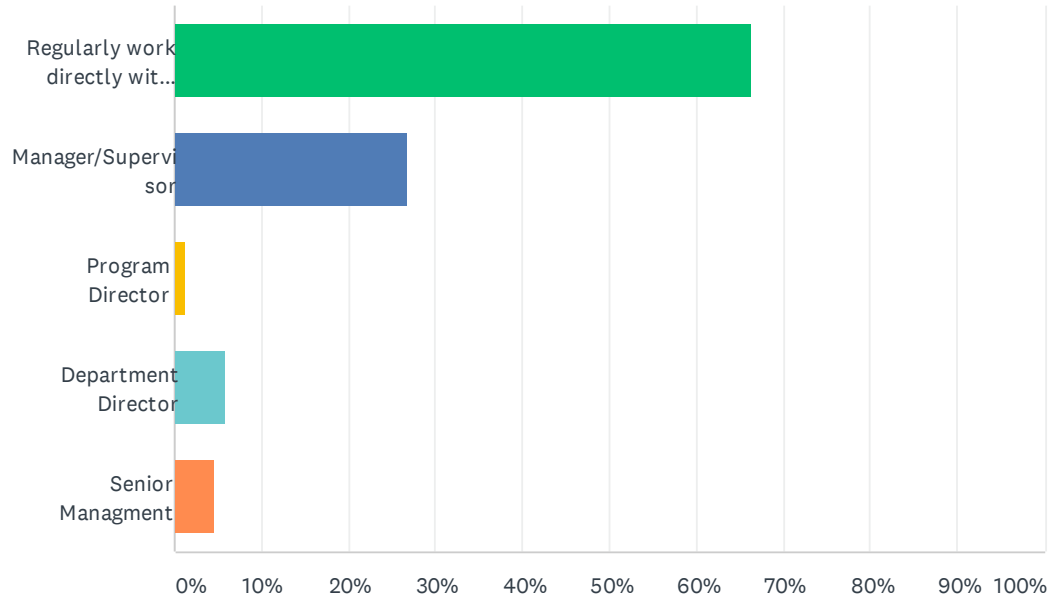
Answered: 106 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	18.87%	20
1-5 years	43.40%	46
6-10 years	13.21%	14
11-15 years	9.43%	10
15-20 years	6.60%	7
20+ years	8.49%	9
TOTAL		106

Q43 Your job role at BVCA. (optional)

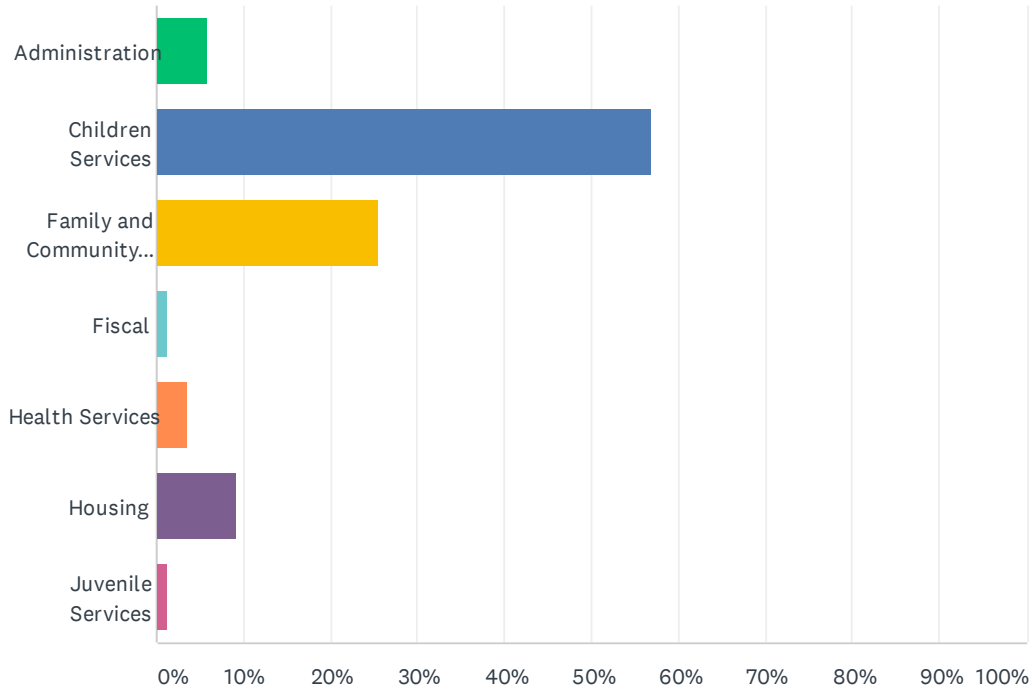
Answered: 86 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Regularly work directly with clients and/or provide direct services	66.28%	57
Manager/Supervisor	26.74%	23
Program Director	1.16%	1
Department Director	5.81%	5
Senior Managment	4.65%	4
Total Respondents: 86		

Q44 Select the department you work in. (Optional)

Answered: 86 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Administration	5.81%	5
Children Services	56.98%	49
Family and Community Services	25.58%	22
Fiscal	1.16%	1
Health Services	3.49%	3
Housing	9.30%	8
Juvenile Services	1.16%	1
Total Respondents: 86		

ADDENDUM V: 2022 NEEDS SURVEY RESULTS

Update to Community Needs Assessment approved by BVCA Board of Directors on June 21, 2022

2022 NEEDS SURVEY

BACKGROUND

In April of 2020, BVCA conducted a Community Needs Assessment update in response to a global health pandemic that affected all communities in BVCA's service area. The pandemic caused economic disruptions throughout all communities. In an effort to capture what some of the emerging needs were during that time and to forecast how those needs would evolve, BVCA conducted a needs survey in the following nine communities, Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York. Based on the survey results, BVCA designed temporary programs to meet the emerging needs of individuals and families throughout the BVCA service area.

Since that time, the pandemic has gone through many waves with peaks signifying high rates of positive COVID cases and troughs indicating a decrease in positive cases. At this time the post-peak period signifies that the pandemic activity appears to be decreasing; however, it is uncertain if additional waves will occur in the months to come.

During the onset of the pandemic, BVCA received supplemental funding from various sources to develop or expand programs and services to meet the needs of vulnerable individuals who were directly affected by the pandemic. The funding period for a number of these programs will be ending in September 2022, therefore in March of 2022, BVCA elected to conduct another needs survey to assess the ongoing impact that the pandemic continues to have on individuals and families and to determine what services BVCA may need to continue to offer if financially feasible.

A link to the needs survey was shared on BVCA's Facebook page and website. Paper copies were available to individuals at the local Family & Community Centers.

KEY FINDINGS

Population Profile

BVCA received 278 responses; seventy-one percent of the responses were from females. Thirty-three percent of the respondents were between the age of 25 to 34, while 21% were between the age of 35 to 44. Ten percent of the respondents were under the age of 24 and the remaining 36% were 45 years of age or older.

The average household size was 2 adults and 2 children. Thirty-four percent of the individuals completing the survey indicated that they were of Hispanic or Spanish origin, while 28% indicated that they were receiving disability payments.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity describes a household's inability to provide enough food for every person in the household to lead an active and healthy life. In our communities, forty-one percent of the respondents indicated sometimes not having enough food while eight percent indicated that they often did not have enough food. In the 2020 surveys, 46% of BVCA's clients reported not having enough food at least some times during the year.

When asked to indicate all the reasons why they did not have enough food 53% indicated they could not afford it, 42% indicated that they could not access the food resources during the timeframe in which the food was offered, 36% indicated they were afraid of getting the virus, and 20% indicated that transportation was an issue. Respondent could select more than one reason. BVCA may want to consider offering food resources during evening hours. If transportation costs continue to rise, mobile pantries may need to be considered if financially feasible.

Health

Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 1 in 4 residents have been infected, a total of 487,599 cases have been reported in Nebraska. At least 1 in 451 residents have died from the coronavirus, a total of 4,290 deaths. January 2022 was the month with the highest average cases, while December 2021 was the month with the highest average deaths in Nebraska.

During the onset of the pandemic, BVCA developed telehealth spaces in all nine BVCA counties to provide a safe environment for individuals to obtain medical and mental health services. To date the spaces have not been utilized as BVCA had anticipated they would be. Sixty percent of the individuals who completed the needs survey reported that they have not used telehealth consultation services for medical or mental health appointments. Sixty-seven percent indicated that they preferred to meet in person with their medical provider, while 28% indicated they did not have the appropriate technology or did not understand how telehealth consultation services works.

Mental health continues to be a critical area of concern even as the stress caused by the pandemic slowly decreases. Eighty-six percent of those surveyed indicated that they have experienced anxiety and depression over the last three to six months nearly every day, more than half of the days or several of the days. Only 14% indicated they have not experienced any anxiety and depression. Forty-nine percent of individuals surveyed responded that their children have experienced anxiety and depression over the last three to six months nearly every day, more than half of the days or several of the days, while 26% indicated their children did not experience any anxiety or depression. Twenty-five percent of the respondents did not have children.

Housing

Housing quality continues to be an issue across BVCA's service area. Thirty-five percent of the respondents indicated that they rent a home or an apartment, with 28% own their own home with a mortgage owed on it, 7% indicated they lived somewhere without paying rent, and 1% indicated they did not have a stable place to live. The remaining 29% live in their own home without a mortgage.

Thirteen percent of the respondents indicated they were not able to pay their rent or mortgage on time, and 2% indicated that they had deferred payment. Twenty percent of the individual surveyed reported that they were somewhat confident that they would be able to pay next month's rent or mortgage on time, while 7% were not confident at all.

Childcare

The focus on the most recent need survey questions was on childcare versus Early Childhood Education. Thirty-seven percent of the people survey revealed that they had children under the age of five living in their household. Of those surveyed with children 39% indicated that they were employed full time, 13% were employed part time, 16% were enrolled in college, 11% were full time homemakers caring for their children, and 11% were working on an irregular basis.

When asked how confident they were that they would be able to find affordable, quality childcare, thirty-three percent were moderately to very confident, thirty-four percent were somewhat confident, and fifteen percent were not confident at all.

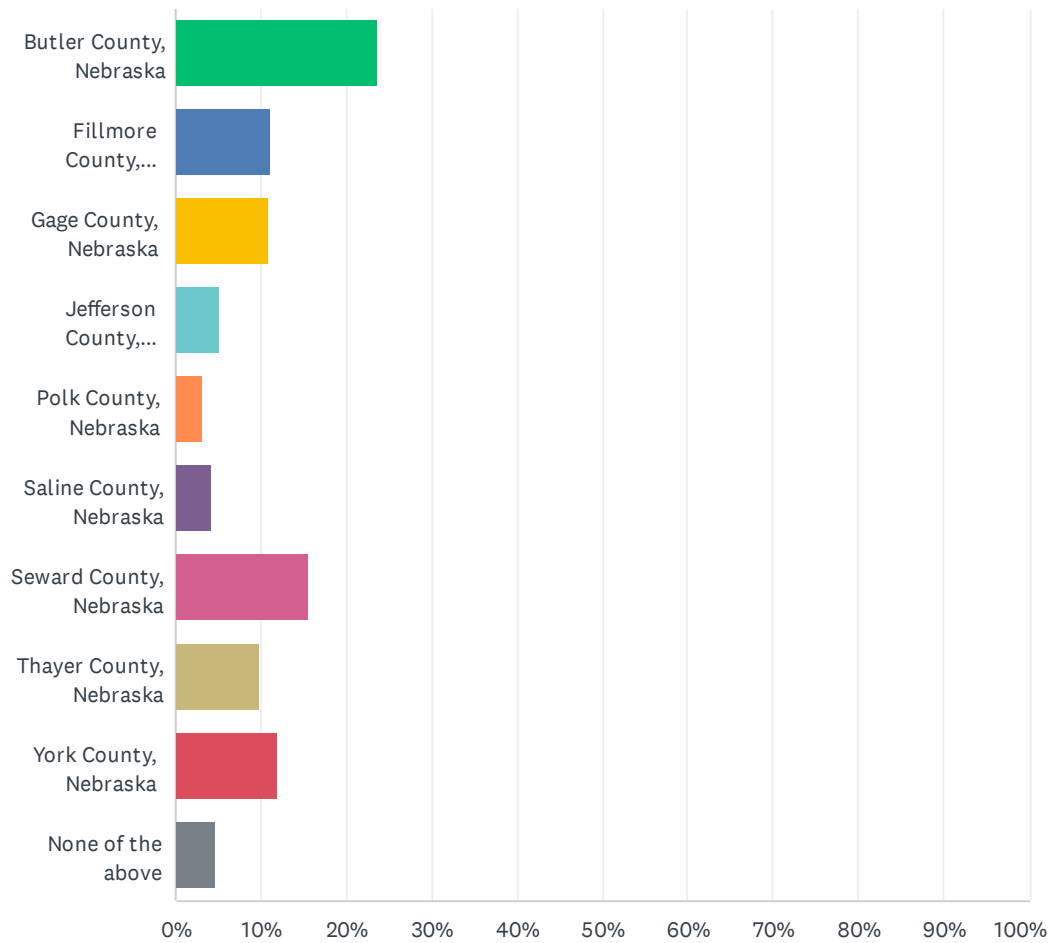
When asked what the typical times that care is needed, forty-seven percent said throughout the day (8-9 hours), twenty-four percent indicated afternoon into the evening, and 20% responded afternoon only. Twelve percent of the individuals surveyed responded that they need care only in the evenings.

CONCLUSION

Residents in our communities can benefit from a wide variety of supportive programs and services to help them escape poverty. The economic impact of the pandemic has expanded the number of residents needing services, especially the working poor, elderly and families with children. Some of the new food resources that became available during the onset of the pandemic are no longer available, childcare centers and private in-home childcare services have diminished over the past two years and healthcare services are experiencing staff shortages which effects their ability to provide services in a timely manner. The lack of services and diminishing resources are negatively impacting the most vulnerable population in BVCA's service area.

Q1 In what county do you live?

Answered: 278 Skipped: 1

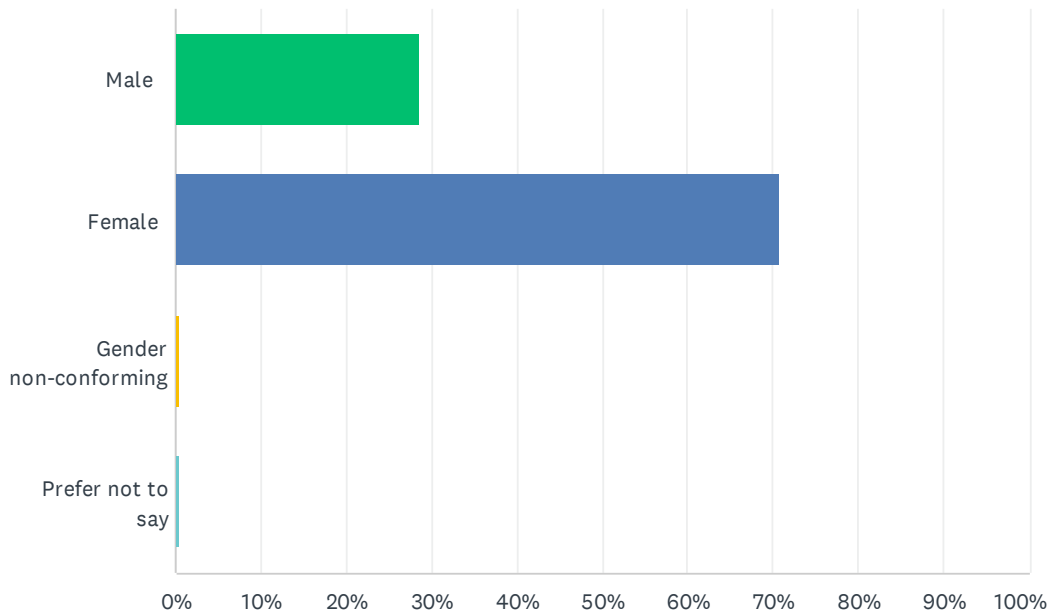


2022 NEEDS SURVEY

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Butler County, Nebraska	23.74%	66
Fillmore County, Nebraska	11.15%	31
Gage County, Nebraska	10.79%	30
Jefferson County, Nebraska	5.04%	14
Polk County, Nebraska	3.24%	9
Saline County, Nebraska	4.32%	12
Seward County, Nebraska	15.47%	43
Thayer County, Nebraska	9.71%	27
York County, Nebraska	11.87%	33
None of the above	4.68%	13
TOTAL		278

Q2 Are you:

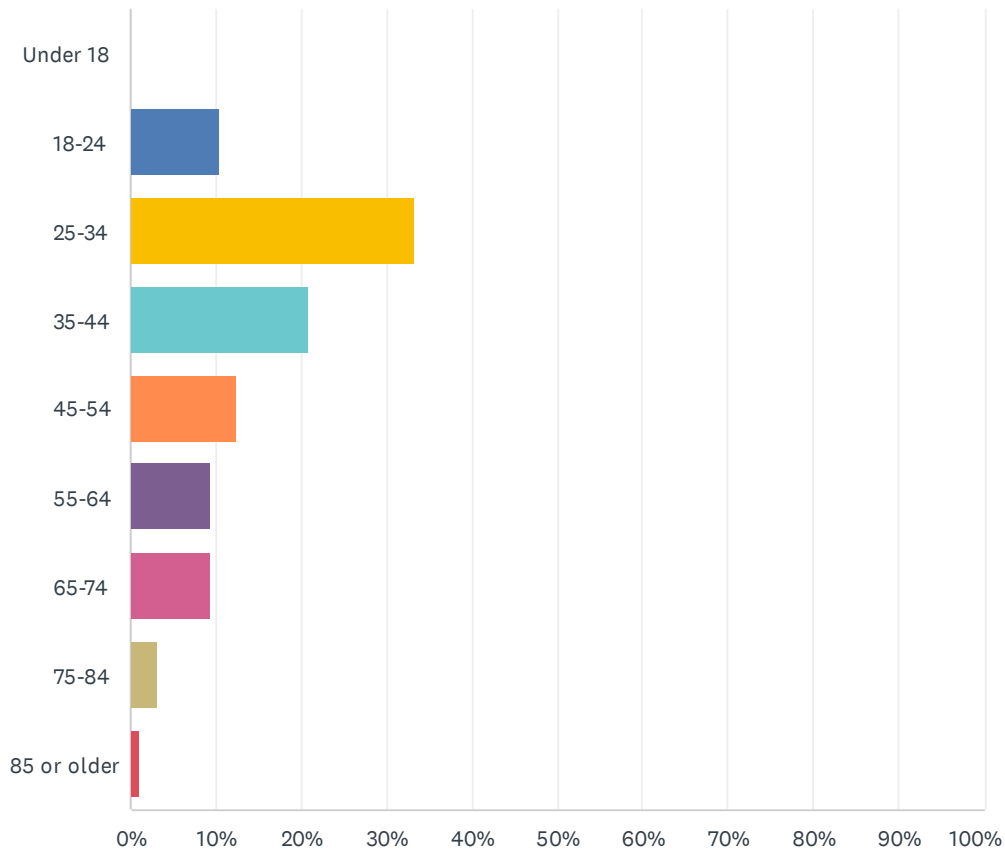
Answered: 277 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	28.52%	79
Female	70.76%	196
Gender non-conforming	0.36%	1
Prefer not to say	0.36%	1
TOTAL		277

Q3 What is your age group?

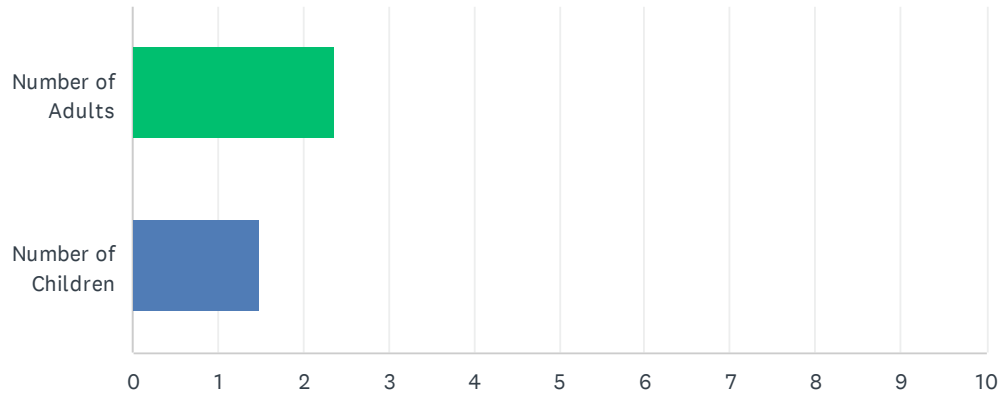
Answered: 277 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	10.47%	29
25-34	33.21%	92
35-44	20.94%	58
45-54	12.27%	34
55-64	9.39%	26
65-74	9.39%	26
75-84	3.25%	9
85 or older	1.08%	3
TOTAL		277

Q4 How many people live in your household, including yourself? Enter number below.

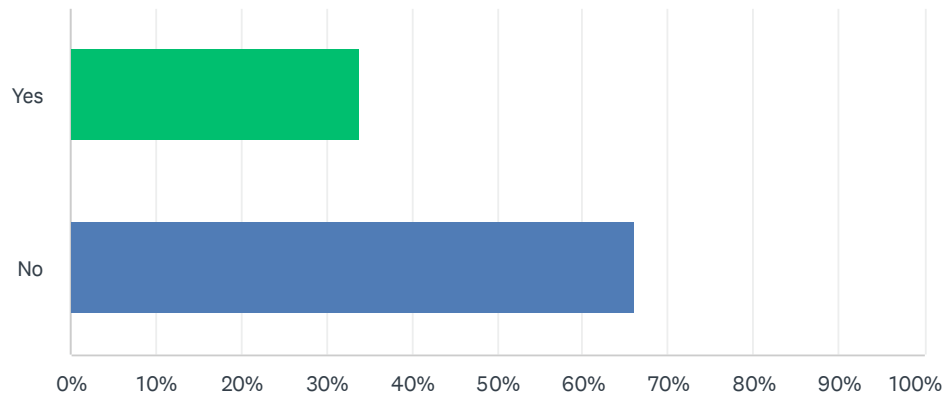
Answered: 277 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Number of Adults	2	653	277
Number of Children	2	371	247
Total Respondents: 277			

Q5 Are you Hispanic, Latino, Latina, or of Spanish origin?

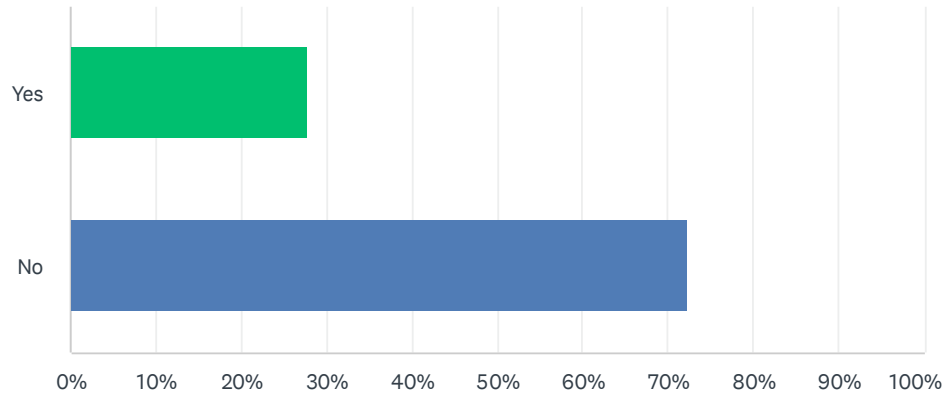
Answered: 271 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.95%	92
No	66.05%	179
TOTAL		271

Q6 Are you or is anyone in your household currently receiving disability payments?

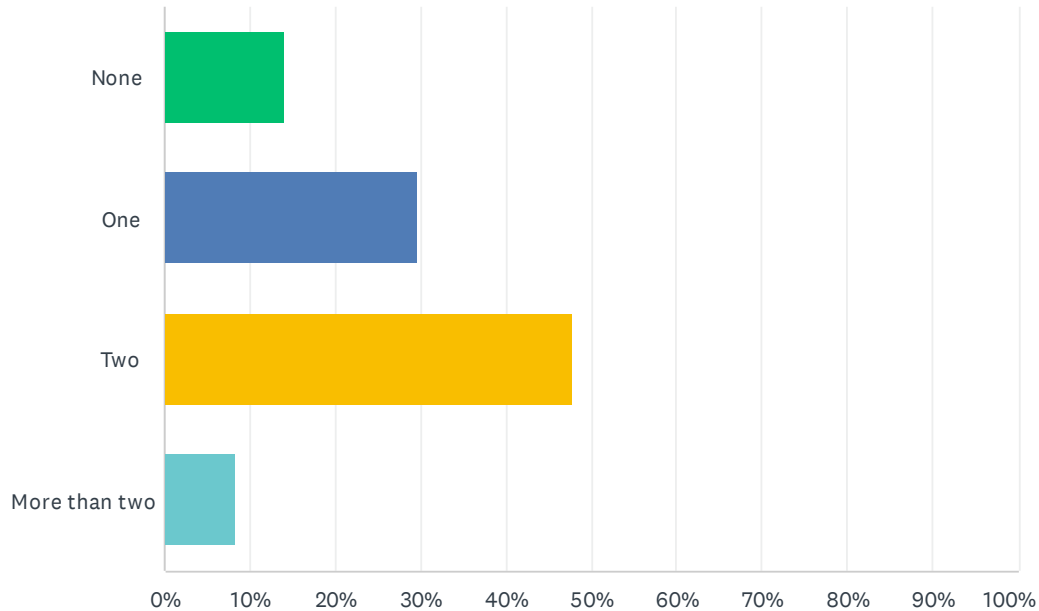
Answered: 275 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	27.64%	76
No	72.36%	199
TOTAL		275

Q7 Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, how many adults in your household were employed either full or part-time?

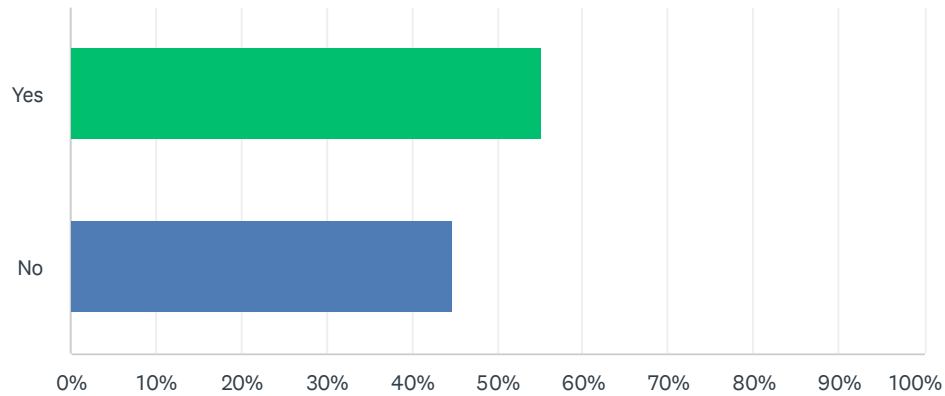
Answered: 276 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	14.13%	39
One	29.71%	82
Two	47.83%	132
More than two	8.33%	23
TOTAL		276

Q8 Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, has anyone in your household been laid off or furloughed, lost a job, or worked fewer hours because of the pandemic?

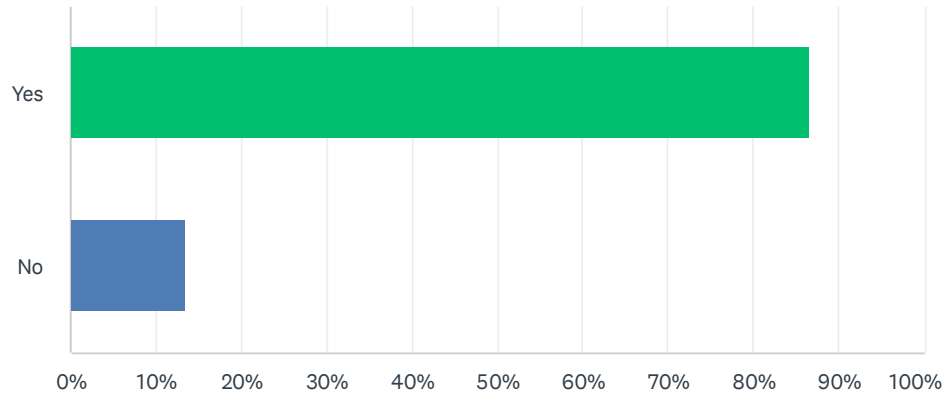
Answered: 234 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	55.13%	129
No	44.87%	105
TOTAL		234

Q9 Since the onset of COVID-19, has your household income from employment declined because of the pandemic?

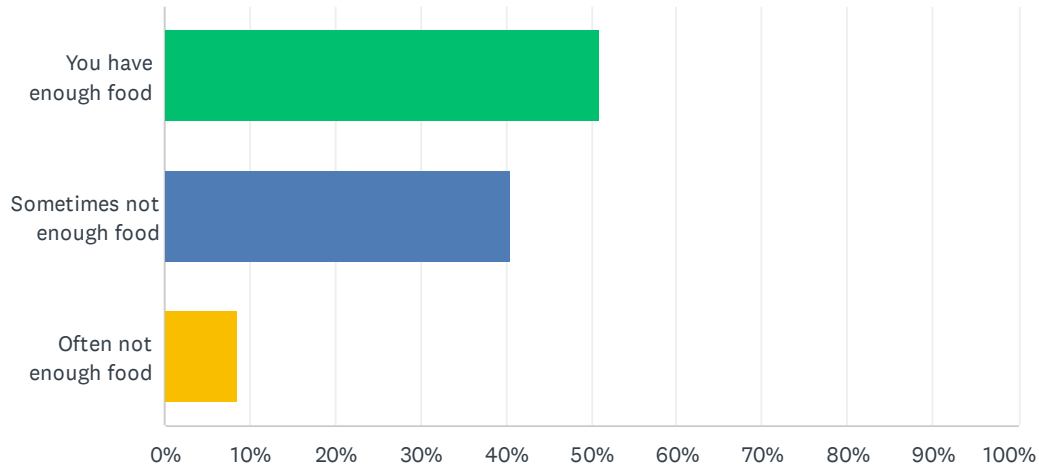
Answered: 126 Skipped: 153



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.51%	109
No	13.49%	17
TOTAL		126

Q10 Getting enough food can be a problem for some people. Which of the following best describes your household in the last 7 days?

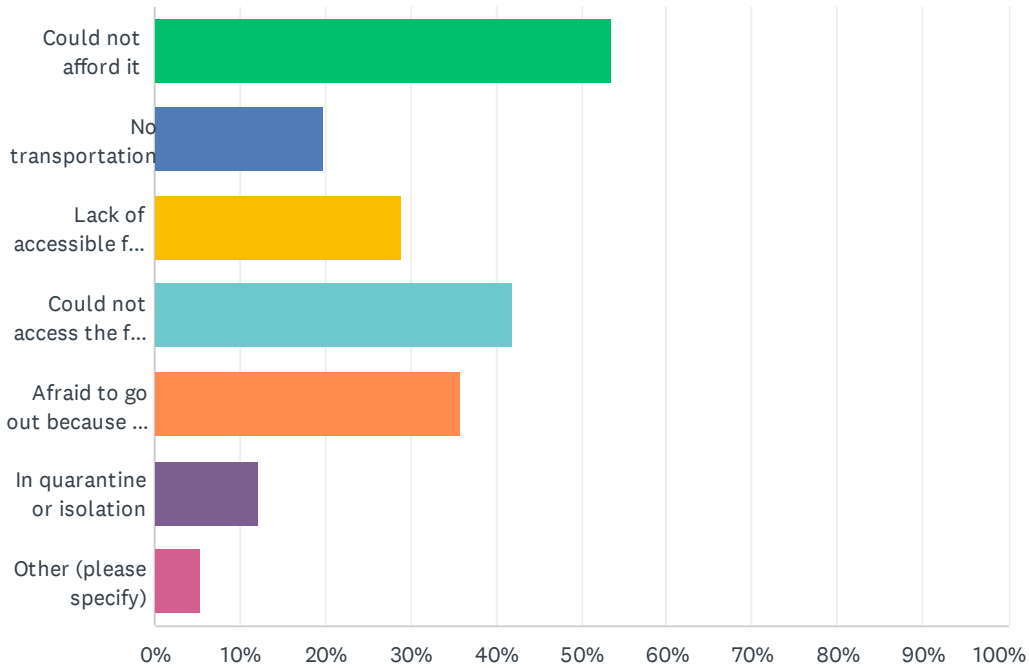
Answered: 271 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
You have enough food	50.92%	138
Sometimes not enough food	40.59%	110
Often not enough food	8.49%	23
TOTAL		271

Q11 Why did you not have enough food? Check all that apply.

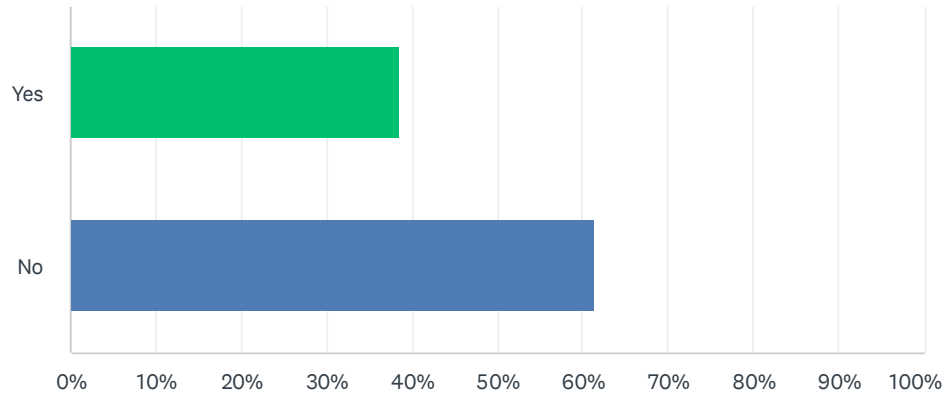
Answered: 131 Skipped: 148



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Could not afford it	53.44%	70
No transportation	19.85%	26
Lack of accessible food resources	29.01%	38
Could not access the food resources during the timeframe in which food was offered	41.98%	55
Afraid to go out because of the virus	35.88%	47
In quarantine or isolation	12.21%	16
Other (please specify)	5.34%	7
Total Respondents: 131		

Q12 In the last 7 days, did your household get free groceries or one or more free meals?

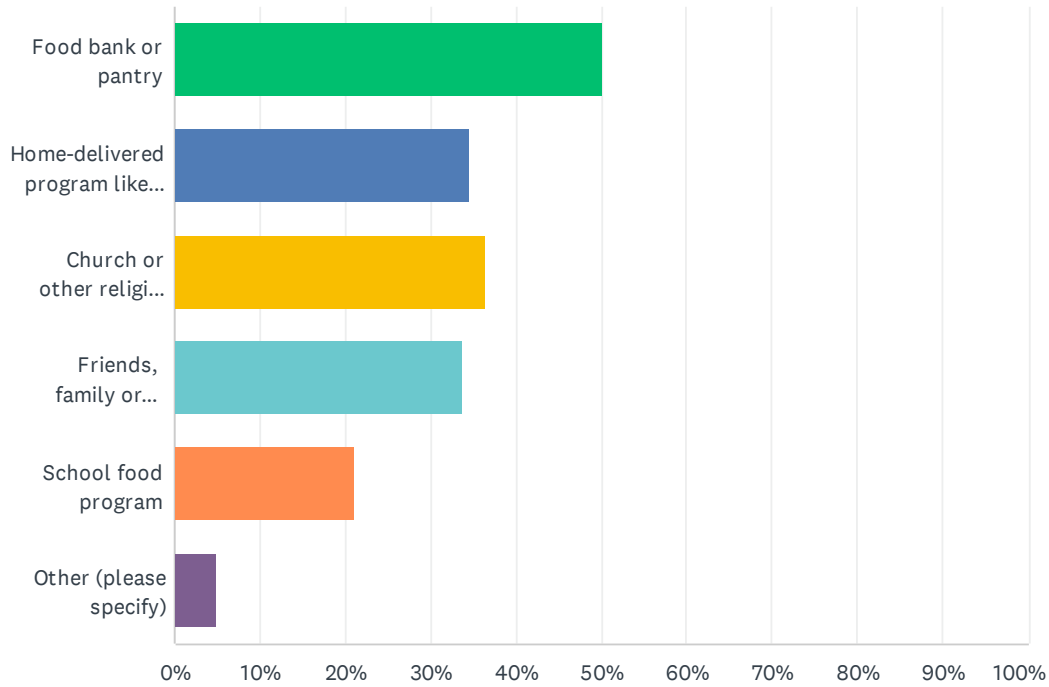
Answered: 269 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	38.66%	104
No	61.34%	165
TOTAL		269

Q13 Where did you get the free groceries or free meal? Check all that apply.

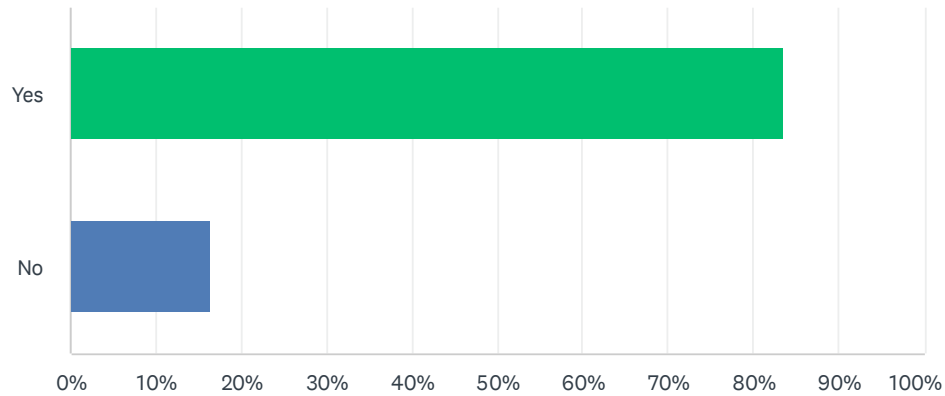
Answered: 104 Skipped: 175



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Food bank or pantry	50.00%	52
Home-delivered program like Meals on Wheels	34.62%	36
Church or other religious organization	36.54%	38
Friends, family or neighbors	33.65%	35
School food program	21.15%	22
Other (please specify)	4.81%	5
Total Respondents: 104		

Q14 Most communities have at least one or more of the following food resources (SNAP, Food Pantries, CSFP, WIC, Meals on Wheels, FoodNet) available. Do you feel secure that you can access them whenever needed?

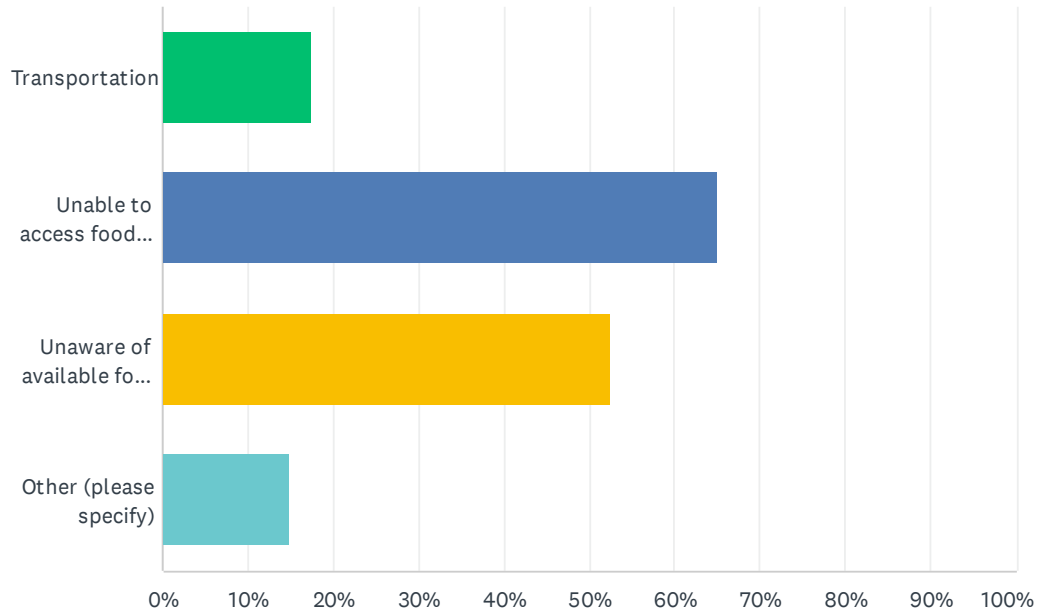
Answered: 267 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.52%	223
No	16.48%	44
TOTAL		267

Q15 What barriers are preventing you from accessing food resources in your community? Check all that apply.

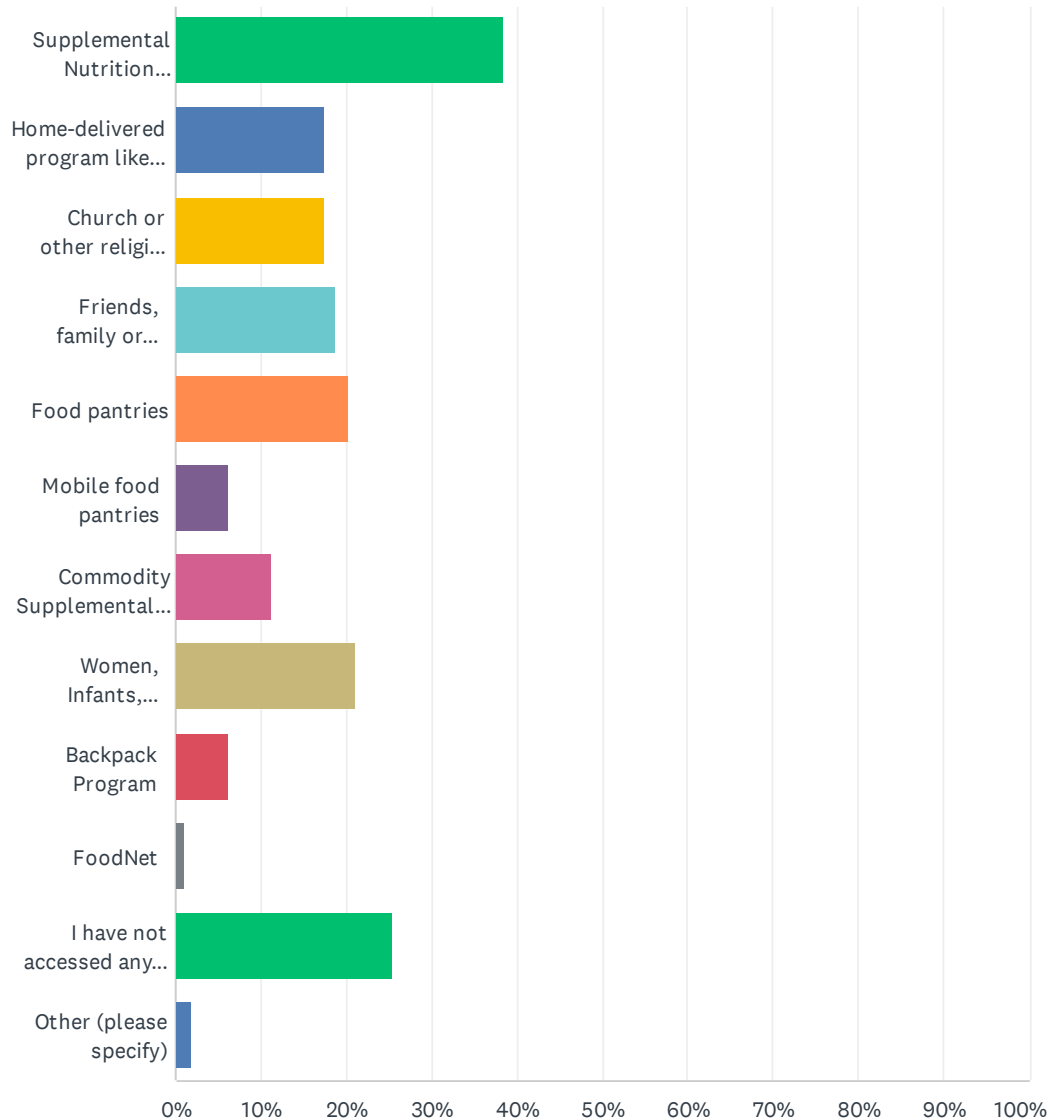
Answered: 40 Skipped: 239



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Transportation	17.50%	7
Unable to access food resources during the timeframe in which food was offered	65.00%	26
Unaware of available food resources in my community	52.50%	21
Other (please specify)	15.00%	6
Total Respondents: 40		

Q16 What food resources have you accessed in the last four weeks? Check all that apply.

Answered: 256 Skipped: 23

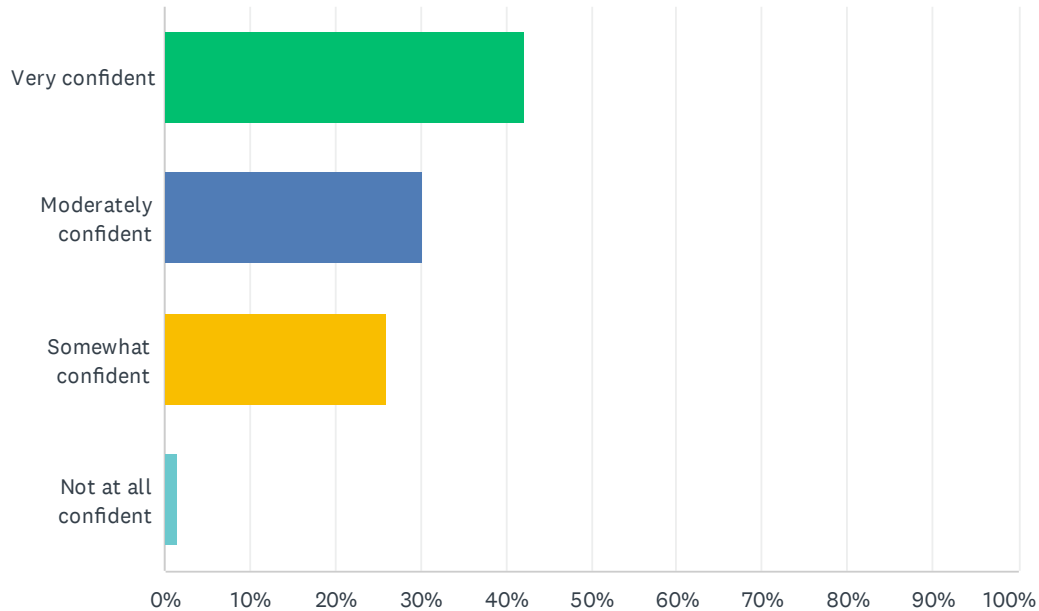


2022 NEEDS SURVEY

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	38.28%	98
Home-delivered program like Meals on Wheels	17.58%	45
Church or other religious organization	17.58%	45
Friends, family or neighbors	18.75%	48
Food pantries	20.31%	52
Mobile food pantries	6.25%	16
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	11.33%	29
Women, Infants, Children Program (WIC)	21.09%	54
Backpack Program	6.25%	16
FoodNet	1.17%	3
I have not accessed any food resources	25.39%	65
Other (please specify)	1.95%	5
Total Respondents: 256		

Q17 How confident are you that you will be able to get the food you will need during the next four weeks?

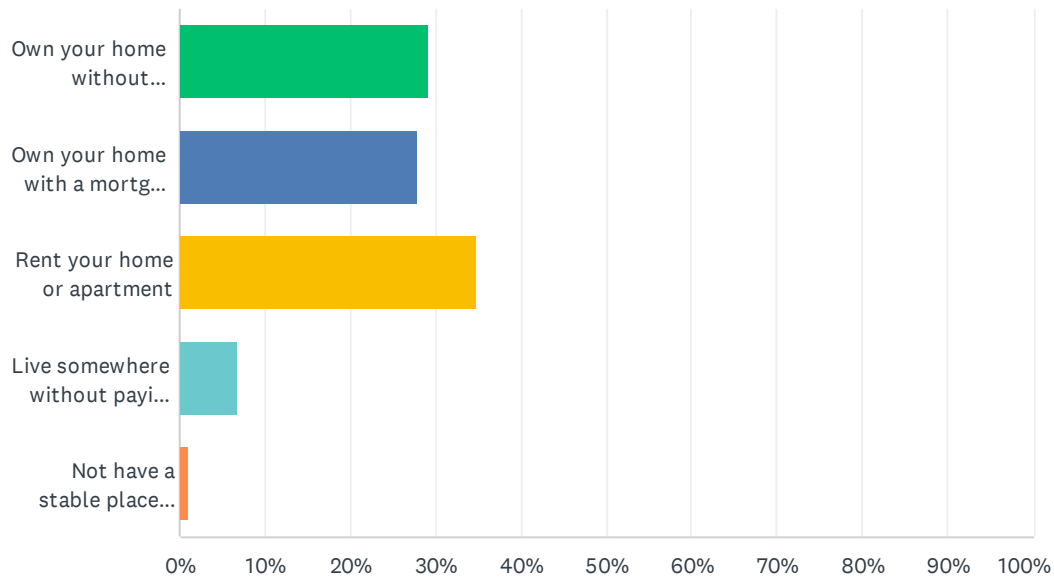
Answered: 265 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very confident	42.26%	112
Moderately confident	30.19%	80
Somewhat confident	26.04%	69
Not at all confident	1.51%	4
TOTAL		265

Q18 Do you:

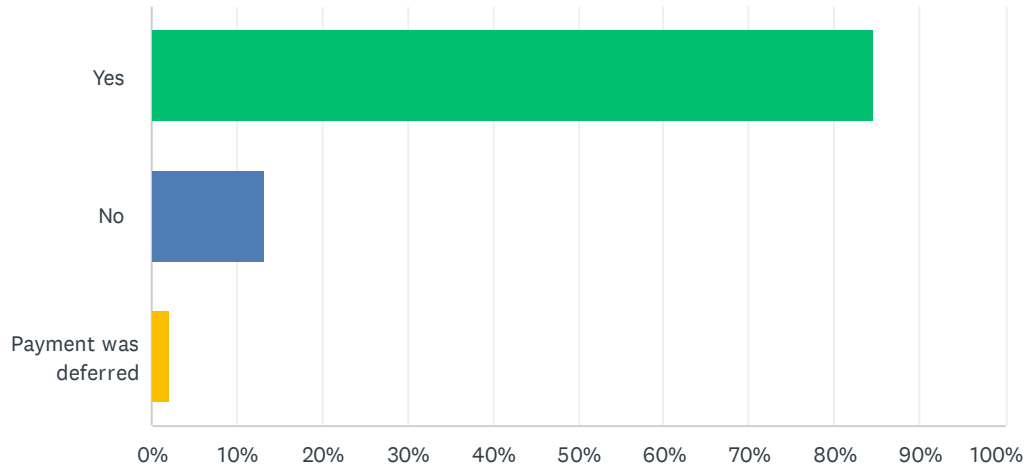
Answered: 264 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own your home without mortgage or loan	29.17%	77
Own your home with a mortgage or loan	28.03%	74
Rent your home or apartment	34.85%	92
Live somewhere without paying rent	6.82%	18
Not have a stable place to live right now	1.14%	3
TOTAL		264

Q19 Housing costs are a challenge for some people right now. Were you able to pay your last month's rent or mortgage on time?

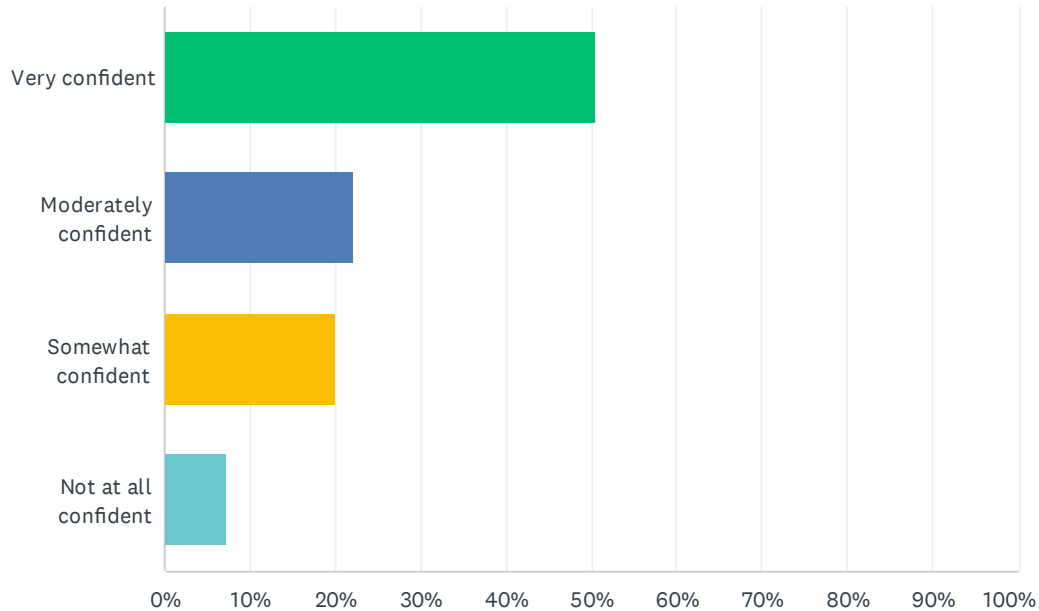
Answered: 236 Skipped: 43



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	84.75%	200
No	13.14%	31
Payment was deferred	2.12%	5
TOTAL		236

Q20 How confident are you that you will be able to pay your next month's rent or mortgage on time:

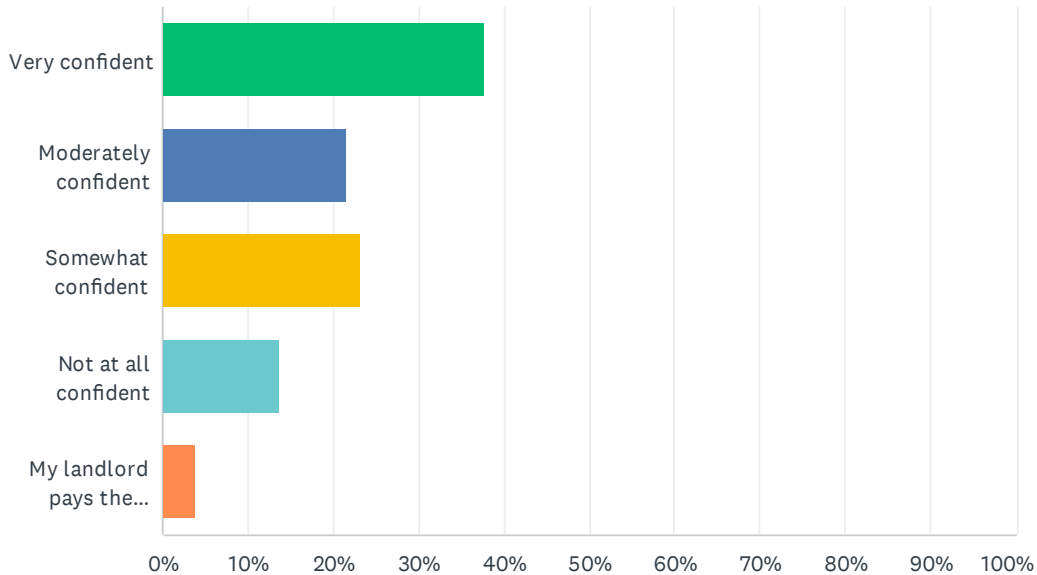
Answered: 234 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very confident	50.43%	118
Moderately confident	22.22%	52
Somewhat confident	20.09%	47
Not at all confident	7.26%	17
TOTAL		234

Q21 How confident are you that you will be able to pay your next month's utilities on time:

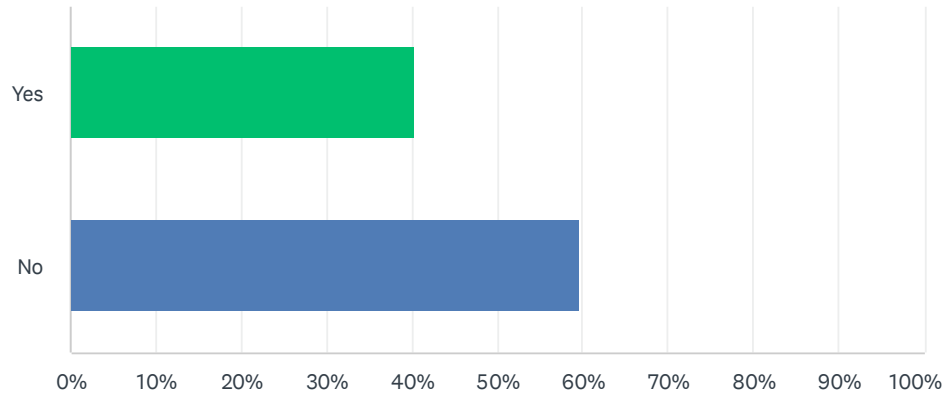
Answered: 236 Skipped: 43



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very confident	37.71%	89
Moderately confident	21.61%	51
Somewhat confident	23.31%	55
Not at all confident	13.56%	32
My landlord pays the utilities	3.81%	9
TOTAL		236

Q22 Have you used telehealth consultation services for medical or mental health appointments within the last year?

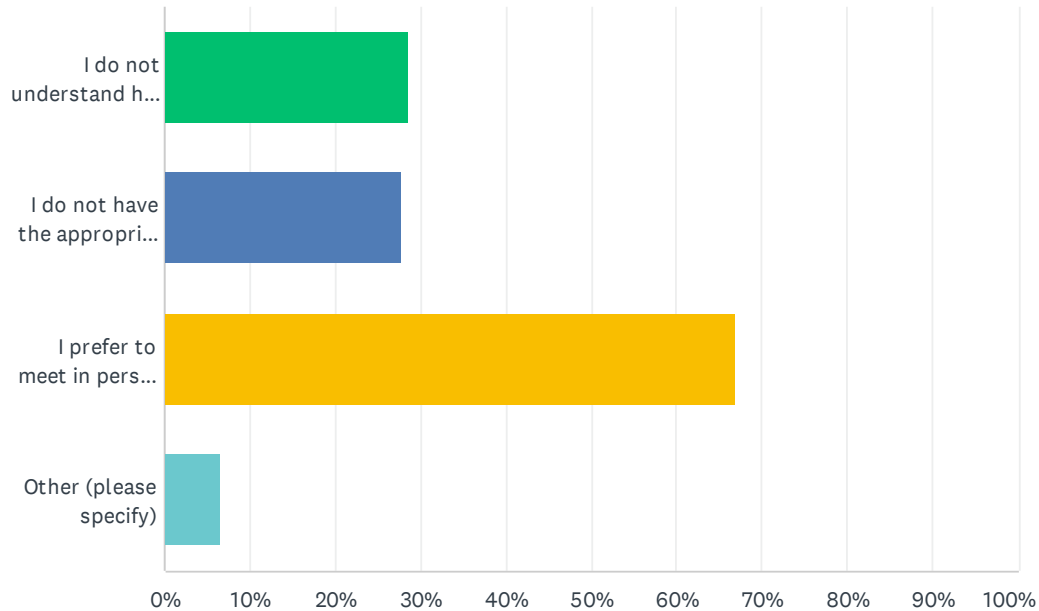
Answered: 258 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	40.31%	104
No	59.69%	154
TOTAL		258

Q23 What barriers are preventing you from utilizing telehealth consultation services for medical or mental health appointments? Check all that apply.

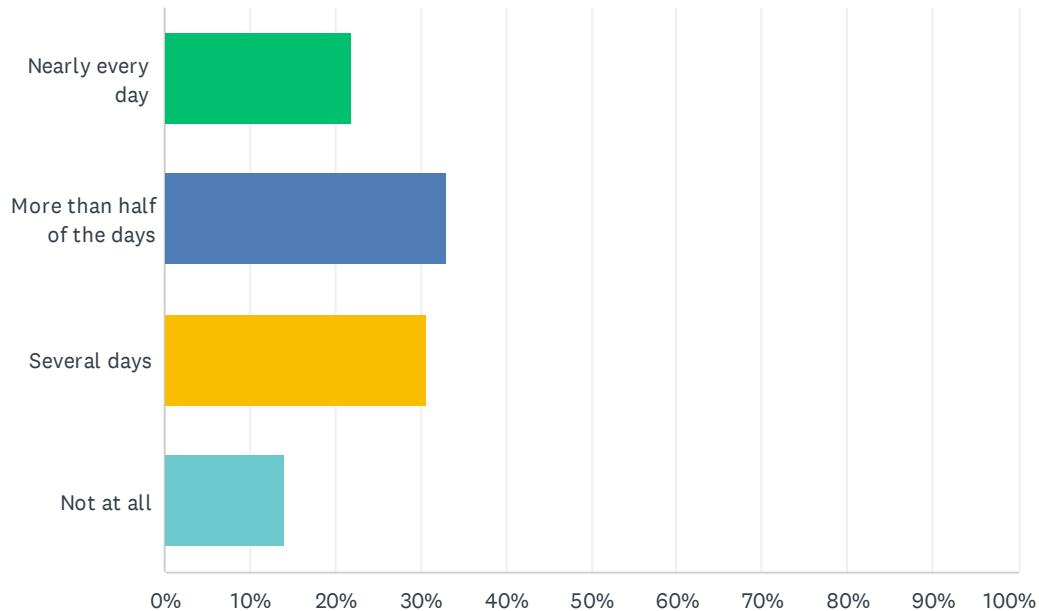
Answered: 151 Skipped: 128



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I do not understand how telehealth consultation services works	28.48%	43
I do not have the appropriate technology	27.81%	42
I prefer to meet in person with my medical provider	66.89%	101
Other (please specify)	6.62%	10
Total Respondents: 151		

Q24 Some adults experience more anxiety and depression during stressful times. Over the last 3 to 6 months, how often have you been nervous, anxious, or depressed or uninterested or unable to enjoy doing things?

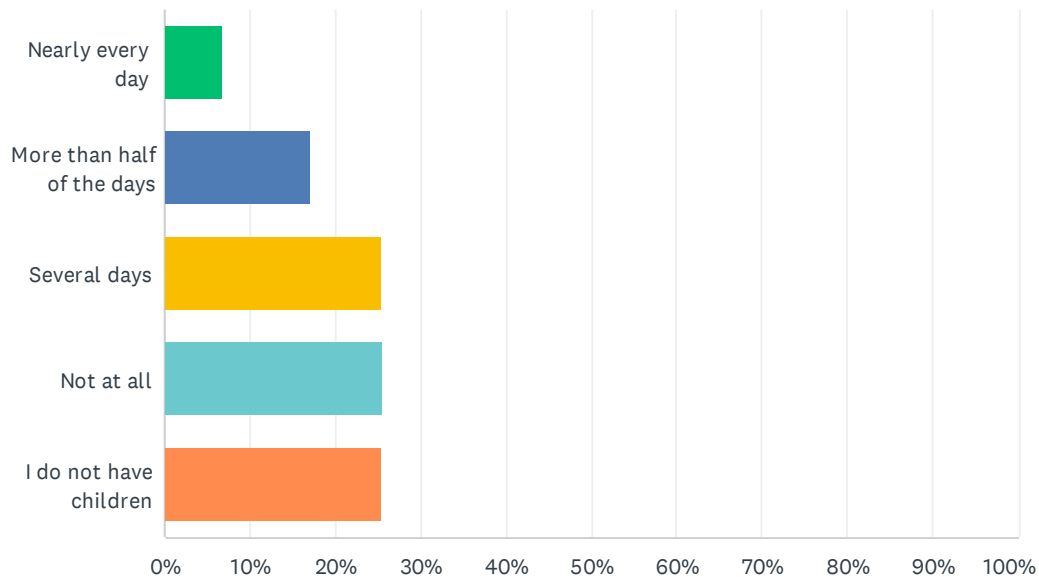
Answered: 254 Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nearly every day	22.05%	56
More than half of the days	33.07%	84
Several days	30.71%	78
Not at all	14.17%	36
TOTAL		254

Q25 Some children experience more anxiety and depression during stressful times. Children will exhibit sudden changes in behavior, increased fear of routine daily activities, changes in eating patterns, changes in sleeping patterns, sadness or self-harm behaviors. Over the last 3-6 months, how often have you observed anxiety or depression symptoms from your child/children?

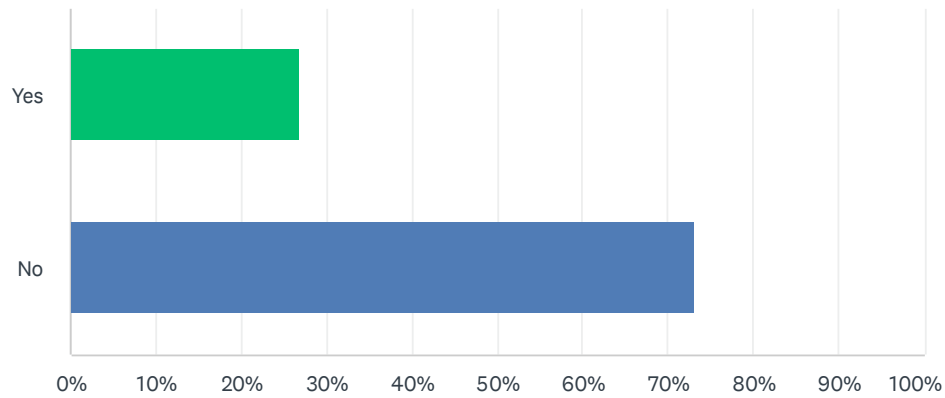
Answered: 253 Skipped: 26



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nearly every day	6.72%	17
More than half of the days	17.00%	43
Several days	25.30%	64
Not at all	25.69%	65
I do not have children	25.30%	64
TOTAL		253

Q26 Do you or your children currently suffer from any chronic diseases?

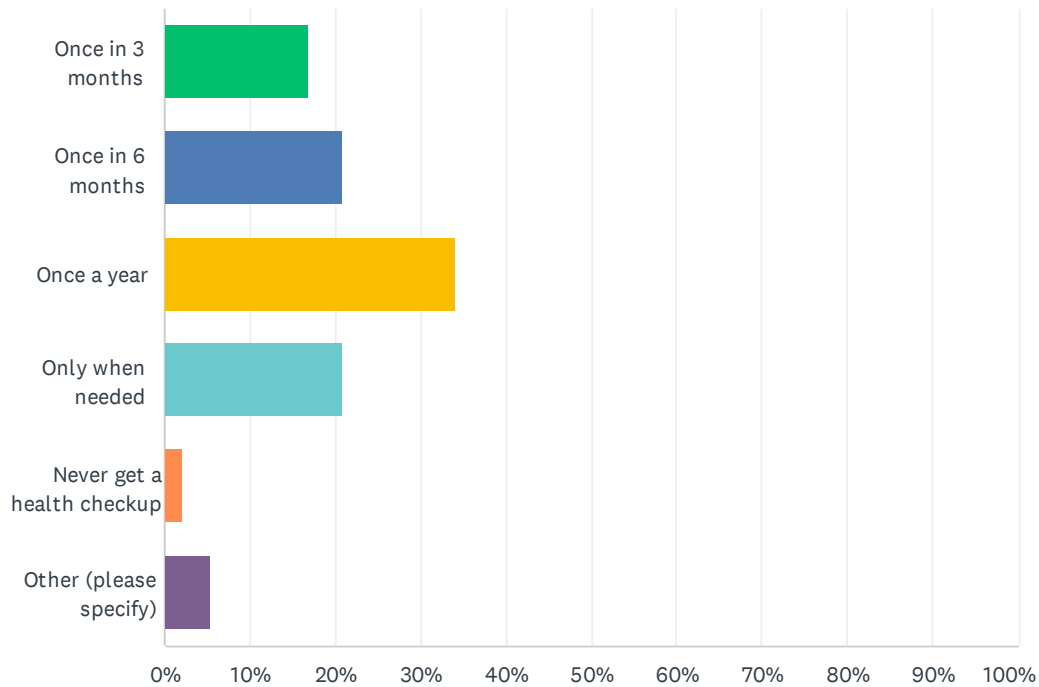
Answered: 250 Skipped: 29



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	26.80%	67
No	73.20%	183
TOTAL		250

Q27 How often do you or your children get a health checkup?

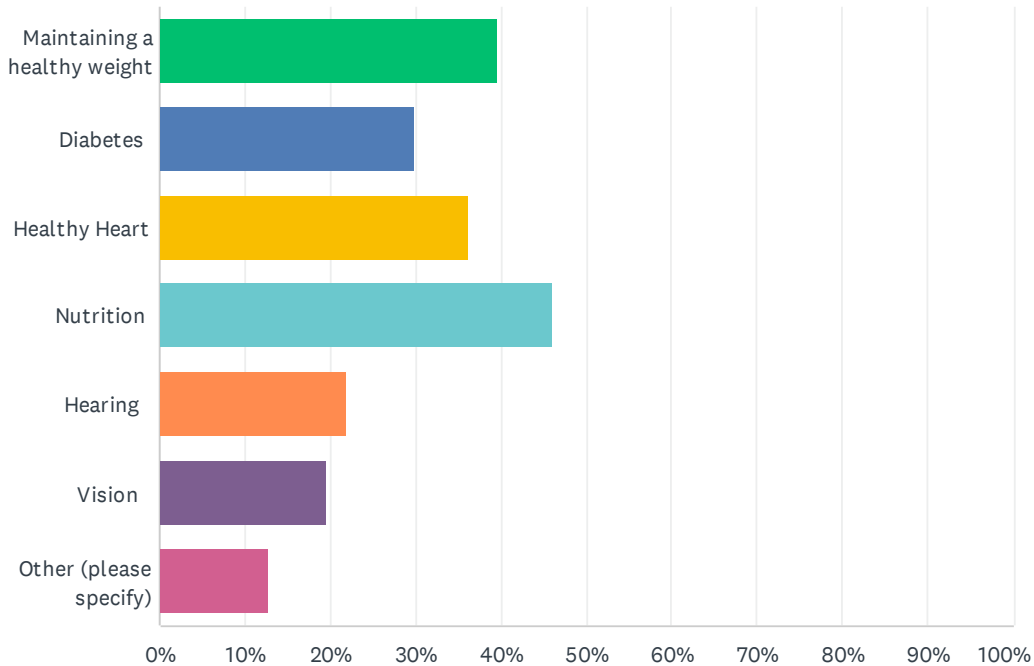
Answered: 244 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Once in 3 months	16.80%	41
Once in 6 months	20.90%	51
Once a year	34.02%	83
Only when needed	20.90%	51
Never get a health checkup	2.05%	5
Other (please specify)	5.33%	13
TOTAL		244

Q28 What kind of health services, education, and support are you in need of from the list below. Check all that apply.

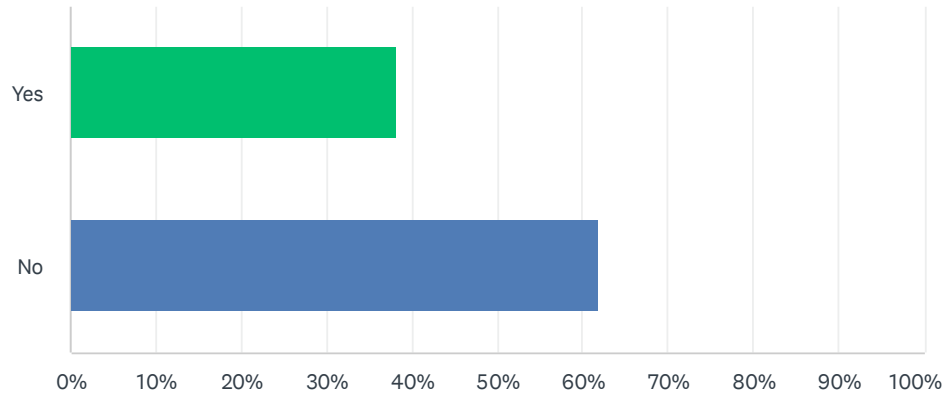
Answered: 204 Skipped: 75



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Maintaining a healthy weight	39.71%	81
Diabetes	29.90%	61
Healthy Heart	36.27%	74
Nutrition	46.08%	94
Hearing	22.06%	45
Vision	19.61%	40
Other (please specify)	12.75%	26
Total Respondents: 204		

Q29 Do you currently have children under the age of five living in your household?

Answered: 252 Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	38.10%	96
No	61.90%	156
TOTAL		252

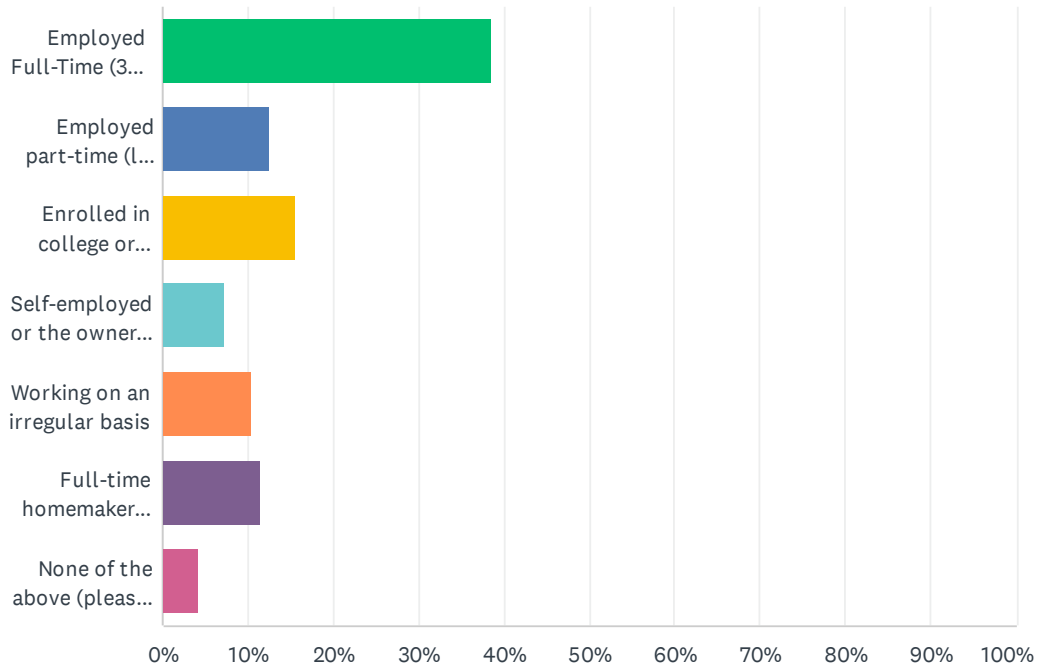
Q30 How many children are in each of the following age groups?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 185

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-18 Months	69.15%	65
19 months to 2 ½ years old	63.83%	60
Over 2 ½ years old to 4 years old	77.66%	73

Q31 Which of the following statements below describes your current situation best?

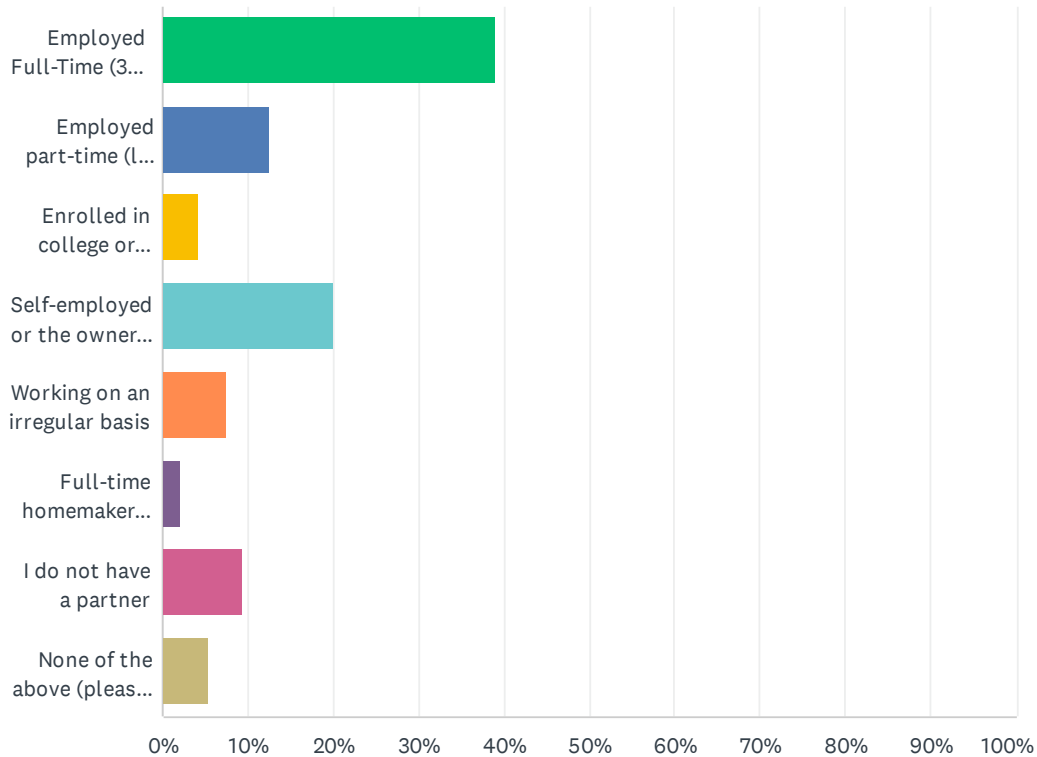
Answered: 96 Skipped: 183



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employed Full-Time (30 hours or more per week)	38.54%	37
Employed part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	12.50%	12
Enrolled in college or trade school	15.63%	15
Self-employed or the owner of a business	7.29%	7
Working on an irregular basis	10.42%	10
Full-time homemaker caring for your own children	11.46%	11
None of the above (please describe)	4.17%	4
TOTAL		96

Q32 Which of the following statements below describes your partner's current situation best?

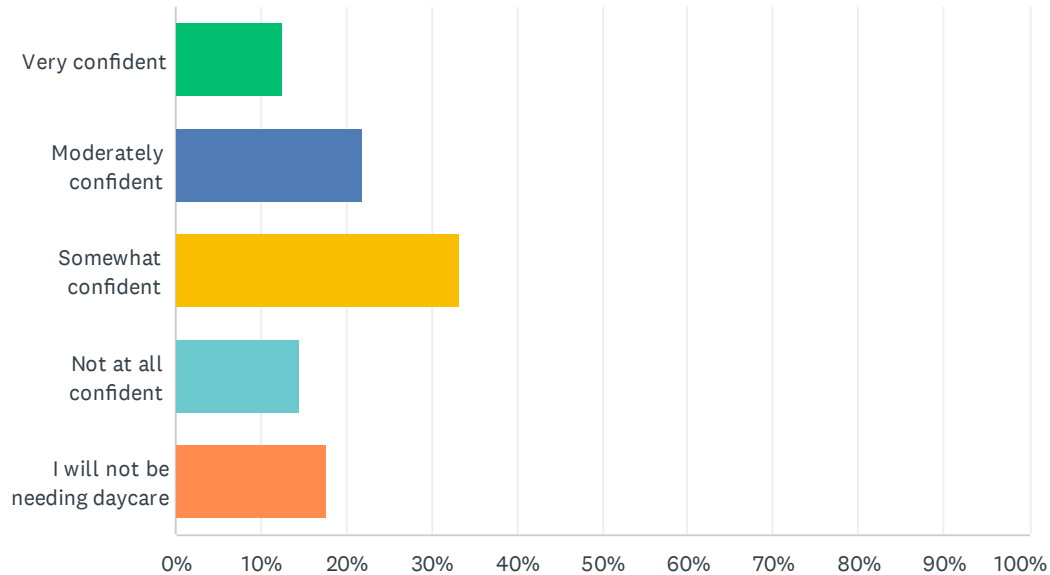
Answered: 95 Skipped: 184



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employed Full-Time (30 hours or more per week)	38.95%	37
Employed part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	12.63%	12
Enrolled in college or trade school	4.21%	4
Self-employed or the owner of a business	20.00%	19
Working on an irregular basis	7.37%	7
Full-time homemaker caring for your own children	2.11%	2
I do not have a partner	9.47%	9
None of the above (please describe)	5.26%	5
TOTAL		95

Q33 How confident are you that you will be able to find affordable, quality daycare that is reasonably convenient for you?

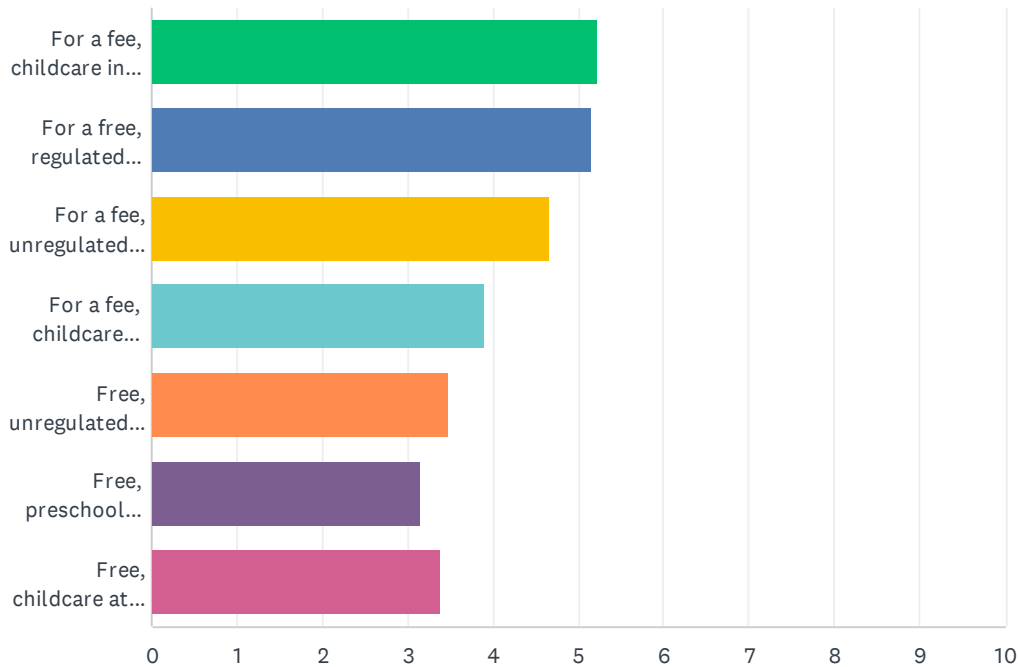
Answered: 96 Skipped: 183



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very confident	12.50%	12
Moderately confident	21.88%	21
Somewhat confident	33.33%	32
Not at all confident	14.58%	14
I will not be needing daycare	17.71%	17
TOTAL		96

Q34 If you had access to childcare, for free or at a fee you were able to pay, which three options would you choose? Mark your first choice “1”, your second choice “2”, and third choice “3”.

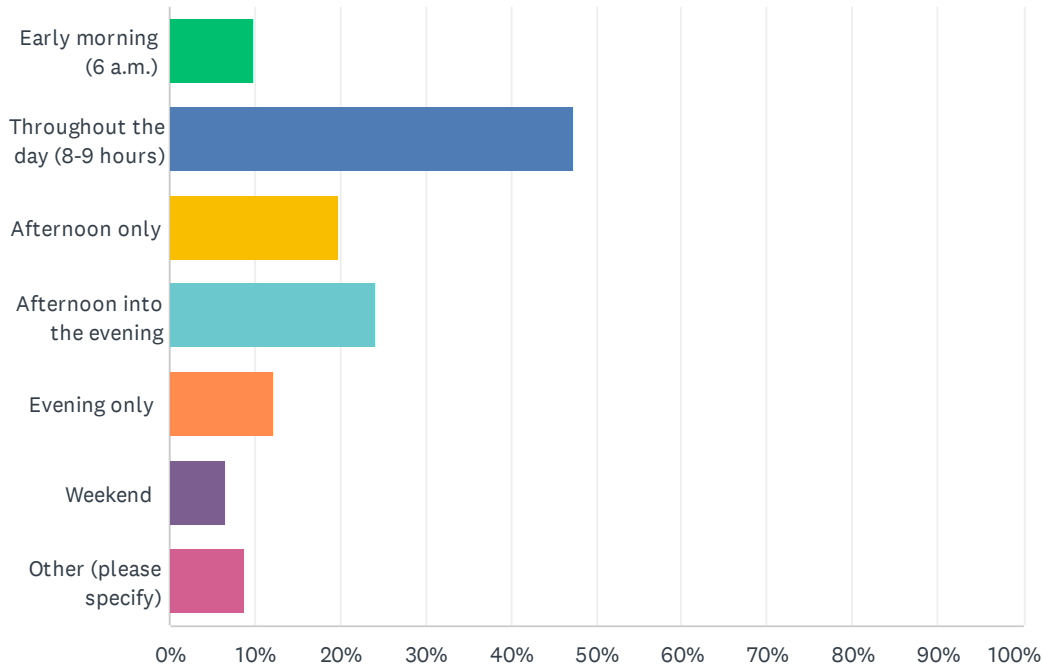
Answered: 94 Skipped: 185



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
For a fee, childcare in your own home	45.78% 38	13.25% 11	9.64% 8	3.61% 3	9.64% 8	12.05% 10	6.02% 5	83	5.22
For a free, regulated private home day care	23.53% 20	25.88% 22	16.47% 14	16.47% 14	12.94% 11	3.53% 3	1.18% 1	85	5.15
For a fee, unregulated care in the home of a friend, neighbor or relative	8.14% 7	30.23% 26	26.74% 23	11.63% 10	6.98% 6	11.63% 10	4.65% 4	86	4.67
For a fee, childcare center	4.82% 4	9.64% 8	16.87% 14	32.53% 27	19.28% 16	9.64% 8	7.23% 6	83	3.90
Free, unregulated care in the home of a friend, neighbor or relative	8.14% 7	4.65% 4	11.63% 10	18.60% 16	26.74% 23	19.77% 17	10.47% 9	86	3.48
Free, preschool program for children 3-5 offered by Head Start	10.11% 9	8.99% 8	12.36% 11	4.49% 4	8.99% 8	28.09% 25	26.97% 24	89	3.15
Free, childcare at an Early Head Start center for children 6 weeks to 3 years old	10.23% 9	14.77% 13	13.64% 12	6.82% 6	9.09% 8	9.09% 8	36.36% 32	88	3.38

Q35 What are the typical times working or in school or training for which you need childcare services? Check all that apply.

Answered: 91 Skipped: 188

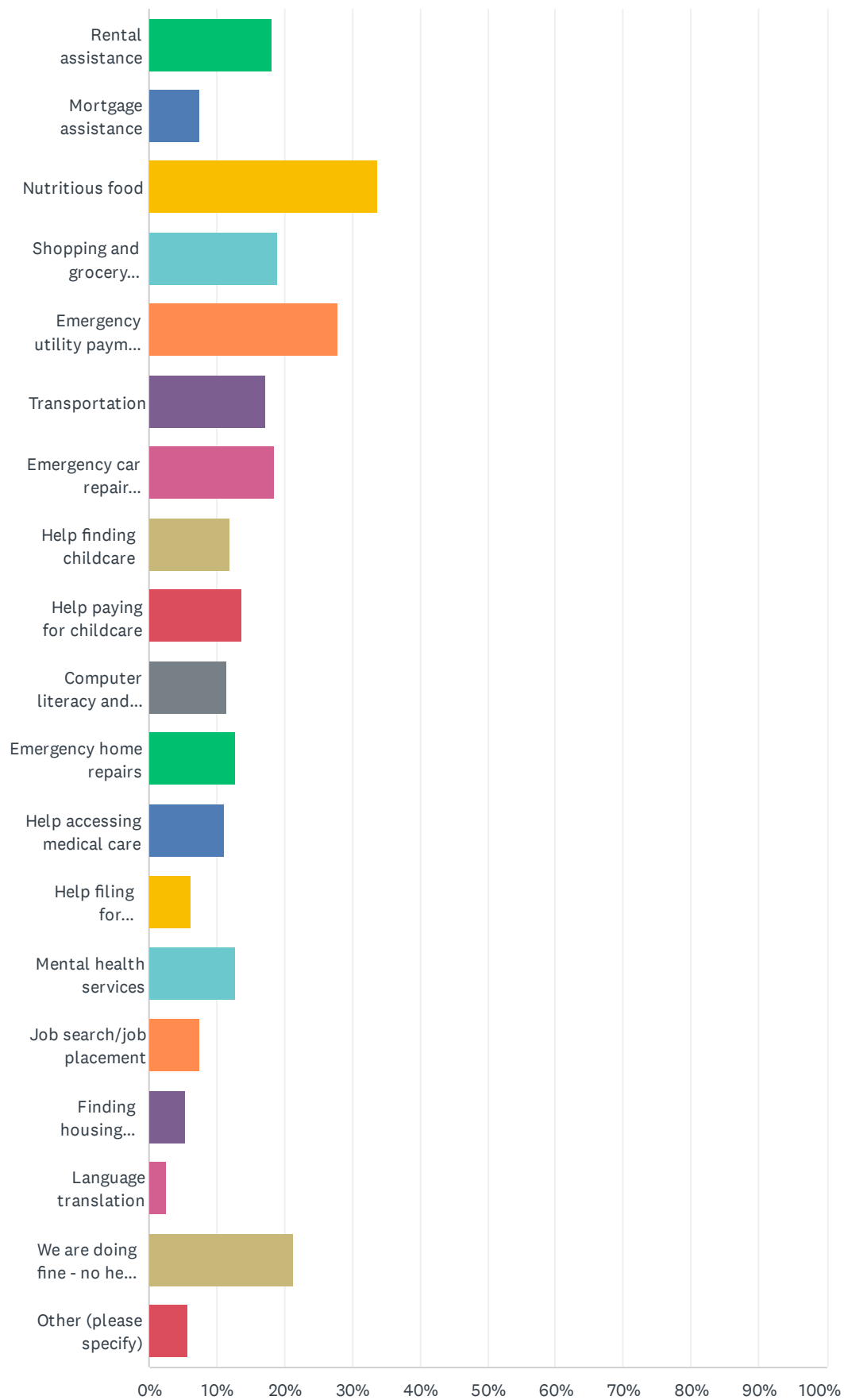


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Early morning (6 a.m.)	9.89%	9
Throughout the day (8-9 hours)	47.25%	43
Afternoon only	19.78%	18
Afternoon into the evening	24.18%	22
Evening only	12.09%	11
Weekend	6.59%	6
Other (please specify)	8.79%	8
Total Respondents: 91		

Q36 Over the next 2 months, what kinds of help, if any, do you think you or your family will need to stay healthy and safe? Check all that apply.

Answered: 226 Skipped: 53

2022 NEEDS SURVEY

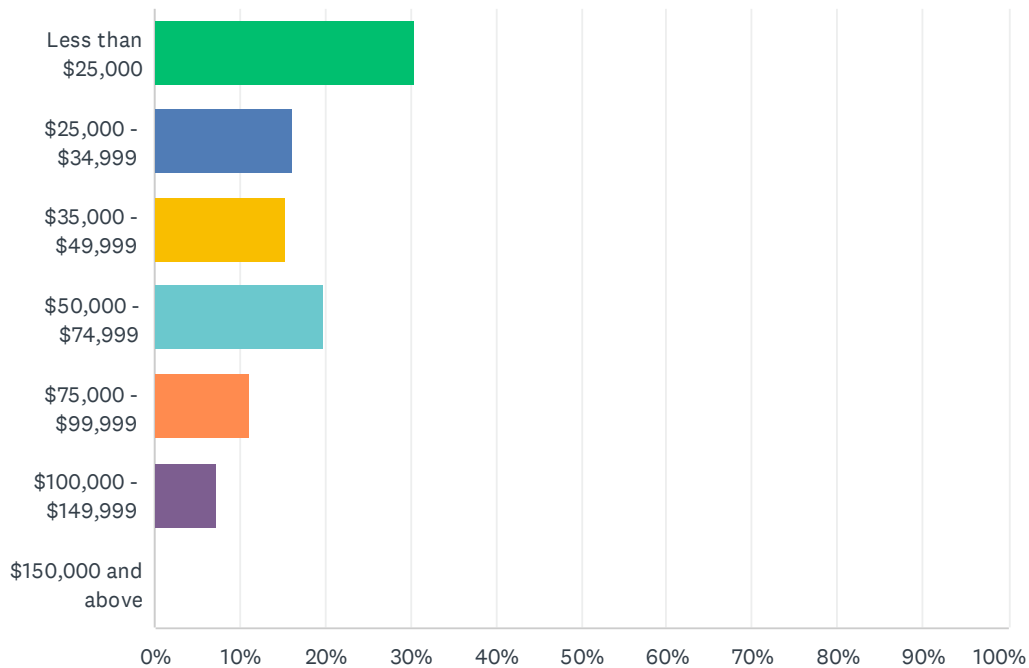


2022 NEEDS SURVEY

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rental assistance	18.14%	41
Mortgage assistance	7.52%	17
Nutritious food	33.63%	76
Shopping and grocery delivery	19.03%	43
Emergency utility payment assistance	27.88%	63
Transportation	17.26%	39
Emergency car repair assistance	18.58%	42
Help finding childcare	11.95%	27
Help paying for childcare	13.72%	31
Computer literacy and technology set-up	11.50%	26
Emergency home repairs	12.83%	29
Help accessing medical care	11.06%	25
Help filing for unemployment benefits	6.19%	14
Mental health services	12.83%	29
Job search/job placement	7.52%	17
Finding housing (temporary or permanent)	5.31%	12
Language translation	2.65%	6
We are doing fine - no help needed right now	21.24%	48
Other (please specify)	5.75%	13
Total Respondents: 226		

Q37 In 2021, what was your total household income before taxes?

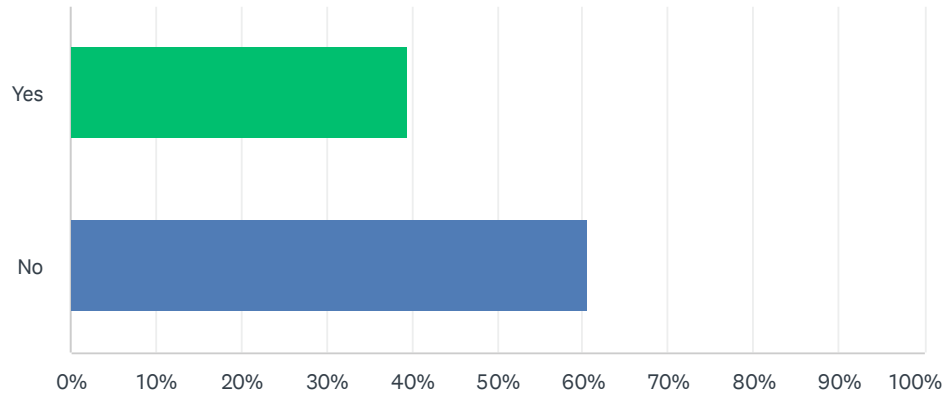
Answered: 236 Skipped: 43



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$25,000	30.51%	72
\$25,000 - \$34,999	16.10%	38
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15.25%	36
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.92%	47
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11.02%	26
\$100,000 - \$149,999	7.20%	17
\$150,000 and above	0.00%	0
TOTAL		236

Q38 Are you currently receiving services from Blue Valley Community Action Partnership?

Answered: 236 Skipped: 43



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	39.41%	93
No	60.59%	143
TOTAL		236

Q39 Please use this space for anything else that you would like to share, including any needs or concerns that were not covered in this survey.

Answered: 77 Skipped: 202

Q40 If you would like someone from Blue Valley Community Action Partnership to contact you about a specific situation or need, or if you would like to be entered for a chance to win a \$25 gift card for taking part in this survey, please complete the following:

Answered: 179 Skipped: 100

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	96.65%	173
Company	0.00%	0
Address	83.24%	149
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	86.59%	155
State/Province	82.68%	148
ZIP/Postal Code	86.03%	154
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	82.12%	147
Phone Number	76.54%	137

Q41 If you would like someone to contact you, please briefly explain the situation or need:

Answered: 61 Skipped: 218