

2026/2027  
Community Needs Assessment and  
Community Action Plan  
CSBG/ CSP  
Central Valley Opportunity Center,  
Inc.



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## Introduction

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has developed the 2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP) template for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Service Providers network. CSD requests agencies submit a completed CAP, including a CNA, to CSD on or before **June 30, 2025**. Changes from the previous template are detailed below in the “What’s New for 2026/2027?” section. Provide all narrative responses in 12-point Arial font with 1.15 spacing. A completed CAP template should not exceed 65 pages, excluding the appendices.

## Purpose

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

## Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Certification

The Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances are found in Section 676(b) of the CSBG Act. These assurances are an integral part of the information included in the CSBG State Plan. A list of the assurances that are applicable to CSBG agencies has been provided in the Federal Programmatic Assurances section of this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and confirm that they are in compliance. Signature of the board chair and executive director on the Cover Page certify compliance with the Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances.

## State Assurances and Certification

As required by the CSBG Act, states are required to submit a State Plan as a condition to receive funding. Information provided in agencies’ CAPs will be included in the CSBG State Plan. Alongside Organizational Standards, the state will be reporting on [State Accountability Measures](#) in order to ensure accountability and program performance improvement. A list of the applicable State Assurances is provided in this template. CSBG agencies should review these assurances and confirm that they are in compliance. Signature of the board chair and executive director on the Cover Page certify compliance with the State Assurances.

## Compliance with CSBG Organizational Standards

As described in the Office of Community Services (OCS) [Information Memorandum \(IM\) #138](#) dated January 26, 2015, CSBG agencies will comply with the Organizational Standards. A list of Organizational Standards that are met by an accepted CAP, including a CNA, are found in the Organizational Standards section of this template. Agencies are encouraged to utilize this list as a resource when reporting on the Organizational Standards annually.

## What's New for 2026/2027?

**Due Date.** The due date for your agency's 2026/2027 CAP is June 30, 2025. However, earlier submission of the CSBG Network's CAPs will allow CSD more time to review and incorporate agency information in the CSBG State Plan and Application. CSD, therefore, requests that agencies submit their CAPs on or before May 31, 2025.

**ROMA Certification Requirement.** CSD requires that agencies have the capacity to provide their own ROMA, or comparable system, certification for your agency's 2026/2027 CAP. Certification can be provided by agency staff who have the required training or in partnership with a consultant or another agency.

**Federal CSBG Programmatic and State Assurances Certification.** In previous templates, the federal and state assurances were certified by signature on the Cover Page and by checking the box(es) in both federal and state assurances sections. In the 2026/2027 template, CSD has clarified the language above the signature block on the Cover Page and done away with the check boxes. Board chairs and executive directors will certify compliance with the assurances by signature only. However, the Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances and the State Assurances language remain part of the 2026/2027 template.

**Other Modifications.** The title page of the template has been modified to include your agency's name and logo. Please use this space to brand your agency's CAP accordingly. CSD has also added references to the phases of the ROMA Cycle i.e. assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation throughout the 2026/2027 template. Additionally, there are a few new questions, minor changes to old questions, and a reordering of some questions.

## Checklist

- ☐ Cover Page
- ☐ Public Hearing Report

### Part I: Community Needs Assessment Summary

- ☒ Narrative
- ☒ Results

### Part II: Community Action Plan

- ☒ Vision and Mission Statements
- ☒ Causes and Conditions of Poverty
- ☒ Tripartite Board of Directors
- ☒ Service Delivery System
- ☒ Linkages and Funding Coordination
- ☒ Monitoring
- ☒ ROMA Application
- ☒ Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances
- ☒ State Assurances
- ☒ Organizational Standards

### Part III: Appendices

- ☐ Notice of Public Hearing
- ☐ Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response
- ☐ Community Needs Assessment

## Cover Page

|                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Agency Name:</b>         | Central Valley Opportunity Center |
| <b>Name of CAP Contact:</b> | Jean Warren                       |
| <b>Title:</b>               | Program Manager                   |
| <b>Phone:</b>               | (209) 357-0062 Ext. 125           |
| <b>Email:</b>               | jwarrenc@cvoc.org                 |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Date Most Recent CNA was Completed:</b><br>(Organizational Standard 3.1) | 05/12/2025 |
|---|------------|

### **Board and Agency Certification**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency will comply with the [Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances \(CSBG Act Section 676\(b\)\)](#) and [California State Assurances \(Government Code Sections 12747\(a\), 12760, and 12768\)](#) for services and programs provided under the 2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan. The undersigned governing body accepts the completed Community Needs Assessment. (Organizational Standard 3.5)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name:**

|               |                    |               |             |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Title:</b> | Executive Director | <b>Title:</b> | Board Chair |
| <b>Date:</b>  |                    | <b>Date:</b>  |             |

### **ROMA Certification**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this agency's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system or comparable system (assessment, planning, implementation, achievement of results, and evaluation). (CSBG Act 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.3)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name:**

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>ROMA Title:</b> | Deputy Planning Director |
| <b>Date:</b>       |                          |

### **CSD Use Only**

| Dates CAP |          | Accepted By |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Received  | Accepted |             |
|           |          |             |

## **Public Hearing(s)**

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

### **State Statute Requirements**

As required by California Government Code Section 12747(b)-(d), agencies are required to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the draft CAP. Testimony presented by low-income individuals and families during the public hearing shall be identified in the final CAP.

### **Guidelines**

#### **Notice of Public Hearing**

1. Notice of the public hearing should be published at least 10 calendar days prior to the public hearing.
2. The notice may be published on the agency's website, social media channels, and/or in newspaper(s) of local distribution.
3. The notice should include information about the draft CAP; where members of the community may review, or how they may receive a copy of, the draft CAP; the dates of the comment period; where written comments may be sent; date, time, and location of the public hearing; and the agency contact information.
4. The comment period should be open for at least 10 calendar days prior to the public hearing. Agencies may opt to extend the comment period for a selected number of days after the hearing.
5. The draft CAP should be made available for public review and inspection approximately 30 days prior to the public hearing. The draft CAP may be posted on the agency's website, social media channels, and distributed electronically or in paper format.
6. Attach a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing in Part III: Appendices as Appendix A.

#### **Public Hearing**

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

### **Additional Guidance**

For the purposes of fulfilling the public hearing requirement on the draft CAP, agencies may conduct the public hearing in-person, remotely, or using a hybrid model based on community need at the time of the hearing.

### **Public Hearing Report**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Date(s) the Notice(s) of Public Hearing(s) was/were published  |  |
| Date Public Comment Period opened  |  |
| Date Public Comment Period closed  |  |
| Date(s) of Public Hearing(s)   |  |
| Location(s) of Public Hearing(s)   |  |
| Where was the Notice of Public Hearing published? (agency website, newspaper, social media channels) |  |
| Number of attendees at the Public Hearing(s)   |  |



## Part I: Community Needs Assessment Summary

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

### Helpful Resources

A community needs assessment provides a comprehensive “picture” of the needs in your service area(s). Resources are available to guide agencies through this process.

- CSD-lead training – “Community Needs Assessment: Common Pitfalls and Best Practices” on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 1:00 pm. [Registration is required](#). The training will be recorded and posted on the Local Agencies Portal after the event.
- Examples of CNAs, timelines, and other resources are on the [Local Agencies Portal](#).
- [Community Action Guide to Comprehensive Community Needs Assessments](#) published by the National Association for State Community Service Programs (NASCS).
- [Community Needs Assessment Tool](#) designed by the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP).
- National and state quantitative data sets. See links below.

| Sample Data Sets   |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>U.S. Census Bureau</b><br><a href="#">Poverty Data</a>                              | <b>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics</b><br><a href="#">Economic Data</a>                  | <b>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</b><br><a href="#">Housing Data &amp; Report</a> |
| <b>HUD Exchange</b><br><a href="#">PIT and HIC Data Since 2007</a>                     | <b>National Low-Income Housing Coalition</b><br><a href="#">Housing Needs by State</a>   | <b>National Center for Education Statistics</b><br><a href="#">IPEDS</a>                             |
| <b>California Department of Education</b><br><a href="#">School Data via DataQuest</a> | <b>California Employment Development Department</b><br><a href="#">UI Data by County</a> | <b>California Department of Public Health</b><br><a href="#">Various Data Sets</a>                   |
| <b>California Department of Finance</b><br><a href="#">Demographics</a>                | <b>California Attorney General</b><br><a href="#">Open Justice</a>                       | <b>California Health and Human Services</b><br><a href="#">Data Portal</a>                           |
| <b>CSD</b><br><b>Census Tableau</b><br><a href="#">Data by County</a>                  |  | <b>Population Reference Bureau</b><br><a href="#">KidsData</a>                                       |
| <b>Data USA</b><br><a href="#">National Public Data</a>                                | <b>National Equity Atlas</b><br><a href="#">Racial and Economic Data</a>                 | <b>Census Reporter</b><br><a href="#">Census Data</a>  |

| Sample Data Sets  |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Urban Institute</b><br><a href="#">SNAP Benefit Gap</a>                                    | <b>Race Counts</b><br><a href="#">California Racial Disparity Data</a>   | <b>Rent Data</b><br><a href="#">Fair Market Rent by ZIP</a>   |
| <b>UC Davis<br/>Center for Poverty &amp; Inequality</b><br><a href="#">Poverty Statistics</a> | <b>University of Washington<br/>Center for Women's Welfare</b><br><a href="#">California Self-Sufficiency Standard</a> | <b>University of Wisconsin<br/>Robert Wood Johnson<br/>Foundation</b><br><a href="#">County Health Rankings</a> |
| <b>Massachusetts<br/>Institute of Technology</b><br><a href="#">Living Wage Calculator</a>    | <b>Nonprofit Leadership Center</b><br><a href="#">Volunteer Time Calculator</a>  | <b>Economic Policy Institute</b><br><a href="#">Family Budget Calculator</a>                                    |

## Narrative

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9)

Organizational Standards 2.2, 3.3

ROMA – Assessment

Based on your agency's most recent CNA, please respond to the questions below.

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

CVOC provides CSBG/CSP funded services to low-income individuals and their families in California's Stanislaus County. Stanislaus County is located in the San Joaquin Valley, in the heart of California's agriculturally rich Central Valley, and is the 30th largest county in California at about 1,521 square miles in area. The county is made up of small rural agrarian towns as well as metropolitan cities that are mostly concentrated near the two major north-south routes, Interstate 5 and Highway 99. Due in part to the large geographical size of the county, CVOC's service area is made up of both rural and urban high-needs areas. CVOC has an established a physical location in downtown Modesto; located near the transit station and close to a number of bus stops to make services easily accessible to low income individuals living in the urban areas of the county. CVOC also focuses services and outreach efforts in the rural areas westside of the county, with an established second location in the City of Patterson.

2. Indicate from which sources your agency collected and analyzed quantitative data for its most recent CNA. (Check all that apply.) (Organizational Standard 3.3)

### Federal Government/National Data Sets

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

### Local Data Sets

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

**California State Data Sets**

- ☒ Employment Development Department
- ☒ Department of Education
- ☐ Department of Public Health
- ☐ Attorney General
- ☐ Department of Finance
- ☒ Other

**Surveys**

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

**Agency Data Sets**

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

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

**Surveys**

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

**Interviews**

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

**Focus Groups**

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

☒ **Community Forums**☐ **Asset Mapping**☐ **Other**

4. Confirm that your agency collected and analyzed information from each of the five community sectors below as part of the assessment of needs and resources in your service area(s). Your agency must demonstrate that all sectors were included in the needs assessment by checking each box below; a response for each sector is required. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(9), Organizational Standard 2.2)

**Community Sectors**

- ☒ Community-based organizations
- ☒ Faith-based organizations
- ☒ Private sector (local utility companies, charitable organizations, local food banks)
- ☒ Public sector (social services departments, state agencies)
- ☒ Educational institutions (local school districts, colleges)

## Results

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

California Government Code Section 12747(a)

Organizational Standards 4.2

State Plan Summary and Section 14.1a

ROMA – Planning

Based on your agency's most recent CNA, please complete Table 1: Needs Table and Table 2: Priority Ranking Table.

| Table 1: Needs Table                                    |             |                      |                            |                                   |                       |
|---|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Needs Identified  | Level (C/F) | Agency Mission (Y/N) | Currently Addressing (Y/N) | If not currently addressing, why? | Agency Priority (Y/N) |
| Families need homelessness assistance.                  | F           | Y                    | Y                          | Choose an item.                   | Y                     |
| Families and Individuals need employment assistance.    | F           | Y                    | Y                          | Choose an item.                   | Y                     |
| Families lack affordable housing.                       | F           | Y                    | Y                          | Choose an item.                   | Y                     |
| The community need crime and gang violence intervention | C           | N                    | N                          | Need met by local partner.        | N                     |
| Families need Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling.        | F           | N                    | N                          | Need met by local partner.        | N                     |

**Needs Identified:** Enter each need identified in your agency's most recent CNA. Ideally, agencies should use ROMA needs statement language in Table 1. ROMA needs statements are complete sentences that identify the need. For example, "Individuals lack living wage jobs" or "Families lack access to affordable housing" are needs statements. Whereas "Employment" or "Housing" are not. Add row(s) if additional space is needed.

**Level (C/F):** Identify whether the need is a community level (C) or a family level (F) need. If the need is a community level need, the need impacts the geographical region directly. If the need is a family level need, it will impact individuals/families directly.

**Agency Mission (Y/N):** Indicate if the identified need aligns with your agency's mission.

**Currently Addressing (Y/N):** Indicate if your agency is addressing the identified need.

**If not currently addressing, why?:** If your agency is not addressing the identified need, please select a response from the dropdown menu.

**Agency Priority:** Indicate if the identified need is an agency priority.

**Table 2: Priority Ranking Table**

|    | Agency Priorities   | Description of programs, services, activities  | Indicator(s) or Service(s) Category                               |
|----|---|--|---|
| 1. | Homeless Prevention and Homeless Assistance                 | Rental Assistance, Hotel/Motel Stays, Housing Counseling, Tenant/Landlord mediation, Referral Services               | FNPI 4e, FNPI 4a, SRV 4b, SRV 4c, SRV 4f, SRV 4g, SRV 4m, SRV 4p  |
| 2. | Employment Job Skills Training and Job Placement Assistance | Vocational Training, Job Search Workshops, Job Development, Job Placement, Employment Support Services               | FNPI 1a- 1g & 1z<br>FNPI 2d<br>SRV 1a-1q                          |
| 3. | Housing/Energy Assistance                                   | Energy Payment Assistance, Home Weatherization, Appliance Replacement  | FNPI 4g, FNPI 4h, FNPI 4z, SRV 4k, SRV 4i, SRV 4q, SRV 4s, SRV 4t |
| 4. | Emergency Assistance  | Emergency Food, Shelter, clothing, and other services  | FNPI 4a, FNPI 5z, SRV 5jj, SRV 7n                                 |
| 5. | Community Resources Accessibility to Needed Services        | Community Resources Referral and Coordination.   | SRV 7a, SRV 7c  |
| 6. | Education GED, ESL  | High School Equivalency Classes, English-As-Second language Classes, Remedial Education.                             | FNPI 2f, FNPI 2g, FNPI 2h, SRV 2r, SRV 2u, SRV 2s                 |
| 7. | Program Development   | Planning and program expansion and development. Coordinating and collaboration to expand services.                   |   |
| 8. | Transportation Assistance                                   | CVOC Transportation system, bus pass, emergency transportation assistance, transportation to needed social services. | SRV 7d  |

**Agency Priorities:** Rank the needs identified as a priority in Table 1: Needs Table according to your agency's planned priorities. Ideally, agencies should use ROMA needs statement language. Insert row(s) if additional space is needed.

**Description of programs, services, activities:** Briefly describe the program, services, or activities that your agency will provide to address the need. Including the number of clients who are expected to achieve the indicator in a specified timeframe.

**Indicator/Service Category:** List the indicator(s) (CNPI, FNPI) or service(s) (SRV) that will be reported on in Modules 3 and 4 of the CSBG Annual Report.

## Part II: Community Action Plan

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(11)

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

California Code of Regulations Sections 100651 and 100655

### Vision and Mission Statements

ROMA – Planning

#### 1. Provide your agency's Vision Statement.

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

#### 2. Provide your agency's Mission Statement.

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



## Causes and Conditions of Poverty

Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.2, 3.4

ROMA – Planning

1. Describe the key findings of your analysis of information collected directly from low-income individuals to better understand their needs. (Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2)

CVOC conducted direct outreach and data collection efforts, including surveys, community meetings, to gain a better understanding of the needs of low-income individuals in our service area. Key findings are as follows:

**Housing Instability and Affordability:** Many individuals indicated they were housing insecure. A lack of affordable rentals and increasing cost of housing were common reported issues. Participants emphasized the urgent need for expanded housing services and an increase to rental assistance.

**Unemployment and Job Insecurity:** Unemployment and underemployment remain widespread concerns. Individuals expressed a need for more access to job training programs, career development resources, and employment opportunities that offer livable wages and stability.

**Crime and Gang Violence:** Community members consistently raised concerns about crime and gang activity in their neighborhoods. Many emphasized the impact of violence on their sense of safety and well-being, particularly for youth. There were calls for youth programs and gang and crime intervention programs at the community level.

**Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling:** Substance abuse was identified as a serious and widespread issue affecting individuals and families. Respondents expressed a need for greater access to counseling, rehabilitation services, and long-term recovery support.

2. Describe your agency's assessment findings specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for your service area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.2)

Our assessment indicates that poverty in Stanislaus County disproportionately affects women, particularly those aged 25–44, children, and Hispanic or Latino communities. The largest demographic living in poverty are females aged 25–34, followed by females aged 35–44, and then males aged 6–11.

CVOC uses the US Census Community Survey as the primary source of data specific to Stanislaus County's poverty rates prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity. CVOC also uses county specific data compiled by local service organizations and county and city departments. CVOC includes program data collected via our agency databases to determine poverty rates based on various demographics. Reviews county poverty demographics compared to the demographics of clients served by the agency is used to verify that CVOC is providing services to those most in need

3. “Causes of poverty” are the negative factors that create or foster barriers to self-sufficiency and/or reduce access to resources in communities in which low-income individuals live. After review and analysis of your needs assessment data, describe the causes of poverty in your agency's service

#### area(s). (Organizational Standard 3.4)

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

**Unemployment/Working Poor:** Low-income clients, community members, and local service organizations who responded to our Community Needs Survey identified unemployment and low-wage jobs as key contributors to many of the challenges facing low-income populations. In Stanislaus, the unemployment rate stands at 7.2%—higher than both the state and national averages—and was ranked as the second highest issue in the community. Unskilled, low-wage, or seasonal employment is often insufficient to meet the rising cost of living in the county. Today, even full-time employment does not necessarily provide financial stability. Many low-income individuals lack the vocational training or educational credentials needed for high-demand, well-paying jobs, making it difficult for them to secure employment with sustainable wages and benefits. Those who have acquired new skills often find themselves competing with more experienced applicants and, as a result, may require additional support in job search strategies to successfully enter skilled occupations.

**Lack of Affordable Housing:** Rising cost of housing in the Central Valley continues to be an issue and the lack of affordable housing contributes to poverty in several interconnected ways. High housing costs consume a significant portion of household income, leaving little for essentials such as food, healthcare, and savings. Limited access to affordable housing often forces people to live farther from their jobs, resulting in increased transportation expenses and longer commute times. Many are also pushed into overcrowded or unsafe living conditions, which negatively impact physical and mental health. Additionally, the effects extend across generations—families have fewer resources to invest in their children's education and development, accumulate less wealth over time, and face restricted opportunities for upward mobility. These factors contribute to a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break. Stable and adequate housing is foundational for maintaining good physical and mental health, as well as ensuring employment stability.

**Homelessness:** While poverty can lead to homelessness, homelessness itself can also be a cause or worsen poverty in many ways. Homelessness creates barriers to stable employment due to the lack of a fixed address, limited access to clean clothing and running water, and the stigma that may cause employers to hesitate in hiring someone without stable housing. The overall health of individuals experiencing homelessness often deteriorates, as they face higher risks of chronic illness and injury. Without stable housing, managing health conditions such as diabetes or depression becomes significantly more difficult. Homelessness also leads to marginalization, making it harder to build the personal and professional connections that are often essential for finding employment, housing, or accessing community resources.

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

**Environmental Conditions: Poor Air Quality:** Stanislaus County ranks among the worst in the nation for air pollution, especially particulate matter (PM2.5) and ozone. This can lead to increased respiratory issues and discourages residential and business development.

**Contaminated Sites:** Some low-income areas are near Superfund or brownfield sites or face risks from agricultural runoff, increasing concerns about water and soil contamination. Brownfields can significantly impact poverty and perpetuate cycles of disinvestment. Superfunds and brownfields depress property values, thus making it harder for low-income residents to build wealth through homeownership and deter new businesses and investments in these communities. Residents near brownfields may face higher risks of exposure to pollutants, leading to respiratory issues, skin problems, and other chronic health conditions. Within Stanislaus County there is one brownfield and three Superfund sites, which includes a ground water contamination site.

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

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

#### 5. Describe your agency's data and findings obtained through the collecting, analyzing, and reporting of customer satisfaction data.

CVOC collects, analyzes, and reports customer satisfaction data to ensure our programs are effective, accessible, and aligned with the communities we serve. Data is gathered through surveys often administered post-service surveys, during classroom trainings, and other service interactions. Surveys are also gathered at community events and during outreach efforts. Surveys are available both online and as hard copies. CVOC also host community meetings to create space for individuals across all sectors of the community to provide feedback and rate our services.

Once collected, the data is analyzed to identify trends, strengths, and areas for improvement. Quantitative metrics such as satisfaction rates, program completion feedback, and service accessibility scores are calculated, while qualitative data from open-ended responses is reviewed to capture client stories and emerging themes. Data is tracked over time to monitor progress and inform decisions. Results are regularly shared with staff, leadership, and the board, and are also included in reports to funders to demonstrate impact and accountability. When appropriate, findings are shared with the broader community through newsletters, website, or social media page.

## Tripartite Board of Directors

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

Organizational Standards 1.1. 3.5

ROMA – Evaluation

1. Describe your agency's procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization or low-income individuals to be inadequately represented on your agency's board to petition for adequate representation. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(10), Organizational Standard 1.1)

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

2. Describe your process for communicating with and receiving formal approval from your agency board of the Community Needs Assessment (Organizational Standard 3.5).

The Community Needs Assessment is formally presented during a regular board meeting, where key findings and data are shared with the board members. After the presentation and discussion, the board votes to accept the assessment. This decision is officially recorded in the meeting minutes to ensure proper documentation and alignment with organizational governance procedures.

## Service Delivery System

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

State Plan 14.3a

ROMA - Implementation

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

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

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

All client services are delivered directly by our organization; we do not engage subcontractors for any aspect of service provision.

2. Describe how the poverty data related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity referenced in Part II: Causes and Conditions of Poverty, Question 2 will inform your service delivery and strategies in the coming two years?

CVOC conducts a Community Needs Assessment every two years to identify the current needs of the low-income population in Stanislaus County. The assessment process incorporates input from clients through customer satisfaction surveys, employer feedback, and internal agency data, along with poverty-related data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, and age. This comprehensive data is used to guide CVOC's service delivery and strategic planning efforts.



## Linkages and Funding Coordination

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

California Government Code Sections 12747(a), 12760

Organizational Standards 2.1

State Plan 9.3b, 9.4b, 9.5, 9.7, 14.1b, 14.1c, 14.3d, 14.4

1. Describe how your agency coordinates funding with other providers in your service area. If there is a formalized coalition of social service providers in your service area, list the coalition(s) by name and methods used to coordinate services/funding. (CSBG Act Sections 676(b)(1)(C), 676(b)(9); Organizational Standard 2.1; State Plan 14.1c)

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

2. Provide information on any memorandums of understanding and/or service agreements your agency has with other entities regarding coordination of services/funding. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(C), Organizational Standard 2.1, State Plan 9.7)

CVOC has active representation on the Stanislaus County Workforce Innovation and Opportunities (WIOA) Boards and MOU and service agreements that include the development of policies and service systems to increase employment and training services to the low-income population of Stanislaus County. CVOC has a service MOU agreement with the Human Services Department in Stanislaus County and has partnered with this agency on Welfare to Work project. CVOC has operated several projects in conjunction with the local Employment Development Department for providing Rapid Response for dislocated agricultural workers.

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

CVOC's outreach efforts are targeted to reach the low-income communities as well as those individuals and families most in need of services. CVOC maintains communications networks through staff participation at community meetings, community events, job fairs, or other functions that are of interest to the low-income community. Management staff regularly participates in collaboration and coordination events and meetings with service delivery agencies, local

government, faith-based organizations, education, employment and other public service groups. These activities seek to reduce duplicative services and increase targeted services to those individuals, families and communities most in need.

**4. Describe how your agency will leverage other funding sources and increase programmatic and/or organizational capacity. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(3)(C))**

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

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

In the event that federal funding is reduced, management will notify the CVOC Board of Directors of the amount of the reduction, the status of the current programs and provide an evaluation of the current program activities. The Board of Directors, along with management staff, will develop proposed reductions and/or elimination of activities based on the following: 1. Determination of activities which may be funded from other sources such as other grants/contracts, in kind services, volunteer programs or increased match contributions. 2. Evaluation of staff assigned to the CSBG/CSP program activities, workloads in light of reduced funding for consideration or consolidated of positions, lay-off recommendations and alternative funding of positions. 3. Review of across-the-board reduction of program activities and services in relation to the amount of the funding reduction. The CVOC Board of Directors will hold public hearings and request input on service reductions. The Board and management staff will prepare a recommendation on the reductions and consider alternatives prior to a final decision. While any reduction in funding will impact the service levels, total elimination of funding would impact the ability of the agency to continue to operate some major components of our services to the low-income population of Stanislaus County. Severe reductions in CSBG funding would significantly reduce or eliminate services in areas of employment and training and education services, emergency services, public education and a substantial portion of the family development activities, reduce the ability of the agency to maintain the planning/development

and agency coordination functions.

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

Our organization addresses the needs of youth in low-income communities through comprehensive youth development programs that promote personal growth, career readiness, and long-term self-sufficiency. We coordinate with local at-risk youth programs to deliver a wide range of services, including job training, work experience, life skills training, job development, volunteer opportunities, and youth mentoring. These collaborative efforts ensure that youth receive holistic support tailored to their individual needs and aspirations.

We also partner with local school districts to operate our High School Equivalency Program, which offers alternative educational pathways for youth who have not completed traditional high school. This program supports academic achievement and increases access to future employment and education opportunities. Additionally, our organization operates a WIOA Youth Program, which provides eligible youth with a comprehensive array of services. These include vocational training, career exploration, paid work experience, tutoring, financial literacy education, and preparation for post-secondary education and college enrollment.

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

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

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

CVOC has active representation on the Stanislaus County Workforce Innovation and Opportunities (WIOA) boards and has worked with them in the development of policies and service systems that include service to the low-income population of Stanislaus County. CVOC participates in monthly Workforce Development meetings, development of Workforce Service Plans, participates in staff cross training, works with local shared technology development efforts, works with committee on issues of standardization, such as assessment, job development,



facility design and other related issues. These efforts have improved the integration of the different partners systems. CVOC has a service MOU agreement with the Department in Stanislaus County and has partnered with One Stop through the cross utilization of staff and standardized operating procedures. Based upon the common understanding developed through on-going efforts, the local Workforce Development groups are successfully operating service systems. Based upon the local partnership, CVOC has a good understanding of the local priorities, operating concerns, structures and our role in the local system. CVOC has operated several projects in conjunction with the local Workforce Department. CVOC has contracted to jointly provided Dislocated Agricultural Worker WOIA Adult and Youth projects. In addition to working with the Department, CVOC has co-enrolled clients with the local Department of Rehabilitation, Social Services Cal Works and Housing Authority.

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

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

10. Is your agency a dual (CSBG and LIHEAP) service provider?

☒ Yes

☐ No

11. For dual agencies:

Describe how your agency coordinates with other antipoverty programs in your area, including the emergency energy crisis intervention programs under Title XXVI, relating to low-income home energy assistance (LIHEAP) that are conducted in the community. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(6), State Plan 9.5)

For all other agencies:

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

CVOC is a dual services provider of CSBG and LiHEAP in Stanislaus County. CVOC actively collaborates with other antipoverty programs in the area, including emergency energy crisis intervention programs, to ensure that low-income individuals and families receive the comprehensive support they need. We provide direct assistance in the form of rental and utility payment assistance to clients who are at risk of losing their housing or utilities. We also assist individuals and families who are homeless or in unstable housing situations by helping them secure housing.

In addition to direct financial support, we offer referrals to local housing programs that assist with home purchases, housing rehabilitation, and other related housing needs. These

partnerships strengthen our ability to connect clients with long-term housing solutions.

Our organization also operates a variety of home weatherization and energy conservation programs that help low-income households improve their living conditions and reduce energy costs. These services are designed not only to increase home energy efficiency but also to support the sustainability of safe and healthy housing environments.

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

CVOC utilizes funds to support community initiatives and provides non-financial support through active participation in neighborhood initiatives and innovative community projects. CVOC receives a number of local contracts which are designed to address the goal of strengthening families and moving families from dependence on public assistance to self-sufficiency. CVOC's operation of the Cal Works program and public education activities include goals of family development and parental responsibility. CVOC's Case Management approach to services includes the goal of strengthening families and assisting families to develop goals for themselves and their communities. CVOC partners with local agencies involved in community and neighborhood initiatives to include the goal of family development.

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

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

## Monitoring

### ROMA – Planning, Evaluation

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

CVOC does not use subcontractors.

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## ROMA Application

CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12)

Organizational Standards 4.2, 4.3

ROMA – Planning, Evaluation



1. Describe how your agency will evaluate the effectiveness of its programs and services. Include information about the types of measurement tools, the data sources and collection procedures, and the frequency of data collection and reporting. (Organizational Standard 4.3)

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

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

2. Select one need from Table 2: Priority Ranking Table and describe how your agency plans to implement, monitor progress, and evaluate the program designed to address the need. (Organizational Standard 4.2)

CVOC will conduct a participant-lead assessment of our career and training programs. CVOC will conduct classroom training reviews in order to gauge student satisfaction with courses that are currently offered to determine if there was a need for improvements such as new equipment, improvements to curriculum, and instructor performance. Administrative staff will analyze the data collected from these student surveys and student interviews to implement staff training development, improve service delivery, and improvement to classroom trainings content. Low-income individuals' capacity for self-sufficiency will improve through modifications that will be

made to classroom trainings, as individuals will be better prepared.

### Optional

- 3 . Select one community level need from Table 2: Priority Ranking Table or your agency's most recent Community Needs Assessment and describe how your agency plans to implement, monitor progress, and evaluate the program designed to address the need. (CSBG Act Section 676(b)(12), Organizational Standard 4.2)

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## Federal CSBG Programmatic Assurances

### CSBG Act Section 676(b)

#### Use of CSBG Funds Supporting Local Activities

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

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

#### Needs of Youth

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

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

## **Coordination of Other Programs**

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

## **Eligible Entity Service Delivery System**

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

## **Eligible Entity Linkages – Approach to Filling Service Gaps**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Eligible Entity Emergency Food and Nutrition Services**

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

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

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

## **State Coordination/Linkages and Low-income Home Energy Assistance**

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

## **Community Organizations**

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

### **Eligible Entity Tripartite Board Representation**

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

### **Eligible Entity Community Action Plans and Community Needs Assessments**

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

### **State and Eligible Entity Performance Measurement: ROMA or Alternate System**

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

### **Fiscal Controls, Audits, and Withholding**

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



## State Assurances

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

### **For CAA, MSFW, NAI, and LPA Agencies**

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

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

### **For MSFW Agencies Only**

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

# Organizational Standards

## Category One: Consumer Input and Involvement

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

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

## Category Two: Community Engagement

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

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

## Category Three: Community Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Category Four: Organizational Leadership**

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

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

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### Part III: Appendices

Please complete the table below by entering the title of the document and its assigned appendix letter. Agencies must provide a copy of the Notice(s) of Public Hearing, the Low-Income Testimony and the Agency's Response document, and a copy of the most recent community needs assessment as appendices A, B, and C, respectively. Other appendices as necessary are encouraged. All appendices should be labeled as an appendix (e.g., Appendix A: Notice of Public Hearing) or separated by divider sheets and submitted with the CAP.

| Document Title                             | Appendix Location |
|--|-------------------|
| Notice of Public Hearing                   | A                 |
| Low-Income Testimony and Agency's Response | B                 |
| Community Needs Assessment                 | C                 |
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*Appendix C:*

*COMMUNITY NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT*

*Stanislaus County*



# 2025 Community Needs Assessment Stanislaus County

Prepared by the CVOC Planning Department

## Introduction

The Community Needs Assessment for the low-income populations of Stanislaus County involved a comprehensive review of current program operations, evaluation of program effectiveness, community meetings, and the collection of input from the broader community. This process also included coordinated meetings with other service providers and an analysis of the community profile to better understand the needs of the county's low-income residents.

As part of this assessment, CVOC conducted a Community Needs Assessment Survey, which was distributed to stakeholders both by hand and electronically. The results of this survey are included in the report.

To ensure the assessment is thorough and reflective of community conditions, CVOC actively engages in the development, coordination, and planning efforts with a wide range of community organizations that focus on identifying and addressing the needs of low-income and targeted populations.

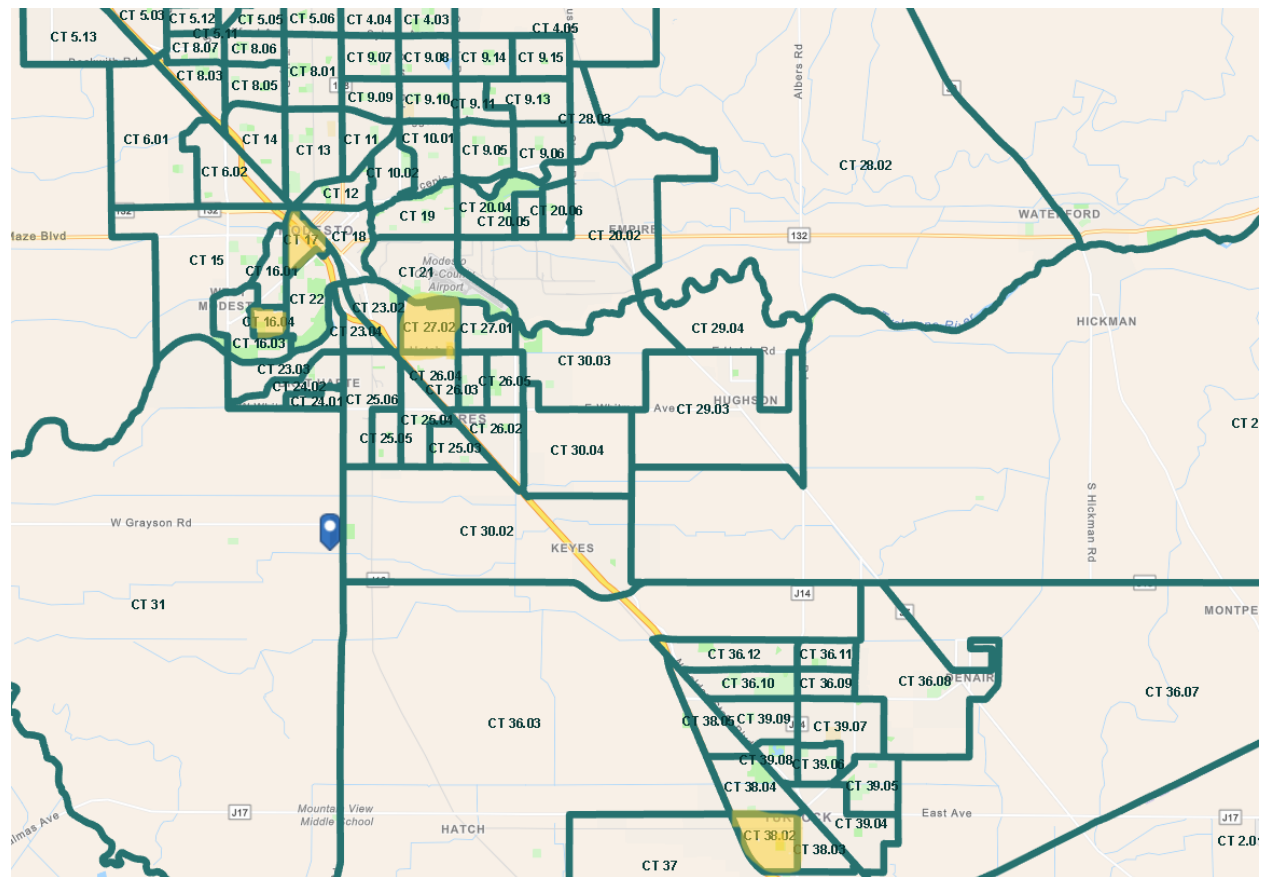
## Stanislaus County - Community Profile

Stanislaus County is located in the heart of California's Central Valley, specifically within the San Joaquin Valley region. It covers approximately 1,515 square miles, with 1,495 square miles of land and 20 square miles of water. The county is centrally positioned within the state and lies within driving distance of the San Francisco Bay Area, Silicon Valley, Sacramento, the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and California's Central Coast. Two major California Highways, Interstate 5 and Highway 99, run north and south bound across the County. There are three major rivers in Stanislaus County, the Stanislaus and Tuolumne River, running east to west, and the San Joaquin River running north to south. Stanislaus County continues to be an agricultural county in transition. Prior to 1960 most of the nine incorporated cities was just over 3 times that of the unincorporated area of the County. While its economic base remains predominantly agricultural, the County's economy continues to diversify.

As of 2023, the estimated population of Stanislaus County is 564,404. The median age is 34.8 years, and the median household income is approximately \$79,661. The county has a diverse demographic makeup, with Hispanic or Latino residents comprising about 61.4% of the population, White (non-Hispanic) residents at 18.6%, Asian residents at 8.93%, and other racial and ethnic groups making up the remainder. Approximately 12.1% of the population lives below the poverty line, with the highest rates of poverty found among males aged 6–11 and females aged 25–44.

In Stanislaus County, several neighborhoods and communities exhibit notably high poverty rates, surpassing both county and national averages. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the county's overall poverty rate stands at 13.1%, slightly above the national average of 11.5 %.

Specific areas within the county report significantly higher poverty levels include census tracts in West Modesto, Bret Harte, Airport Neighborhood, and Turlock.



Stanislaus County supports a robust educational infrastructure. It is home to California State University, Stanislaus (CSU Stanislaus), located in Turlock, which offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Modesto Junior College (MJC), founded in 1921, is one of California's oldest community colleges and serves around 18,000 students per semester.

CSU Stanislaus is notable for its diverse student body. As of Fall 2021, approximately 73% of its students are first-generation college students, meaning they are the first in their families to attend college. Additionally, the university is designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, with Hispanic or Latino students comprising 61.4% of the total enrollment.



## Selected Statistic from US Census

| People   |         |
|--|---------|
| Population   |         |
|  | 勢股      |
| Population estimates, July 1, 2024, (V2024)  | 556,972 |
|  | 勢股      |
| Population estimates, July 1, 2023, (V2023)  | 551,430 |
|  | 勢股      |
| Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2024)                                    | 553,285 |
|  | 勢股      |
| Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2023)                                    | 552,882 |
|  | 勢股      |
| Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2024, (V2024) | 0.70%   |
|  | 勢股      |
| Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2023, (V2023) | -0.30%  |
| Population, Census, April 1, 2020  | 552,878 |
| Population, Census, April 1, 2010  | 514,453 |
| Age and Sex  |         |
|  | 勢股      |
| Persons under 5 years, percent   | 6.60%   |
|  | 勢股      |
| Persons under 18 years, percent  | 26.40%  |
|  | 勢股      |
| Persons 65 years and over, percent   | 14.10%  |
|  | 勢股      |
| Female persons, percent  | 50.20%  |
| Race and Hispanic Origin   |         |
|  | 勢股      |
| White alone, percent   | 81.80%  |
|  | 勢股      |
| Black alone, percent (a)(a)  | 3.70%   |
|  | 勢股      |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)(a)                              | 2.10%   |
|  | 勢股      |
| Asian alone, percent (a)(a)  | 6.70%   |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)(a)                       | 1.00%     |
| Two or More Races, percent   | 4.60%     |
| Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)(b)   | 50.90%    |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent   | 36.20%    |
| <b>Population Characteristics</b>  |           |
| Veterans, 2019-2023  | 17,802    |
| Foreign-born persons, percent, 2019-2023   | 20.50%    |
| <b>Housing</b>   |           |
| Housing Units, July 1, 2023, (V2023)   | 186,253   |
| Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2019-2023  | 61.00%    |
| Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2019-2023                                | \$426,600 |
| Median selected monthly owner costs - with a mortgage, 2019-2023                       | \$2,101   |
| Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2019-2023                     | \$669     |
| Median gross rent, 2019-2023   | \$1,528   |
| Building Permits, 2023   | 810       |
| <b>Families &amp; Living Arrangements</b>  |           |
| Households, 2019-2023  | 176,457   |
| Persons per household, 2019-2023   | 3.1       |
| Living in the same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+ , 2019-2023        | 90.60%    |
| Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2019-2023 | 43.10%    |
| <b>Computer and Internet Use</b>   |           |
| Households with a computer, percent, 2019-2023   | 95.10%    |
| Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2019-2023                  | 91.00%    |
| <b>Education</b>   |           |
| High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2019-2023            | 80.10%    |
| Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2019-2023               | 19.10%    |
| <b>Health</b>  |           |
| With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2019-2023                              | 8.60%     |
| Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent                          | 7.10%     |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Economy</b>  |                   |
| In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2019-2023  | 61.80%            |
| In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2019-2023 | 54.50%            |
| Total accommodation and food services sales, 2022 (\$1,000)(c)                  | 1,388,742         |
| Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2022 (\$1,000)(c)     | 5,536,097         |
| Total transportation and warehousing receipts/revenue, 2022 (\$1,000)(c)        | 1,240,364         |
| Total retail sales, 2022 (\$1,000)(c)   | 10,276,096        |
| Total retail sales per capita, 2022(c)  | \$18,642          |
| <b>Transportation</b>   |                   |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2019-2023            | 30.9              |
| <b>Income &amp; Poverty</b>   |                   |
| Median households income (in 2023 dollars), 2019-2023                           | \$79,661          |
| Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2023 dollars), 2019-2023                | \$33,653          |
| Persons in poverty, percent   | 12.60%            |
| <b>Businesses</b>   |                   |
| <b>Businesses</b>   |                   |
| Total employer establishments, 2022   | 9,900             |
| Total employment, 2022  | 151,505           |
| Total annual payroll, 2022 (\$1,000)  | 8,408,429         |
| Total employment, percent change, 2021-2022                                     | 8.60%             |
| Total nonemployer establishments, 2022  | 33,178            |
| All employer firms, Reference year 2022   | 7,731             |
| Men-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022                                   | 4,680             |
| Women-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022                                 | 1,368             |
| Minority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022                              | 2,559             |
| Nonminority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022                           | 4,385             |
| Veteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022                               | <a href="#">S</a> |
| Nonveteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2022                            | 6,583             |
| <b>Geography</b>  |                   |
| <b>Geography</b>  |                   |
| Population per square mile, 2020  | 369.6             |
| Population per square mile, 2010  | 344.2             |
| Land area in square miles, 2020   | 1,496.02          |
| Land area in square miles, 2010   | 1,494.83          |

## Housing and Homelessness

Homelessness is a significant issue in Stanislaus County. County Residents ranked Homelessness as the number one issue in their community.

As of the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, Stanislaus County reported 2,052 individuals experiencing homelessness, marking a slight decrease from 2,091 in 2023.

Finding from the 2024 PIT Count estimates that there is a total of 1,072 individuals (52%) who are shelters, while 980 (48%) were unsheltered. Modesto had the highest number of homeless individuals at 1,622, followed by Turlock with 201. Demographic data from the 2024 Point-in-Time Count shows that the largest age group among the homeless population in Stanislaus County was 35–44 years, comprising 503 individuals; additionally, 50% had spent time in jail or prison, 46% had stayed overnight in a hospital, 23% had been in a treatment center, 78% became homeless within the county, and 68% had been homeless for over 36 months.

According to the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, the leading causes of homelessness in Stanislaus County included being asked to leave a previous residence (26%), inability to pay rent or mortgage (23%), and experiencing abuse or violence in the home (13%). Barriers that prevented individuals from accessing services included lack of transportation (14%), lack of identification or necessary documents (11%), and not knowing where to seek help (11%). Additionally, significant health and social challenges were reported, with 26% experiencing serious mental illness, 16% struggling with substance use disorders, and 11% identifying as survivors of domestic violence. Adequate and stable housing is the foundation for good physical and mental health, as well as employment stability. Inadequate housing contributes to poor health, chronic diseases, injuries, and has adverse effects on children.

## Unemployment

As of March 2025, Stanislaus County's unemployment rate stood at 7.2%, a slight decrease from 7.3% in February 2025, but unchanged from March 2024. This rate remains notably higher than both the state and national averages. In comparison, California's statewide unemployment rate was 5.3% in March 2025, reflecting a 0.1 percentage point decrease from the previous month. Nationally, the unemployment rate held steady at 4.2% during the same period. Within Stanislaus County, certain communities continue to experience higher unemployment rates. For instance, in March 2025, Bystrom reported an unemployment rate of 17.7%, the highest in the county. Ceres had a jobless rate of 8.5%, with approximately 1,800 individuals unemployed out of a labor force of 21,600. Hughson reported an unemployment rate of 6.0%, equating to about

3,300 individuals without work among a labor force of approximately 3,500. **Hughson** reported an unemployment rate of **6.0%**, equating to about 3,300 individuals without work among a labor force of approximately 3,500.

The county's labor market is particularly sensitive to economic fluctuations due to a significant portion of the workforce being employed in low-wage, part-time service roles, seasonal agricultural and manufacturing jobs. These sectors are vulnerable to disruptions from factors such as store closures, adverse weather conditions, and trade disputes. Consequently, residents are increasingly seeking employment opportunities that offer higher wages and benefits.

During the community needs assessment, County residents identified unemployment as the second most pressing issue facing the area, underscoring the urgent need for economic development and job creation initiatives tailored to the county's unique challenges.

### Affordable Housing

As of 2025, affordable housing remains a significant challenge in Stanislaus County. The average rent for an apartment in Modesto is approximately \$1,710. To afford this rent without being cost-burdened (spending no more than 30% of income on housing), a household would need to earn about \$5,700 per month, or \$68,400 annually. This income requirement is over double the current California minimum wage of \$16 per hour, which equates to approximately \$33,280 annually for full-time work. The 2024 Affordable Housing Needs Report indicates that over 15,400 low-income renter households in Stanislaus County lack access to affordable housing.

### Crime/ Gang Violence

Crime has a negative effect on all person's lives and communities. As of 2024, Stanislaus County has experienced a decline in crime rates, particularly in violent offenses, though certain challenges persist. Homicide has been in steady decline over the last few years with the county reporting 17 homicides in 2023 and the largest city in the County, Modesto also saw a decline in homicides. In June 2024, Modesto experienced a 21% increase in major property crimes compared to the previous month, with 186 incidents reported. Arrests for major violent crimes in Modesto increased by 14% year-to-date, with 494 arrests in 2024 compared to 434 in 2023. After the implementation of Proposition 36, which increases penalties for repeat drug and theft offenses, Stanislaus County filed the highest number of drug-related cases per capita among California's 20 most populated counties.

The impact of these crimes can have secondary effects on the victims and their families which include loss of income, loss of property, lasting physical and emotional issues as well as lasting pain and suffering. Low-income households are the most vulnerable in terms of being able to recover from the personal impact of crimes due to lack of resources to replace damage or stolen

property, obtain physical and mental healthcare after a traumatizing event, ability to relocate to safer area, invest in home security systems, or obtain needed assistance from the community. Stanislaus County residents ranked crime and violence as the 3rd highest problem facing their community.

### Drug/ Alcohol Abuse

Drug and alcohol abuse remain significant public health challenges in Stanislaus County. During our Community Needs Assessment, county residents have rated this as the fifth highest issue facing their community. The Opioid epidemic has hit the California Central Valley hard. In 2023, Stanislaus County reported 213 drug related deaths due to poisoning and overdose, 156 (73%) of those deaths were opioid-related and 138 were specifically from fentanyl. From initial 2024 data, the reports that there were confirmed 93 drug overdose deaths by August of last year.

To combat the rising substance abuse issues, Stanislaus County has expanded its treatment programs. The Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) department increased its contract with Recover Medical Group to \$1.2 million for the 2024–2025 fiscal year. This funding supports outpatient, intensive outpatient, and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services for both youth and adults. There are various outreach efforts such as a Drug Disposal Initiative with events such as “Drop the Drugs”, promoting the availability of Nalaxone (Narcan) and providing information on how residents can obtain it, and education campaigns to educate the community at-large about the dangers of fentanyl.

### Healthcare access and availability

Stanislaus County residents ranked lack of healthcare access as the fifth highest problem in their community. Residents also stated that lack of access to mental healthcare and substance abuse counseling were among their other concerns.

Stanislaus County continues to face significant challenges in healthcare access due to ongoing shortages in both medical and mental health providers. These shortages are particularly acute in underserved areas, where the lack of affordable, culturally, and linguistically appropriate care limits residents' ability to access essential services. California's covered California and expansion of Medi-Cal coverage has helped many accesses medical treatment, but Hispanic populations still have higher percentages of uninsured individuals. The county's Health Services Agency (HSA) operates two primary care clinics, which provides healthcare services to 15,000 patients, who are primarily Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Kaiser Permanente in Modesto reports that key information gathered during the health assessment found that lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate providers as a barrier to healthcare access. There is also a shortage of mental health providers in the area. In addition to provider shortage, there are a number of barriers to accessing mental health services such as high

costs, limited health insurance coverage for mental health, and social stigma. The pandemic only increased barriers to mental health services and put an additional strain on an already overloaded system of providers in the area.

Poor physical and mental health can significantly diminish an individual's overall quality of life. Chronic illness, untreated mental health conditions, and lack of access to care can limit a person's ability to participate in the workforce, sustain relationships, and achieve long-term stability.

### **Poverty/Working Poor**

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data, approximately 13.2% of residents in Stanislaus County live below the poverty line, a rate that exceeds the national average of 11.5%.

The median household income in the county is \$79,661, which is roughly 17% lower than California's statewide median income of \$95,521.

While current figures for children under 18 living in poverty in the county are not specified, children historically experience higher poverty rates than the general population. Additionally, Latino and African American households have continued to experience poverty at disproportionate levels, and individuals without a high school diploma are more likely to live in poverty compared to those with higher educational attainment. Unfortunately, employment does not always equate to financial stability—many adults living in poverty are employed full-time but still struggle due to low wages and high costs of living.

Data on public benefits, such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), show increasing reliance, but up-to-date local statistics remain limited. These trends highlight the ongoing challenges faced by working families and underscore the need for accessible education, workforce development, and affordable living options in Stanislaus County.

### **Illiteracy/High School Dropout Rates**

As of the 2022–23 academic year, Stanislaus County exhibits notable disparities in educational outcomes, particularly concerning high school dropout rates and adult literacy levels. The Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) reported a dropout rate of 40.1% for the 2022–23 school year, significantly surpassing the California state average of 8.2%. This equates to approximately 888 out of 2,214 students leaving school before completing their education.

As of the 2019–2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 80.1% of adults aged 25 and older in Stanislaus County have graduated from high school or higher, while 18.1% hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

Approximately 100,000 adults in Stanislaus County—about 20% of the adult population—are estimated to read below basic levels or are functionally illiterate. This statistic highlights the ongoing need for adult education and literacy programs in the region.

### Public Transportation

The lack of public transportation significantly impacts low-income communities, reinforcing cycles of poverty by limiting access to employment, education, healthcare, and essential services. Limited public transit options restrict job opportunities for low-income individuals. Stanislaus County residents identified Lack of Public Transportation as the 10<sup>th</sup> top issue affecting their community. Rural low-income resident cited a lack of public transportation in their communities created problems when seeking employment, training, education, and other needed services. Since many of the services are only available in the larger cities, those in rural areas had less access due to transportation issues.

Currently, the County's public transportation, StanRTA, operates fixed-route and demand-response services across Stanislaus County, with major hubs at the downtown Modesto Transportation Center and Vintage Faire Mall. StanRTA also known as "The S" was created after the merger of the Modesto Area Express (Max) and the Stanislaus Regional Transit (StaRT) in 2021.

### Community Resources

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

| Agency/Programs  | Effectiveness of Assistance to the low- income population  |
|--|--|
| <b>Workforce Investment Act/Employment and Training Programs</b> | CVOC is the program operator for the WIOA167 MSFW program and as such coordinates with the Stanislaus County WIOA programs. The WIOA mainstream programs provide employment and training opportunities |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | for low-income clients seeking training and employment.   |
| <b>Employment Development Department</b> | The Employment Development Department provides targeted assistance to unemployed workers who have been dislocated or laid off from their jobs to find jobs. Although they are a valuable source of job opportunities, there is limited assistance for the unskilled worker in obtaining employment and training opportunities other than referral services to employment and training programs. EDD outreach to the unemployed in need of training services provides a valuable referral service to CVOC's clients. |
| <b>Stanislaus County Schools</b>         | Programs for limited and mono-lingual clients are limited. Limited assistance is available through the school district for youth who have recently dropped out of the school system. Continuation school is also targeted to recent dropouts and is not designed to aid the older high school drop-outs.  |
| <b>County/City Business Development</b>  | Small business development assistance is limited.   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Food Banks</b>                          | Food banks in CVOC's service area are a valuable resource for emergency food. The amount and types of food are limited and outreach efforts to inform clients of nutritional programs available is limited to relatively small service areas or groups  |
| <b>Stanislaus County Housing Authority</b> | Housing Authorities have limited resources to provide services such as migrant housing and subsidized housing. Waiting lists for subsidized housing are 2 to 3 years and migrant housing is limited. Housing rehabilitation and home repair funding is not available to renters.  |
| <b>Salvation Army</b>                      | The Salvation is a valuable resource for clients in need of emergency assistance. The Salvation Army locations are primarily in the major cities in CVOC's service area and access is limited if clients do not have transportation to the sites.   |
| <b>Health Centers and Clinics</b>          | Health clinic and centers that provide low-cost/no-cost medical services are a critical resource for medical care for low-income clients. Several of these clinics target the rural areas. However as with most services the need is much greater than the capacity of these clinics and waiting lists for non- critical care appointments can take months. Due to funding cutback, some local clinics in the rural areas have closed or only are open a few days per week. |

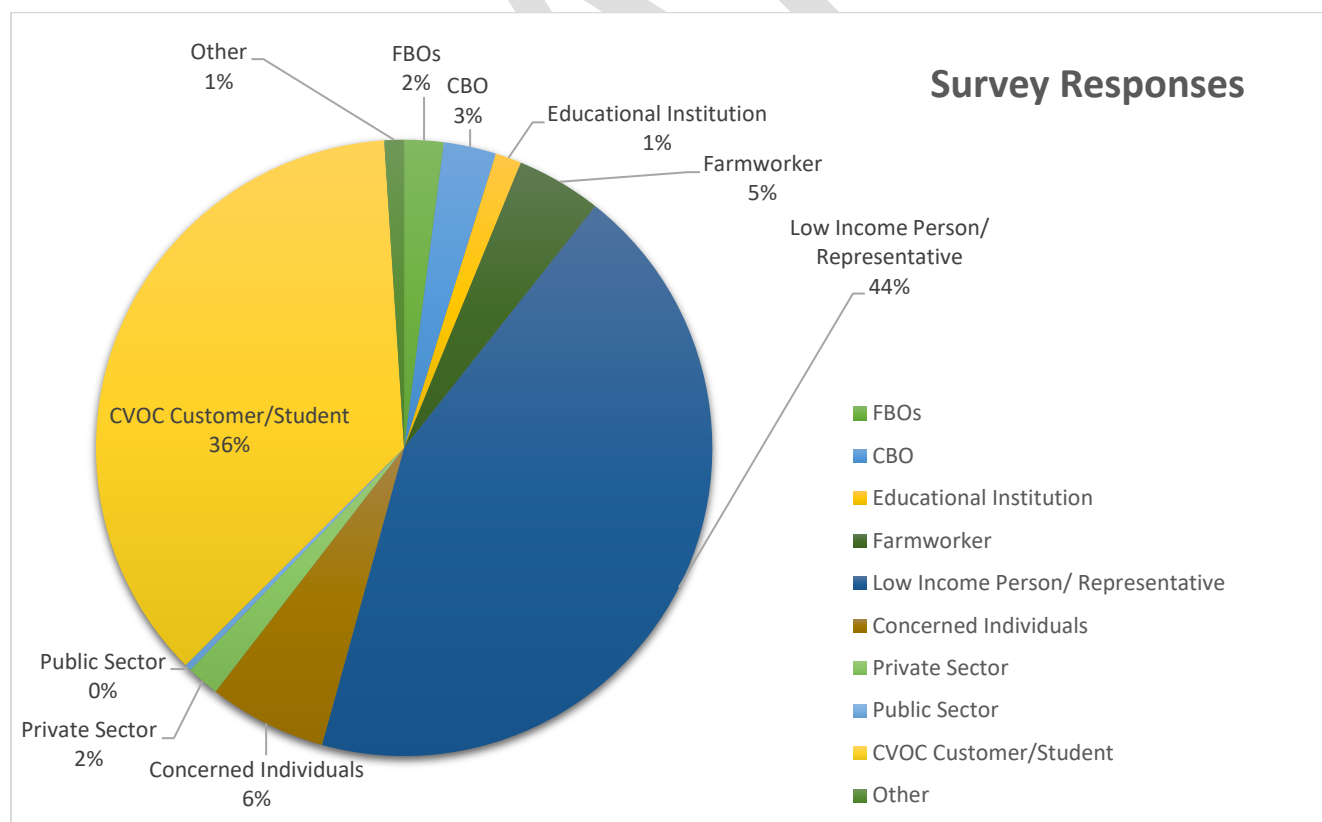
|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Stanislaus County/Modesto, Riverbank, Oakdale, Turlock, Ceres, City Programs and Services</b>                  | Various programs and services such as city parks and recreation departments, police activities/services, mental health departments, etc have many valuable services. In CVOC's service area, few services are free and are limited to the most populated areas. City and County services in the rural areas are few. Bi-lingual staffs are not always available to assist clients in understanding and applying for services. |
| <b>Stanislaus County Department of Human Services, Department of Social Services (Cal Works, Cal Fresh (SNAP)</b> | Services such as Cal Works, Cal Fresh, Medi Cal, etc. are provided by the county social services departments. Although these services are utilized by many low- income clients, the focus is to move client off of the public assistance system.  |
| <b>United Way Stanislaus County Modesto</b>   | Various programs and services either direct or through subcontracts with other organization. Due to limited funding, and budget cuts, program services are limited and not always available especially in the rural areas.  |
| <b>The Bridge Family Resource Center</b>  | Services are limited to the southeast Asian population. Funding cuts have reduced the type and scope of services provided.  |
| <b>West Modesto King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative</b>   | Services are directed to seniors and youth. Services such as health, food/meals, recreation, tutorial and education services have been reduced or eliminated/   |
| <b>Haven's Women's Shelter of Stanislaus County</b>   | Shelter, crisis counseling and emergency services, domestic violence programs are limited to victims of domestic violence only.   |
| <b>Children's Crisis Center Modesto</b>   | Shelter for abused children, Respite Case, Family Line, Case Management, and Parenting Classes continue to be at risk of elimination due to budget cuts.  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Community Housing and Shelter Service<br/>Modesto</b>               | Shelter and Housing Services continue to be a critical need as homeless families in Stanislaus county increase. Recent economic downturns, housing foreclosures have increased those seeking housing and shelter assistance.                 |
| <b>American Red Cross<br/>Modesto</b>                                  | Although these services are vital in times of crisis, clients can only access services from this agency during disasters.  |
| <b>Interfaith Ministries<br/>Modesto</b>                               | This agency has very limited funding mainly from donations. Most programs and services offered are very limited and not always available.  |
| <b>Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties</b> | Food distribution continues to be cut due to the lack of donated food. The variety and amount of food available continue to decline. Recent closures of food processing plants in Stanislaus county have reduced the amount of donated food. |

## Community Needs Assessment Survey Introduction

CVOC, as part of the community needs assessment, completed a process of needs assessment surveys, community meetings and data gathering to identify conditions of poverty in Stanislaus County. A Community Needs Assessment Survey was handed out to current clients, sent to local service providers, distributed at all community events, and posted on our website and across all social media accounts. During February 2025 to April 2025, 291 surveys were submitted in Stanislaus County, these surveys provide insight and ranking of the needs of the community. In addition to surveys, 3 Community Meeting took place throughout the County to discuss the needs of the low-income and farmworker communities. The summary below provides a review of the Community Needs Assessment Survey and Community Meetings as well as their results an analysis of the surveys and community meetings.

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



## **Community Meeting Summary** **Stanislaus County**

### **Community Meeting dates and locations:**

- 03/04/2025-Modesto CVOC 1801 H. Street Ste. A4 @ 10 AM
- 03/05/2025- Turlock Salvation Army @9:30 AM
- 03/12/2025- Patterson CVOC 40 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street @ 10 AM

### **Other locations where surveys were collected:**

- CVOC HEAP Modesto, Ste. B1
- CVOC HEAP Ceres Office
- CVOC Patterson Office
- C.A.S.A Del Rio 2400 Stanislaus St., Riverbank

### **Leading Community Needs Meeting were CVOC staff:**

- Jessica Fregoso
- Lucina Herrera

### **Helping with Survey were CVOC staff:**

- Sandra Arellano
- Luz Melgar
- Lucio Cruz
- Martha Villegas

### **Rank the following community problems in the county/your community from 1 to 10 with 1 being the most pressing problem and 10 being the least.**

- |                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Homelessness               | 6 Healthcare access and availability  |
| 2 Unemployment               | 7 Poverty/Working Poor                |
| 3 Lack of affordable Housing | 8 Illiteracy/High School Dropout Rate |
| 4 Crime/ Gang Violence       | 9 Lack of Community Resources         |
| 5 Drug/ Alcohol Abuse        | 10 Lack of Public Transportation      |

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

#### **Other social problems listed:**

- Limited access to therapy services
- Pollution and littering in communities
- Lack of financial literacy education
- Need for immigration reform
- Emotional support for families with a disabled family member.

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

- Services addressing homelessness
- Services for the unemployed.
- Resources and rental assistance to make housing less unaffordable.
- Crime/ Gang Violence Intervention.
- Drug/ Alcohol Abuse Counseling and/or mental health resources.

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

- CVOC provides a wide range of services, but current funding is limited. To continue making a meaningful impact and reach more individuals, increased funding is essential.
- There is a need for expanded support in housing and transportation, including shelter for the homeless, affordable housing options, and reliable transportation services.
- Housing is unaffordable and cost of living is very high, its become very difficult to not fall behind on rent. Rental assistance and emergency housing assistance is a need for families struggling to make ends me.
- Greater availability of LiHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) appointments is needed to ensure timely support for families in need.
- Nutrition education should be expanded, with classes offered to low-income families and integrated into school curricula to promote healthy habits among teenagers.

**List any comments made by the attendees.**

- CVOC provides a wide range of services, but supportive services remain limited and could benefit from additional resources.
- The intake process needs improvement, implementing an online sign-up option—available during specific times of the month—would improve accessibility and efficiency.
- The CVOC website is outdated and difficult to navigate.
- I truly appreciate everything CVOC has done for me and my family. Their support has made a meaningful difference in our lives.

| Needs Identified   | Source Abbreviation (See Key Below) |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Surveys and testimony at Community Meetings indicate a significant demand for increased Homelessness Assistance. Out of 291 surveys, 100 respondents identified this as their top priority, ranking it number one. | LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO          |
| Surveys and testimony at Community Meetings indicate a need for increased Unemployment Assistance. Out of 291 surveys, 67 respondents ranked this as their second priority.  | LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO          |
| Surveys and testimony at Community Meetings highlight a need for assistance with the lack of affordable housing. Out of 291 surveys, 49 respondents ranked this as their third priority.                           | LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO          |
| Surveys and testimony at Community Meetings indicate a need for assistance addressing crime and gang-related issues. Out of 291 surveys, 46 respondents ranked this as their fourth priority.                      | LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO          |
| Surveys at Community Meetings indicate a need for Drug/Alcohol Assistance. Out of 291 surveys, 35 respondents ranked this as their fifth priority.   | LIP, CBO, FB, PS, PVS, EDO          |
|  |                                     |
|  |                                     |
| Abbreviation Key: LIP (Low Income Person) CBO (Community Based Organization) FB (Faith Based Organization, PS (Public Section) PVS (Private Sector, EDO (Educational Organization                                  |                                     |



## Customer Satisfaction Question Results

To better understand how our organization is meeting the needs and expectations of our clients, we conducted a customer satisfaction survey. A total of 291 individuals participated in the survey. Respondents were asked to rate our organization and the services we provide using the following categories: Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, and Don't know. These responses provide valuable insights into areas of strength as well as opportunities for improvement in the quality and delivery of our services.

