

PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 1920 Mariposa Street, Suite 310 Fresno, CA 93721

AGENDA

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER	ACTION
1.	CALL TO ORDER	Pacheco, Chair	
2. Page 2	ROLL CALL A. Monthly Attendance Record		
3. Page 3	MARCH 12, 2025, PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES	Pacheco, Chair	Approve
4. Page 8	LOCAL CONSERVATION CORPS: LOCAL CONSERVATION CORPS CALRECYCLE RCL 40 GRANT	Riggins, Staff	Approve
5. Page 10	2026-2027 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN PROCESS A. Supporting Document	Arredondo, Staff	Approve
6. Page 212	WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN: WIC FUNDING AWARD	Thornton, Staff	Accept
7. Page 214	PROGRAM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR AMOUNTS UNDER \$150,000	Medina, Staff	Approve
8. Page 215	PROGRAM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR AMOUNTS UNDER \$150,000	Medina, Staff	Ratify
9. Page 216	SANCTUARY AND SUPPORT SERVICES: FRESNO COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT	Gattie-Blanco	Ratify
10. Page 218	SANCTUARY AND SUPPORT SERVICES: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM	Gattie-Blanco	Ratify
11. Page 220	FOOD SERVICES: CHICK-FIL-A TRUE INSPIRATIONS AWARDS	Escobar, Staff	Information
12. Page 221	TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES: URBAN EAST YOUTH SERVICES MONITORING A. Supporting Document	Turner, Staff	Information
13. Page 228	GRANT TRACKER A. Supporting Document	Medina, Staff	Information
14.	PUBLIC COMMENTS <i>(This is an opportunity for the members of the public to address the Board on any matter related to the Commission that is not listed on the agenda. Limit two minutes per speaker.)</i>		
15.	ADJOURNMENT		
Note:	NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at the Fresno EOC Board Room.		



**Program Planning and Evaluation Committee Meeting
Monthly Attendance Record
2025**

Alena Pacheco
Brian King
Diane Lira
Robert Pimentel
Jalyssa Jenkins-McGill

January	Feb	12-Mar	16-Apr	14-May	11-Jun	9-Jul	Aug	10-Sep	8-Oct	12-Nov	10-Dec	Attended
		O										1/9
		O										1/9
		O										1/9
		X										0/9
		T										1/9

O-Present X-Absent T-Teleconference

PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING**Date:** March 12, 2025**Time:** 12:00 PM**Location:** 1920 Mariposa Street, Suite 310 Fresno, CA 93721**MINUTES****1. CALL TO ORDER**

Alena Pacheco, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was established.

Committee Members:

Alena Pacheco
Brian King
Diane Lira

Teleconference:

Jalyssa Jenkins-McGill

Absent:

Robert Pimentel

Staff:

Brian Angus
Sherry Neil
Jack Lazzarini
Nelson Dibie
Greg Streets
Ana Medina
Jane Thomas
Julio Romero
Patrick Turner
Misty Gattie-Blanco
Elisa Sgambellone

Thomas Dulin
Jon Escobar
Princess Kosinski
Andy Arredondo
Gilda Arreguin
Latisha Conway
Angela Riofrio
Augie Quiroz
Stephanie Buelna
Elionora Vivanco

3. 2025 PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Committee Chair Pacheco provided an overview of the proposed 2025 Program Planning and Evaluation (PP&E) Committee Meeting schedule. The Committee has motioned for the PP&E Committee meeting to meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 12 noon.

Public Comments: None heard.

Motion by: Lira **Second by:** Pacheco

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

4. PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE CHARTER

Brian Angus, Interim Chief Executive Officer, provided an overview of the redline recommendation changes to the PP&E Committee charter. Angus stated he would revisit the charter and make necessary changes once the agency is back on track.

Public Comments: None heard.

Motion by: Pacheco **Second by:** King

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

5. CALIFORNIA ADVANCING AND INNOVATING MEDI-CAL (CaIAIM) INITIATIVES

Jane Thomas, Health Services Director, provided a detailed overview of entering into multiple contracts with Anthem Blue Cross and CalViva, as well as submitting a Providing Access and Transforming (PATH) Capacity and Infrastructure Transition, Expansion, and Development (CITED) grant application in the amount of \$1,852,741 to become a CaIAIM provider. Thomas stated this grant is a collaboration with Sanctuary Support Services and Food Services.

Thomas, Misty Gattie-Blanco, Sanctuary Director, and Jon Escobar, Food Services Director, provided a presentation of the goals and impact of the potential contracts to provide Community Health Worker (CHW), Community Supports (CS), Enhanced Care Management (ECM) services and PATH CITED, to enhance health outcomes, improve service delivery, and expand access to care for our communities.

Chair Pacheco, inquired for clarification to understand what is being asked for the Board to approve at the next Board Meeting. Brian Angus, Interim Chief Executive Officer, stated the Board is approving the post to ensure we are meeting grants deadlines. Ana Medina, Program Planning & Development Director, stated the Program Director is asking for the Board to approve CHW, CS, and ECM to become a provider and negotiate the rates with the health plans, and to submit the PATH CITED grant.

Chair Pacheco and the Commission, inquired about the possibility of adding a description of “Other Cost” to the budget and updating the staff reports for the full board consideration. Angus stated, moving forward a footnote will be added with a description for “Other Cost” on the budget.

The Committee and staff engaged in further discussion and recommended this item move forward as presented.

Public Comments: None heard.

Motion by: Pacheco **Second by:** King

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

6. CONTINUATION APPLICATIONS

Thomas, provided a brief overview of the following two continuation applications to allow Health Services to continue operating the CA PREP and I&E Program in addition to the FUSD Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Program.

1. California Personal Responsibility Education Program (CA Prep) and Information & Education (I&E) Program
2. FUSD Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Program

Chair Pacheco asked when renewing these contracts, we do it because it's good for the agency's financials. Thomas stated yes, these contracts are great services to provide for the community and bring profit to the agency.

Public Comments: None heard.

Motion by: Lira **Second by:** Pacheco

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

7. ENERGY SERVICES: EQUITABLE BUILDING DECARBONIZATION DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM – CENTRAL REGION

Latisha Conway, Weatherization Director, provided an overview of the subaward agreement in the amount of \$565,676 with the Center for Sustainable Energy and California Energy Commission.

Chair Pacheco inquired if we are required to advertise in the central area of town or does it depend on the zip code. Conway stated is based on the disadvantaged community in the Fresno County area.

Public Comments: None heard.

Motion by: King **Second by:** Lira

Ayes: All in favor

Nays: None

8. ADVANCE PEACE COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING VISIT

Patrick Turner, Training & Employment Services Director, provided an overview of the 2024 State of California Bureau of State and Community Corrections onsite monitoring visit. Turner stated the monitoring visit demonstrated that the agency is in compliance with federal and state laws with no findings and that the agency met the requirements and is eligible to apply for the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Cohort 5 grant.

Chair Pacheco asked if the state discussed any issues or questions regarding the process with Dr. Alfonzo Tucker's contract. Turner stated no issues or questions from the state.

Public Comments: None heard.

No action required.

9. ADVANCE PEACE CALIFORNIA VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM - COHORT 5

Turner, stated Advance Peace intends to submit a Non-binding Letter of Intent and apply for the CalVIP Cohort 5 grant in an amount up to \$5,000,000 for a three-year period. If funded, these funds will transform lives and build healthier, safer, and more equitable communities.

Angus, stated holding monthly Committee meetings helps keep the Board informed of upcoming grants, as this information item will be brought back to the committee for approval or ratification in the next few months.

Public Comments: None heard.

No action required.

10. 2024 CSBG MONITORING REPORT UPDATE

Andy Arredondo, Evaluation Director, provided an overview of the 2025 Community Services Block Grant onsite monitoring visit. Arredondo stated the monitoring report C-24-015 had one finding about untimely contract execution and deliverable submission but that the findings have been resolved and closed.

Chair Pacheco asked when the 2025 CSBG grant was submitted. Arredondo responded that the full Board approved the 2025 CSBG grant at the January 13, 2025, Board meeting and was submitted by January 17, 2025.

Public Comments: None heard.

No action required.

11. 2026 -2027 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN PROCESS

Arredondo, provided an overview on the Community Action Plan and timeline, to be in compliance with the State of California Department of Community Services and Development.

Public Comments: None heard.

No action required.

12. GRANT TRACKER

Ana Medina, Program Planning & Development Director, provided an update on the Grant Tracker for the month of January 27, 2025.

Public Comments: None heard.

No action required.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Misty Gattie-Blanco, Sanctuary Director, shared with the Commission the National Safe Place taking place the week of March 16-22, 2025, and provided a flyer with additional details.

Chair Pacheco, inquired about an update on the article about Head Start 0 to 5 closing in rural areas due to under-enrollment. Angus stated that under-enrollment is a California state issue with serving 3 and 4 year olds due to competing with schools.

Commissioner Lira, stated we need to take into consideration that some of the schools are not built to meet the high demand of housing these children.

Angus inquired about the possibility of the Fresno County Superintended Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher leading a meeting between Fresno EOC and Golden Plain Unified School District. Commissioner Lira invited Angus to attend the Fresno County Board of Education meeting for further discussion.

Public Comments: None heard.

No action required.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Local Conservation Corps
Agenda Item #: 4	Director: Shawn Riggins
Subject: Local Conservation Corps CalRecycle RCL 40 Grant	Officer: Sherry Neil

Recommended Action

Interim Chief Executive Officer recommends Committee approval for full Board consideration of the Local Conservation Corps (LCC) CalRecycle RCL 40 grant application to CalRecycle in the amount of \$2,282,789 over a 24-year project period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

Background

This grant will continue CalRecycle's efforts to include all 14 California Local Certified Community Conservation Corps in the collection and education activities of four (4) material types: CRV Beverage Containers, Used Oil, Used Tires, and E-waste. LCC maintains partnerships with the cities and counties of Fresno and Madera by collaborating on used tire and e-waste Amnesty days. LCC will collect CRV beverage containers from schools, bars/restaurants and special events. LCC will also visit used oil Certified Collection Centers throughout the county to ensure state mandated signage is posted and accurate, in addition to collecting e-waste from businesses and residential homes. LCC continues to operate a Buyback/Recycling Center in the rural community of Friant, which redeems bottles and cans from the public for cash and accepts used tires and e-waste, in addition to exploring a potential second buyback site.

Per state statute, the CalRecycle grant is the program that enables youth serving programs to be considered an official "Corps" and provides funding for various LCC staff. The Buyback component helps provide funding for many corps needs, not usually included in grant budgets.

The short- and long-term goals for this project include providing opportunities for local residents to help divert recyclable materials from local landfills, while also providing vocational training opportunities for young adults, ages 18-26.

The grant application is due on April 17, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This funding will support 30 corpsmember positions, seven (7) Crew Supervisors, a Program Assistant, an Outreach and Recruitment staff member, a Transitional Support Advisor (TSA) and a Program Manager as well as provide partial funding for additional LCC staff members, including the LCC Director, LCC Assistant Director, LCC Operations, Administration Manager, and a Facilities and Safety Coordinator. No match required.

Budget will be provided during the meeting.



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: N/A
Agenda Item #: 5	Director: Andy Arredondo
Subject: 2026-2027 Community Action Plan Process	Officer: Brian Angus

Recommended Action

Interim Chief Executive Officer recommends Committee approval for full Board consideration of Fresno EOC's 2026-2027 Community Action Plan (CAP), to be submitted to the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) by May 31, 2025.

Background

The State of California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) designates eligible entities as Community Action Agencies as part of their state plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). To be considered an eligible entity, Fresno EOC is required to meet the California code, *Government Code - GOV § 12747 (a)*, "*Community action plans shall be developed by eligible entities...*". Meeting this eligibility requirement also complies with Organizational Standards 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 6.4. To meet the CAP requirements and deadline, staff have implemented the following timeline:

- Feb 28, 2025 – Publicly posted draft CAP (must be 30 days prior to the CAP public hearing)
- March 20, 2025 – Posted public hearing information (location, time, etc.) (must be at least ten days prior to the public hearing)
- April 1, 2025 – Conducted CAP public hearing and incorporated community testimony
- April 16, 2025 – Present final draft CAP to Program Planning & Evaluation Committee
- April 21, 2025 – Board approval of CAP

A prerequisite to the CAP is completing a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) which was presented and accepted by the board on May 20, 2024, agenda item number ten (10).

Fiscal Impact

Submission of the Board approved 2026-2027 CAP will ensure Fresno EOC meets compliance with the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act and continues to receive CSBG funding.

2026/2027 Community Needs Assessment and Community Action Plan

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission



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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

Agency Name:	Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
Name of CAP Contact:	Andy Arredondo
Title:	Evaluation Director
Phone:	559-263-1057
Email:	andy.arredondo@fresnoeoc.org

Date Most Recent CNA was Completed: (Organizational Standard 3.1)	May 20, 2024
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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: Brian Angus		Name: Oliver Baines	
Title:	Interim Chief Executive Officer	Title:	Board Chair
Date:		Date:	

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:	Andy Arredondo
ROMA Title:	NCRI
Date:	May 22, 2024

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	March 20, 2025
Date Public Comment Period opened	February 28, 2025
Date Public Comment Period closed	April 2, 2025
Date(s) of Public Hearing(s)	April 1, 2025
Location(s) of Public Hearing(s)	Fresno EOC Franklin Head Start 1189 Martin Ave #3631 Fresno, CA 93706
Where was the Notice of Public Hearing published? (agency website, newspaper, social media channels)	Agency websites, social media accounts, program centers, head start locations
Number of attendees at the Public Hearing(s)	5

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

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

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.

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) is funded to serve Fresno County with Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds. Fresno County is located in the heart of California's Central Valley and is characterized by a diverse population and a rich agricultural heritage. The county has over 35 different communities, including 15 incorporated cities and 25 small, unincorporated communities. The major cities in Fresno County include Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, and Selma. Some of the smaller unincorporated communities include Auberry, Biola, Cantua Creek, Caruthers, Del Rey, Highway City, Laton, Pinedale, and Riverdale.

Geographic Overview

Fresno County covers a vast area with a population of 1,008,280 residents. The City of Fresno is the largest city in the county, with a population of 541,528. The county's population density varies significantly, with urban areas like Fresno and Clovis being more densely populated compared to the rural areas.

High-Need Areas and Neighborhoods of Poverty

Fresno County faces significant challenges related to poverty and inequity. The overall poverty rate in the county is 19%, with certain communities experiencing much higher rates of poverty. The following sections provide a detailed description of the various pockets, high-need areas, and neighborhoods of poverty.

City of Fresno

The poverty rate in Fresno City is 22.1%, with 117,570 individuals living below the poverty line. Specific neighborhoods, particularly in the southwest areas, have the highest concentrations of poverty. These areas also have higher rates of unemployment, underemployment, and housing instability.

Rural Communities

Several rural communities experience widespread poverty and face unique challenges due to their

geographic isolation and limited access to resources. Some of the high-need rural communities include:

- **Huron:** has a population of 6,250 and a poverty rate of 32.1%. The community faces significant challenges related to housing instability, food insecurity, and limited access to healthcare services.
- **Mendota:** has a population of 12,603 and a poverty rate of 32.7%. The community has a high percentage of farm workers who earn low wages and often live in substandard housing conditions.
- **Firebaugh:** has a population of 8,139 and a poverty rate of 43.3%. The community experiences high rates of food insecurity and limited access to affordable housing.
- **Orange Cove:** has a population of 9,635 and a poverty rate of 46.5%. The community faces significant challenges related to housing, food insecurity, and access to healthcare services.
- **Parlier:** has a population of 14,554 and a poverty rate of 27.4%. The community has a high percentage of residents who are farm workers and face challenges related to low wages and housing instability.
- **San Joaquin:** has a population of 3,725 and a poverty rate of 33.2%. The community experiences high rates of food insecurity and limited access to healthcare services.

Other High-Need Areas

In addition to the rural communities, several other areas within Fresno County have high poverty rates and face significant challenges:

- **Coalinga:** Coalinga has a population of 17,488 and a poverty rate of 18.7%. The community faces challenges related to housing instability and limited access to healthcare services.
- **Kerman:** Kerman has a population of 15,980 and a poverty rate of 21.9%. The community experiences high rates of food insecurity and housing instability.
- **Reedley:** Reedley has a population of 25,441 and a poverty rate of 15.9%. The community faces challenges related to housing instability and limited access to healthcare services.
- **Selma:** Selma has a population of 24,318 and a poverty rate of 21.2%. The community experiences high rates of food insecurity and housing instability.

Listed below are several of the key conditions of poverty broken down by areas of high need.

Inadequate Housing

Housing is a significant issue throughout Fresno County, with many homes having substandard conditions that contribute to health challenges, lower quality of life, and safety concerns. According to the data, 42% of homes in the county have at least one substandard condition. Housing instability and homelessness are also significant problems, with many residents struggling to find

affordable housing due to rising costs and limited availability. The community needs assessment survey respondents noted a major need for temporary housing, utility assistance, home repair programs, safe multi-family housing, and programs to support energy efficiency.

General Geographic Area of High Need:

- Southwest and Southeast Fresno City: These areas have a high concentration of substandard housing conditions, contributing to health challenges and safety concerns.
- Rural Communities: Areas such as Huron, Mendota, Firebaugh, and Orange Cove have significant issues with housing instability and substandard living conditions.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a prevalent issue in Fresno County, particularly in communities with the highest poverty rates. Many areas in the county are considered food deserts, where residents have limited access to nutritious food. Black/African American and Hispanic residents experience higher degrees of food insecurity compared to Whites. Data shows that more than 50,000 people in Fresno County with a low-income live in areas with low access to food.

General Geographic Area of High Need:

- Southwest and Southeast Fresno City: These areas have several food deserts where residents have limited access to nutritious food.
- Rural Communities: Areas such as Huron, Mendota, Firebaugh, and Orange Cove experience high levels of food insecurity.

Unemployment and Low-Wage Jobs

Limited job opportunities and the prevalence of low-wage jobs make it challenging for individuals to secure stable employment and earn sufficient income to meet their basic needs. The unemployment rate in Fresno County is 9.5%, which is higher than the state and national averages. There is also a significant problem of underemployment, with over 34,000 workers in the county being underemployed. Income and employment disparities due to race/ethnicity further exacerbate the challenges faced by residents.

General Geographic Area of High Need:

- Southwest and Southeast Fresno City: High unemployment and underemployment rates, with limited job opportunities.
- Rural Communities: Areas such as Huron, Mendota, Firebaugh, and Orange Cove have high rates of unemployment and low-wage jobs.

Educational Inequities

Educational inequities are a significant issue in Fresno County, with schools in lower-income neighborhoods often having fewer resources, larger class sizes, and less access to advanced placement courses or extracurricular activities. This disparity impacts the educational outcomes and future opportunities for many children and young adults. The school funding formula, which is

dependent on property taxes, contributes to these inequities, as low-income neighborhoods receive less tax revenue for schools compared to more affluent areas.

General Geographic Area of High Need:

- Southwest and Southeast Fresno City: Schools in these areas have fewer resources and larger class sizes, impacting educational outcomes.
- Rural Communities: Areas such as Huron, Mendota, Firebaugh, and Orange Cove face significant educational disparities.

Limited Access to Healthcare

Access to affordable healthcare services is a barrier for people living in poverty in Fresno County. The county has a limited number of healthcare providers, and transportation barriers further limit access to services. Many residents rely on Medicaid, but some providers do not accept public insurance as payment. Specific cohorts of the population, such as pregnant mothers, children, and the unemployed, are more greatly impacted by the lack of access to healthcare services.

General Geographic Area of High Need:

- Southwest and Southeast Fresno City: Limited number of healthcare providers and transportation barriers to accessing services.
- Rural Communities: Areas such as Huron, Mendota, Firebaugh, and Orange Cove have significant healthcare access issues.

Adverse Early Childhood Experiences and Family Challenges

The rate of child abuse in Fresno County is rising, with a rate of 61.3 per 1,000 children compared to 43.5 per 1,000 for California. Many children under five years old live in single-parent families or are unhoused, contributing to adverse early childhood experiences.

General Geographic Area of High Need:

- Southwest and Southeast Fresno City: High rates of child abuse and adverse early childhood experiences.
- Rural Communities: Areas such as Huron, Mendota, Firebaugh, and Orange Cove face significant family challenges and high rates of child abuse.

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)
Individuals/Families lack stable housing.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals/Families lack job opportunities that pay a living wage.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Community lacks access to healthcare.	C	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals/Families lack nutritious food.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals/Families lack safe and clean neighborhoods.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y
Individuals/Families lack educational resources and support.	F	Y	Y	Choose an item.	Y

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.	Individuals/Families lack stable housing.	<p>Sanctuary Homeless Services: Provides emergency to permanent housing solutions using a Housing-First approach, including outreach services, housing navigation, and permanent housing support. (~581 annually)</p> <p>Energy Services: Offers utility payment assistance and weatherization measures to improve energy efficiency and safety, helping over 10,000 households annually.</p>	<p>FNPI 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h</p> <p>SRV 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4i, 4j, 4k, 4l, 4m, 4n, 4o, 4p, 4q, 4r, 4s, 4t</p>
2.	Individuals/Families lack job opportunities that pay a living wage.	<p>Local Conservation Corps (LCC): Offers paid job training to ages 18-26 and educational opportunities for young adults, including high school diploma programs and college credit courses. (~141 annually)</p> <p>Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC): Provides a 12-week training program to ages 18-64 to prepare individuals for the construction workforce. (~62 annually)</p> <p>Workforce Connection Young Adult Program: Guides young adults ages 14-24 towards education, training, and career development. (~441 annually)</p> <p>Summer Internship Program: Targets high school graduates transitioning to postsecondary education, offering mentorship opportunities. (~81 annually)</p>	<p>FNPI 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h,</p> <p>SRV 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 1h, 1i, 1j, 1k, 1l, 1m, 1n, 1o, 1p, 1q, 2d, 2e, 2h, 2i, 2j, 2p, 2q,</p>
3.	Community lacks access to healthcare.	<p>Community Health Center: Provides reproductive health services, STI testing, and transportation for teens to clinic appointments. (~2,476 annually)</p> <p>Dental Health & School Based Sealant Program: Offers dental screenings, education, and preventative services to low-income families. (~2,950 annually)</p> <p>Adolescent Health Education Programs: Delivers health education and case management services on topics like reproductive health and healthy relationships. (~11,123 annually)</p> <p>LGBTQ+ Resource Center: Provides STI screenings, supportive healthcare, and mental health services. (~438 annually)</p>	<p>FNPI 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g, 5h, 5i, 5j</p> <p>SRV 5j, 5k, 5l, 5m, 5n, 5o, 5p, 5q, 5u, 5v, 5w, 5aa, 5bb, 5cc, 5dd, 5ee, 7a</p>
4.	Individuals/Families lack nutritious food.	<p>Women, Infants & Children (WIC): Provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding support to over 27,000 participants annually.</p> <p>Food Distribution: Distributes essential food commodities to low-income families in rural and inner-city areas. (~13,942 homes annually)</p> <p>Food Services Home Delivery: Delivers nutritious meals to</p>	<p>FNPI 5d, 5e, 5j</p> <p>SRV 5ff, 5gg, 5hh, 5ii, 5jj</p>

		homebound seniors. (~1,200 annually)	
		Summer Meals for Kids: Offers free nutritious meals to children and disabled individuals during the summer break.	
5.	Individuals/Families lack safe and clean neighborhoods.	<p>Advance Peace Fresno: Implements healing-centered strategies to reduce gun violence through mentorship and conflict resolution. (~60 annually)</p> <p>Central Valley Against Human Trafficking (CVAHT): Supports survivors of human trafficking with resources and personalized action plans. (~121 annually)</p> <p>LGBTQ+ Resource Center: Provides a safe space and expert guidance on resources, including STI screenings, supportive healthcare, and housing assistance. (~438 annually)</p> <p>Transit Systems: Provides transportation services, including a shuttle service for students, enhancing access to education and reducing travel challenges. (~80,000 annually)</p>	<p>FNPI 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5c, 6a, 6b, 6c</p> <p>SRV 4c, 4d, 4e, 4m, 4n, 4o, 4p, 5j, 5k, 5l, 5m, 5n, 5o, 5v, 5w, 5x, 7a, 7c, 7d</p>
6.	Individuals/Families lack educational resources and support.	<p>Head Start 0 to 5: Offers educational, emotional, social, health, and nutritional services to children and families, preparing children for academic success. (~2,000 annually)</p> <p>School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL): Provides comprehensive educational experience with classroom-based and independent study options, along with case management support. (~223 annually)</p> <p>Foster Grandparent Program: Engages older adults ages 55+ in volunteer activities to support children's education and emotional literacy. (~55 annually)</p>	<p>FNPI 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2j, 5a, 5c</p> <p>SRV 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2h, 2p, 2q, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5g, 7a</p>

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.

A strong Fresno County where people have resources to shape their future free from poverty.

2. Provide your agency's Mission Statement.

We fight to end poverty.

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)

The information below was collected during the agency's needs assessment survey and community focus groups and forums. Some statistical data from the needs assessment was also included to support the responses received from the community. 3,542 surveys were received, four (4) community forums, and 57 focus groups.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness:

- A consistent and urgent need for affordable and quality housing was identified, with many communities highlighting the high cost of living and the need for more housing options, including shelters for the homeless.
- Rental assistance and programs to assist in home repairs are also significant needs.
- Safe and affordable housing is a significant concern, with 73% of community survey respondents indicating it as a major need.
- There is a high rate of substandard housing, with 42% of homes having at least one substandard condition.
- Many residents experience a housing cost burden, with 38% spending more than 30% of their income on housing.
- Homelessness is a critical issue, with 1,128 households identified as homeless in the 2023 Point-In-Time Count.

Childcare and Education:

- There is a significant demand for affordable childcare, extended school hours, and more educational resources, including after-school programs and support for special needs children.
- A majority (72.95%) of respondents have children, with 32.68% participating in Head Start or Early Head Start.
- Common childcare challenges include cost (46.22%) and availability (30.65%).
- Many respondents (40.48%) need full-time childcare services.
- Educational attainment is low among low-income individuals, with many lacking a high school diploma or higher education.
- There are disparities in educational outcomes, particularly among children of color.
- Access to quality early childhood education and childcare is limited, especially for infants and toddlers.

Employment and Financial Assistance:

- Many individuals expressed the need for better job opportunities, higher wages, and financial

assistance to cope with the rising cost of living. This includes job training programs and support for finding employment.

- A notable portion (30.65%) of respondents are seeking employment.
- Major employment needs include job opportunities within the community (63.54%) and childcare access to get a job (63.76%).
- Common employment challenges include low-paying jobs (48.50%) and lack of skills (43.68%).
- Earned income is the primary source of household income for 70.76% of respondents.
- Unemployment and underemployment are significant issues, with the unemployment rate at 9.5% as of March 2024.
- Many low-income individuals work in low-wage jobs without benefits, contributing to financial instability.
- There is a need for better job opportunities, career training, and support for individuals seeking employment.
- Assistance with utilities, such as paying for electricity and water, was frequently mentioned, along with the need for basic necessities like clothing and household items.

Transportation:

- Access to reliable and affordable transportation is a major concern, with many communities needing better public transportation options, bus vouchers, and safer routes for children to get to school.
- Local transportation for shopping, medical, school, or work is a major need for 50.41% of respondents.
- Additional hours of transportation operation (nights/weekends) are also a significant need.
- Transportation is a barrier for many low-income individuals, with limited public transportation options and long commute times.
- Lack of vehicle ownership is common in certain communities, further limiting access to essential services and opportunities.

Healthcare and Mental Health Services:

- Access to affordable healthcare, including mental health services, is a critical need. Many communities also highlighted the lack of healthcare professionals and the need for better medical facilities.
- Limited access to health services and difficulty getting timely appointments are major health needs for 55.22% of respondents.
- Insurance coverage and enrollment assistance are also significant concerns.
- There are high rates of chronic diseases and poor health outcomes, particularly in low-income and minority communities.
- Mental health services and support for substance abuse are needed to address the high rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse.
- There is a major need for free/low-cost mental health services (61.62%) and substance abuse treatment services (58.71%).

Food Security:

- There is a need for more food banks, affordable healthy food options, and better nutritional support for families.
- Food insecurity is prevalent, particularly among Black/African American and Hispanic residents.
- Many low-income individuals lack access to healthy food, with 11.5% of the low-income population living more than ½ mile from the nearest supermarket or grocery store.
- Participation in food assistance programs like CalFresh and WIC is not maximized.

Community Resources and Support:

- Many individuals emphasized the need for better access to community resources, including support groups, educational programs, and activities for children and families.
- Emergency shelters for natural disasters (57.24%) and neighborhood clean-up projects (63.80%) are major needs.
- Crime reduction and neighborhood safety programs are also highly needed (66.26%).
- Schools (52.99%), churches (48.75%), and people (46.39%) are seen as the main strengths of the community.

Specialized Support:

- Specific groups, such as seniors, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with disabilities, highlighted the need for tailored support services, including affirming housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

Communication:

- Digital connectivity is a challenge, with disparities in access to high-speed internet impacting education, employment, and access to services.

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)

Poverty Rates: The overall poverty rate in Fresno County is 19%, with significant variations across different communities and demographic groups. For example, the poverty rate among female-headed households with children is 49%, while the rate for seniors is 14%.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities: Hispanic/Latino residents make up 54% of the county's population, with higher concentrations in certain communities. Black/African American and Hispanic residents experience higher rates of poverty and food insecurity compared to White residents. The data also revealed disparities in educational attainment and health outcomes among different racial and ethnic groups.

Gender Disparities: Female-headed households with children are disproportionately affected by poverty, with higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. Women also face barriers to accessing affordable childcare and healthcare services.

Age Disparities: Children and seniors are particularly vulnerable to poverty. The poverty rate for children under five years is higher than the general population, with significant impacts on their health, education, and overall well-being. Seniors face challenges related to housing affordability, healthcare access, and social isolation.

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)

Education: Limited access to quality education or low educational attainment levels leads to limited employment opportunities and lower wages, which contributes to poverty.

Unemployment/Underemployment: High unemployment rates or a lack of job opportunities for specific segments of the population are persistent in the service area, particularly for individuals with limited skills or education, which makes it difficult for people to escape poverty. Underemployment, where individuals work part-time or in jobs that don’t match their skills, also keeps people in poverty.

Low Wages: Fresno County data shows wages vary among specific cohorts of the population and contribute to poverty rates and inequities.

Demographic Factors: Certain demographic factors contribute to poverty rates. For example, a high percentage of single-parent households and households where the adult has limited English proficiency face increased vulnerability to poverty.

Affordable Housing: The availability and affordability of housing in the area plays a significant role in poverty. High housing costs or limited affordable housing options consume a significant portion of a household’s income, leaving less for other essential needs.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities: Systemic inequalities and racial or ethnic disparities contribute to higher poverty rates among certain groups, as they face discrimination, limited access to resources, and fewer opportunities for economic mobility.

Economic Shocks and Lingering Pandemic Transitions: Economic downturns, job losses, or changes in local industries are having a significant impact on poverty rates. Inflation of the cost of goods and services is occurring at the same time as pandemic assistance is falling away, returning and leaving many in poverty.

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)

Overall Poverty Rate: 19% of individuals in Fresno County live in poverty, with concentrated poverty in the City of Fresno and rural areas such as Huron, Mendota, and Orange Cove.

Family Poverty: 15% of families have an income below the poverty level. Among these, 40% are

married-couples with children, and 49% are female-headed households with children.

Senior Poverty: The poverty rate for seniors in Fresno County is 14%, higher than the 11% rate for California.

Educational Inequities: Schools in lower-income neighborhoods often have fewer resources and larger class sizes, impacting educational outcomes. The school funding formula, dependent on property taxes, results in disparities between low-income and affluent neighborhoods.

Unemployment and Low-Wage Jobs: The unemployment rate in Fresno County is 9.5%, higher than the state and national rates. Over 34,000 workers are underemployed. Community survey respondents identified a need for better job opportunities, career training assistance, and affordable childcare.

Inadequate Housing: 42% of homes in Fresno County have at least one substandard condition, contributing to health challenges and safety concerns. Housing instability and homelessness are significant issues, with 64% of community survey respondents noting a major need for temporary housing, utility assistance, home repair programs, safe multi-family housing, and energy efficiency programs.

Food Insecurity: Food insecurity is prevalent, particularly in communities with high poverty rates and limited access to food. More than 50,000 low-income people in Fresno County live in areas with low access to food. Black/African American and Hispanic residents experience higher food insecurity rates than Whites.

Limited Access to Healthcare: Access to affordable healthcare services is a barrier for people in poverty. The ratio of healthcare providers to low-income residents is low, and transportation barriers further limit access. Over 61,544 people in Fresno County are uninsured, with specific cohorts such as pregnant mothers and Medicaid recipients being more greatly impacted.

Maternal and Child Health Disparities: 28% of births are to mothers in poverty, and the teen birth rate is 4%. The rate of prenatal depression is 17%, and the infant mortality rate for Black infants is significantly higher than for Hispanic/Latino and White infants.

Adverse Early Childhood Experiences: The rate of child abuse in Fresno County is 61.3 per 1,000 children, higher than the state rate of 43.5 per 1,000. Over 14,000 children under five live in single-parent families, and more than 5,000 children under six are in double-up housing or are unhoused. There were 8,748 domestic violence reports contributing to homelessness and family trauma.

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

Customer satisfaction questions were incorporated into the needs assessment survey and from those questions, the following data was gathered and reviewed:

- Most respondents (87.45%) found it either very easy or easy to access Fresno EOC program services.

- A high percentage (95.95%) reported that services were provided in a timely manner.
- The majority (97.77%) felt welcome and respected by Fresno EOC staff and volunteers.
- A significant portion (94.35%) felt that their issues or concerns were effectively addressed by the staff.
- The overall weighted average satisfaction rating is 4.59 out of 5, with 73.24% rating their satisfaction as 5 out of 5.

The agency has a customer satisfaction data collection process in addition to the needs assessment survey. Customers can complete the satisfaction survey at any time which will provide continuous insight. Through collecting and discussing customer satisfaction data, the agency has implemented several changes such as moving to electronic intake forms and changing phone systems.

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)

To ensure Fresno EOC's Board adequately represents the community, the agency has a tri-partite system for electing board members. Eight board members must be from the public sector i.e. publicly elected officials or their designees, eight must be from the private sector, including from businesses, public agencies, and/or community groups, and eight must be elected low-income target area representatives from throughout Fresno County.

Any person or organization that would like to have representation on the Board of Commissioners may apply or nominate someone for one of the eight private sector representatives. Any low-income individual may apply for one of the eight target area representative positions and participate in a democratic selection process. The availability of positions and how to apply are made publicly available via agency websites and other publicly accessible outlets such as social media. This ensures that all organizations and individuals in the community have an equal opportunity to increase their group representation on the Board of Commissioners. Any concerns or petitions can be addressed in the public comment section of the monthly Board of Commissioner meetings.

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 first step in the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) process is presenting a proposed timeline to the board, outlining key milestones for data collection, analysis, review, and approval. Once the timeline is approved, the agency begins gathering data through various methods such as surveys, focus groups, interviews, and reviewing existing reports. After the CNA has been drafted, it undergoes an internal review process where department heads, staff, and advisory groups provide feedback. This input is incorporated into the final version of the CNA, which is then prepared for the board. An executive summary is created to accompany the full report, providing the board with an overview of the key findings and recommendations. The agency then schedules to formally present the CNA at the next available board meeting. During the meeting, the agency's leadership and/or consultant presents the report, highlighting the assessment's findings and addressing any recommendations. The board reviews the document, discusses the findings, and may ask questions or request clarification on certain points. After the discussion, the board votes to formally approve the CNA. Following the board's decision, the agency communicates the

approval internally to staff, ensuring everyone is aligned on the next steps. The approved CNA serves as the foundation for the agency's future planning, guiding action plans and resource allocation.

DRAFT

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)

Fresno EOC has provided the Fresno County community with services for 60 years. The agency manages a service delivery system that is designed to meet the diverse needs of the low-income individuals and families in the target areas. The agency's strategic plan is to provide holistic support to clients in the following focus areas: food insecurity, housing stability, employment opportunities, community safety, educational achievement, and health and wellness.

To support service delivery, the agency has implemented a central intake system (CAP60) whereby client data is entered into and tracked for all programs. The intent of the central intake system is to provide unduplicated service and client counts, decentralized access to services, client referrals across internal programs and partners, and advanced programmatic reporting. This system simplifies entrance into our programs and significantly improves efficiency. To expand accessibility, the agency continues to add standalone central intake kiosks in strategic target areas based on our needs assessment feedback. We are committed to ensuring that language, disability, education, and transportation are not barriers to receiving services.

The majority of the agency's programs provide services directly to clients, using a combination of direct and subcontracted services. Because the agency has diverse funding, the client intake process varies from program to program, but generally includes an intake form and interview. If a specific intake system is required by a funder, programs will upload client data to the central intake system as needed. During this process, programs need to verify eligibility and will ask for supporting documents depending on their agreed to intake process. These documents may include income verification, a Medicaid card, a letter from the foster system, etc. Clients are asked to complete enrollment forms and optional demographics surveys.

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?

The poverty data related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity will significantly inform service delivery and strategies in the coming two years.

Gender-specific strategies: targeted support services such as job training, childcare assistance, and financial literacy programs will be prioritized for female-headed households, which have a high poverty rate of 49%. Programs will also focus on providing comprehensive support to single

mothers, including access to affordable childcare, housing assistance, and educational opportunities.

Age-specific strategies: will address the high poverty rates among children, especially those under five, by expanding early childhood education programs like Head Start and Early Head Start, and integrating additional support services such as nutrition programs, healthcare access, and parental support. For seniors, services will include increased access to healthcare, technology training, affordable housing, and social support programs to improve their quality of life.

Race/ethnicity-specific strategies: will develop culturally responsive services for Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American communities, which experience higher poverty rates. This includes bilingual education programs, targeted job training, and community health initiatives. Programs will also focus on improving educational attainment among minority groups by providing scholarships, mentorship, and after-school programs to reduce dropout rates and enhance future employment opportunities. Holistic approaches will involve engaging community leaders and members in planning and implementing services to ensure they are culturally relevant and effectively address the unique needs of different demographic groups.

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)

Fresno EOC's approach to service delivery leverages other local service providers and their assets to fill gaps in services to its clients. This can be seen by the agency's participation in numerous collaborations:

Health Services Program:

- Collaborates with schools and organizations to implement comprehensive sex education and dental services.

Sanctuary and Support Services Program:

- Partners with organizations like California Coalition for Youth, Fresno Unified School District, Centro La Familia Advocacy Services, Inc, Integral Community Solutions, Inc, and others to provide integrated care, legal assistance, and supportive services for youth, young adults, chronically homeless adults, survivors of human trafficking, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Local Conservation Corps (LCC):

- Works with entities such as the City of Fresno, County of Fresno, CalRecycle, Amazon, and others to fund and support recycling, public lands, and workforce development programs.

Transit Systems Program:

- Coordinates with organizations like California Veterans Home, Fresno Unified School District, Central Valley Regional Center, and others to provide transportation services for various populations.

Energy Services Program:

- Partners with organizations like Pacific Gas and Electric Company, City of Fresno, Proteus Inc, and others to install weatherization measures, solar systems, and provide financial assistance for energy bills.

Advance Peace Fresno:

- Collaborates with organizations like Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, Fresno United, Fresno Barrios Unidos, and others to support survivors, address food insecurities, and provide resources for formerly incarcerated citizens.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program:

- Partners with Anthem Blue Cross, California Health Collaborative, Cal Viva Health, and others to provide postpartum depression prevention, baby showers, and breastfeeding support.

Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board:

- Funds programs like the Fresno Urban East Young Adult Program and collaborates with organizations like the Economic Development Corporation, County of Fresno Probation, and others to provide training and employment opportunities.

School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL):

- Partners with Central California Legal Services, CSU Fresno Social Work Department, Cultural Arts Rotary of Fresno, and others to provide legal advice, internships, food pantry services, and medical referrals.

Food Services Program:

- Partners with various organizations, including Fresno State Dietetic Internship Program, Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno, Catalano Fenske & Associates, Centro La Familia, Fresno Madera Area Agency on Aging, City of Selma, Kepler Neighborhood School, Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center, City of Fowler, and RH Community Builders, to provide nutritious meals and support services to students, seniors, and homeless individuals and families.

Below are a few examples of the coalitions that the programs work with and how they support the coordination of funding:

California Coalition for Youth:

- The Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Support Services program collaborates with this coalition, which operates the state-wide crisis line for youth and young adults. The Sanctuary Director serves on their Board of Directors reflecting active participation and coordination.

Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC):

- This coalition assists homeless persons in transitioning from homelessness to independent or supportive permanent housing. The Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Support Services program works with FMCoC to provide these services and the Sanctuary Director serves as the FMCoC Treasurer.

California Association of Local Conservation Corps:

- The Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps (LCC) is part of this state-wide coalition, which supports local conservation work, advocacy, and provides programmatic support.

The Corps Network:

- This national organization provides legislative and programmatic support to the Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps (LCC).

YouthBuild USA:

- The Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps (LCC) partners with YouthBuild USA, which leads YouthBuild programming for construction and AmeriCorps Education awards.

Central Valley Freedom Coalition (CVFC):

- The Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Support Services program and this coalition leverage their resources and networks to raise awareness, train law enforcement and community members, and ensure trafficking survivors have access to essential services like shelter, legal aid, and counseling. Fresno EOC created this coalition in 2009 and the agency's CVAHT Manager serves as the coalition's Chairperson.

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)

Through strategic partnerships and collaborations, Fresno EOC ensures the effective delivery of services across multiple sectors, including health, support services, conservation, transit, energy, peace initiatives, women and children's services, workforce development, early childhood education, and alternative education.

The Health Services Program collaborates with various school districts and organizations to implement comprehensive sex education and dental services. These partnerships include Agape Schools, Central Unified School District, and the Boys and Girls Club of Fresno County, among others, ensuring that youth receive essential health education and dental care.

The Sanctuary and Support Services Program partners with multiple organizations to provide crisis intervention, counseling, legal assistance, and support for homeless individuals, survivors of human trafficking, and the LGBTQ+ community. Key coordination includes working with Fresno Family Counseling, Integral Community Solutions, Inc, and Centro La Familia, which help deliver comprehensive support services to vulnerable populations.

The Local Conservation Corps (LCC) works with local and state entities to fund and support recycling programs, legal services, educational opportunities, and job training. Notable partners

include the City of Fresno, CalRecycle, and the Fresno Workforce Development Board, which contribute to the success of LCC's environmental and workforce development initiatives.

The Transit Systems Program collaborates with various organizations to provide transportation services for veterans, students, developmentally disabled individuals, and the elderly. Partnerships with entities like the California Veterans Home, Fresno Unified School District, and United Cerebral Palsy ensure that transportation needs are met for diverse community members.

The Energy Services Program partners with subcontractors and utility companies to install weatherization measures, and provide financial assistance for energy bills. Collaborations with Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and Habitat for Humanity help improve energy efficiency and support households experiencing energy crises.

Advance Peace Fresno collaborates with organizations to support crime survivors, address food insecurities, and provide resources for formerly incarcerated individuals. Partners such as Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, Fresno United, and Time Done play a crucial role in extending the reach and impact of the program's initiatives.

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program works with health organizations and community partners to provide postpartum support, baby showers, and distribute essential supplies like diapers. Anthem Blue Cross, California Health Collaborative, American Heart Association, and the Central California Food Bank are key partners in supporting WIC clients.

The Food Services Program has established several partnerships to enhance service coordination and funding. Collaborations include the Fresno State Dietetic Internship Program, which provides dietetic interns, and catering agreements with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno, Catalano Fenske & Associates, and Centro La Familia. The Fresno Madera Area Agency on Aging and the City of Selma contract with Food Services to provide meals for seniors, while Kepler Neighborhood School ensures students receive nutritious meals. Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center hosts a weekly Farmers Market and partners in the Market Match program. The City of Fowler also contracts for senior meals, and RH Community Builders partners for milk delivery to locations offering housing and support services to homeless individuals and families.

The Workforce Development Programs engage with workforce boards, educational institutions, and employers to provide job training, internships, and employment opportunities. Collaborations with the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board, State Center Community College District, and various construction employers help create pathways to employment for youth and adults.

The Head Start 0 to 5 Program partners with educational and social service organizations to support children and families with special needs, housing assistance, and health services. Key partners include the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Central Valley Regional Center, and Fresno State's School of Nursing.

The School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL) works with legal services, food banks, medical providers, and educational institutions to support students' academic and personal needs. Partnerships with Central California Legal Services, Fresno City College, and the Central California Food Bank ensure that students receive comprehensive support to succeed in their education and personal lives.

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)

Fresno EOC has approximately 585 partnerships with other community service providers both public and private. These partnerships ensure services target low-income, minority communities that are disproportionately impacted by poverty while avoiding duplication of services and aligning funding. This is done through targeted outreach, locating concentrated areas of poverty throughout the county, data sharing, and listening to the voices of those communities.

Program and agency staff are in regular communication with other service providers to ensure services are maximized, and clients are referred to programs they may need. This helps avoid service duplication and ensures that resources are used in a more efficient way. Fresno EOC locates its services and headquarters within the communities and neighborhoods that demonstrate the most need. For example, the Local Conservation Corps (LCC) operate community centers in Southwest Fresno, a neighborhood that experiences higher poverty and pollution rates compared to the rest of the city. Low-income individuals and families can more readily benefit from LCC services when they are close and accessible. Programs such as SOUL (School of Unlimited Learning) Charter School and Sanctuary and Support Services also have locations in the target area of downtown Fresno City.

Community needs are identified by gathering information directly from target areas and through the agency's Board of Commissioners that provide the necessary insight and direction for program services to meet the needs of low-income populations. Advisory Committees made up of community members and stakeholders also inform projects and services that the programs deliver.

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

The agency's 2023-2026 strategic plan outlines the approach used to leverage funding sources and to increase programmatic and organizational capacity.

Financial Structure and Support:

- Invest in financial systems and supports improving operations, functions, programs, and services.
- Significantly increase unrestricted funding for flexibility and stability.
- Create a funding evaluation tool to assess the cost-benefit of funding opportunities.

- Supplement financial gaps with flexible funding.

Program and Administrative Stabilization:

- Ensure stabilization of current programs and administrative structures, including staffing, alignment, evaluation plans, salaries, and benefits.
- Provide infrastructure stabilization for current programs to prepare for expansion into new programming areas.

Community Engagement and Responsiveness:

- Create consistent communication channels for community members to share experiences and ideas.
- Invest in technology to implement a data collection and analysis system to understand community needs and program effectiveness.

Advocacy and Partnerships:

- Increase visibility and influence to advocate for anti-poverty policies and legislation.
- Build and reinforce partnerships with elected officials, community agencies, and mission-aligned organizations to influence and advocate for policy changes.
- Develop a Community Relationship Management system to index external partners and stakeholders.

Staff Development and Support:

- Hire and train staff to embody Fresno EOC's values and advance its mission.
- Provide education on core competencies of organizational leadership and support tools to manage workload and improve morale and organizational culture.
- Invest in a consistent, fair, and competitive compensation system.

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

In the event of a reduction in funding, Fresno EOC would modify program offerings, while also mitigating the impact on client service delivery. In the event of a severe reduction in funding, Fresno EOC will proceed with the following actionable steps:

- The CEO would provide notification to the Board of Commissioners
- With support from the Board, staff would identify other sources of funding (i.e. corporate and donor giving, private foundations, government) to close the financial gap and ensure minimal impact on program services
- Reassess the agency's capacity to determine what level of service is feasible with the reduction in funding
- Prioritize the highest needs identified from the community needs assessment and

community action plan

- Communicate any changes, pivots in client service delivery, and/or major staff reductions to the community through various methods (i.e. e-newsletter “Poverty Fighters”, agency website, social media, press release, press conference).

Through the diversification of funding, the agency reduces the risk of significant impact of funding reductions. During the fourth quarter (month of October) of every fiscal year, the agency plans the annual budget for the following calendar year. Through this fiscal planning process, the agency would identify any potentially significant loss of funding and begin the process of identifying other sources.

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)

Fresno EOC addresses the needs of youth in low-income communities and through several youth development programs:

Local Conservation Corps (LCC):

- Provides young adults (ages 18-26) with paid job training and educational opportunities.
- Offers hands-on experience in environmental conservation, including solar panel installation, hazardous fuel reduction, and trail maintenance.
- Supports Corpsmembers in earning college credits, high school diplomas, and certifications.

Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC):

- Prepares individuals for the workforce through an intense 12-week training program focused on the construction industry.
- Facilitates job placements and apprenticeships, leading to higher-paying positions and career advancement.

Workforce Connection Young Adult Program:

- Guides young adults (ages 14-24) along the pathway to education, training, personal development, and rewarding careers.
- Offers comprehensive services including job search and interview skills training, career counseling, workshops, and life skills coaching.
- Provides support for both in-school and out-of-school youth, ensuring they have access to education and employment opportunities.

Summer Internship Program:

- Targets high school graduates transitioning into postsecondary education.

- Offers mentorship opportunities with industry leaders, providing practical experience and career guidance.
- Helps students gain valuable work experience and build professional networks.

School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL):

- Provides a comprehensive and fully accredited educational experience to youth, offering an alternative to traditional large high schools.
- Offers both classroom-based and independent study options, with case management assistance to help students overcome educational obstacles.
- Leverages the agency's wide array of resources to support the entire family, including Energy Services, Health Services, and Food & Nutrition Programs.

Fresno EOC promotes increased community coordination and collaboration through the following processes:

Strategic Partnerships:

- Collaborates with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations to create a network of support for youth development programs.
- Engages with employers to understand their hiring needs and tailor training programs to meet industry demands.

Comprehensive Support Services:

- Provides case management assistance to help youth overcome barriers to education and employment, such as lack of transportation, childcare, or housing.
- Offers wrap-around services including food assistance, health services, and financial literacy training to support overall well-being and stability.

Innovative Training Approaches:

- Utilizes technology and innovative training methods to enhance learning and skill development.
- Implements programs like the YouthBuild Charter High School of California, which combines academic education with vocational training.

Community Engagement:

- Organizes key community events to expand outreach and staffing, such as the Express Enrollment Fair and job fairs.
- Engages parents and community members as volunteers, fostering a supportive environment for youth development.

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)

Fresno EOC promotes increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth through various innovative community-based youth development programs. These programs are designed to create supportive environments and provide essential resources for youth development:

Advance Peace Fresno:

- Implements healing-centered strategies to reduce gun violence through mentorship and conflict resolution.
- Provides peer support, creating violence-free zones.

Local Conservation Corps (LCC):

- Offers paid job training and educational opportunities for young adults (ages 18-26).
- Provides life skills training, job creation, and opportunities for earning college credits and high school diplomas.
- Engages youth in environmental conservation projects, promoting entrepreneurship and community service.

Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC):

- Supports the hiring needs of Central Valley's construction contractors through an intense 12-week training program.
- Prepares youth for the workforce, leading to higher-paying positions and fostering economic uplift.

Workforce Connection Young Adult Program:

- Guides young adults (ages 14-24) along the pathway to education, training, personal development, and rewarding careers.
- Offers job search and interview skills training, career counseling, and workshops.

School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL):

- Provides a comprehensive and fully accredited educational experience with both classroom-based and independent study options.
- Offers case management assistance, life skills coaching, and free meals through the School Lunch Program.

Foster Grandparent Program:

- Engages older adults in mentoring and supporting children and youth, fostering intergenerational connections.
- Provides emotional literacy workshops and senior tech training, enhancing community engagement and support.

LGBTQ+ Resource Center:

- Offers a safe space and expert guidance on resources, including STI screenings, supportive healthcare, and housing assistance.
- Provides peer support groups, social and emotional support, and competency trainings to create welcoming environments.

Strategic Partnerships:

- Fresno EOC collaborates with local and state partners to address the growing needs of the community and fight poverty.
- Partnerships with organizations like PG&E, Target, Costco, and local schools enhance the reach and impact of youth programs.

Community Events:

- Organizes key community events such as the Express Enrollment Fair and job fairs to streamline enrollment and recruitment processes.
- Hosts events like “Candy Cane Xpress” to deliver holiday cheer and support to low-income families.

Innovative Solutions:

- Implements technological advancements like CAP60, a central intake system, to enhance efficiency and data management.
- Incorporates ROMA (Results Oriented Management Accountability) training to evaluate and refine services for impactful support.
- Fresno EOC is the Safe Place program administrator for Fresno County through its Sanctuary and Support Services division. This program offers immediate assistance and safety to youth in crisis by connecting them with a network of designated Safe Place sites, including schools, businesses, and community centers.

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)

Fresno EOC coordinates employment and training activities through targeted programs designed to enhance employment prospects and foster economic uplift in the community:

Local Conservation Corps (LCC):

- Provides young adults (ages 18-26) with paid job training and educational opportunities.
- Offers hands-on experience in environmental conservation, hazardous fuel reduction, and trail maintenance.
- Supports Corpsmembers in earning college credits, high school diplomas, and certifications.

Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC):

- Prepares individuals for the workforce through an intense 12-week training program focused on the construction industry.
- Supports the hiring needs of Central Valley's construction contractors by providing skilled and trained workers.
- Facilitates job placements and apprenticeships, leading to higher-paying positions and career advancement.

Workforce Connection Young Adult Program:

- Guides young adults (ages 14-24) along the pathway to education, training, personal development, and rewarding careers.
- Offers comprehensive services including job search and interview skills training, career counseling, workshops, and life skills coaching.
- Provides support for both in-school and out-of-school youth, ensuring they have access to education and employment opportunities.

Summer Internship Program:

- Targets high school graduates transitioning into postsecondary education.
- Offers mentorship opportunities with industry leaders, providing practical experience and career guidance.
- Helps students gain valuable work experience and build professional networks.

Strategic Partnerships:

- Collaborates with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations to create a network of support for employment and training activities.
- Engages with employers to understand their hiring needs and tailor training programs to meet industry demands.

Comprehensive Support Services:

- Provides case management assistance to help individuals overcome barriers to employment, such as lack of transportation, childcare, or housing.
- Offers wrap-around services including food assistance, health services, and financial literacy training to support overall well-being and stability.

Innovative Training Approaches:

- Utilizes technology and innovative training methods to enhance learning and skill development.
- Implements programs like the YouthBuild Charter High School of California, which combines academic education with vocational training.

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)

Fresno EOC provides emergency supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals through a variety of targeted programs and initiatives.

Food Distribution:

- Distributes essential food commodities, including fresh produce, bread, beans, rice, pasta, and other nutritious foods to low-income families in rural and inner-city areas.
- Operates nine distribution sites across Fresno County, serving 13,942 households.

Food Services Home Delivery:

- Offers a convenient and affordable solution for individuals who may need help preparing their own meals daily.
- Provides home-delivered meals to 1,200 homebound seniors, producing 528,410 senior meals and serving 321,053 homebound senior meals.

Summer Meals for Kids:

- Provides free nutritious meals for children and disabled individuals during the summer break.
- Operates two Food Express Buses serving rural locations and numerous physical sites, serving 445,503 meals to 1,616 children.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC):

- Provides healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and family referrals to resources for over 27,000 women, children, and families in Fresno County.
- Distributes books to improve literacy and promote child development through the Books for Kids initiative, with 32,377 books distributed in 2023.

Community Health Center:

- Offers education, counseling, and treatment services to adults and teens at risk for unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
- Provides transportation to teens for clinic appointments and administers rapid STI tests at various locations.

Dental Health & School-Based Sealant Program:

- Provides dental and oral health services to low-income families during in-school sessions and community outreach events.
- Offers education, screenings, linkages to quality dental homes, and preventative services such as fluoride varnish to children.

Energy Services:

- Assists low-income households with utility payment assistance to prevent disconnection or restore service.
- Provides weatherization measures to improve safety and energy efficiency, benefiting over 10,000 households annually.

Sanctuary & Support Services:

- Offers transformative housing solutions, from emergency to permanent options, using a Housing-First approach.
- Provides outreach services, housing navigation, and permanent housing support to individuals facing homelessness.

Foster Grandparent Program:

- Engages older adults in mentoring and supporting children and youth, fostering intergenerational connections.
- Provides emotional literacy workshops and senior tech training, enhancing community engagement and support.

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?

Fresno EOC manages the emergency energy crisis intervention program and collaborates with a wide range of partners, including government entities, community-based organizations (CBOs), funders, and private associations, all dedicated to improving the living conditions in Fresno County. The agency also work closely with non-profit organizations and social service providers to identify

and assist households in need. By sharing resources, information, and referrals, the agency ensures that eligible households receive timely assistance. These partners include, but are not limited to:

- City and County governments
- Chambers of Commerce
- Faith-based organizations
- Educational institutions
- Central Valley Community Foundation
- United Way and other local CBOs like Centro La Familia, Proteus, American Red Cross, Salvation Army
- Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board
- Health agencies and hospitals
- Housing providers (such as the Housing Authority and local CBOs that provide housing)

Fresno EOC continues to be the forefront of energy crisis intervention by administering emergency energy assistance programs. Currently, we manage Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and DOE Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in Fresno County. Under the LIHEAP program emergency energy assistance to households facing energy crises is provided. The agency coordinates with utility companies and other service providers to expedite aid to those in urgent need, preventing disconnections and ensuring continued access to essential services.

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)

Fresno EOC currently funds a variety of innovative and community-based initiatives aimed specifically at strengthening families and parents.

Community-directed programs and services:

- Creating programs and services that respond to changing community priorities, providing support for immediate needs and infrastructure for wealth generation.

Holistic Support:

- Providing for the whole person, understanding that poverty impacts the community in multiple ways.

Advocacy:

- Amplifying community voices, particularly those experiencing poverty, to lead to changes that disrupt systemic poverty.
- Specific activities will include creating community spaces, participating in collaborative

initiatives, increasing direct outreach, investing in technology, building and reinforcing partnerships, and forming coalitions.

Below are some examples of initiatives the agency will use funds to support:

WIC Program:

- **Baby Showers:** Sponsored by Cal Viva Health, these events provide supplies, refreshments, giveaways, and strollers, along with breastfeeding education to new parents.
- **WIC EBT Cards:** Accepts farmers market purchases by families to encourage healthy eating and support local agriculture.
- **Breastfeeding Support:** Provided by 37 lactation specialists through hands-on support, breastfeeding classes, and virtual meetups.
- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborations with organizations like Anthem Blue Cross, California Health Collaborative, Central California Food Bank, and Fresno Community Regional Medical Center to provide additional resources such as postpartum depression prevention programs, perinatal mental health resources, disposable diapers, and breastfeeding counseling.
- **Fatherhood Initiatives:** The program acknowledges the importance of father involvement where the presence of fathers in the WIC staff has made the services more relatable and supportive for single fathers.

Health Services:

- **Adolescent Health Project:** This initiative focuses on reducing unwanted pregnancies and increasing reproductive health knowledge among youth. It provides comprehensive sexual health education, case management services for pregnant and parenting teens, and promotes healthy relationships and communication.
- **Community Health Center:** This Title X-funded clinic offers low-cost and no-cost family planning and reproductive health services, including education, outreach, counseling, STI testing and treatment, and contraception. It also provides prenatal care and regular follow-ups to ensure the health of expecting parents.
- **Dental Services:** The program addresses the dental health needs of children in Fresno County through drive-through fluoride varnish events, school-based sealant programs, oral health education, and care coordination. These services aim to improve dental health and increase access to dental care for underserved communities.
- **Community Engagement Program Partnerships:** The program collaborates with various schools and community organizations to implement comprehensive sex education and dental services, ensuring that these initiatives reach a wide audience and have a significant impact on the community.

Advance Peace Fresno Program

- Providing mentorship and human resources to at-risk youth ages 9-30.
- Offering mental health services and counseling to help participants recognize and cope with

their traumas.

- Engaging in community conflict mediation and street outreach to address and prevent violence.
- Collaborating with various community partners to address food insecurity, housing stability, and employment opportunities.

Head Start 0-5

- **Fatherhood Initiatives:** The program has a successful Fatherhood annual conference that engages fathers in their children's education, promoting effective parenting and family involvement.
- **Parent Engagement and Training:** The program recognizes parents as the child's first teacher and partners with them to enhance learning opportunities both at school and home. This includes providing training for parents throughout the school year.
- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborations with various community organizations such as the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Central Valley Regional Center, Catholic Charities, and others help provide comprehensive support services to families, including health, nutrition, education, and social services.
- **Technology Integration:** The program has moved towards becoming paperless, with digital applications and online referrals, making it easier for families to access services and stay informed about program activities.

Advancing Fresno County Guaranteed Income Program

- This program is a pilot initiative aimed at alleviating poverty in specific areas of Fresno County. Launched in July 2024, the program provides a monthly, unrestricted cash payment of \$500 for one year to 150 qualifying households. The selected families reside in the 93706 ZIP code in southwest Fresno and the 93234 ZIP code in Huron, areas identified as having high rates of concentrated poverty.
- **Program Objectives:** The initiative aims to empower families by providing financial stability, thereby enabling them to address immediate needs, reduce economic stress, and improve overall well-being. By offering unconditional financial support, the program seeks to enhance the quality of life for participants and contribute to the reduction of poverty in the targeted communities.

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)

Fresno EOC addresses service gaps and develops linkages by providing information, conducting referrals, case management, and follow-up, all aligned with the ROMA Logic Model process. This strategy is part of the agency's strategic plan for 2023-2026.

Information Dissemination:

- Fresno EOC regularly conducts needs assessments to identify community priorities, ensuring services are responsive to the evolving needs of the target community. This

process allows the agency to identify and fill service gaps.

- The agency actively engages with the community through surveys, meetings, and direct outreach, ensuring alignment with the needs and preferences of the community.

Referrals:

- The agency uses a centralized intake system that streamlines referrals, enabling clients to access multiple services through a single point of contact. This system also supports the ROMA process by ensuring client needs are accurately assessed and addressed.

Case Management:

- The agency provides integrated services such as health support, education, and housing assistance to address clients' diverse needs, ensuring a holistic approach to problem-solving. Each client receives personalized case management to guide them toward self-sufficiency and improved well-being.
- Fresno EOC follows the ROMA Logic Model process, which emphasizes clear goals, measurable outcomes, and continuous monitoring of client progress. This model helps ensure that interventions are effective and contribute to long-term success.

Customer Satisfaction Surveys:

- Fresno EOC regularly administers customer satisfaction surveys to gauge the effectiveness of services and gather valuable insights from clients. This feedback helps the agency refine programs, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that client needs are consistently met.
- The results from these surveys are integrated into the ROMA Logic Model's feedback loop, so that client satisfaction and the effectiveness of the services are continually assessed and enhanced.

Follow-Up:

- Through regular follow-up check-ins, case managers assess the ongoing needs of clients and adjust service plans as necessary to ensure clients remain on track toward achieving their goals.

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.

All programs complete requests for proposals, create memorandum of understanding or service agreements with subcontractors above \$150,000. Fresno EOC subcontractor oversight is a vital part of our subcontract agreement with each subcontractor. Programs establish agreements with subcontractors, and program directors monitor compliance, employing both onsite and desk reviews for progress reporting and billing. The Finance Department approves invoices and processes payment for distribution, ensuring compliance. The Internal Auditor also conducts routine and scheduled monitoring, as required.

The agency has multiple subcontractor contracts outlining duties and responsibilities. Desk reviews are conducted monthly for shorter-term projects and quarterly for multi-year contracts. Programs, such as our Energy Services and Sanctuary & Support Services, are required to conduct onsite and desk reviews as a part of funding requirements from State of California, Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) and Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), respectively. Desk reviews consist of financial, administrative, and programmatic requirements. Onsite reviews are conducted, as needed, to inspect project milestones. In the event that deficiencies are identified, Fresno EOC creates a corrective action plan with the subcontractor to address specific areas of concern from the monitoring process. Depending on the severity of the corrective actions required, timelines and follow-ups are set up to ensure progress is made to correct deficiencies.

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)

Fresno EOC utilizes numerous tracking software for delivered services. This data is analyzed to determine if contractual obligations are met and whether clients had a change in their condition that led them to seek out services. Programs measure these changes by collecting client attestation forms, client follow-ups/appointments, attendance logs for training/coaching sessions, service utilization reports, local service provider data sharing and client satisfaction surveys.

The agency has implemented several tools and processes that report program achievements. Among these reports are the strategic program progress reports that were recently presented at a CalCAPA conference. These reports reflect the services and outcomes achieved, current community partners, logic models, and the programs alignment with ROMA and the CSD annual report services and indicators. The agency has also completed program specific dashboards that can be found on agency websites. This is a work in progress and there are additional dashboards that are in the process of being built.

As a part of continuous improvement goals for the agency, future performance scorecards will be tied to program dashboards so all pertinent program data can be reviewed.

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)

Need: Families Lack Nutritious Food

Implementation Plan

Nutritional Education and Resources:

- Provide educational sessions on nutrition and healthy eating habits.

- Distribute materials that offer guidance on meal planning and budgeting for nutritious food.
- Offer cooking classes and workshops on preparing healthy meals.
- Provide medically tailored meals for prescribed customers
- Provide nutrition assessments and counseling by a Registered Dietitian

Food Assistance Programs:

- Connect families with local food assistance programs and resources including Fresno EOC's food distribution program.
- Assist families in applying for food benefits and accessing food pantries.
- Distribute nutritious food packages to families in need.

Community Partnerships:

- Partner with local organizations to provide fresh produce and other nutritious food options.
- Organize community events that focus on healthy eating and cooking demonstrations.

Monitoring Progress

Documentation and Tracking:

- Keep records of educational sessions and the number of families accessing food assistance programs.
- Track participation in community events and partnerships.

Regular Staff Meetings and Supervision:

- Hold monthly staff meetings to review progress and discuss challenges.
- Provide regular supervision and support to staff involved in food assistance programs.

Activity Updates:

- Provide quarterly updates on food assistance activities and outcomes to program directors.

Evaluation

Outcome Measures:

- Monitor the number of families accessing nutritious food and their reported improvements in diet via software such as WIC Wise.
- Track the effectiveness of educational sessions and community partnerships.

Program Review and Quality Assurance:

- Conduct an annual review of the food assistance program to assess impact and identify improvements.
- Include activities in the agency's internal quality assurance plan and address deficiencies

through quality improvement activities.

Participant Feedback:

- Collect feedback from participants to assess the effectiveness of the food assistance and educational support provided.

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)

Need: Community lacks access to healthcare

Implementation

Community Health Worker (CHW) Initiative:

- Train and deploy CHWs who are familiar with the local community and can provide culturally competent support. CHWs can help patients navigate the healthcare system, make appointments, and understand medical conditions and treatments.
 - CHWs can also conduct outreach and education, helping individuals understand the available services, such as Medi-Cal, and connect them to healthcare providers.

Community Supports Initiative:

- Provide non-medical services to address social determinants of health (e.g., housing, food insecurity, transportation). For instance, the agency could offer free transportation to medical appointments or help families access medically tailored meals.

Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Initiative:

- Offer comprehensive care coordination for individuals with complex healthcare needs. Case managers can oversee the patient's care and help connect them to a wide range of healthcare services, from medical appointments to behavioral health and social support services.

Monitoring Progress

Electronic Health Record System (eClinicalWorks):

- Fresno EOC will use eClinicalWorks (ECW) for clinical documentation and tracking of care coordination activities.
- This system will help monitor the engagement activities carried out by CHWs, including referral data, interactions, and client outcomes.

Cap 60 System:

- This internal platform will monitor internal referrals and generate detailed reports on the

services provided by CHWs.

Evaluation

Data Collection and Reporting:

- Collect data through ECW and Cap 60.
- This data will be used to develop structured reports and gather client feedback.
- Utilize key indicators to track change and improvements in a client's health and use of health services.

Client Feedback:

- Feedback from clients will be communicated back to Managed Care Plans (MCPs) to foster opportunities for ongoing improvement in the CHW program.
- Client satisfaction data will be collected and reported to program directors and the agency board.

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.

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
Community Needs Assessment Partner Survey	D
Community Needs Assessment Community Survey	E
Public Hearing Presentation	F
Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet	G

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Appendix A

Community Action Plan 2026-27
fresnoeoc.org/community-action-plan-2026-2027/
Fresno EOC Links
SharePoint
Blackbaud - Sign in
Coupa Home
CSG - Login
National CAP | Com...
Search | California S...
CSD Agency Portal
Fresno DRIVE Initiat...
Risk and Manage...
CARO
All Bookmarks

HOME
ABOUT OUR AGENCY
PROGRAMS
MEDIA
CAREERS
DONATE

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
HELP ME WITH:
Type here to Search

2026-2027 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Members of the public can attend the Public Hearing on the Fresno EOC Community Action Plan. The public hearing will be held on:

Tuesday, April 1 at 5:30 pm at Fresno EOC Head Start Franklin

1189 Martin Ave #3631, Fresno, CA 93706

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2026-2027

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission has drafted our bi-annual Community Action Plan (CAP). The CAP includes information about our community's population, service needs, and community

English

Want to Chat?

8:45 AM 3/31/2025

Fresno Economic Opportunities Comm...
5h

Public Hearing: Help Shape Our Community Action Plan! We want your feedback! Join us for a public hearing o...

We want your feedback!

2026-2027 Community Action Plan Public Hearing

Members of the public can attend the Public Hearing on the Fresno EOC Community Action Plan. The public hearing will be held on:

Tuesday, April 1st 5:30pm

Join us in person at:

Fresno EOC Head Start Franklin
1189 Martin Ave., Fresno, CA 93706

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commi...
4,722 followers
2w

Public Hearing: Help Shape Our Community Action Plan!

We want your feedback! Join us for a public hearing on the Fresno EOC Community Action Plan for 2026-2027. Your input is vital in shaping services that meet our community's needs.

When: Tuesday, April 1 at 5:30 PM

Where: Fresno EOC Head Start Franklin, 1189 Martin Ave, Fresno, CA 93706

This is your chance to express your thoughts on the draft plan and ensure your needs are addressed. The public comment period is open until April 2, 2025, so don't miss out!

Submit Comments: <https://lnkd.in/guBdN5yC>

We look forward to hearing from you!

#FresnoEOC #CommunityAction #publichearing2025 #fresno #CommunityEngagement

We want your feedback!

2026-2027 Community Action Plan Public Hearing

We want your feedback!

2026-2027 Community Action Plan Public Hearing

Review and provide feedback on our action plan's strategies to address the needs and challenges faced by low-income individuals and families in Fresno County.

Members of the public can attend the Public Hearing on the Fresno EOC Community Action Plan. The public hearing will be held on:

Tuesday, April 1st | 5:30pm

Join us in person at:

Fresno EOC Head Start Franklin
1189 Martin Ave.
Fresno, CA 93706

Helping People Changing Lives.

Fresno EOC Community Action Plan can be found at fresnoeoc.org/community-action-plan-2026-2027

Queremos escuchar su opinion!

2026-2027 Plan de Acción Comunitaria Audiencia pública

Revisar y comentar sobre las estrategias de nuestro plan de acción para abordar las necesidades y desafíos que enfrentan las personas y familias de bajos ingresos en el condado de Fresno.

El público puede asistir a la Audiencia Pública sobre el Plan de Acción Comunitaria de Fresno EOC. La audiencia pública se celebrará el:

Martes, 1 de Abril | 5:30pm

Únete a nosotros en persona en:

Fresno EOC Head Start Franklin
1189 Martin Ave.
Fresno, CA 93706

Apoyando a las personas Cambiando vidas!

El Plan de Acción Comunitaria de Fresno EOC se puede encontrar en fresnoeoc.org/community-action-plan-2026-2027

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Appendix B

Community Member #1 (In-person):

“Just one thing that I think would be a really good add is, along with unemployment, really having a metric for underemployment. I think that one of the big issues is that relatively the unemployment rate isn't necessarily astronomical, but a lot of people are employed and still not making a livable wage. So there's a distinct difference between being employed and being employed in a spot that creates the ability to generate wealth and be sustained.

I will add the other thing is also potentially, also within that, figuring out ways to align some of the employment work. Based on the needs of the market as well. I think sometimes there is a tendency to train folks on things that we know that we've done before, but there may not be a lot of jobs in that particular area. So, like that diversification, maybe something to consider and also then advocating with employers about like what are the needs that they have and kind of aligning that with some of the job training.”

Agency Response: Thank you for your input! As of March 2024, underemployment is estimated to be 7.3% which would be over 34,000 workers if applied to Fresno County. The agency currently provides skills training and supports job placement. Another initiative that the agency is working on is expanding our digital literacy and access program. The intention is to help all ages increase their digital skills to be more successful in applying to jobs, improve computer skills for different types of work beyond traditional trade skill jobs, and support the navigation of other services mostly accessible online.

Community Member #2:

Name: Jane Doe

Are you low income? Yes

Do you live in Fresno County? Yes

Your feedback on the Draft Community Action Plan:

This plan outlines targeted strategies for gender, age, and race/ethnicity-based poverty solutions, but a critical question remains: Will these "solutions" be co-authored with the very populations and demographics they aim to serve? Too often, well-intended strategies are designed behind closed doors, with little to no direct collaboration with the people facing these challenges daily. What equitable participatory frameworks will Fresno EOC implement to ensure continuous (not just onetime) community involvement in shaping these strategies? And how frequently?

Were your needs addressed in the Draft Community Action Plan? No

Agency Response: Thank you for your feedback! The section for gender, age, and race/ethnicity is an important part of the plan but does not encompass the total plan strategies. For instance, we can gather that a community member self identifies as a woman, but it does not determine if she is a mother, single mother, going to school, etc. In this plan, under section “Causes and Conditions of Poverty”, the agency provides a breakdown of the events that took place to involve the community in our planning process. In addition, several of our programs and one third of our board are governed by community appointed representatives. Your feedback sparked a conversation about conducting some innovative community events that may shape how we collect additional community input.

Community Member #3:

Name: Robin Ceja

Are you low income? Yes

Do you live in Fresno County? Yes

Your feedback on the Draft Community Action Plan:

I need help with pge 2437 w garland ave fresno ca 93705

Were your needs addressed in the Draft Community Action Plan? Yes

Agency Response: Thank you for your feedback. Our LIHEAP Director has been made aware of your need. Thank you for providing your information.

Community Member #4:

Name: A Hillis

Are you low income? No

Do you live in Fresno County? Yes

Your feedback on the Draft Community Action Plan:

When mentioning Adverse Early Childhood Experiences and Family Challenges (page14), only child abuse is mentioned, when we know that ACES are more than just that. It involves household challenges, too, which can create environments where abuse arises. Household challenges like mental illness, incarceration, divorce or separation, substance use/abuse, food insecurities, etc. It makes sense that we tie all of the factors together so to not blame our community for being overlooked and underserved. Page 21-early/head start, but it is being cut short? Also, this feedback form is too short.

Were your needs addressed in the Draft Community Action Plan? Yes

Agency Response: Thank you for your feedback. Our community action plan is intended to provide insight into leading causes of issues in our community. While the plan focused on the Adverse Early Childhood Experiences (ACES) pertaining to child abuse, additional impacts to children were identified in our food insecurity, and unstable housing sections. Due to your feedback, the agency will review our community needs assessment to incorporate any additional items pertaining to ACES.

Community Member #5:

Name: Cindy Hernandez

Are you low income? No

Do you live in Fresno County? Yes

Your feedback on the Draft Community Action Plan:

Although great outline of programs and services that are needed in the community, it dawns on me that a great systems impact can be made if the ST Plan also includes ways that EOC can be more intentional on system change through policy and advocacy. Poverty is a system issue and programming can only go so far to address those symptom causes and systems approach is also needed. Coalition building with other community CBOs, public, & private entities is need to make long-term impact. How can EOC leverage its data, programs for advocacy & policy change to fix the systemic issue that is poverty.

Were your needs addressed in the Draft Community Action Plan? No

Agency Response: Thank you for your feedback! Our agency attends advocacy events throughout the year such as Legislative Day and our programs attend specific advocacy events that pertain to their focus areas. With your feedback, we have decided to shine a light on some of our advocacy during our Strategic Plan Third Year Program Portfolios which will allow us to also take a deeper dive into our advocacy efforts.

Community Member #6:

Name: Joe Martinez

Are you low income? Yes

Do you live in Fresno County? Yes

Your feedback on the Draft Community Action Plan:

How much funding did EOC receive for CSD funded activities? How many clients were served under CSD funds? Did all CSD funded programs meet their requirements or set goals? CSD allows for flexibility, how did this help EOC funded programs? How did EOC decide which of their programs would receive CSD funding?

Were your needs addressed in the Draft Community Action Plan? Yes

Agency Response: Thank you for your feedback! Our agency receives a Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) allocation from the state every year as we are a designated community action agency and are required to meet certain guidelines to remain in good standing. Our CSBG allocations, budget, and agency annual report outcomes are required to be approved by our tripartite board and specific dollar amounts can be found on our website www.fresnoeoc.org under our board meeting minutes. The budget is in a format that aligns the spending with our strategic plan goals that are also aligned with our most recently approved community needs assessment.

Community Member #6:

Name: Anthony Gonzales

Are you low income? Yes

Do you live in Fresno County? Yes

Your feedback on the Draft Community Action Plan:

I'm on unemployment i very behind on bills

Were your needs addressed in the Draft Community Action Plan? Yes

Agency Response: Thank you for your feedback. We will attempt to locate you in our system. If you read this response, please contact our agency at 559-263-1057.

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Appendix C



COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2024-2025



Fresno EOC Executive Office
1920 Mariposa Street, Suite 300
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 263-1000

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Executive Summary

Fresno County, located in the heart of California's Central Valley, is a community marked by an impressive array of strengths that contribute to its unique character and resilience. Among these strengths, the rich agricultural heritage stands out, positioning Fresno as a vital contributor to both the national and global food supply. This agricultural prowess fosters a sense of pride and tradition among residents, who benefit from and contribute to a thriving local economy.

Another significant strength of Fresno County is its diverse population, which brings together a vibrant tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions. This diversity is celebrated through various community events, festivals, and educational programs, enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation among its residents. Furthermore, the community's commitment to education and innovation is evident in its support for local schools, libraries, and universities, which prepare future generations for a dynamic world.

Fresno County also exhibits a strong spirit of volunteerism and community service, with numerous organizations and individuals dedicated to supporting those in need. Whether it's providing shelter and services to the homeless, assisting low-income families, or preserving the natural beauty of the region, the people of Fresno are actively engaged in making their community a better place. This collective commitment to civic engagement and mutual aid not only addresses immediate needs but also strengthens the social fabric of the county, making it a heartwarming example of community solidarity and resilience.

Conditions of Poverty

Fresno County, despite its many strengths, also faces significant challenges related to inequity among its population. One of the most pronounced issues is the economic disparity that exists within the county. The overall poverty rate among individuals is 19%, however it is much more pronounced in specific communities, cultural enclaves, and among specific populations. Geographically, there is concentrated poverty in the City of Fresno and widespread poverty in the more rural areas of the county and in some communities such as Huron, Mendota, and Orange Cove.

Family status is tied to poverty rates. Among families, 15% have an income below poverty, of these families, 40% are married-couples with children and 49% are female – headed households with children. The rate of seniors living in poverty in Fresno County is higher than for California. The poverty rate for seniors is 14% compared to a rate of 11% for all of California. Poverty reflects broader socio-economic challenges, and the conditions of poverty are multifaceted impacting thousands of residents and various aspects of life.

Inadequate Housing: Housing was noted throughout the community data, community forums and interviews conducted for the community assessment as a condition of poverty. Fresno County has a high number of homes with substandard conditions which contribute to health

challenges, a lower quality of life and safety concerns for people who reside in those homes. According to the data, 42% of homes had at least one substandard condition. Housing Instability and insecurity is also a concern. Furthermore, housing instability and homelessness are significant problems, with many residents struggling to find affordable housing due to rising costs and limited availability. This issue is compounded by a lack of supportive services and infrastructure to assist those in need. Of the community survey respondents, 64% noted the county has a major need for temporary housing, utility assistance, home repair programs, safe multi-family housing and programs to support energy efficiency.

Food Insecurity: Some individuals and families that live in poverty experience food insecurity, meaning they lack consistent access to enough nutritious food to lead a healthy life. Food insecurity rates in Fresno County did not stand out in the public data as one of the top needs. However, when viewed from an equity perspective several conditions are revealed that should be addressed. First, there are many food deserts throughout the county and the communities with the highest poverty rates also have the least access to food. Since these communities are home to more diverse populations, there is a racial disparity in food access. This trend is also supported with data for Fresno County from Feeding America which notes that Black/African American and Hispanic residents experience a higher degree of food insecurity than Whites. Data shows that more than 50,000 people in Fresno County with a low-income live in an area where they also have low access to food. Food insecurity was also noted repeatedly in the community forums as a top community problem.

Unemployment and Low-Wage Jobs: Limited job opportunities or the prevalence of low-wage jobs make it challenging for individuals to secure stable employment and earn a sufficient income to meet their basic needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to changes in the job market that are fueling unemployment rates. For example, there are lingering layoffs and job losses, reskilling and upskilling needs to help the unemployed transition into new careers, and job market shifts where e-commerce, health care, and fields that involve remote work have become more desirable, yet they lack a workforce and often people do not possess the soft skills for success in these jobs. The unemployment rate in Fresno County far exceeds that of California and the nation at 9.5%.

There is also the problem of underemployment. Based on national percentages, as of March 2024, 7.3% of all workers were underemployed. If this percentage were applied to Fresno County this would mean that over 34,000 workers are underemployed. Adequate employment and good jobs were noted as a community concern in the community assessment survey responses and also in the community forums. Among community survey respondents, 64% noted the community needs better job opportunities.

There are income and employment disparities due to race/ethnicity as the result of factors such as historical injustices and discriminatory practices, low rates of educational attainment that limit earning potential, occupational segregation in which minorities are concentrated in lower – paying positions and lack business ownership, the wealth gap where individuals of color are less likely to own assets that can generate additional income, and racial discrimination practices in hiring.

Educational Inequities: In Fresno County, schools in lower-income neighborhoods often have fewer resources, larger class sizes, and less access to advanced placement courses or extracurricular activities compared to schools in more affluent areas. This disparity impacts the educational outcomes and future opportunities for many children and young adults. Foundational issues contributing to this problem include a school funding formula that is dependent on property taxes where low-income neighborhoods receive less tax revenue for schools versus neighborhoods that have homes with a higher value have schools that benefit from higher contributions of tax dollars to support educational programs.

Limited access to Healthcare and Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities Contributing Social Determinants of Health: Access to affordable healthcare services is a barrier for people in poverty. Lack of health insurance coverage and the limited availability of healthcare can result in inadequate medical care which impacts the life span and the quality of life for those in poverty. The Fresno County health care provider to low-income resident ratio for dentists, physical health, and mental health care professionals indicates that people have more limited access to health care. Data reflecting community wellbeing factors indicates that the number of providers is an issue, however transportation barriers also limit access to services. In addition, the large percentage of the population that receives Medicaid also impacts access to health care services because some providers will not accept public insurance as payment.

Data shows that residents in the economically disadvantaged areas of Fresno County often have less access to healthcare services, including preventive care. Even when people do go to the doctor, they are often told they can only address one issue if they are utilizing Medicaid and they must wait an extended period of time to see a doctor. This is exacerbated by environmental issues, such as poor air quality and pesticide exposure, which disproportionately affect low-income, rural farming communities. The result is a higher incidence of health problems like asthma, diabetes, and other chronic conditions in these populations. Other public and individual health concerns include a high rate of substance abuse and overdose deaths. In the community assessment survey, 55% of respondents noted that lack of access to health services was a major concern and 55% also reported they had inadequate insurance coverage. When data from the U.S. Census is analyzed, it was found that specific cohorts of the population are impacted more greatly by lack of access to health services such as pregnant mothers who do not receive adequate prenatal care, people using Medicaid, primarily children, and the unemployed which have an uninsurance rate of 14%. In Fresno County, more than 61,544 people are uninsured.

There are also deep disparities in maternal child health. Over 28% of births are to mothers in poverty and the teen birth rate is 4% of all babies. The rate of prenatal depression in Fresno County is 17% compared to a rate of 14% for California. Additionally, Fresno fares worse than the state in the number of babies that are born with low birthweight, a major contributor to infant death. The Fresno County infant mortality rate exceeds that of California and when disaggregated by race, the rate of infant mortality for Black infants is 9.71/per 1,000 births compared to 6.33/1,000 for Hispanic/Latino babies and 5.06/1,000 for White infants.

Addressing these inequities is vital for the overall health and cohesion of Fresno County. Efforts to reduce disparities and promote inclusivity are essential to ensuring that all residents can contribute to and benefit from the community's strengths and resources.

Adverse Early Childhood Experiences and Family Challenges: The rate of child abuse in the service area is rising and the rate for Fresno County is 61.3/1,000 children, compared to a rate of 43.5/1,000 for California. There are many factors that contribute to a tendency of children to be impacted by an adverse experience. In Fresno County, community risk factors include that more than 14,000 children under five years live in single-parent families. It is also estimated that more than 5,000 children under six reside in doubled-up housing or they are unhoused. There were also 8,748 domestic violence reports in the county for the time period analyzed in this report, which is a major contributor to homelessness and child and family trauma. Within the Head Start program in the past year, 445 families received assistance to resolve a crisis highlighting the vulnerability of young children and families.

Causes of Poverty

There are various causes of poverty in Fresno County. Some of these issues reflect evidence on the primary causes of poverty such as structural inequities, labor market issues, differences in educational attainment and the changing economy. However, the causes of poverty can also be attributed to and are exacerbated by political factors, individual decisions, and the restriction of safety net programs such as Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF), food assistance, health insurance, subsidized housing, and childcare subsidies. These challenges have led to an overburdened system and families and individuals lack access to the assistance they need to climb out of poverty. The lack of programs and services in the counties disproportionately impacts the poor and near-poor population.

A shifting economic landscape also drives significant changes. Data collected for this community assessment demonstrates that employment opportunities increasingly lie in jobs requiring higher level skills, including a college degree and analytical and technical skill sets. At the same time, jobs requiring physical or manual skills have faded or remain low paying. These changes have played out over decades resulting in inequities in earnings, as workers with in-demand skills experience rising wages while wages for workers without a college education have remained stagnant. Even small increases in wages have been outpaced by inflation and an increased cost of living. Barriers to upward mobility such as low-income, limited language proficiency, lack of social and/or family support, and limited self-sufficiency have been identified as contributors to poverty and are also experienced by subpopulations in the service area at disparate rates.

Causes of Poverty

Education

Limited access to quality education or low educational attainment levels leads to limited employment opportunities and lower wages, which contributes to poverty.

Unemployment/Underemployment

High unemployment rates or a lack of job opportunities for specific segments of the population are persistent in the area, particularly for individuals with limited skills or education, which makes it difficult for people to escape poverty. Underemployment, where individuals work part-time or in jobs that don't match their skills, also keeps people in poverty.

Low Wages

Fresno County data shows wages vary among specific cohorts of the population and contribute to poverty rates and inequities.

Demographic Factors

Certain demographic factors contribute to poverty rates. For example, a high percentage of single-parent households and households where the adult has limited English proficiency face increased vulnerability to poverty.

Affordable Housing

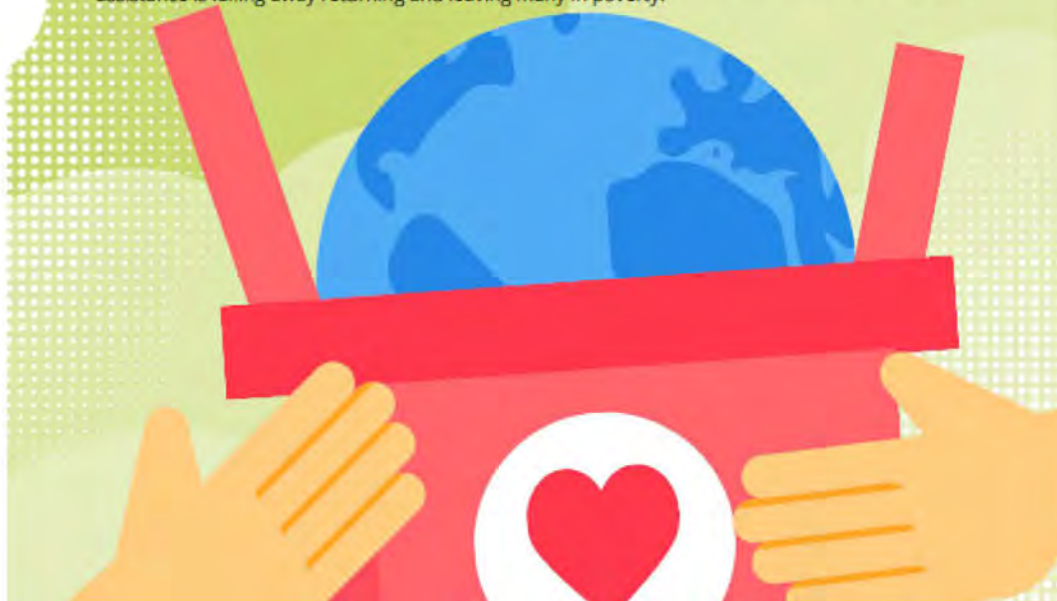
The availability and affordability of housing in the area plays a significant role in poverty. High housing costs or limited affordable housing options consume a significant portion of a household's income, leaving less for other essential needs.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Systemic inequalities and racial or ethnic disparities contribute to higher poverty rates among certain groups, as they face discrimination, limited access to resources, and fewer opportunities for economic mobility.

Economic Shocks and Lingering Pandemic Transitions

Economic downturns, job losses, or changes in local industries are having a significant impact on poverty rates. Inflation of the cost of goods and services is occurring at the same time as pandemic assistance is falling away returning and leaving many in poverty.



Introduction

The community needs assessment is facilitated by Fresno Economic Opportunity Commission every three years and by Fresno Head Start 0 to 5 every five years. The intent of the community assessment is to determine the underlying causes and conditions of poverty throughout Fresno County, in the communities served by Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission. The community needs assessment is the first phase of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability Cycle. Together, the community needs assessment and the Results Oriented Management and Accountability Cycle (ROMA) create a foundation for the work to develop and deliver programs and services that improve equity and lift families and communities out of poverty.

Methodology

The Community Needs Assessment

The purpose of the community wide strategic planning and needs assessment is to provide a current snapshot of the well-being of families and children in Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) service area of Fresno County. The community-wide strategic planning and needs assessment (community assessment) assists the agency in designing a program that meets community needs and builds on the strengths and resources in the community. This document is prepared in accordance with 45 CFR 1302.11. This report also conforms with the regulations governing community assessments for Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) agencies which are designed to ensure that resources are effectively targeted to reduce poverty and improve living conditions for low-income individuals and families.

By requiring thorough and periodic assessments, Fresno EOC aims to be responsive to changing needs and to foster community involvement and accountability for our programs. The community assessment serves as an overall assessment of local social and economic conditions as they relate to the needs, priorities, and lives of low-income individuals, families, and Head Start eligible children in Fresno County. It provides information compiled from various local, regional, national, state, and authoritative sources for the service area.

Purpose of the Community Assessment

- To guide and solidify the overall vision and direction of the agency.
- To inform decision-making and program planning, including coordinated approaches.
- To educate staff and stakeholders.
- To establish the program goals and long and short-term program objectives.
- To address changing priorities and policies and to respond to trends and changes.
- To mobilize community resources and maximize community relationships.
- To identify the service and recruitment area served by Head Start and Early Head Start.
- To identify the number of Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children and families in the service area and appropriate locations for services.
- To identify community partners.

Table 1. Purpose of Community Assessment

Throughout the community assessment process, the staff, Fresno EOC Board of Commissioners and Head Start 0-5 County-Wide Policy Council worked collaboratively to determine the information to collect, methods for collecting data, the participants for each data collection method, the anticipated process timelines, and the data sources for each indicator in the community assessment. The community assessment was prepared by Heartland Solutions, a Colorado consulting firm.

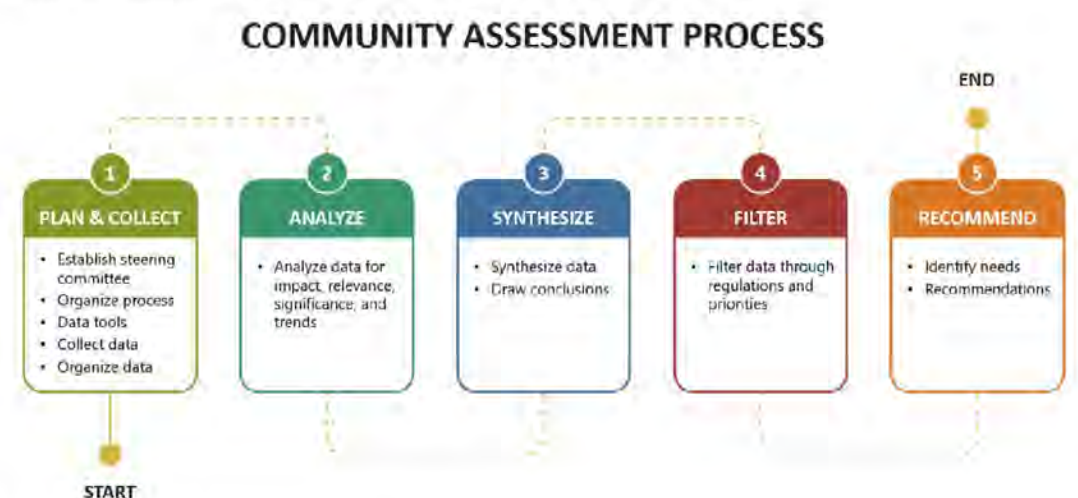


Figure 1. Community Assessment Process

To meet the requirements for the CSBG program and for Head Start 0 to 5, the community assessment includes the following information:

- *Overview of Fresno County, its communities, and demographics.* Detailed demographic data on the community, including age, gender, race, ethnicity, and family composition. This information helps identify specific groups within the community that may have unique needs. This also enables the program to determine the context for providing services and programs.
- *An analysis of community wide conditions including economics, education levels, housing, health and nutrition, and social services.* An internal and external analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in order to address verified urgent and local needs.
- *A description and analysis of the needs of low-income individuals, their families and Head Start eligible families and children.* The agency staff worked with the Heartland demographer and research team to discover the needs of low-income individuals using a variety of sources.
- *A description of the Head Start eligible population.* A profile of the service area's Head Start and Early Head start eligible families based on authoritative information sources, including the number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, along with their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and spoken languages.
- *A description of special populations, targeted populations and other marginalized groups.* An analysis of children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent

possible, McKinney-Vento Local Educational Agency Liaisons and an estimate of the number of children in foster care.

- *An overview of access to early childhood education programs.* A review of other child development, childcare centers, and family childcare programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served.
- *A description of the number of children with disabilities and access to services.* A description of the number of children with disabilities, including the types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies such as IDEA Part C and B providers.
- *Economic, employment, education, housing, health, Nutrition, transportation, asset development, and social service needs.* A description of the needs of low-income families and children including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being. This also includes a description of the specific needs of low-income individuals and families within the community. This should include barriers to economic security and opportunities for improvement.
- *The childcare and training schedules of parents of children birth-to-five.* Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children.
- *Community resources and strengths.* Identification of resources and strengths within the community that can be leveraged to address needs, including community organizations, volunteer groups, and local businesses.

The community assessment will serve as Fresno EOC's baseline for identifying current community needs, designing new plans, choosing community partners, developing strategic collaborations, evaluating the effectiveness and progress of prior strategies and interventions for serving low-income families and children in the community, and for making decisions about the program that can accelerate outcomes for low-income individuals, children, and families. The community assessment is also used to assess and identify the Head Start 0 to 5 program recruitment and service area, develop goals and objectives, select program options and calendar, and to establish the annual selection criteria and program priorities.

Figure 2. depicts how the community assessment informs the Head Start 0 to 5 program recruitment process and other aspects of the program including selection of children, recruitment, enrollment, recordkeeping, eligibility, and attendance procedures.

How does the Community Assessment Inform?



Figure 2. Community Assessment Information (Head Start)

Community Assessment Process	
Project activities begin.	January 2023
Needs assessment workgroup created, assessment coordinator identified within Fresno EOC and Heartland, appointed the agency planning team, and created a data map, including quantitative and qualitative data and sources.	January 2023
Implement data collection plan (qualitative and quantitative data), timelines monitored, defined roles of staff, board members, agency partners, consultants.	February-April 2024
Data analysis and key findings are identified.	April 2024
1 st draft is submitted for review. Agency staff and governing body members review data and identify critical community issues, resources, and service gaps.	May 2024
Final draft is submitted for acceptance. .	May 2024
Presentation of CNA to Board and Head Start County-Wide Policy Council. .	May-June 2024

Table 2. Community Assessment Timeline

Sources of Data and Data Collection Methods

Numerous primary and secondary data sources were used to describe the demographics of the service area and the physical, social, and economic well-being of low-income families. Sources of data included population datasets such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the CARES Community Engagement Network website, California Education Agency the Kids Count Data Center, California Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2030, and the County Health Ranking reports. In addition, the assessment includes information garnered from other

secondary sources such as community health and needs assessments published by other agencies in the service area and community interviews.

Internal data included information necessary to create a profile of children and families, services received, and services for children with disabilities. These sources included the Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Report for Fresno EOC and community action service reports. The following table details the distinguishing features of the American Community Survey Data and was utilized for data consistency throughout this report and to select community areas of focus. It is important to note there are data inconsistencies due to differing data sources. The data is intended to identify trends and where appropriate examines multiple sources of data.

Distinguishing Features of ACS 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year Estimates		
1-year estimates	3-year estimates	5-year estimates
12 months of collected data	36 months of collected data	60 months of collected data
Data for areas with populations of 65,000+	Data for areas with populations of 20,000+	Data for all areas
Smallest sample size	Larger sample size than 1 year	Largest sample size
Less reliable than 3 years or 5 years	More reliable than 1 year; less reliable than 5 years	Most reliable
Most current data	Less current than 1-year estimates; more current than 5-year estimates	Least current
Best Used When	Best Used When	Best Used When
Currency is more important than precision	More precise than 1-year, more current than 5-years	Precision is more important than currency
Analyzing large populations	Analyzing smaller populations and geographies	Analyzing very small populations and tracts for which 1-year data is not available

Table 3. Distinguishing Factors of Census Data

Summary of Data Sources	
Source	Topics
U.S. Census; American Community Survey	Demographics, Education, Income, Healthcare/Insurance, Employment, Housing, Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health, Basic Assistance, Economics
U.S. Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics and North Carolina Workforce Commission	Employment, Income and Wages, Industry, Workforce
California Department of Health Services	Behavioral Risk Factors, Health, Immunizations, Oral Health, Birth Defects, Health Workforce, Nutrition
U.S. Center for Disease Control	Oral Health
Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center	Dual Language Learners, Maternal and Child Health, Child Abuse, WIC Enrollment
United Health Foundation	Health Rankings
Mental Health America	Mental Health

Summary of Data Sources		
Quantitative Data		
Source	Topics	
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	HUD and housing information	
CARES Community Engagement Network	Population Density, Demographics, Education, Student Achievement, English Language Proficiency, Health, Neighborhood and Environment, Housing, Veterans, Insurance, Health Professional Shortage Areas, Immunization Data, Elderly Population Demographics, Nutrition	
National Center for Education Statistics	Education, Student Achievement, Disabilities, English Language Learners, Economically Disadvantaged Students	
Head Start Program Information Report	Head Start Demographics, Enrollment, and Services	

Table 4. Summary of Data Sources

Methods for Data Analysis

Initial data analysis was completed by Heartland Solutions and the Fresno EOC management team. Conclusions and recommendations were formulated from these reviews and were considered by the Fresno EOC Board of Commissioners and Head Start 0-5 County-Wide Policy Council. Heartland utilized the following process to analyze the community assessment data:

Data Analysis Strategies	
Analysis Task	Purpose
Data was organized and combined according to information about each indicator that was assessed.	Although data differs slightly combining the data allows the assessment team to analyze the multiple dimensions of a single issue.
Closely related information was grouped together and organized into domains.	Issues were analyzed in order to connect conditions to the different statistical, programmatic, and opinion indicators that facilitate a complete understanding of issues.
The data was analyzed to identify similarities in findings across data sources.	The thematic analysis allows the assessment team to rank needs present in the service area.
Needs are ranked and categorized.	Classification of the needs assists in developing strategies to address each need.
The program staff determine how the program can address needs.	The comparison of data allows Fresno EOC to assess how effectively the community is meeting the needs identified in the community assessment.

Table 5. Data Analysis Strategies

Data Limitations

It should be noted that throughout this assessment there are some inconsistencies in data due to the design of the community survey which allowed respondents to select multiple responses to specific questions. As a result, the total percentage of respondents reported for some indicators may exceed 100%.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is a crucial component of Fresno EOC's community assessment process. To effectively identify and address local needs, we rely on the active participation of the community members we aim to serve. This involvement ensures that the assessment reflects the true conditions and challenges faced by the community. Engaging the community included conducting surveys, holding town hall meetings, and focus groups that allowed specific populations to express their concerns, needs, and suggestions. This inclusive approach not only helps in gathering accurate data but also fosters a sense of ownership and collaboration among community members, increasing the likelihood of successful implementation of the agency's interventions. Moreover, by incorporating diverse perspectives, especially from underrepresented groups, Fresno EOC can tailor its strategies to be more effective and equitable, ensuring that all voices are heard and acted upon.

In interviews with Fresno County community leaders, a recurring theme was the array of obstacles faced by the economically disadvantaged population, particularly in accessing essential services. Awareness and access to services, transportation, and the need for more collaborative efforts among service providers emerged as significant challenges. Leaders emphasized the importance of coordinated data sharing, aligning funding between impact agencies, and improving coordination among institutions to enhance service provision. Furthermore, access to healthy affordable food in rural communities and improved healthcare access were identified as pressing needs, alongside access to childcare, early childhood services, and affordable housing, especially for those transitioning out of programs like foster care. There was a consensus on the necessity of expanded early childhood programs to facilitate greater economic upward mobility.

Despite these challenges, the community was recognized for its resilience and determination to overcome economic hardships. However, it was also noted that this resilience might inadvertently perpetuate the cycle of poverty because adaptation and normalization can be seen as a strength. Additionally, the lack of "soft skills" was highlighted as a formidable challenge for workforce development. Services in rural and urban areas were identified as needing differentiation based on the specific needs of each community. Throughout the discussions, Fresno EOC emerged as a pivotal provider of services for the economically disadvantaged, underlining the importance of stable leadership and Fresno EOC's role in removing barriers to accessing essential services.



Figure 4. Community Engagement Summary

Demographics

The Fresno EOC service area, Fresno County is comprised of over 35 different communities. The county has 15 incorporated cities. Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, and Selma. In addition, there are 25 small, unincorporated communities; among these are: Auberry, Biola, Cantua Creek, Caruthers, Del Rey, Highway City, Laton, Pinedale, and Riverdale. For this report demographic data for the smaller communities has been

organized into community profiles, while this report features the larger communities in the service area for which public data is available and to allow for the comparison of community data. In some cases, the data differs due to the data source and time period collected. However, overall trends can be identified, making it a valuable contribution to the report.

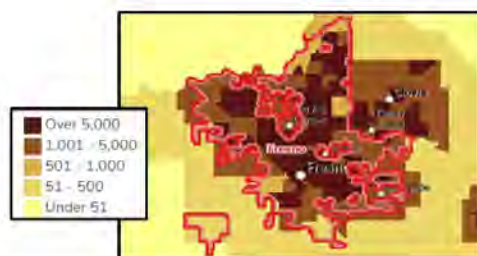


Figure 5. Fresno EOC Service Area

Population Density

Population density is important in determining the needs of the community. How many people a community has influences whether a business will have enough customers to survive, which impacts economic development. Whether the population grows or shrinks influences decisions on school funding formulas, employment, housing, and other allocations for public funding, as well as the resource needs of the community. Whether the population is young or old also influences the needs of the community and the economy. The population of Fresno County is 1,008,280, with the City of Fresno representing 541,528 residents¹.

Population Density (per sq. mi.)



Area	Population
Clovis	123,529
Coalinga	17,488
Huron	6,250
Kerman	15,980
Kingsburg	12,490
Mendota	12,603
Orange Cove	9,635
Parlier	14,554
Reedley	25,441
Sanger	26,461
Selma	24,318
Fresno City	541,528
Fresno County	1,008,280

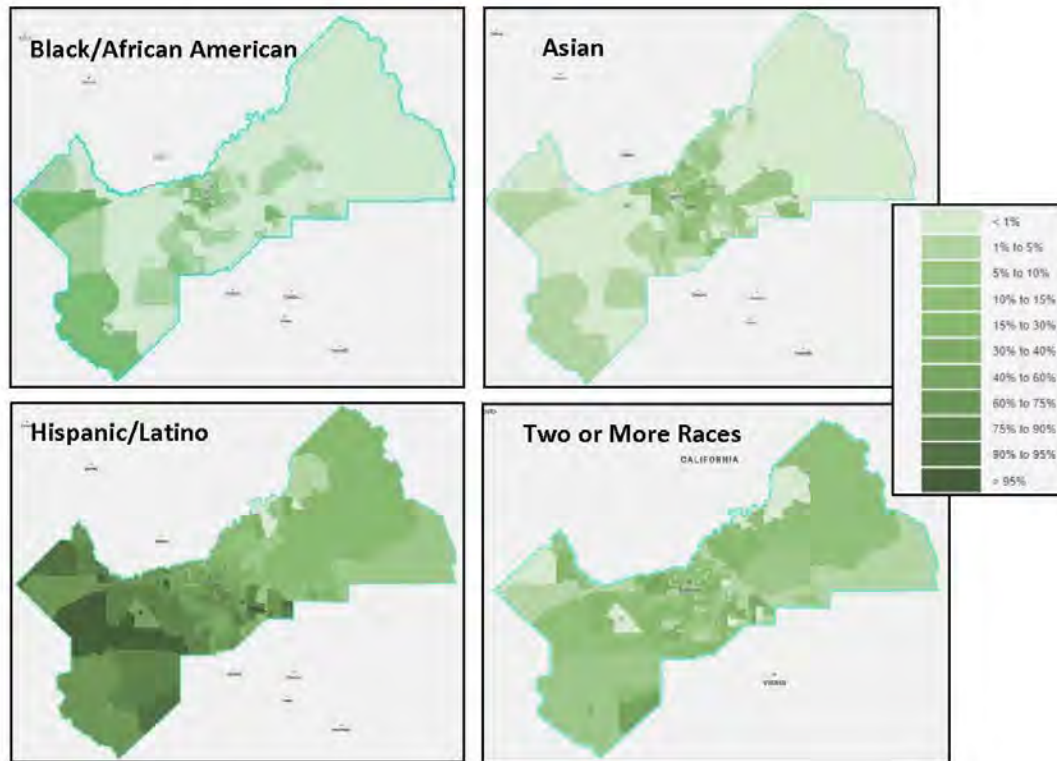
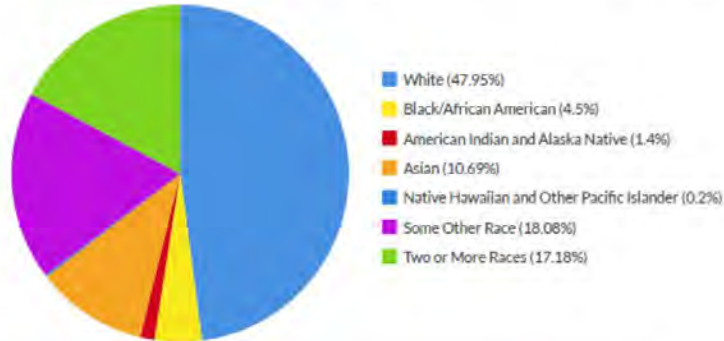
Table 6. Population

¹ United States Census Bureau. *American Community Survey, 2022.*

Race & Ethnicity

Fresno County is considered one of the most diverse counties in California, home to a generous mixture of people and cultures. The following figures provide an overview of the race and ethnicity of the county and detail the percentage of the population comprised of specific populations by census tract. In total, 54% of the county population is Hispanic/Latino¹. Among the smaller communities, the population that is Hispanic/Latino is higher ranging from a low of 34% in Clovis to a rate exceeding 90% of the population in Huron, Orange Cove, and Riverdale ¹.

Fresno County Race



Population Change

Population growth can impact the population in several ways. For example, population growth can positively impact the economy and negatively impact the environment. Since 2020, the county population has increased by 78,204 people or 8%. The fastest growing communities include Mendota (+ 12% population) and the City of Fresno (+6%). In contrast, some communities have experienced a population decline including Riverdale (-17%), Laton (-15%) and Firebaugh (-8%)¹.

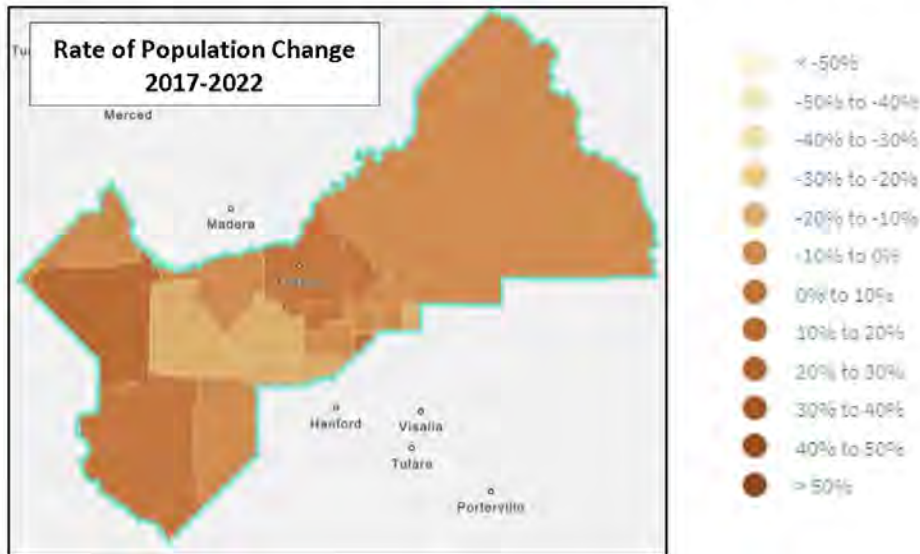
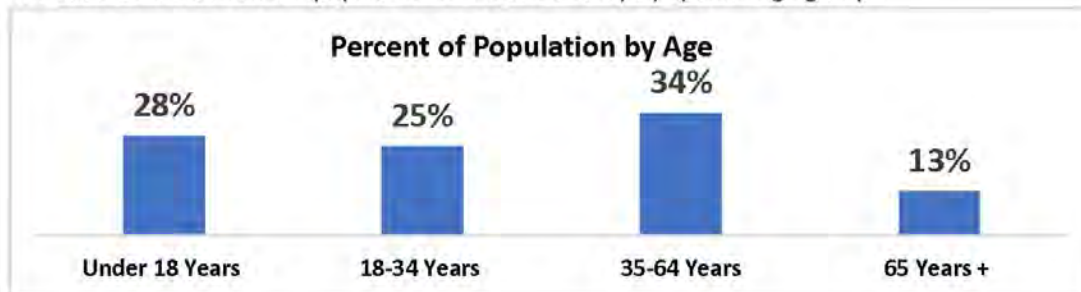


Figure 6. Rate of Population Change

Age

The table below shows the population of Fresno County by specific age group¹.



Percent of Population by Age for Community Areas						
Age	Biola	Clovis	Huron	Kingsburg	Mendota	Orange Cove
Under 18 Years	38.4%	28.9%	34.1%	25.9%	38.5%	37.8%
18-34 Years	35.4%	21.6%	29.1%	20.0%	26.0%	24.7%
35-64 Years	18.1%	36.4%	33.9%	36.7%	29.0%	31.5%
65 Years +	8.2%	13.1%	2.9%	17.4%	6.6%	6.1%

	Parlier	Reedley	Riverdale	Sanger	Selma	Fresno City
Under 18 Years	32.4%	30.3%	47.9%	29.2%	26.8%	27.8%
18-34 Years	28.2%	25.7%	21.3%	25.5%	27.4%	26.6%
35-64 Years	31.3%	18.1%	27.6%	34.5%	34.3%	33.6%
65 Years +	8.2%	8.2%	3.3%	10.7%	11.6%	11.9%

Table 7. Percent of Population by Age by Community

Population Under Five Years by Age by Specific Community						
Age	Biola	Clovis	Huron	Kingsburg	Mendota	Orange Cove
Under 3 Years	107	4,383	303	294	756	407
3 and 4 Years	47	3,935	206	310	480	405

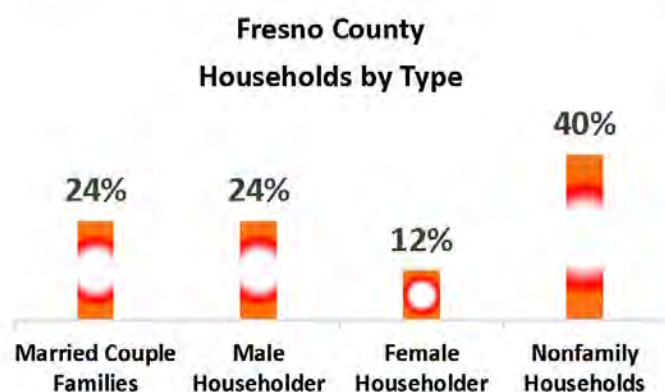
Age	Reedley	Riverdale	Parlier	Kerman	Firebaugh
Under 3 Years	1,335	42	468	758	314
3 and 4 Years	1,041	24	627	485	319

Age	Sanger	Selma	Coalinga	Fresno City	Fresno County
Under 3 Years	1,009	886	456	23,373	40,995
3 and 4 Years	1,113	764	342	16,906	31,582

Table 8. Population Under Five Years by Community

Family Composition

The U.S. Census Bureau reports there are 177,757 households, of which 118,129 are family households, comprising 66.4% of all households¹.



A total of **14,189** children under five in Fresno County live in single parent families.

In Fresno City, **6,035** children under three and 3 and **3,357** children 3 & 4 live in single parent households.

Figure 7. Households by Type

Family Status of Head Start Children

According to the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) for the Fresno County Head Start program, 1,167 children live in single-parent families (52%) and 1,091 children live in two-parent families (48%). Within Head Start, almost four times as many children live in single-parent families compared to the general community. Six percent of children live with their grandparents¹.

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

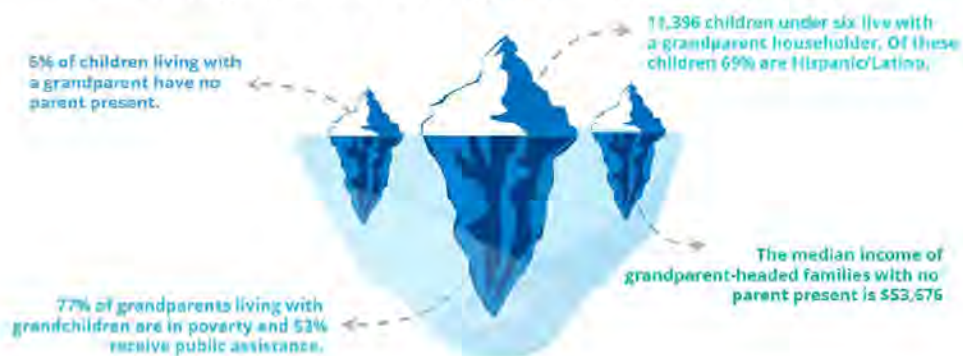


Figure 8. Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren



Demographic Data Key Findings

The social environments of communities in Fresno County shape the experiences of those who live there and contribute to the life experiences of children who grow up in Fresno County. These differences can transfer into racial disparities. It is important to understand the location and make-up of various communities in the area in order to identify appropriate community partners and to direct services to geographic areas and populations that can benefit most.

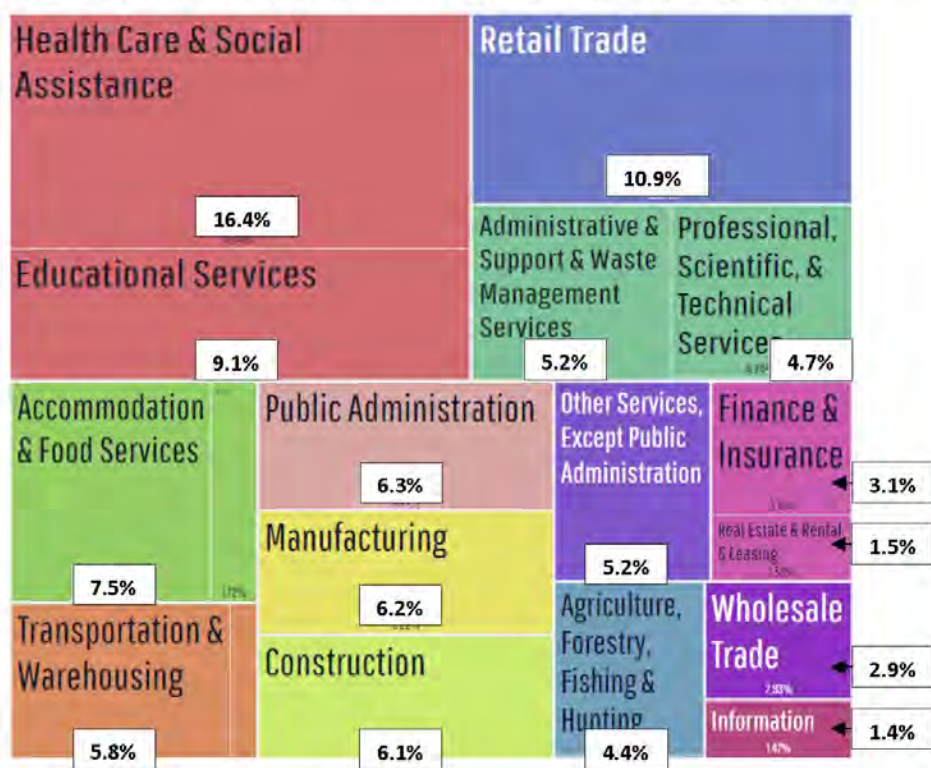
Fresno County's population is primarily white, however there are diverse communities of culture and place. Overall, the population that is Hispanic/Latino exceeds 50%. There are a large number of Hispanic/Latinos that live in southwest Fresno County. According to Fresno State University, the City of Fresno experienced an influx of Southeast Asian refugees in the 1970's giving rise to a diverse Asian population in the City of Fresno that today is comprised of a number of subgroups in the Asian Community, including Hmong, Filipino, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Indian, and Vietnamese-Americans. Many of the county's Black/African American residents live in west Fresno. Within the general demographic patterns there is great diversity that is often obscured due to data collection gaps and undercounting of some populations in the U.S. Census.

Economic Activities

The economic characteristics of the community impact job growth, employment, and can contribute to or detract from the prosperity of individuals and families. For example, cycles of growth, the types of industries, and employment opportunities available in a community can generate cycles of opportunity that advance human development as parents invest in their child's education and adults seek career training so they can participate in a positive labor market and improve their economic status. In turn, as income increases or decreases, so does an individual's health status. As a social determinant of health, a household's income impacts choices about housing, education, childcare, food, and medical care. Employment also usually includes health benefits which further support healthy lifestyle choices. Underemployment and unemployment limit purchasing power and the inability to accumulate savings and assets puts individuals and their families at risk during times of economic distress.

Industry

The following figure demonstrates the different industries that make up the Fresno County economy. Fresno County is experiencing growth in Agribusiness, Logistics/E-Commerce, Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and Energy and Water Technology Sectors².



² DataUSA. <https://datausa.io>.

Agriculture

Fresno County is home to 1.88 million acres of the world's most productive farmland and agriculture covers over half of the county's geography. Fresno County growers raise more than 350 different crops, supporting 20% of all jobs in the Fresno area and the county is the second top agricultural producer in California and the nation. Many of the county's crops are not grown commercially anywhere else in the nation. Every \$1 generated on the farm produces another \$3.50 in the local and regional economy³. According to the Department of Labor Occupational Outlook there are over 18,360 farmworkers in Fresno County who earn an average wage of \$16.86 per hour⁴. According to the California National Agricultural Workers Survey Research Report, farmworkers have the following characteristics:

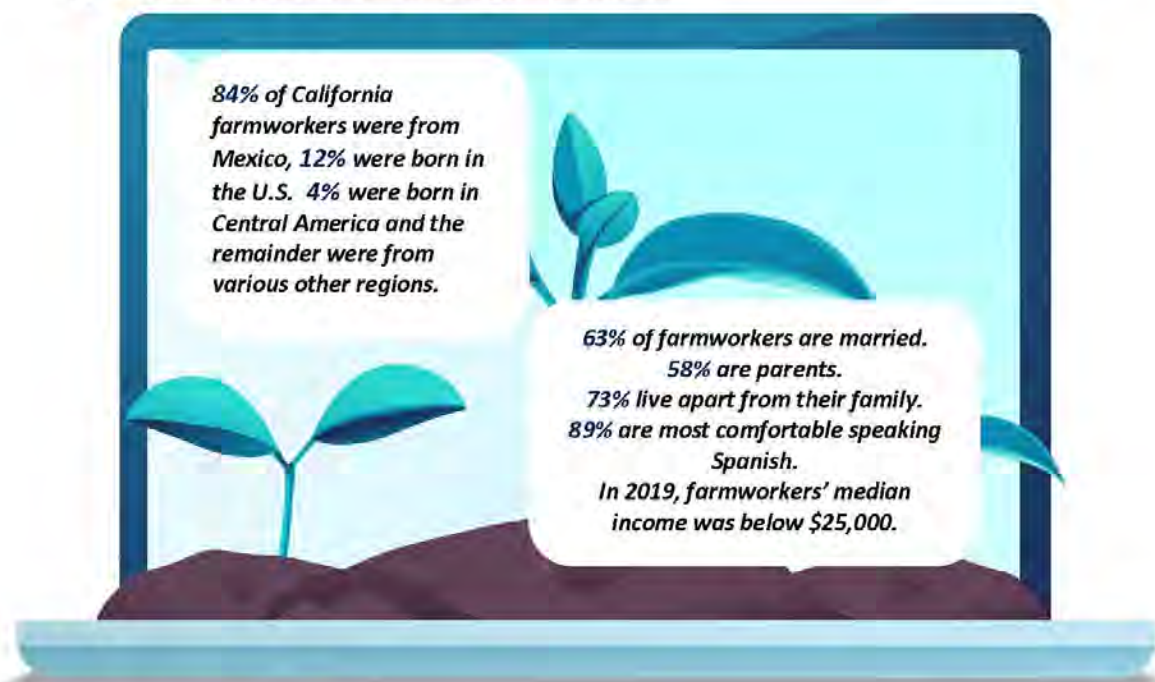


Figure 9. Farmworker Characteristics

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate in Fresno County has now climbed to pre-pandemic rates. The unemployment rate was 7.6% in 2023, down from 8.2% in 2020. However, in 2024, the rate has increased to more than double the national unemployment rate to 8.8% (January 2024) and has risen to 9.5% as of March, 2024⁵.

³ Fresno County Crop Report, 2022.

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_23420.htm#45-0000

⁵ US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2024 - January.

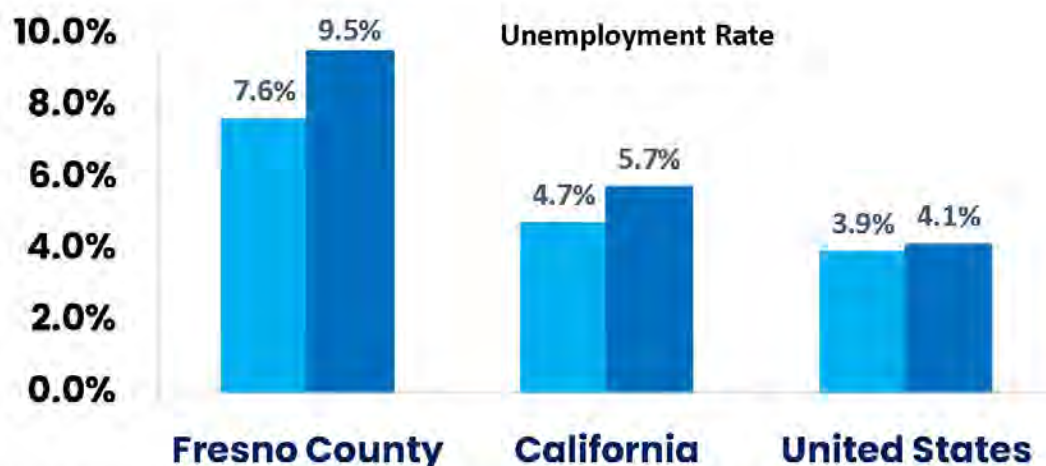


Figure 10. Unemployment Rate

Underemployment

Visible underemployment is where an individual works fewer hours than is necessary for a full-time job. Underemployment may refer to a variety of situations, most commonly it refers to someone who is employed, but not in the desired capacity. The unmet need may relate to any or all hours of work, level of skill utilization, application of qualifications or experience, or level of compensation (i.e. working in a lower paid job than qualifications would suggest the worker is suited to). The underemployment rate (U6) includes – in addition to the Unemployment Rate – anyone who wants to work but has given up looking for employment in the last year, as well as people working part-time who would like to work full-time.

To gauge the number of Fresno County workers that are underemployed, we considered data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on the percent of the population in the labor force that is working less than 35 hours due to economic reasons⁶. Based on national percentages, as of March 2024, 7.3% of all workers were underemployed. If this percentage were applied to Fresno County this would mean that over 34,000 workers are underemployed.

⁶ Labor Force Statistics, Current Population Survey. <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat20.htm>; <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/emps/t.t15.htm>



Community Survey Responses

Of the community survey respondents (total 2,775), 843 were currently seeing employment. Community survey respondents were asked to rank and identify the employment needs in their community. The highest rated needs were for additional job opportunities in the community, followed by financial assistance to attend training programs and access to affordable childcare. This data is consistent with feedback from the community forums.

Percent of Survey Respondents Reporting Employment Needs by Type of Need

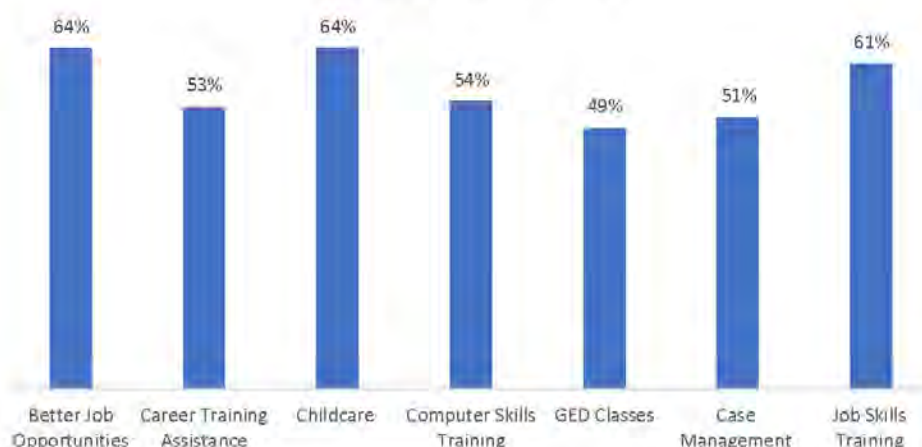


Figure 11. Employment Needs in Fresno County

A total of 2,672 respondents noted the following employment problems impacting Fresno County. Respondents noted more than one factor when appropriate.

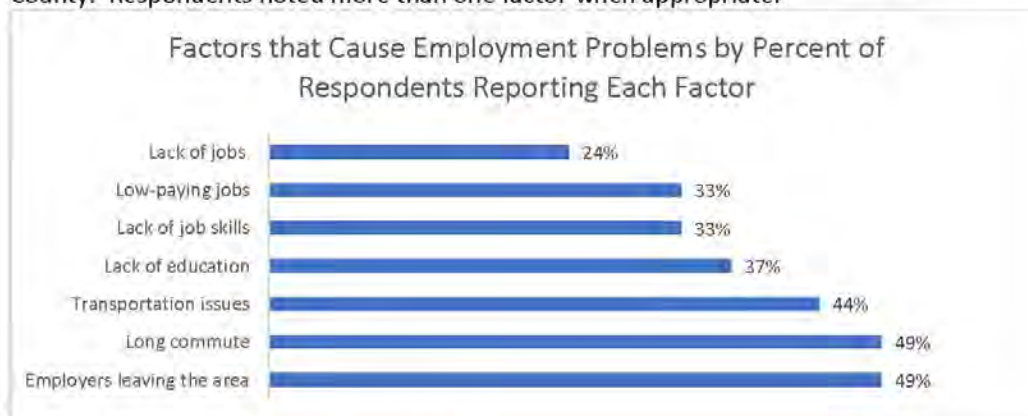


Figure 12. Factors that Cause Employment Problems

Median Income Level

The median income for households is highly stratified by race and community. The chart below illustrates the median income by race for Fresno County households. The largest percentage of the population is comprised of Whites (54%) and Hispanic/Latinos (46%). Black/African American's comprise 9% of the population, while Asians, who have the highest income represent 9.2% of the population. Fresno County families and households have a lower median income than their peers statewide. Family income for married couples is more than twice that of married couple families.

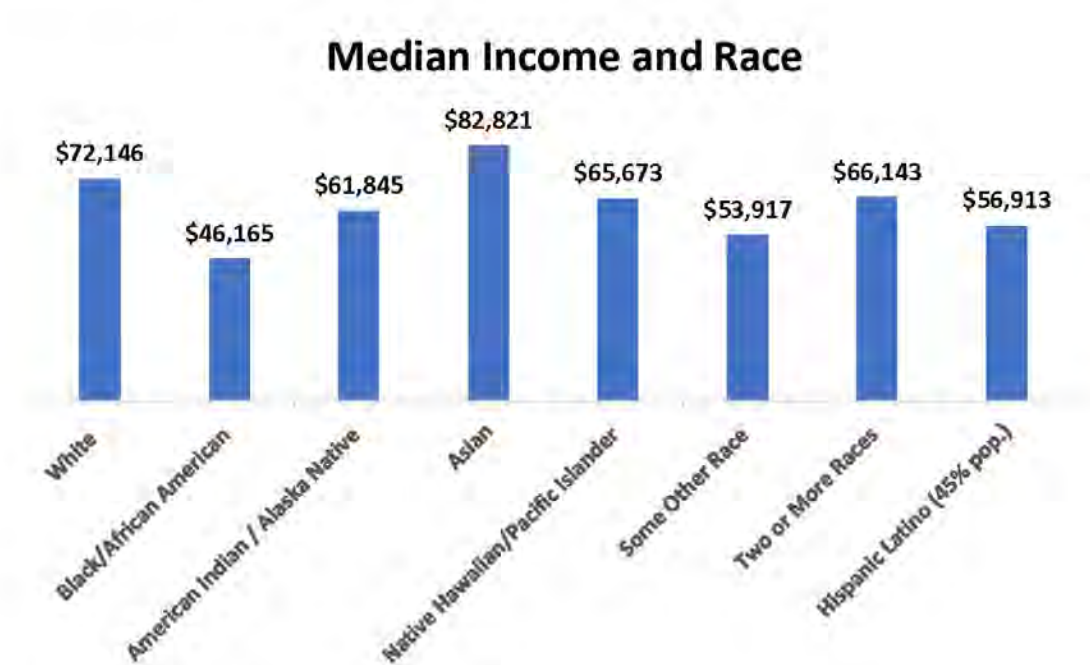


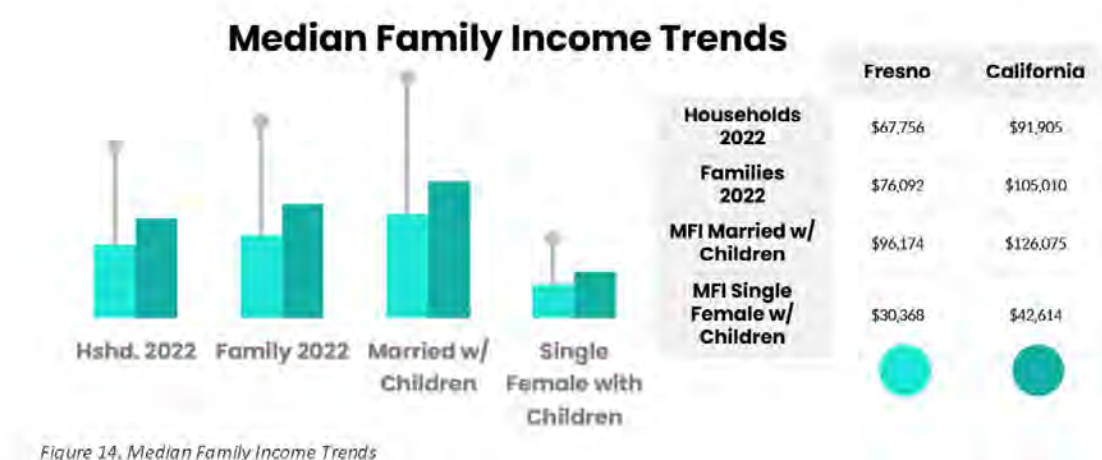
Figure 13. Median Income by Race



Community Survey Responses

Of the community survey respondents (2,663):

- 69% earned their income from work activities
- 8% received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- 8% received retirement income from Social Security
- 6% received SSI income
- 4% were disabled
- 5% received unemployment



Living Wage

Families must earn enough income to pay for their typical expenses to be self-sufficient. This includes the cost of food, childcare, medical, housing, transportation, and other necessities. The chart below shows the annual income required to achieve self-sufficiency in Fresno County for families with two adults with two children and families with one adult with two children⁷. When this data is compared to data for the median income in the service area it is evident that the median income for all types of families in Fresno County is insufficient to achieve self-sufficiency. This data indicates there is a large percentage of families that are vulnerable to shifts in employment, wages, and the economy.



⁷ MIT Living Wage Calculator (2019). Living Wage Calculator. Retrieved from <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>; United States Census

The cost of living was noted as a concern in the community forums and is evidenced in data from the community assessment survey. The following figure shows the percentage of respondents (totaling 2,658) that paid a bill late in the past six months by the type of bill paid.

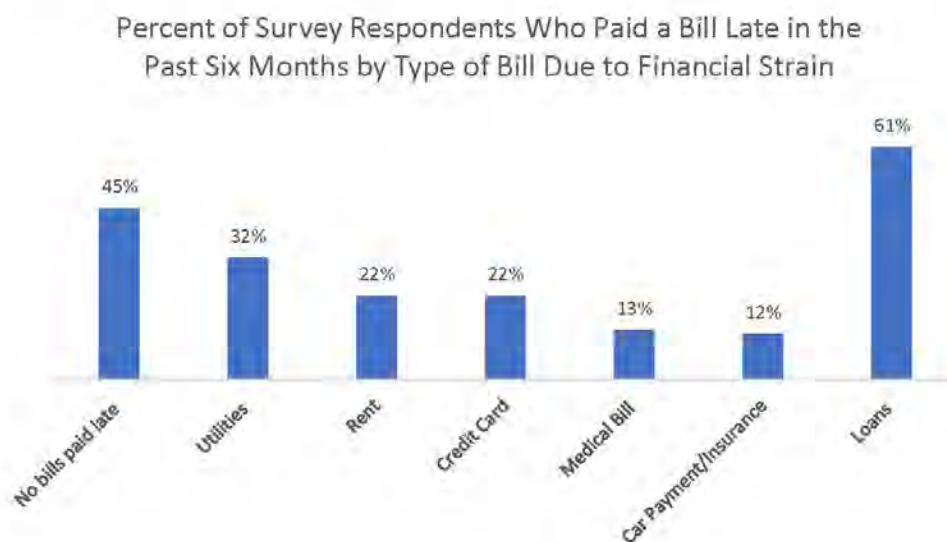


Figure 16. Bills Paid Late by Community Survey Respondents

Median Income Level by Family Type					
Area	Households	Families	Married Couple Families	Single Female Householder w/Children	Single Male Householder
Clovis	\$98,554	\$111,257	\$132,797	\$51,617	\$67,945
Coalinga	\$68,976	\$69,500	\$86,685	\$22,351	\$59,351
Huron	\$43,664	\$48,070	\$48,070	\$19,151	\$68,281
Kerman	\$53,956	\$58,234	\$73,917	\$37,026	\$75,313
Kingsburg	\$74,897	\$83,242	\$95,154	\$60,848	\$68,750
Mendota	\$43,315	\$43,301	\$55,087	\$14,464	\$39,453
Parlier	\$50,026	\$51,592	\$65,142	\$29,133	\$42,868
Orange Cove	\$33,671	\$33,691	\$45,227	\$18,987	\$31,053
Reedley	\$61,629	\$66,774	\$76,453	\$37,513	\$87,576
Sanger	\$69,333	\$71,324	\$85,866	\$38,326	\$41,696
Selma	\$53,874	\$58,562	\$71,193	\$24,167	\$54,295
Fresno City	\$63,001	\$71,430	\$92,651	\$28,901	\$54,038
Fresno County	\$67,756	\$76,092	\$96,174	\$30,827	\$45,547

Table 9. Median Income by Family Type

Supplemental Security Income

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), provides monthly financial payments to low-income adults that are blind, disabled, or age 65 and older. Disabled or blind children are also eligible to receive SSI benefits. Families receiving SSI are categorically eligible for Head Start services, providing the family an additional supportive resource¹.

Receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash Public Assistance (CPA), SNAP				
Area	Total	% Pop. SSI	% Pop. CPA	% Pop. SNAP
Clovis	123,529	3.1%	4.9%	12.7%
Coalinga	17,488	6.4%	5.1%	17.6%
Huron	6,250	2.6%	4.9%	35.8%
Kerman	15,980	7.5%	5.6%	24.7%
Kingsburg	12,490	6.9%	5.0%	14.6%
Mendota	12,603	5.2%	2.2%	29.3%
Parlier	14,554	8.8%	5.6%	26.5%
Orange Cove	9,635	8.2%	8.5%	36.0%
Reedley	25,441	7.0%	7.4%	18.4%
Sanger	26,461	10.8%	5.8%	17.4%
Selma	24,318	5.1%	8.1%	22.4%
Fresno City	541,528	9.3%	7.3%	22.0%
Fresno County	1,008,280	7.7%	5.8%	22.7%

Table 10. Social Security Income & Public Assistance

2023 Head Start Families Receipt of Public Assistance				
	SNAP	SSI	WIC	TANF
HS/EHS Families	1,325 (59%)	111 (5%)	1,521 (70%)	521 (23%)

Table 11. Head Start Families Receipt of Public Assistance

Profile of Self-Sufficiency

Indicators of self-sufficiency that can be gleaned from Program Information Report (PIR) data for Head Start families include rates of parental employment and the extent to which families use public assistance. The number of families in which one parent is employed, in job training or in school totals 1,475, which is 66% of all enrolled families. Of these families, 185 are in job training (13%) and 32 are attending school to obtain a GED or a degree. This rate is higher than in 2022, in which 24% of parents were unemployed and not attending school or job training. Among children in Fresno County under six years, 62% had all parents in the labor force. Among children aged 6-17 years, 68% had all parents in the labor force. This data shows that parents in the program work at levels comparable to other families in the community.



Economic Activities Key Data Findings

- The unemployment rate is rising over pre-pandemic levels and in March 2024 reached 9.5%, meaning that there is a total of 44,600 people that are unemployed. Additionally, there are over 34,000 workers who are underemployed.
- Fresno County is experiencing growth in Agribusiness, Logistics/E-Commerce, Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and Energy and Water Technology Sectors. With training, these careers offer entry level career opportunities for individuals in poverty.
- Economic trends indicate that the largest sectors by industry employment are education and health care and social assistance. However, there is a significant number of farmworkers and individuals employed in agriculture. Farmworkers have higher rates of poverty and most often have limited English proficiency.
- Median income is stratified by race and Hispanic/Latinos and African American/Black residents are more likely to have a lower income than the general population. Additionally, the median income for married-family households with children is three times that of single-female headed households. Fresno County median income is lower than the state median income for families and households.

There have been changes in the work environment and in the job structure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people in poverty that are working are employed in the low-wage labor market in jobs that lack benefits. As shown by underemployment and growing unemployment rates. In Fresno County, a significant number of jobs are also in the retail and hospitality sector where employers schedule work hours unpredictably. These factors result in wage volatility that undergirds poverty and the ability to achieve self-sufficiency.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER UNEMPLOYMENT TO FAMILIES?

Unemployment can be especially devastating for families with children and for individuals. Housing payments, food and transportation costs, health care needs, and even childcare costs don't end when a job ends. Research shows that children are more likely to repeat a grade when parents lose jobs, and those living with unemployed single mothers are more likely to drop out of school and to experience lower emotional wellbeing. Other studies document that unemployment often intensifies parental stress, which in turn impairs children's future outcomes.

Single-mothers, whose families stand to gain the most from the benefits of postsecondary degrees, face obstacles to college completion which would help them move out of low-wage employment, including financial insecurity and heavy caregiving burdens. Steps that can be taken to help people transition into self-sufficiency include:

- Providing support for increasing education in alignment with job growth trends. Aligning education and employment can help clients enter into careers that offer full-time work and benefits.
- Providing comprehensive services that buffer the impact of the caregiving burden and lack of resources experienced by single mothers. For example, offering childcare programs that meet the full-time/year-round care needs of families and creating peer support groups. The Head Start program model is particularly effective at combining mental health, financial, and other career support to help families.
- Integrating data collection efforts into HS and other programs that uncover the reasons behind unemployment, calculating under-employment among individuals, and developing targeted strategies to address the needs of people that are struggling. For example, creating surveys to uncover the barriers experienced in relation to employment barriers.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON INDIVIDUALS?

Financial hardship that leads to difficulties covering basic expenses.

Uncertainty and a loss of a sense of purpose can contribute to emotional distress.

Loss of self-esteem and identity because work often plays a crucial role in shaping a sense of self and identity.

Health implications such as loss of insurance and physical health problems due to stress and anxiety.

Negative impacts on relationships and financial strains may affect interactions with others.

Reduced social interactions and more limited sense of community.

Delaying life's milestones such as retirement, starting a family, or buying a home.

Negative long-term career effects as the result of lengthy periods of unemployment.

Poverty

Poverty contributes to death, disease, and health impairments. As income inequality increases, life expectancy differences also emerge. According to a recent study, low-income Americans have higher rates of physical limitation, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and other chronic conditions, compared to high-income Americans.⁸ Conversely, wealth supports educational attainment, housing stability, and financial security.⁹ Poverty also exerts adverse impacts on children through family stress processes because it can lead to family dysfunction, stress among caregivers, and parenting challenges.

Elderly poverty can lead to depression and reduce the life span. Some individuals may 'inherit' poverty because of being born into a particular social group defined by race, class, and location. Others experience situational poverty from which they never escape. Poverty is interconnected along five pathways: substance abuse, educational failure, unemployment, debt, and family breakdown, making it particularly insidious.

Population in Poverty by Census Tract

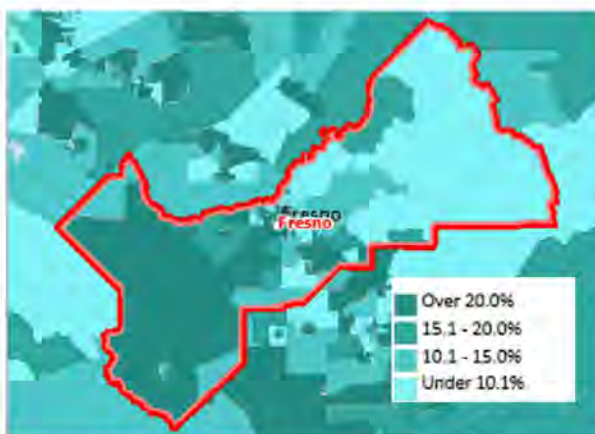


Figure 17. Population in Poverty by Census Tract

Number Below Poverty Level

Poverty estimates for 2022 show a total of 193,675 Fresno County residents have an income below the poverty threshold. The poverty rate is 19.5% compared to a rate of 12.5% for California¹.

Area	Population	Poverty Rates	
		Population in Poverty	Percent in Poverty
Fresno County	990,821	193,675	19.5%
California	38,643,585	4,685,272	12.1%
United States	323,275,448	40,521,584	12.5%

⁸ Chetty R, Stepner M, Abraham S, et al. (2016). The Association Between Income and Life Expectancy in the United States, 2001-2014. JAMA, 315(16):1750-1766. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.4226

⁹ Health Affairs (2018). Health, Income, & Poverty: Where We Area & What Could Help. Retrieved from <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hpb20180817.901935/full/>.

Population in Poverty by City				
Area	Total	Population in Poverty	% Population in Poverty	Individuals Income < 50% Poverty
Clovis	119,318	10,049	8.4%	4,703
Coalinga	14,185	2,654	18.7%	1,372
Firebaugh	8,139	3,521	43.3%	843
Huron	6,260	2,007	32.1%	1,051
Kerman	15,564	3,408	21.9%	1,023
Kingsburg	12,490	1,185	9.6%	472
Mendota	12,603	4,101	32.7%	1,937
Orange Cove	9,635	4,463	46.5%	891
Parlier	14,554	3,988	27.4%	1,756
Reedley	25,441	3,977	15.9%	1,219
Sanger	26,461	4,198	5.8%	1,219
San Joaquin	3,725	1,238	33.2%	242
Selma	24,318	5,157	21.2%	1,882
Fresno City	532,251	117,570	22.1%	55,948

Poverty Rate by Family Type

In the service area, children living in single female headed households are more than three times likely to be living in poverty than all families. Within the service area 35,096 families (15%) live in poverty. Of families in poverty, 13,985 are married couples (39.8%), 4,095 are male householders and 17,016 are female – headed households (48.5%)¹.

Families in Poverty by Family Type



Figure 18. Poverty Rate by Family Type

Number of Children Living in Poverty

Among Fresno County children, the poverty rate is 8%, compared to a rate of 11.9% in California and 17.0% in the U.S. The highest rates of poverty among children are in Orange Cove and Firebaugh¹.

Area	Children in Poverty			
	Total Population	Population < 18 years.	% Children in Poverty	Total Children in Poverty
Clovis	119,318	33,821	9.6%	10,049
Coalinga	14,185	4,092	25.1%	1,026
Firebaugh	8,139	2,849	55.3%	1,575
Huron	6,260	2,135	56.9%	1,214
Kerman	15,564	4,846	28.1%	1,364
Kingsburg	12,490	3,231	7.9%	255
Mendota	12,603	4,782	41.2%	1,970
Orange Cove	9,635	3,609	61.0%	2,203
Parlier	14,554	4,677	38.4%	1,797
Reedley	25,441	7,517	21.1%	1,586
Sanger	26,461	7,765	23.2%	1,803
San Joaquin	3,725	1,444	44.0%	635
Selma	24,318	6,445	29.6%	1,908
Fresno City	532,251	148,084	30.4%	45,043

Table 12. Children in Poverty by Age

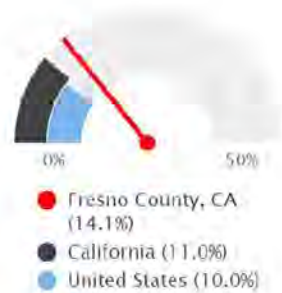


Figure 19. Poverty by Population Type

Seniors Living in Poverty

According to the American Community Survey 5-year data, an average of 19% of people in Fresno County lived in a state of poverty during 2022. The poverty rate for seniors living in Fresno County is 14.1%, totaling 17,307 people, a rate higher than the rate for California and the rate for the nation¹.

Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate



Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

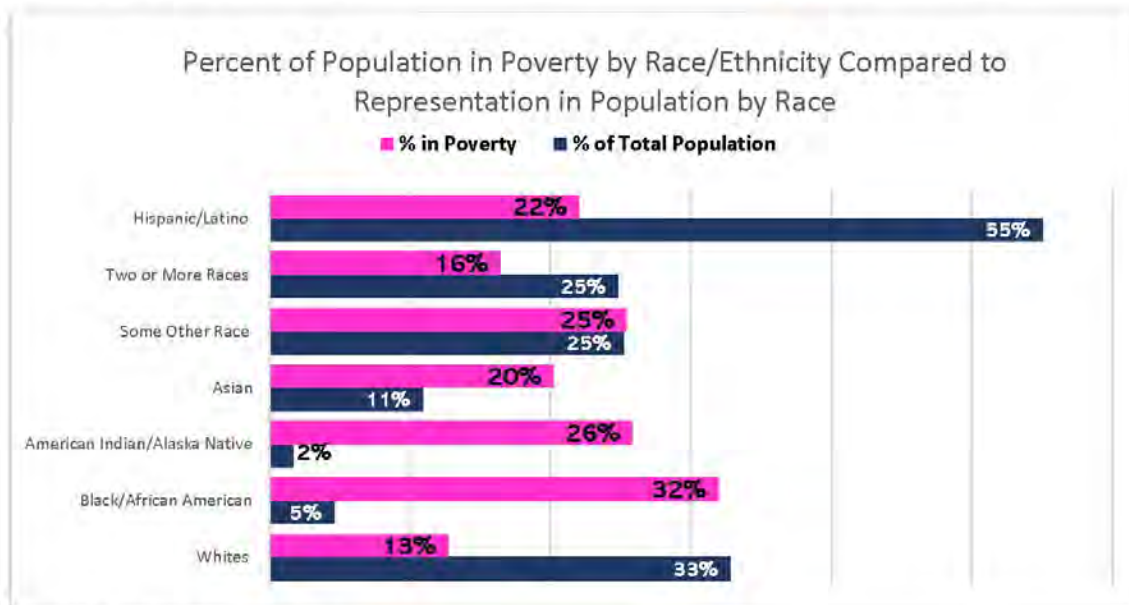


Figure 20. Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

Latino and Hispanic households are more likely to live in poverty than the general population.

Percent of Hispanic/Latino Population living in Households with an Income below Poverty

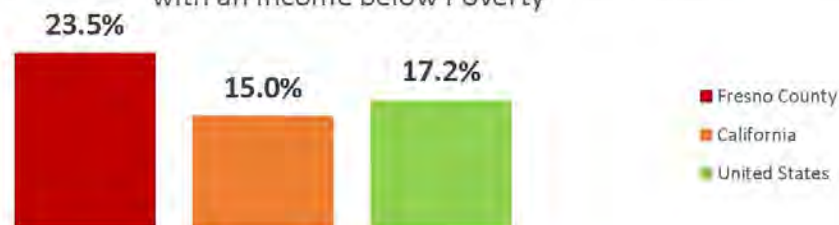


Figure 21. Hispanic / Latino Population in Poverty

Children Age 0 to 4 in Poverty by Race (%)



Figure 22. Children Aged 0-4 Years in Poverty by Race

Individuals and Families Near Poverty

It is important to examine the near poverty rate to identify people who have an income that may be above the poverty line, but an income still low enough to put them at significant risk of falling into poverty due to unforeseen circumstances such as job loss, major illness, or divorce. Additionally, the data can be used to create stabilization solutions that can help households before they fall into poverty. In regard to social equity, focusing on the near poverty rate can lead to more equitable social programs that address disparities in access to resources and opportunities. This focus can help mitigate systemic issues that contribute to persistent poverty. The graphic to the right indicates the number of people that have an income near the poverty level.

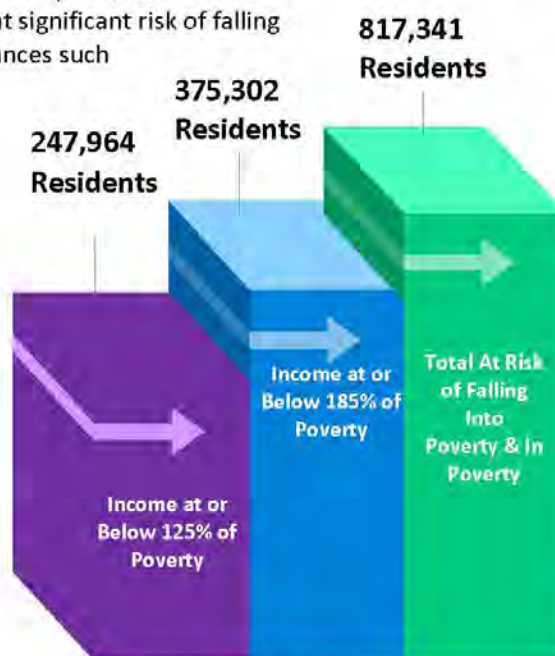


Figure 23. Population at-risk of Poverty

Poverty among racial/ethnic groups in the service area differs due to the longstanding impacts of historical injustices, discrimination, and bias in various aspects of society such as education disparities, employment discrimination, and the wealth gap. The criminal justice system and neighborhood segregation also contribute to higher poverty rates among some groups.



Community Survey Responses

Community survey respondents were asked about which factors of inequity impacted their daily lives. The following data details the responses by 2,437 community survey answering this question.

- 31% of respondents reported that families of color live in specific neighborhoods.
- 17% of respondents reported that children of color do not get the same quality of education as children who are not of color.
- 17% reported they are treated differently at their job because of their color, race, or gender.

Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment

Individuals who have lower levels of educational attainment are more likely to live in poverty.

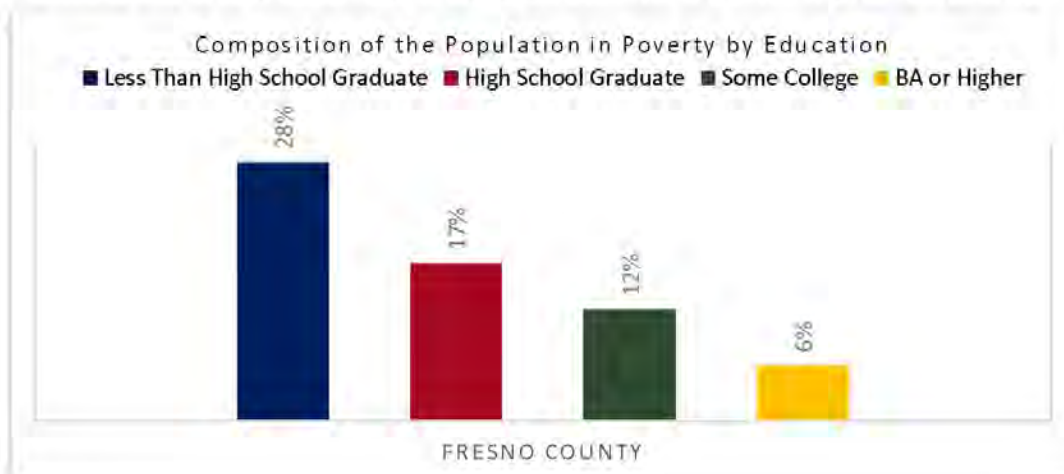


Figure 24. Poverty and Educational Attainment

Poverty Rate by Employment Status

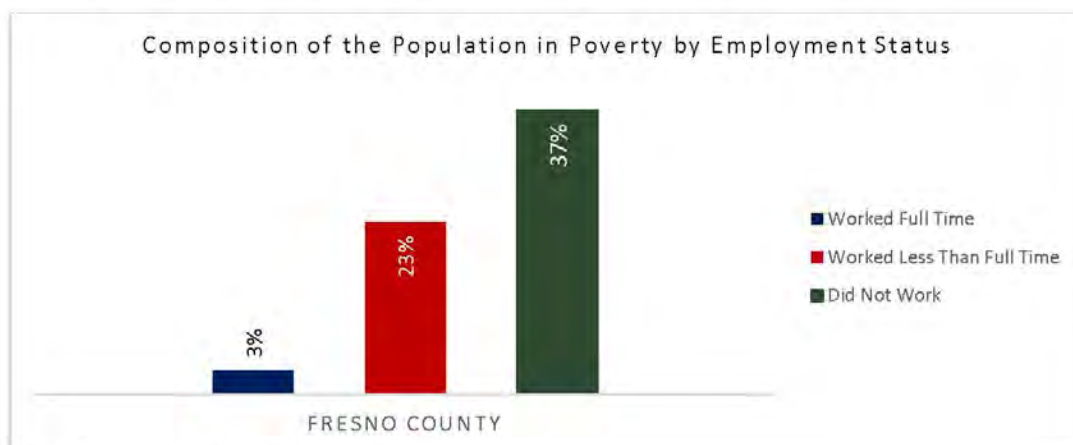


Figure 25. Poverty Rate by Employment Status

Social Vulnerability

The Social Vulnerability Index uses census data to determine the social vulnerability of the population based on 15 social factors, including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing. The data is grouped into four themes as follows:

- Socioeconomic
- Housing Composition and Disability
- Minority Status and Language
- Housing and Transportation

The map that follows shows Fresno County census tracts with the greatest vulnerability.

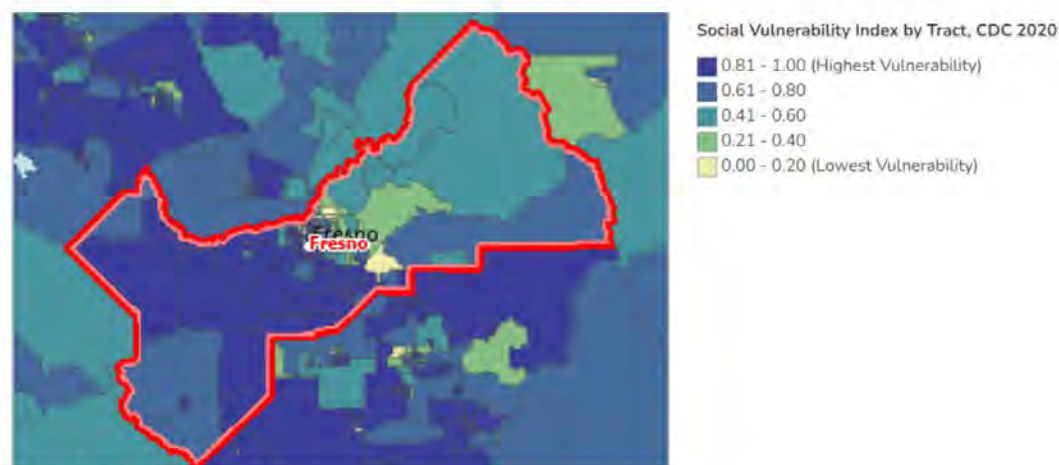


Figure 26. Social Vulnerability by Census Tract



Poverty Key Data Findings

The poverty rate indicates that 193,675 individuals live in poverty, totaling 19.5% of the population. The rate of poverty among children is higher than the general rate of poverty. The southwest areas of the county have the highest poverty rates. The data also reveals that high levels of education correlate with employment resulting in higher incomes and lower rates of poverty. For example, Fresno County householders that worked full-time had a poverty rate of 3% compared to a rate of 37% for households with no workers. Other notable trends included a wide disparity in which single-female headed households and people of color experienced higher poverty rates than Whites and married-couples.

The communities with the lowest rates of poverty are Sanger, Clovis, and Kingsburg. The communities with the highest rates of poverty are San Joaquin, Mendota, Huron, and Firebaugh. In ranking community needs it is important to consider both the percentage of the population in poverty as well as the number of people in poverty. The City of Fresno has by far the greatest number of individuals that live in poverty.

Early Care and Education & Head Start Eligibles

Context for Preschool Early Childhood Services

The Fresno County early childhood landscape is changing which has provided unique opportunities and challenges for Head Start and Early Head Start. Four critical trends must be included in any effort to take stock of the developing system so that data-driven program adjustments can be made.

Expansion of Childcare Subsidies: Families with children under age 5, who have incomes below the federal poverty line who pay for childcare, typically spend 36% of their income on childcare costs. For many families, the high cost of childcare leaves insufficient funds for food, housing, and other basic costs. Households with incomes just above the federal poverty level spend more than 20% of their income on childcare¹⁰. In April 2024, legislative changes to the Child Care and Development Fund will lower the costs of childcare for families by allowing access to subsidies for families so that childcare costs do not comprise more than 7% of their income. The changes will also simplify enrollment in childcare programs¹⁰.

Federal policymakers began expanding access to childcare in 2020 in an effort to rebuild and stabilize the childcare system after the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the finality of the changes are still in flux both at the state level and in Washington D.C. Ambitious proposals are on the table to expand access to childcare and to fix the unsustainable childcare system, but the state is facing a budget shortfall, and the federal response is not guaranteed.

Expansion of Transitional Preschool: California's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program provides an additional year of schooling within the K–12 system that aims to prepare children for kindergarten. Launched a decade ago with limited eligibility, the program will be expanded to all four-year-olds by 2025–26. The program has expanded rapidly which impacts the enrollment of four-year olds in Head Start as parents are drawn to programs offered in elementary schools. The program is expected to expand; however, the most recent state budget proposal will not be approved until May so decisions cannot be made until a final proposal is approved. In the past, and in other states facing budget shortfalls that have committed to expanding preschool programs, slot expansions have been delayed which could be the case for California as well.

Employment Volatility: Access to full-day childcare and early education programs impacts families' ability to work. In Fresno County, the percentage of parents that work is lower than for the state and the unemployment rate is rising. This may impact the need for extended-day early care and education programs. Many families responding to the community survey note that they work variable hours or part-time and less than two parents are working. These working parents, who often earn low wages and cannot rely on a consistent schedule (or paycheck) or who work nights or weekends, have few childcare options available to them. Within the Head Start

¹⁰ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/01/2024-04139/improving-child-care-access-affordability-and-stability-in-the-child-care-and-development-fund-ccdf>

program, 66% of children have at least one parent working. This factor could impact enrollment and attendance in Head Start programs in addition to impacting the stability of families.

Early Childhood Staffing Crisis: Research is clear that skilled early educators “are the single most important factor” in providing children with the early experiences necessary to foster positive learning and development in early childhood settings¹¹. Despite this research, most early educators earn exceedingly low wages, sometimes at or near the federal poverty level, lack access to workplace benefits, and often struggle to meet the needs of their own families¹². Despite interventions and investments in the early childhood workforce several factors have undermined the effort to resolve the early childhood staffing crisis. For example, environment related issues such as burnout from working with children and families with more intense needs and increased demand for early childhood staff as other programs expand has worsened these trends.

Head Start Regulations: In November 2023 the Office of Head Start related a set of proposed rules for the program that will impact the operation of Head Start programs. The rulemaking proposed to:

- Increase wages to align with preschool teachers in public school settings and to make progress toward full pay parity with elementary school teachers;
- Improve benefits for Head Start staff, including health insurance and paid leave, and to enhance staff health and wellness supports;
- Ensure better integration of mental health supports in program services;
- Improve child health and safety in program facilities;
- Improve family engagement services; and
- Modernize the processes for programs to identify and meet community needs.

The proposed changes provide a substantial shift in how Head Start programs will be required to use their limited resources. For example, the rules propose a cap of 40 for the caseloads of family service workers. The changes are not yet approved but should be monitored and plans for when the rules are implemented should be a focus of program design decisions.

¹¹ Yoshikawa, H., Weiland, C., Brooks-Gunn, J., Burchinal, M., Espinosa, L., Gormley, J., Ludwig, J., Magnuson, K., Phillips, D., & Zaslow, M. (2013). Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education. New York, NY: Foundation for Child Development and Society for Research in Child Development.

¹² United States Department of Health and Human Services and United States Department of Education (2016). High quality early learning settings depend on a high-quality workforce: Low compensation undermines quality. Washington, D.C.: Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.

Number of Children Eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start Eligibles						
Area	# of Children Under 3	# of Children Aged 3 & 4	Poverty Rate for Children Under 5	EHS Eligibles	HS Eligibles	Annual Births to Women in Poverty
Biola	107	47	42%	45	20	29
Clovis	4,383	3,935	11%	482	433	204
Coalinga	456	342	19%	87	65	79
Firebaugh	314	319	61%	192	195	37
Huron	303	206	67%	203	138	109
Kerman	758	485	19%	144	92	73
Kingsburg	294	310	10%	29	31	20
Mendota	756	480	37%	280	178	38
Orange Cove	407	405	48%	195	194	64
Parlier	468	627	45%	211	282	49
Reedley	1,335	1,041	14%	187	146	53
Riverdale	111	149	11%	12	16	0
Sanger	1,009	1,113	14%	141	156	82
San Joaquin	225	208	52%	117	108	29
Selma	886	764	37%	328	283	65
Fresno City	23,373	16,906	31%	7246	5241	2,474
Fresno County	39,152	30,381	28%	10,963	8,507	4,150

Table 13. Head Start and Early Head Start Eligibles

Number of Children by Age

Data on the number of children eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start can be examined using two measures, that both differ in the final count. However, examining the number of children by single years of age is helpful for classroom planning and for expansion efforts.

Number of Children by Age				
Child Population	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.
Total Children	13,859	13,991	13,979	14,649

Table 14. Number of Children by Age

Race/Ethnicity of Head Start/Early Head Start Eligible Children

According to the Children's Defense Fund, Black and Hispanic/Latino children continue to suffer disproportionately from poverty, with the youngest children most at-risk of being poor.¹³ The data below shows disparities among children in the U.S. by race. Fresno County poverty trends reflect the increased likelihood that children in poverty are of color.

¹³ <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/child-poverty-in-america-2015.pdf>

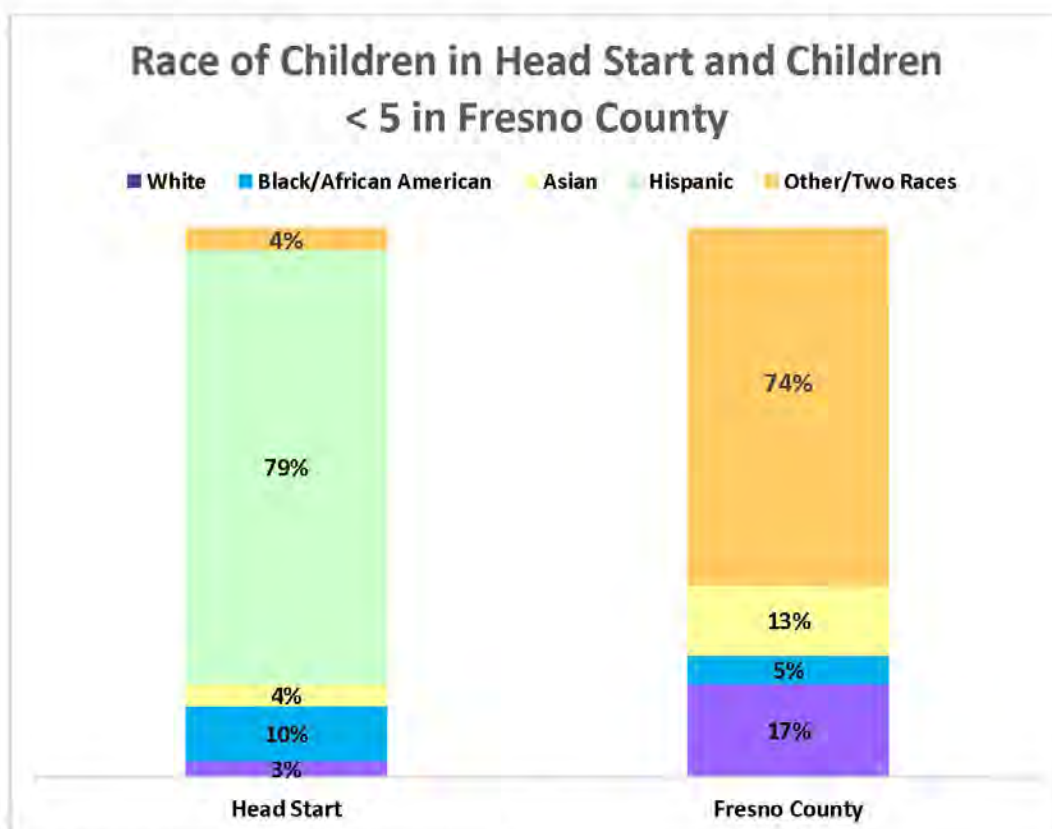


Figure 27. Race of Children in Head Start and Fresno County

Based on the poverty rate for children that are White, Black/African American, Asian, and Hispanic the following table estimates the race and ethnicity of the Head Start eligible population. Note - this data does not equal the total number of HS/EHS eligibles due to differing data sources and calculation methods. However, this data can be utilized to identify general trends in the race of children eligible for HS/EHS.

Race of Head Start Eligibles for Primary Racial Groups (racial groups comprising more than 1% of the total child population under six years)			
Race/Ethnicity	Children < 5 Yrs.	Poverty Rate for Children < 6 yrs. by Race ¹⁴	Estimated HS and EHS Eligibles by Race
White	18,103	7%	1,267
Black/African American	3,727	24%	894
Hispanic/Latino	45,605	41%	18,698

¹⁴ U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2022. B17010A: B17010B: B17010C: B17010D: B17010E: B17010F

Asian	8,278	14%	1,158
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,479	27%	399
Other /2 Races	38,420	22%	8,452

Table 15. Race of Head Start and Early Head Start Eligibles

Dual Language Learners Eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start

In Fresno County a large number of children live in a household with limited English proficiency. Out of 2,590 enrollees, 68% speak English as the primary language at home. Using data from the Program Information Report and the percentages provided in the table below, it is estimated that there are 4,824 infants and toddlers eligible for Early Head Start and 3,743 children eligible for Head Start that are dual language learners. Note – this data does not equal the total number of HS/EHS eligibles due to differences in calculation methods.

Head Start and Early Head Start Eligibles - Dual Language Learners ¹⁵					
Area	# of Children Under 3	# of Children Aged 3 & 4	% Families Speak Language other than English	EHS Eligibles	HS Eligibles
Biola	45	20	80%	36	16
Clovis	482	433	24%	116	104
Coalinga	87	65	47%	41	31
Firebaugh	192	195	80%	154	156
Huron	203	138	90%	183	124
Kerman	144	92	73%	105	67
Kingsburg	29	31	20%	6	6
Mendota	280	178	87%	244	155
Orange Cove	195	194	84%	164	163
Parlier	211	282	81%	171	228
Reedley	187	146	63%	118	92
Riverdale	12	16	73%	9	12
Sanger	141	156	52%	73	81
San Joaquin	117	108	82%	96	89
Selma	328	283	51%	167	144
Fresno City	7,246	5,241	43%	3,116	2,254
Fresno County	10,963	8,507	44%	4,824	3,743

Table 16. Fresno EOC Dual Language Learners Eligible for Head Start

¹⁵ United States Census Bureau. *Language* 20122. Table S1601. Retrieved from: <https://data.census.gov>.

Primary Language of Head Start and Early Head Start Families			
Language	Early Head Start	Head Start	Total
English	317	266	583
Spanish	133	711	844
Native Central American/South American/Mexican Languages	2	4	6
Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages	6	24	30
East Asian Languages	13	44	57
European and Slavic Languages	0	1	1
American Sign Language	0	1	1
Other-Unspecified	0	5	5

Table 17. Primary Language of Head Start and Early Head Start Families

Homeless Children Eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start

Homeless children are particularly vulnerable and experience poor health, disruption in services due to mobility, lack of access to adequate nutrition, and exposure to trauma at a rate that exceeds that of children that live in families with secure housing.

Difficulty in accounting for the homeless population makes it challenging to estimate the number of homeless children eligible for Head Start. The Early Childhood Homeless State Profile for California states that 1 in every 12 children are homeless. Using this methodology, there is estimated to be 3,262 children aged birth-two years and 2,531 children aged three-to-five years who are homeless in Fresno County¹⁶. Included in the table below are estimates by community.

Estimates of Early Childhood Homelessness by Community				
Area	# of Children Under 3	# of Children Aged 3 & 4	EHS Eligibles	HS Eligibles
Biola	45	20	4	0
Clovis	482	433	40	36
Coalinga	87	65	7	5
Firebaugh	192	195	16	16
Huron	203	138	17	5

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Education. Estimates of Early Childhood State Homelessness. <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/disadv/homeless/early-childhood-homelessness-state-profiles-2021.pdf>

Estimates of Early Childhood Homelessness by Community				
Area	# of Children Under 3	# of Children Aged 3 & 4	EHS Eligibles	HS Eligibles
Kerman	144	92	12	8
Kingsburg	29	31	2	5
Mendota	280	178	23	15
Orange Cove	195	194	16	5
Parlier	211	282	18	24
Reedley	187	146	16	5
Riverdale	12	16	1	1
Sanger	141	156	13	13
San Joaquin	117	108	9	9
Selma	328	283	24	24
Fresno City	7,246	5,241	437	437
Fresno County	10,963	8,507	709	709

Table 18. Estimates of Early Childhood Homelessness by Community

According to the Fresno County Program Information Report, Head Start 0-5 served 25 families who were experiencing homelessness during the 2022 program year. In total, 19 children experiencing homelessness were enrolled in Head Start because they were categorically eligible due to homelessness.

Foster Children Eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start

The Head Start program served 100 children in foster care during the 2022 program year. The rate of foster care entry for children under age 1 is 13.3/1,000 children. For children aged 1-2 years, the rate of foster care entry is 4.8/1,000 children. Among children aged 3-5 years the rate is 3.7/1,000 children¹⁷. Based on this data it is estimated there are 136 infants under 1 year; 129 children aged 1-2 years; and 105 children aged 3-5 years in foster care eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start.

Children with Disabilities Eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start

The California Department of Education reports that in 2022, 21,987 children in Fresno County received disabilities services¹⁸. Of these children, 6.9% received services in a preschool setting. This indicates there are 1,517 preschoolers with disabilities in the county that are age-eligible for Head Start. The Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) reported in 2022 they served 22,430 individuals of these 15% were aged 0-2 years and 12% were 3-5 years. This data indicates that

¹⁷KidsData.org. <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/17/foster-entries-age/table#fmt=2325&loc=357&tf=125&ch=928,924,926,927,923,925&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>

¹⁸ California Department of Education. 2022. Disabilities Enrollment by Age. <https://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQCensus/SPEDEnrLevels.aspx?aggllevel=County&cde=10&year=2022-23>

there is estimated to be 3,364 infants and toddlers with disabilities and 2,691 children aged 3-5 years with a disability served by CVRC¹⁹.



Head Start Eligibles Key Data Findings

In Fresno County, there are 10,963 children aged 0-2 years eligible for Early Head Start and 8,507 children aged 3-4 years eligible for Head Start. There were 4,150 births to women in poverty in the past 12 months in Fresno County. The race and ethnicity of children served in the Head Start program reflects that of the county, as it is comprised of more Hispanic/Latino children than any other group. It also reflects the high rates of poverty found among this population. It is estimated there are a significant number of dual language learners eligible for Head Start as the rate of families that speak a language other than English at home in the population is more than 50% in some communities. It is estimated there are 4,824 infants and toddlers that are living in linguistically isolated households and 3,743 preschoolers living in households where the language spoken at home is not English.

Communities in Fresno County show both increasing and decreasing birth rates, but there are around 13,000 new births every year. Many of these children are born to single mothers in poverty that are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start, as demonstrated by poverty rates for children under five years that exceed 40% in Firebaugh, Huron, Orange Cove, Biola, Parlier, and San Joaquin. The rate of poverty among children under five is even higher for children living in single parent families. The rate of poverty for children under five exceeds 30% in Mendota, Selma, and Fresno. This means that these communities are ideal locations for Head Start and Early Head Start services due to such a large population that lives in concentrated deep poverty.

An important responsibility of the Head Start program is to serve children that are the most vulnerable. To achieve this aim, the program targets children in foster care, children that are homeless, and children with disabilities. According to the data there are 3,262 infants and toddlers and 2,531 children aged 3-5 years that are homeless in Fresno County. There are also 3,364 infants and toddlers and 2,691 preschoolers with disabilities age-eligible for Head Start. The number of children in foster care totals 136 infants under 1 year; 129 children aged 1-2 years; and 105 children aged 3-5 years in foster care eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start.

¹⁹ Summary Performance Report for Central Valley Regional Center, Spring 2022

Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

Health status is disparate in Fresno County with affluent communities experiencing better health and increased access to health services while poor communities experience less access to services across a range of health needs. In research it is also well documented that people with a lower income experience a greater degree of disease and mortality, especially seniors, infants, and children. Differences in the use of health services and lack of access to health insurance also results in disproportionate health issues as individuals grow older. Higher educational attainment and incomes typically result in a higher use of health care such as preventive visits which also contributes to better health outcomes throughout life. The following graphic details the components that make up social determinants of health (SDoH) which allows for the tracking and design of solutions to mediate disparities in health outcomes.

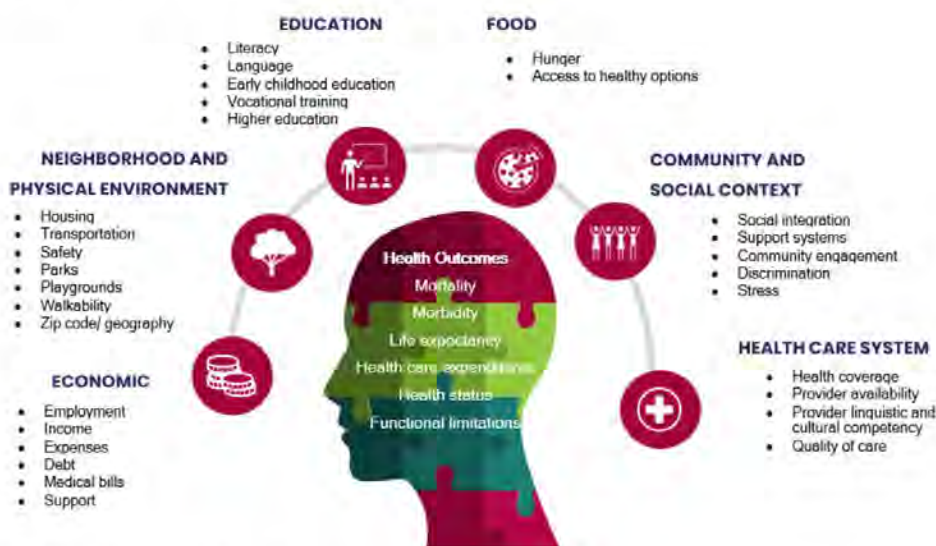


Figure 28. Social Determinants of Health



Community Survey Responses

Community survey respondents (2,457) were asked about health problems and health needs in the community. The following notes the percentage of respondents identifying a specific health issue as a major need. The question allowed for respondents to identify more than one need.

- 55% of respondents reported lack of access to health services as a major problem, consistent with the community forums.
- 39% reported their work conditions were unhealthy.
- 48% reported there is limited help for people to enroll in public insurance.
- 55% reported inadequate insurance coverage.
- 35% reported lack of access to culturally responsive care.

Population Health



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute conduct an annual snapshot analysis of county health throughout the United States which helps to identify possible solutions to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The ranking also provides a broadened understanding of the many factors that shape health and provides a lens through which the social determinants of health that are impacting the population in the area can be evaluated. The following components provide information on four areas that influence health: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. The following charts detail health outcomes for residents living in Fresno County and California.

20

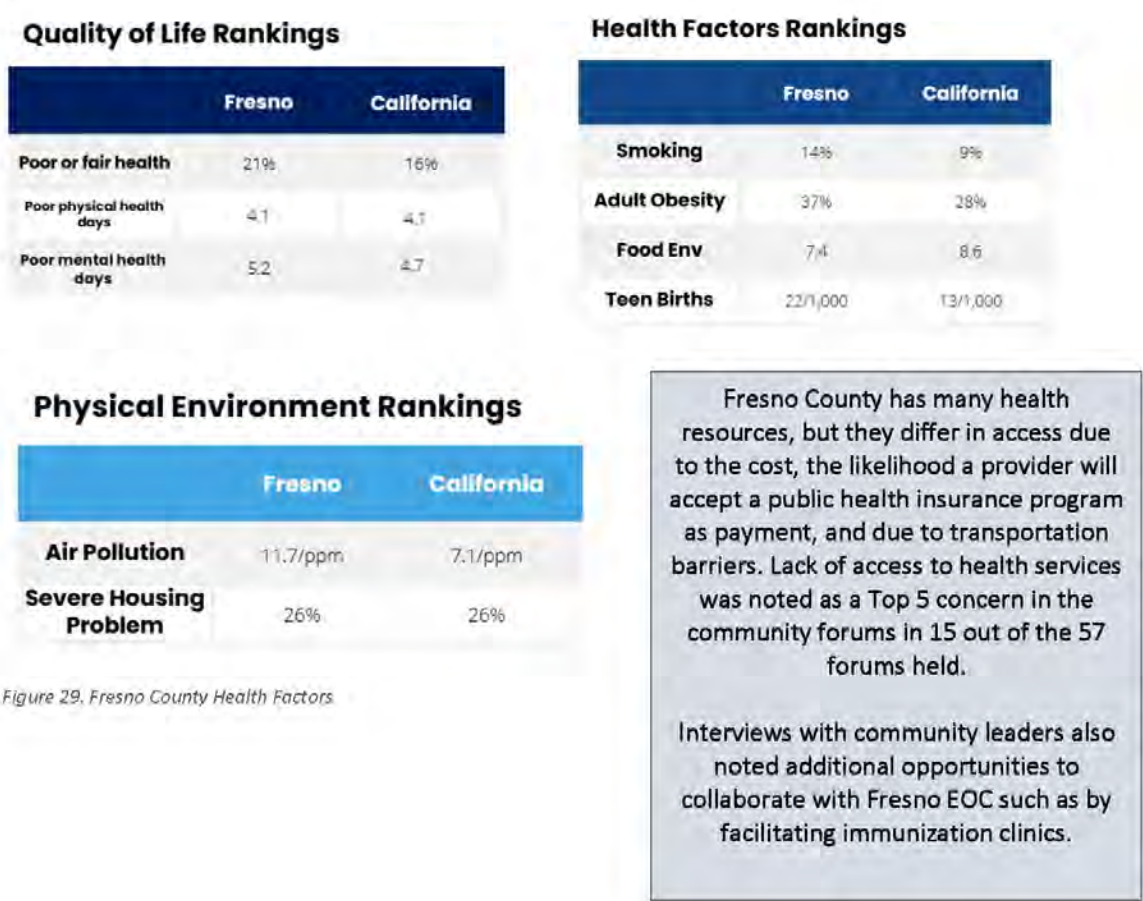


Figure 29. Fresno County Health Factors

²⁰ County Health Rankings, 2024. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/california/fresno?year=2024>.

Poor outcomes on the SDoH can result in reduced life expectancy. In Fresno County, the average life expectancy is 78.5 years which is lower than found for California residents (80.32 yrs.), but comparable to the national life expectancy of 78.69 yrs.²¹

20

Social and Economic Factors Ranking

	Fresno	California
Some College	58%	68%
Unemployment	6.4%	4.2%
Children in Poverty	25%	15%
Income Inequality	5.1%	5.2%
Children in Single Parent Households	28%	22%
Social Associations	5.2	6.0
Injury Deaths	68	59



Life Expectancy At Birth, Years by Tract



Figure 30. Life Expectancy

Disease and Illness

The rate of communicable and other diseases in Fresno County is detailed below.

Rate of Disease and Illness in Fresno County ²²					
Area	Cancer Incidence Rate	Adults with Asthma	Chlamydia Infections Rate (per 100,000)	Hep C.	Gonorrhea Infections (per 100,000)
Fresno County	389.1	15.8%	637.3	41.1	179.1
California	394.7	14.2%	488.2	22.1	158.5

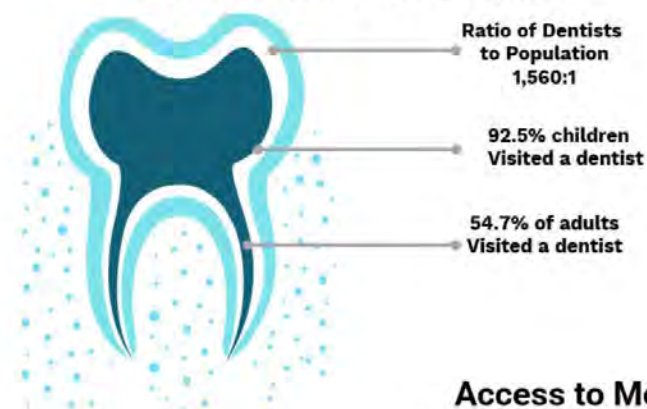
Table 19. Disease and Illness

²¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project. 2010-15.

²² Cares Engagement Network, Community Action Partnership, 2024

Access to Health Services

Access to Dental Care



23

Access to Mental Health Providers



The rate of deaths of despair for Fresno County is 43.1/100K compared to a rate of 37.1 for California.

Access to Primary Care

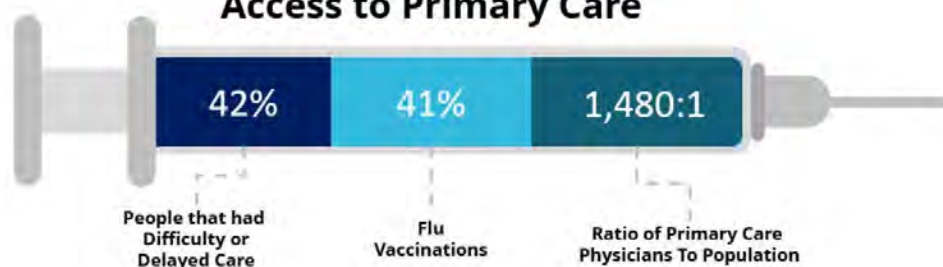
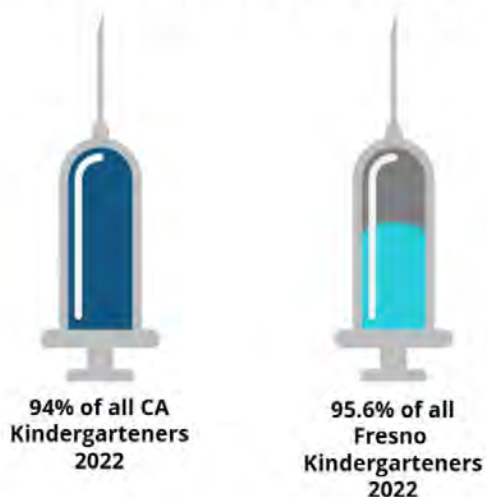


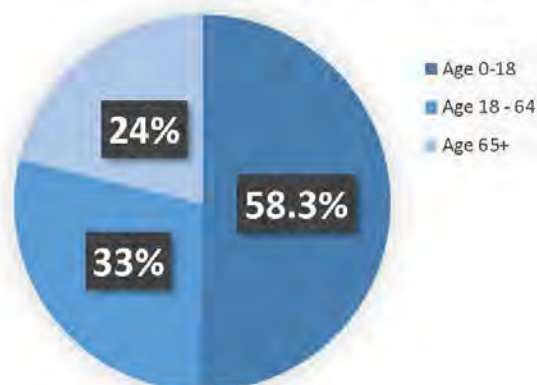
Figure 31. Access to Health Services

²³ Healthy Fresno County. <https://www.healthyfresnocountydata.org/indicators>.

Immunization Rate



Medicaid Use by Age Group



Insurance Characteristics

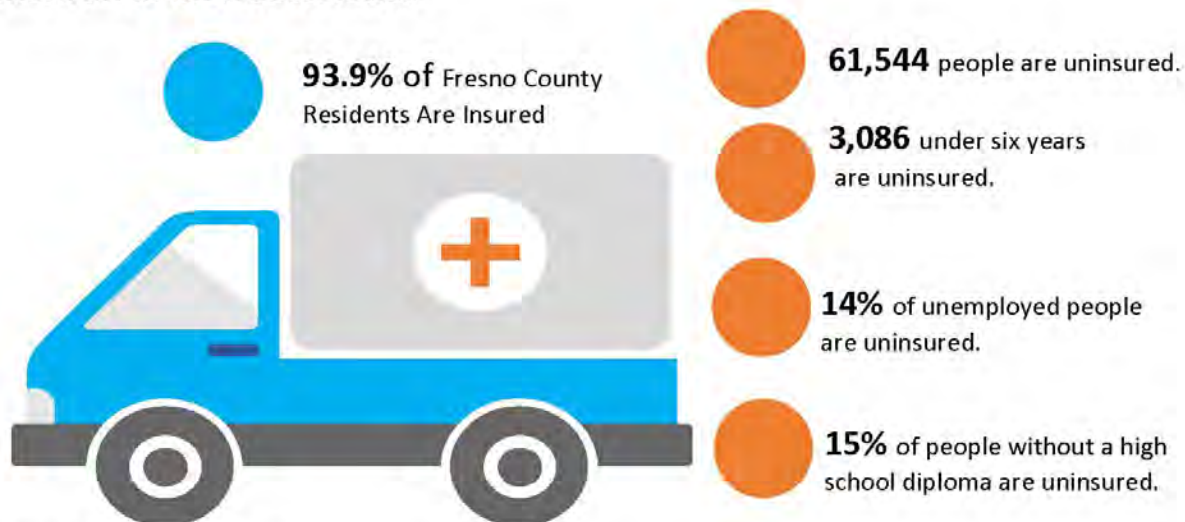


Figure 32. Insurance Characteristics

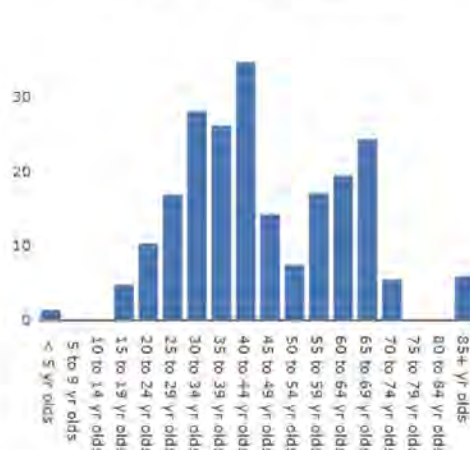
Substance Abuse ²⁴

The impact of drug and alcohol abuse on individuals, families, and communities is profound. Compared to their peers, children of substance abusing parents show increased rates of anxiety, depression, oppositional behavior, conduct problems, and aggressive behavior as well as lower rates of self-esteem and social competence²⁵. Because the younger children are, the more dependent they are on the care of their parents. This makes drug and alcohol abuse the most harmful for the youngest children.

For adults, substance abuse contributes to depression, anxiety, chronic disease and poor mental health. According to the County Health Rankings dataset, about 15% of Fresno County adults report excessive drinking and 28% of driving deaths in Fresno County involved alcohol. The county fares worse than the state in regard to impaired driving deaths.

The most recent data analyzed for the community assessment shows an increase in substance abuse that has worsened over time. As shown below, the rate of accidental overdose deaths has been rising since 2019 and slightly declined in 2021²⁶. Out of the total coroner cases, statistics report about 43% of them were deemed accidental deaths. Of these accidents, more were overdose-related than in prior years. In total, 232 were accidental overdoses with males making up 75% of those deaths. Methamphetamine was present in a majority of these overdoses with fentanyl following closely behind.

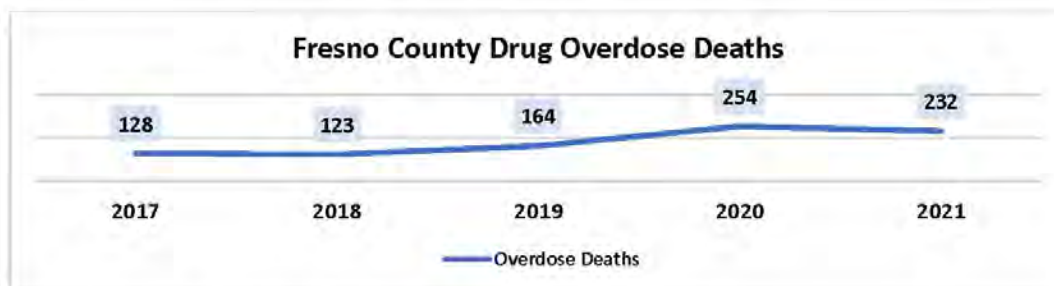
Any Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths - Fresno County by Age Groups, 2022
Crude Rate per 100,000 Residents



²⁴ California Department of Public Health. Substance Abuse Dashboard. <https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/?tab=CTY>

²⁵ Solis, J. M., Shadur, J. M., Burns, A. R., & Hussong, A. M. (2012). Understanding the diverse needs of children whose parents abuse substances. *Current drug abuse reviews*, 5(2), 135–147. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1874473711205020135>

²⁶ Fresno County Sheriff's Office Coroner Unit Statistics 2021. chrome-extension://efaldnbmnnibpcajpcgiclfndmkaj/https://www.fresnosheriff.org/images/pdfs/2021_Coroner_Unit_Statistics.pdf



Fresno County Adverse Early Childhood Experiences

According to KidsData.org, 21% of parents reported their child has been exposed to two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Additionally, 31% reported their child has been exposed to at least one ACE. The following table shows factors that contribute to adverse early childhood experiences and their prevalence in the Head Start eligible population²⁷. The illustration below shows the trajectory of the ACE process.



Child Abuse

Child maltreatment is an adverse experience and exerts severe effects on children's cognitive, social-emotional, language, mental health, and behavioral development that can last well into adulthood. Adults who were neglected or abused as children are at a greater risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, mental health issues, and chronic disease.²⁸ In contrast, safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments enable healthy growth and development. However, in

²⁷ Fresno County Domestic Violence Dashboard. <https://mmcenter.org/domestic-violence-dashboard>

²⁸ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (2014). *Understanding Child Maltreatment: Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention

Fresno County, the rate of child abuse and neglect is far higher than found for the State of California at 61.3 per 1,000 children, compared to 43.5/per 1,000²⁹. Young children under the age of four are at the greatest risk for the most severe consequences of abuse and neglect. The rates of child abuse are highest for children aged 11-15 years, but this is likely due to their ability to report abuse³⁰. The following chart shows reports of abuse and neglect by age group for Fresno County²⁹.

Reports of Child Abuse by Age Group

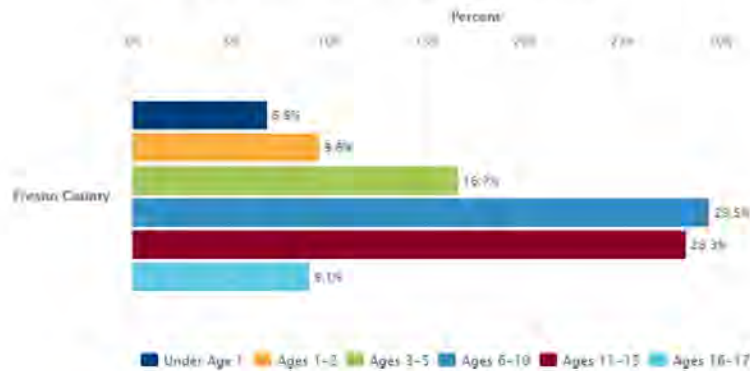


Figure 33. Child Abuse Rate by Age

Children in families of color are often over-represented among the child welfare population, even when they have the same problems and characteristics as white children due to a reporting bias and cultural differences between families and child welfare staff³⁰. Additionally, children in poverty are also over-represented because poverty is frequently confused with neglect³¹.

Reports of Child Abuse by Race

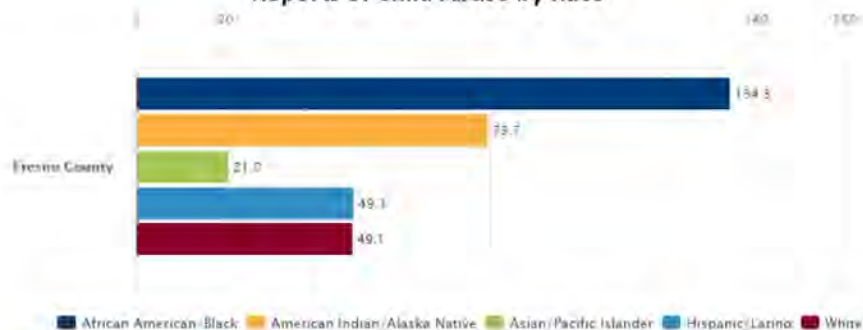


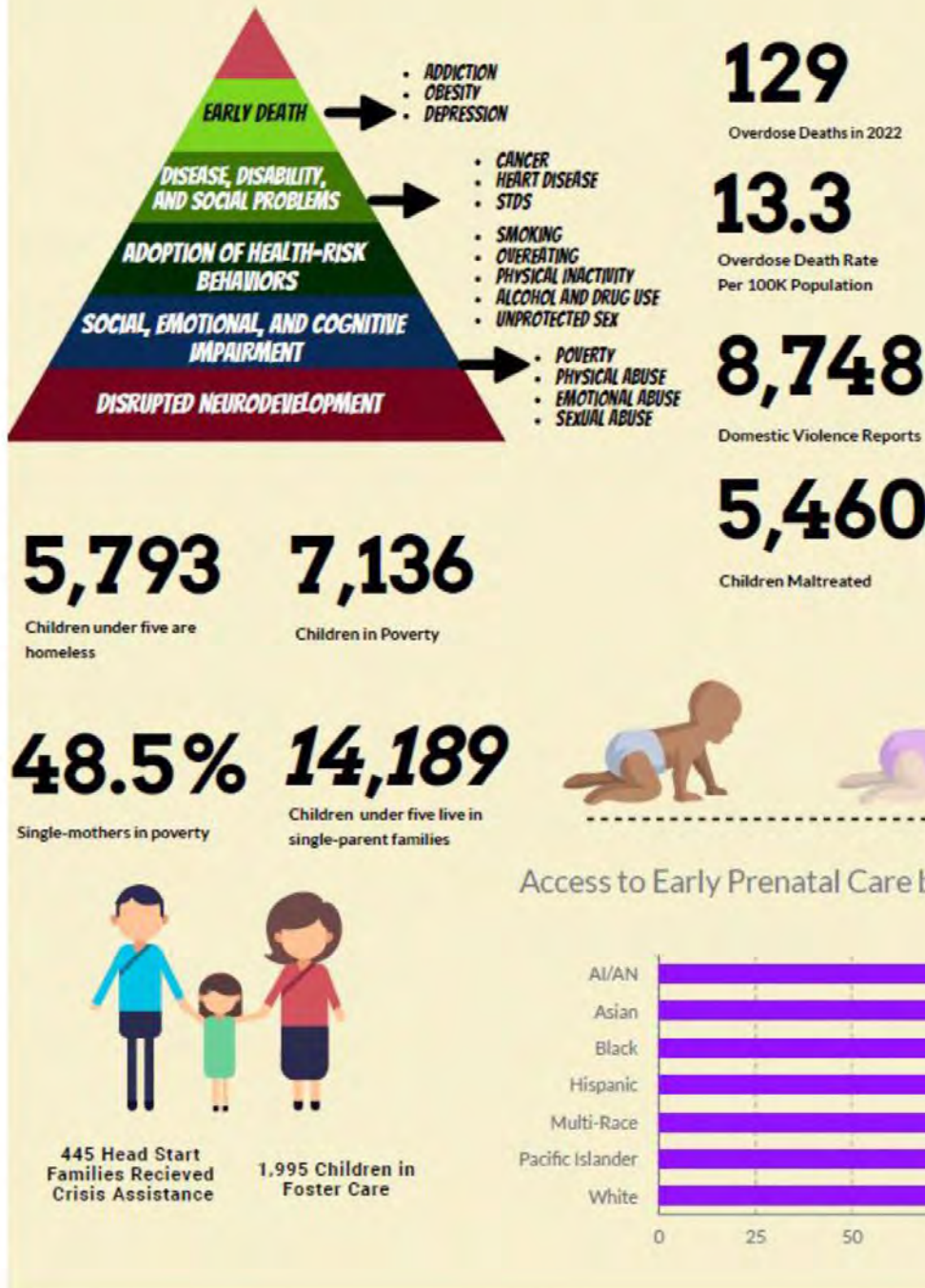
Figure 34. Child Abuse Rate by Race

²⁹ <https://www.kidsdata.org>

³⁰ Ellis, K. (2019). Race and Poverty Bias in the Child Welfare System: Strategies for Child Welfare Practitioners. https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/january--december-2019/race-and-poverty-bias-in-the-child-welfare-system---strategies-f/.

³¹ California Child Welfare Indicators Project, CCWIP Reports. University of California at Berkeley & California Dept. of Social Services (Oct. 2021).

Fresno County Adverse Childhood Experiences



Disabilities

Disabilities services are provided by Fresno Unified School District, Clovis Unified School District and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools which serves as the umbrella agency for all other school districts. These programs reported serving 878 children aged 3-5 years¹⁸. For infants and toddlers, the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Fresno Unified School District, and Central Valley Regional Center provide services to approximately 327 infants and toddlers annually³². Fresno EOC served 253 children in Head Start with a diagnosed disability and 52 children in Early Head Start with a disability.

Early Childhood Disabilities Services		
Provider	Preschool Children Served	Infants and Toddlers Served
Fresno County Superintendent of Schools	33	39
Fresno Unified School District	510	66
Clovis Unified School District	335	0
Central Valley Regional Center		327
Total	878	432

Table 20. Early Childhood Disabilities Services

Disability and High School Graduation

Receiving early intervention is linked to the likelihood a child with a disability will graduate from high school. The table below details high school graduation rates for youth with a disability by race and ethnicity and shows a slight racial disparity in graduation rates³³.

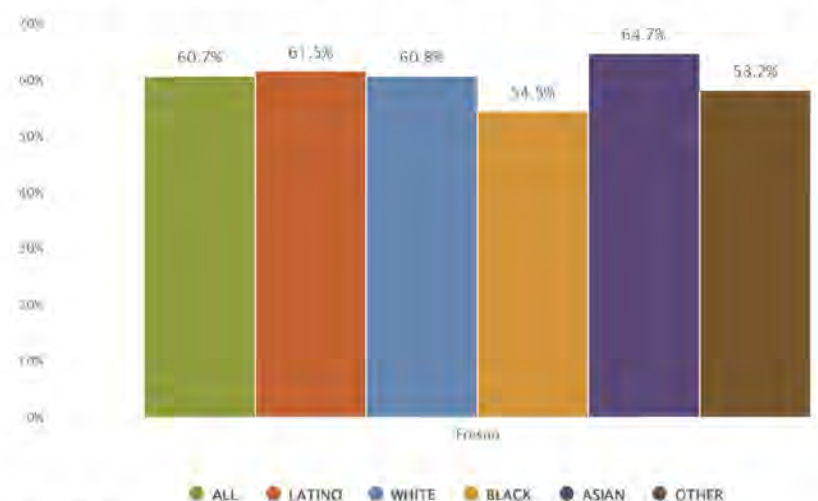


Figure 35. Disability and Graduation Rate by Race

³² California Department of Social Services, Regional Center Oversight Dashboard, Central Valley Regional Center, Overview Report 2022. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/dashboard/>

³³ Annie Casey Kids Count Data Center, 2023

Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and child health factors in Fresno County and local communities show that pregnant and new mothers and children fare similarly or worse in relation to maternal child health outcomes than their peers in California and the nation. There are also persistent racial disparities that undermine maternal and child health³⁴. One of the most significant factors impacting the health of newborns is low birthweight. In Fresno County, the rate of low birthweight babies is 7.62/1,000 compared to 7.42/ 1,000 for California³⁴.



Fresno County At-Risk Births

Births to Mothers in Poverty
4,187
28.5% of Births

Births to Mothers with Low Educational Attainment
2,890
19.7% of Births

Teen Births
630
4.3%

Post-natal depression is one of several common mental health conditions experienced during pregnancy. Prenatal depression increases the risk of preterm birth, low birthweight and preeclampsia and can negatively impact breastfeeding and the ability of new mothers to bond with their baby. The rate of prenatal depression in Fresno County is 17.1% versus a rate of 14.7% for California.

6% of pregnant women drank alcohol during their third trimester of pregnancy and 5% used marijuana during pregnancy³⁴.

Infant and Child Mortality

The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. The CDC states that “in addition to giving us key information about maternal and infant health, the infant mortality rate is an important marker of the overall health of a society.” Fresno

County’s infant mortality rate is high when compared to the state and there is also a racial disparity in infant mortality³⁵. Note – There was no data reported for multi-race births.

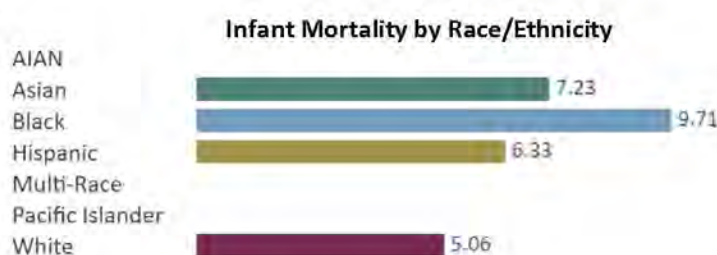


Figure 35. Infant Mortality by Race

³⁴ California Department of Public Health. Maternal Child Health Dashboard, 2024.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/surveillance/Pages/Low-Birthweight.aspx>

³⁵ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/surveillance/Pages/Infant-Mortality.aspx>



Health Key Data Findings

At first glance Fresno County residents experience far worse health outcomes than their peers in California. However, in several areas the county fares at-parity with California including in the rate of children with immunizations, the ratio of mental health care providers to people in the population in need of care is lower than for the state, and the rates of uninsurance in the general population are low. Despite these factors, the data shows there is still a lack of access to care, that plays out in lower rates of life expectancy. There is also a high rate of children exposed to adverse early childhood experiences and deep racial disparities in well-being that impact the population.

The healthcare system is overburdened, likely due to the high rates of use of public health insurance and lack of transportation, a theme that was also reiterated in community feedback. The ratio of people to health care providers such as primary care physicians and dentists is greater than found for the state.

Racial disparities in health and well-being are concerning, particularly disparities in maternal and child health. Improving maternal health often involves empowering women with access to education, reproductive rights and economic opportunities. Empowered women can make informed decisions about their health and the well-being of their families. Improving maternal and child health is instrumental in breaking the cycle of poverty and in reforming systems of oppression and inequity. Healthy mothers can participate more actively in the workforce and contribute to their families' economic stability, thus improving the overall socioeconomic conditions of their communities. Maternal health and well-being plays a vital role in promoting early childhood development. A healthy and nurturing environment during a child's early years positively impacts their physical, cognitive, and emotional growth. Low birthweight babies often require more intensive medical care during infancy and childhood, leading to increased healthcare costs for families and the healthcare system.

When asked about health needs and concerns in the community, survey respondents reported the following issues: lack of access to doctors, lack of access to oral health services, lack of safe parks and streets, lack of transportation, non-responsive public systems, the cost of medical care and copays and lack of doctors that accept public insurance as payment for services.

Education

Education is a strong determinant of socioeconomic status and health outcomes. Steps taken to increase the educational level in a population can decrease poverty and improve population health. It is known that on average, those with more than 12 years of education have a higher life expectancy than those with 12 or fewer years of education. People with less education often have less income and reduced access to health insurance and other social services they may need to attain self-sufficiency.

Low levels of educational attainment can perpetuate a cycle of poverty and economic inequality. Individuals with lower education levels often face restricted access to well-paying jobs and career advancement opportunities. This income disparity contributes to various equity issues, such as income inequality which can hinder social mobility and perpetuate intergenerational poverty cycles. Additionally, in today's digital age those with lower educational attainment may face barriers in acquiring digital literacy skills, exacerbating the digital divide, and further limiting access to educational resources and opportunities for participation in the digital economy. Furthermore, education plays a crucial role in determining access to health insurance and other social services, impacting overall well-being and exacerbating health disparities between individuals with different educational backgrounds. Thus, efforts to increase educational levels in a population can lead to improved socioeconomic status, reduced poverty, and better health outcomes, ultimately promoting equity and social justice.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment data shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved among Fresno County residents. This helps schools and businesses to understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education opportunities that prepare individuals to enter into growing industries. In the following table, educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 years old and is an estimated average for 2022. In Fresno County, 16% of the population has at least a bachelor's degree, while 23% stopped their formal educational attainment after high school. In all of the service area cities except Clovis and Kingsburg, the rate of individuals without a high school diploma is higher than for the state. Only Clovis, at 9%, has a lower rate of individuals with no high school than in the nation. Often times, when a community demonstrates this, it is indicative of lower median income due to lack of attainment of a college degree.

Area	Educational Attainment					
	No High School Diploma	High School Diploma	Some College	Associate degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Clovis	3.7%	19.6%	25.9%	10.3%	22.2%	13.1%
Coalinga	14.1%	26.4%	23.9%	7.7%	8.0%	4.1%
Firebaugh	38.9%	17.4%	26.1%	9.7%	4.0%	3.1%
Fowler	13.5%	8.9%	19.2%	19.6%	11.2%	8.5%
Huron	48.9%	14.8%	17.2%	11.3%	4.8%	2.6%
Kerman	25.7%	16.4%	21.4%	16.7%	6.7%	10.4%
Kingsburg	5.5%	8.8%	29.5%	26.0%	8.6%	12.7%
Mendota	47.9%	14.9%	23.6%	7.5%	2.5%	2.9%
Orange Cove	45.5%	10.0%	18.9%	13.9%	5.0%	4.8%
Parlier	36.5%	10.9%	28.6%	15.3%	3.7%	4.1%
Reedley	20.8%	12.3%	21.6%	18.9%	10.4%	10.5%
Sanger	16.9%	10.4%	27.9%	24.5%	7.6%	10.0%
San Joaquin	38.7%	15.4%	26.3%	11.3%	5.7%	2.7%
Selma	17.9%	9.8%	26.3%	26.0%	8.7%	8.1%
Fresno City	10.1%	10.1%	22.4%	23.5%	9.4%	16.4%
Fresno County	12.2%	24.0%	21.8%	9.4%	15.9%	23.4%
California	15.3%	20.5%	19.3%	7.9%	22.5%	14.4%
United States	10.4%	26.1%	19.1%	8.8%	21.6%	14.0%

Table 21. Educational Attainment

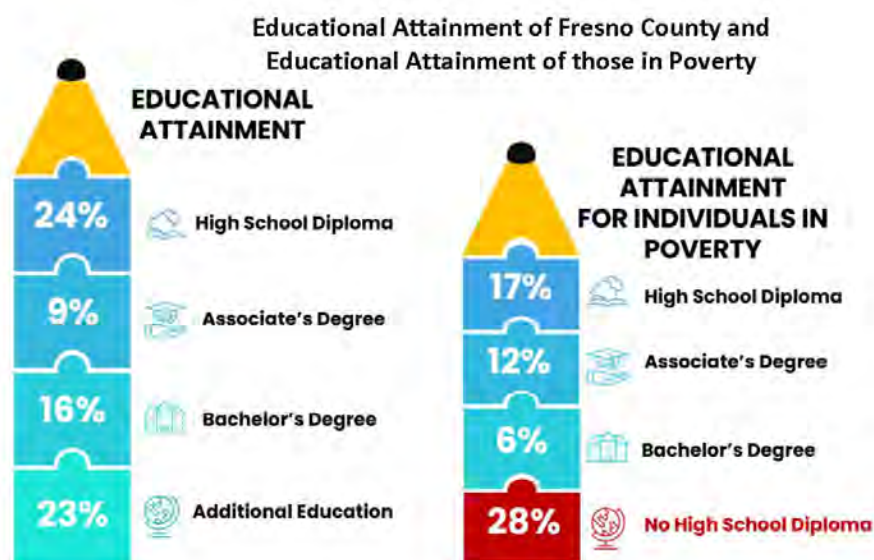
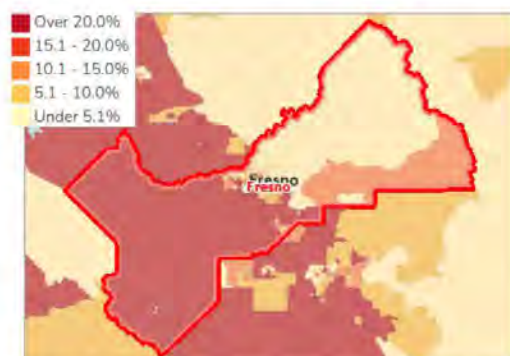


Figure 37. Comparison of Educational Attainment in Fresno County

Population with no HS Diploma by Tract

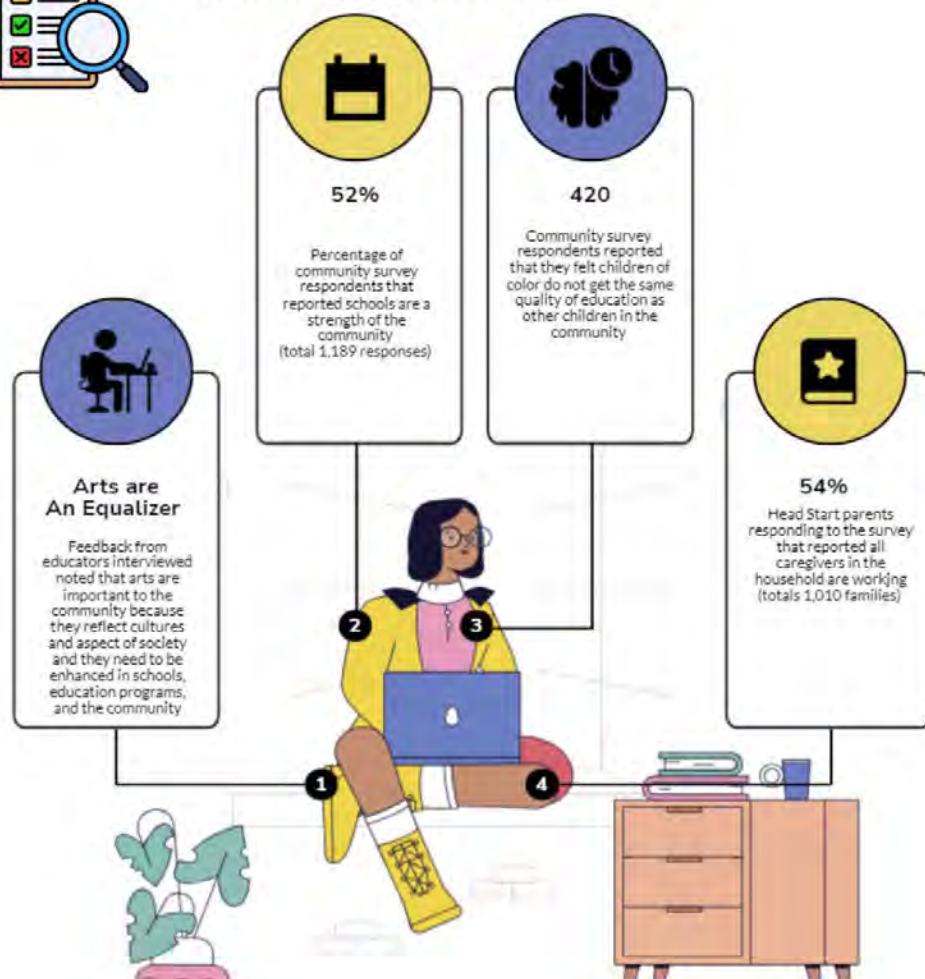


Areas shaded in the darkest orange have the largest percentage of the population without a high school diploma. The areas that have the highest poverty rates also have the lowest rates of educational attainment.

Figure 38. Population with Low Educational Attainment by Tract



Community Survey Responses



Educational Attainment by Race

The composition of the population obscures racial disparities in educational attainment. The predominant races in Fresno County are White and Hispanic/Latino as shown in the charts that follow. Analyzing educational attainment data by race/ethnicity in reveals significant racial disparities. While 92% of White individuals hold a high school diploma, only 68% of Hispanic individuals do, highlighting a substantial gap of 24 percentage points. Moreover, White individuals are more than twice as likely as Hispanic individuals to hold a bachelor's degree, with 33% of Whites having a bachelor's degree compared to 15% of Hispanics. Asians have a higher high school diploma attainment rate at 79% compared to Hispanic individuals, but are slightly behind White individuals. However, they surpass both White and Hispanic individuals in bachelor's degree attainment, with 31% of Asians having obtained a bachelor's degree.

Black/African American individuals in Fresno County also face educational disparities. Among Black/African Americans, 90% hold a high school diploma which is a rate comparable to Whites. Black/African Americans lag behind Whites in the rate of bachelor's degree attainment at 25%. These disparities underscore the existence of systemic barriers and inequities in educational opportunities and access to resources, which perpetuate racial inequalities in Fresno County. Addressing these disparities requires targeted interventions aimed at improving educational access, quality, and support systems for marginalized communities to ensure equitable opportunities for all residents.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

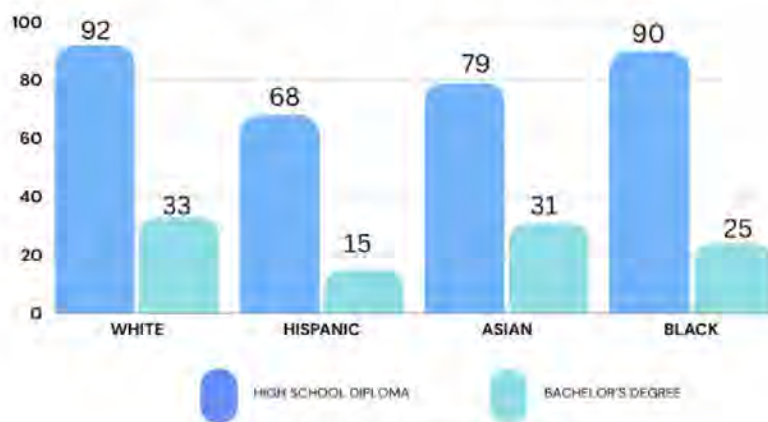


Figure 39. Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity

Analyzing data from the Fresno County school district CAASPP test scores alongside educational attainment rates reveals notable patterns and comparisons between county and state data. While Fresno County's educational attainment rates are slightly below the statewide averages, its CAASPP test scores in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math fall below the state averages by 3.5 and 4.2 percentage points, respectively. Among Fresno County school districts, Clovis Unified stands out with the highest educational attainment rates and CAASPP scores significantly above both the county and state averages. Clovis is also one of the highest income communities.

Conversely, districts like Parlier Unified and Laton Joint Unified have lower educational attainment rates, higher poverty rates, and notably lower CAASPP scores, indicating disparities in academic performance. These discrepancies highlight the importance of addressing equity issues in the education system to ensure all students have access to quality education and opportunities for academic success, regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds or geographic location. Further examination of factors influencing academic achievement in these districts is crucial for implementing targeted interventions and improving student outcomes.

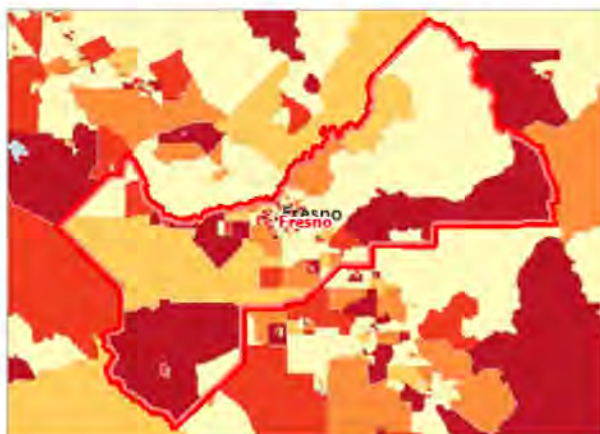
Student Achievement		
School District	ELA	MATH
Sierra Unified	38.0%	28.7%
Selma Unified	38.5%	23.1%
Sanger Unified	47.6%	34.5%
Parlier Unified	24.0%	12.0%
Pacific Union	42.7%	36.9%
Laton Joint Unified	19.8%	11.9%
Kingsburg Joint Union High	63.6%	30.1%
Riverdale Joint Unified	36.4%	29.1%
Kings Canyon Joint Unified	48.5%	35.6%
Kerman Unified	39.8%	24.1%
Golden Plains Unified	21.6%	15.8%
Fowler Unified	45.2%	32.3%
Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified	38.2%	18.9%
Coalinga-Huron	19.8%	10.5%
Clovis Unified	66.1%	51.0%
Central Unified	41.3%	26.5%
Caruthers Unified	43.7%	29.1%
Burrell Union Elementary	25.9%	24.7%
Washington Unified	31.1%	17.7%
Fresno Unified	33.2%	23.3%
Mendota	35.3%	20.45%
Fresno County	43.1%	30.4%
California	46.6%	34.6%

Table 22. Student Achievement by District

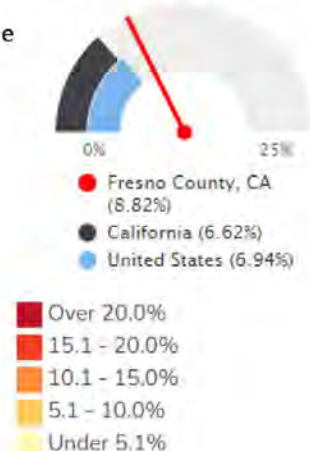
Dropout Rate

High school dropout rates can be calculated by examining the number of young people not in school and not working. This measure provides valuable information regarding the educational and career outlook for young adults.

Youth Not Working and Not in School by Census Tract



Population aged 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed



Adult Literacy

Individuals with literacy skills at Level 2 still struggle to perform text based informational tasks but are nearing reading proficiency. People in this literacy level can usually read printed words and digital print and can relate to and make inferences from multiple pieces of information that can be pulled from more than one document. However, complex evaluation and inferencing may still be too difficult. The percentage of the population with a literacy level at or below Level 2 in Fresno County is estimated at 25.9%, with a 95% probability that the actual (true, unknown) percentage is between 20.3% and 31.7%.

Adult Literacy Rate				
Report Area	Population Ages 16-74	Total At or Below Level 1	Lower Credible Interval	Upper Credible Interval
Fresno County	675,013	39.3%	36.4%	44%
California	28,700,840	28.4%	24.9%	31.9%
Unites States	235,567,157	21.8%	18.1%	25.6%

Table 23. Adult Literacy Rate

Educational Attainment of Head Start Families

Among Early Head Start and Head Start families the rate of households headed by someone without a high school diploma is equal to the general population. However, more Head Start families have a high school diploma or associate degree as their highest level of education compared to the general population. The data in the table reveals that 40% of families are headed

by parents who are high school graduates or parents who have obtained a GED, indicating a substantial portion of families have at least a basic level of education. Additionally, 27.6% of families have parents with an associate degree, vocational school certificate, or some college education, suggesting a moderate level of educational attainment. However, disparities persist, with 24.9% of families headed by parents with less than a high school education, highlighting significant educational challenges and potential limited opportunities. Furthermore, 7.4% of families are led by parents with an advanced degree or bachelor's degree, showing a smaller but still significant segment with higher levels of educational attainment. Understanding these educational backgrounds can inform initiatives to help families and individuals gain access to post-secondary education and career training programs that are vital for achieving a living wage.

Head Start and Early Head Start Parent/Guardian Educational Attainment		
Of the total number of families, the highest level of education obtained by the child's parent(s) / guardian(s)	# of families at enrollment	% of families
An advanced degree or baccalaureate degree	168	7.4%
An associate degree, vocational school, or some college	624	27.6%
A high school graduate or GED	902	39.9%
Less than high school graduate	564	24.9%

Table 24. Educational Attainment of Head Start Families

PARENT/GUARDIAN EDUCATION LEVEL

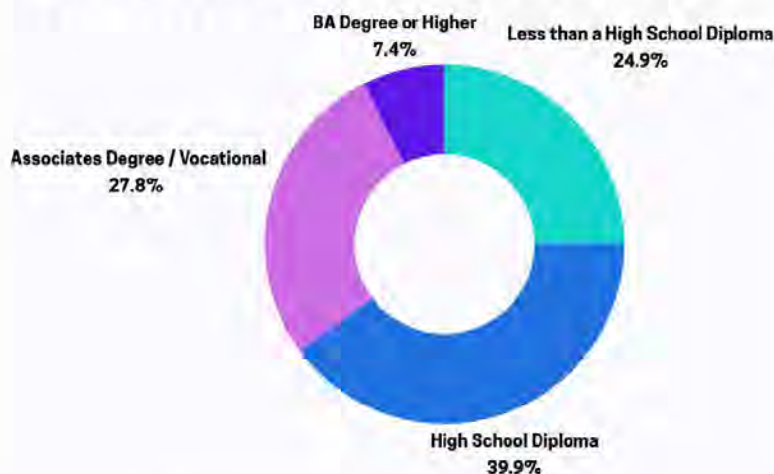


Figure 40. Educational Attainment of Head Start Families

Population Aged 3-4 Years Enrolled in School

This indicator reports the percentage of the population aged 3-4 years that is enrolled in public and private preschools. This data helps identify geographic locations where preschool opportunities are either abundant or lacking.

Area	Population Aged 3-4	Enrolled Population Age 3-4 Public	Enrolled Population Aged 3-4 Private	% Age 3-4 Enrolled in Public School
Clovis	3,935	348	373	8.8%
Coalinga	352	133	0	37.7%
Huron	206	42	0	20.3%
Kerman	485	113	13	23.2%
Kingsburg	310	37	85	11.9%
Mendota	480	167	0	34.7%
Parlier	627	208	0	33.1%
Reedley	1,041	451	30	43.3%
Sanger	627	402	0	64.1%
Selma	764	568	50	74.3%
Fresno City	16,751	6,330	1,721	37.7%
Fresno County	30,381	9,821	3,067	32.3%

Table 25. Population 3-4 Years Enrolled in School

3- & 4-Year Olds Enrolled in School by Census Tract

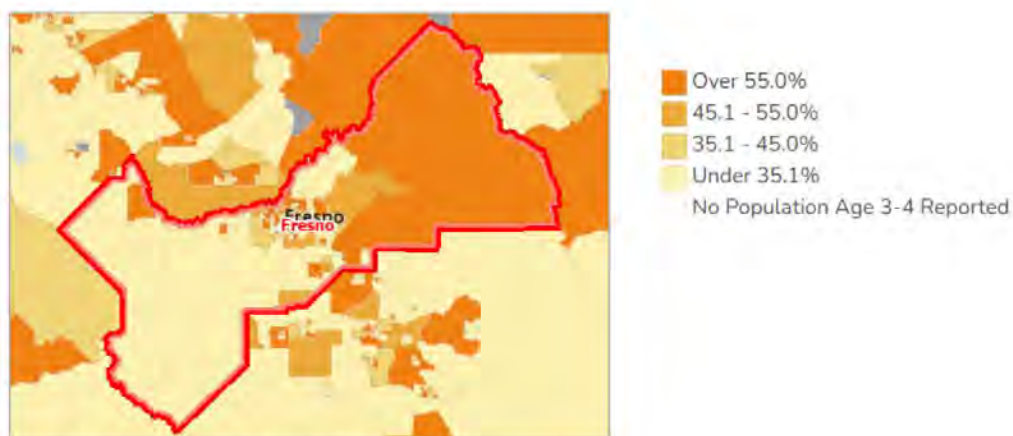


Figure 41. 3 & 4 Year-Olds Enrolled in School by Census Tract

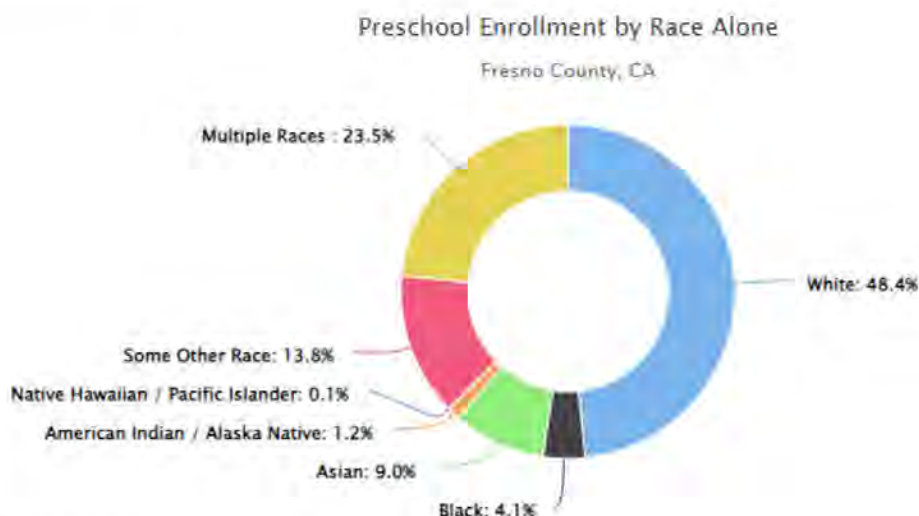


Figure 42. Preschool Enrollment by Race



Education Key Data Findings

The data indicates Fresno County has a large percentage of the population that is educated with a college degree at the same time as having higher high school dropout rates and lower rates of student achievement on Math and Reading tests. The resulting social challenge in communities that experience this trend is that the education levels in the population do not necessarily lead to proportional improvements in social and economic outcomes. For example, economic and educational success are not always correlated, and people experience factors such as underemployment, wage stagnation, student debt, a mismatch between skills and job opportunities, limited access to a high-quality education and a changing job market where skills quickly become outdated.

Addressing the education paradox requires a comprehensive approach that includes aligning education with the needs of the job market, improving access to quality education, providing relevant skills training and development, and promoting lifelong learning. It also involves addressing structural barriers and inequalities that hinder individuals' ability to fully utilize their educational qualifications in the workforce. By understanding and addressing the education paradox, societies can strive to create more equitable and sustainable pathways to economic and social success for individuals of all backgrounds.

Among Early Head Start and Head Start families, the rate of families that are less than a high school graduate is equal to the rate for Fresno County. In contrast, when compared to the general population, more Head Start families have a high school diploma or associate degree as their highest level of education. Since the completion of some college education is typically required

to earn a living wage, it is important to help families and individuals gain access to post-secondary education and career training programs. At the same time, community interview participants noted that individuals need soft skills training. Prior research has found that the risk factors of living in a household without a parent who has not completed high school, living in a single-parent household, and living in poverty are associated with poor educational outcomes for students, including receiving low achievement scores, having to repeat a grade, and dropping out of high school.

Educational attainment data for Fresno County shows the following trends:

- Families in poverty demonstrate low rates of educational attainment, particularly regarding the attainment of a bachelor's degree and a high school diploma.
- The rate at which individuals in poverty have an associate degree indicates that many people are working in low-wage jobs.
- The degree attainment rates among families in Head Start is lower than found among the general population. Head Start families are more likely to have a high school diploma than other members of the population in poverty in Fresno County. Among Head Start families, 7% have a bachelor's degree, 27% have an associate degree, 40% have a high school diploma, and 25% have not attained a high school diploma.
- Educational disparities are present among children of color.

Nutrition

Food insecurity is the household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Increases in diet-related diseases and obesity are major public health problems in communities across America. Limited access to supermarkets, grocery stores, and other sources of healthy and affordable food may make it harder for some residents to eat a balanced diet. Food security was noted as a Top 5 need in the community in 17 out of the 57 community forums conducted for the community assessment.

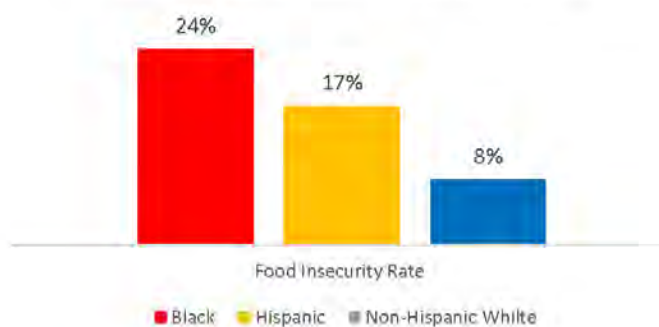
Food Insecurity³⁶

FOOD INSECURITY



Figure 43. Food Insecurity Data

Food Insecurity Rate by Race/Ethnicity



The USDA Food Environment Atlas and Map the Meal Gap from Feeding America provide statistics on three broad categories that describe food insecurity. The indicators include the following:

- **Food Choices** - Indicators of the community's access to and acquisition of healthy, affordable food, such as: access and proximity to a grocery store; number of food stores and restaurants; expenditures on fast foods; food and nutrition assistance program participation; food prices; food taxes; and availability of local foods.
- **Health and Well-Being**- Indicators of the community's success in maintaining a healthy diet.

³⁶ Feeding America, 2021.

- **Community Characteristics** - Indicators of community characteristics that might influence the food environment, such as: demographic composition; income and poverty; population loss; metro-nonmetro status; natural amenities; and recreation and fitness centers.

Children and adults living in the service area experience a higher rate of food security than children in the state and the nation. There is a racial disparity in which Black/African American residents experience more food insecurity than Whites and individuals in the community.

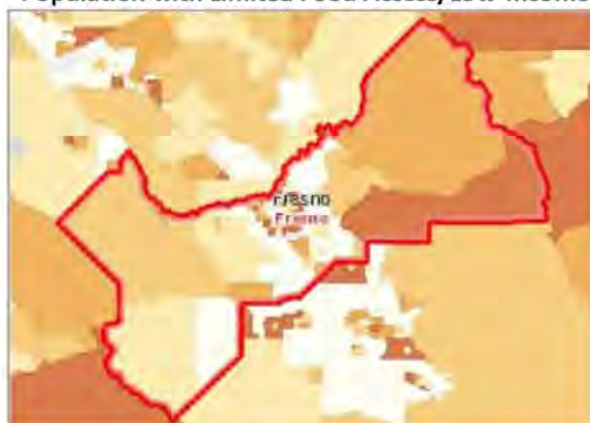


Food Assistance Program Participation

Low-Income and Low-Food Access

Families and individuals with a low-income and low food access are those that live more than ¼ mile from the nearest supermarket or grocery store. Data from the 2020 Food Access Research Atlas notes 11.5% of Fresno's low-income population falls into this category, totaling 49,776 individuals. This rate is slightly above the state rate of 10.3% of all residents³⁷. The number of SNAP authorized food stores totals 9.2 per 10,000 residents which is above the rates for the state and nation which are 6.1 (per 10,000) for California and 7.4 (per 10,000) for the U.S.³⁸.

Population with Limited Food Access/Low-Income



THE AREAS OF THE COUNTY WITH THE HIGHEST POVERTY RATES HAVE THE LEAST ACCESS TO FOOD.

Population with Limited Food Access, Low Income, Percent by Tract, USDA - FARA 2019

- Over 50.0%
- 20.1 - 50.0%
- 5.1 - 20.0%
- Under 5.1%

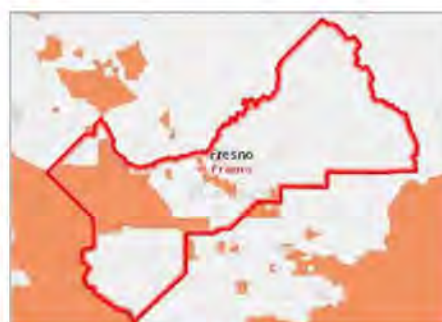


Figure 44. Food Desert Census Tracts

³⁷ US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, USDA - Food Access Research Atlas. 2019. Source geography: Tract

³⁸ US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA - SNAP Retailer Locator. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2021. Source geography: Tract

Nutrition Resources

Programs that provide nutrition education in Fresno County include Metro Ministry cooking classes in Fresno, the UC Cooperative Extension CalFresh Nutrition Education Program for families with children age four and above, individuals and seniors living in a household with an income up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level; the West Fresno Family Resource Center; and the Fresno County Health Department's Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention program which targets areas in the city of Fresno, Parlier, Kerman, Reedley and Sanger.

There is a wide variety of food resources in the county. These include: food distribution sites throughout the county; CalFresh assistance and CalFresh enrollment outreach by community organizations/service providers; food pantries; emergency food assistance and meal services provided by churches and community organizations; the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry (fresh produce); Neighborhood Markets (produce and perishables) and support of food pantries throughout the county; community garden programs, Fresno EOC's Summer Food Service Program for children 1-18 years old and the federal After-School At-Risk Program at locations throughout the county.

Population Receiving SNAP (CalFresh) Benefits

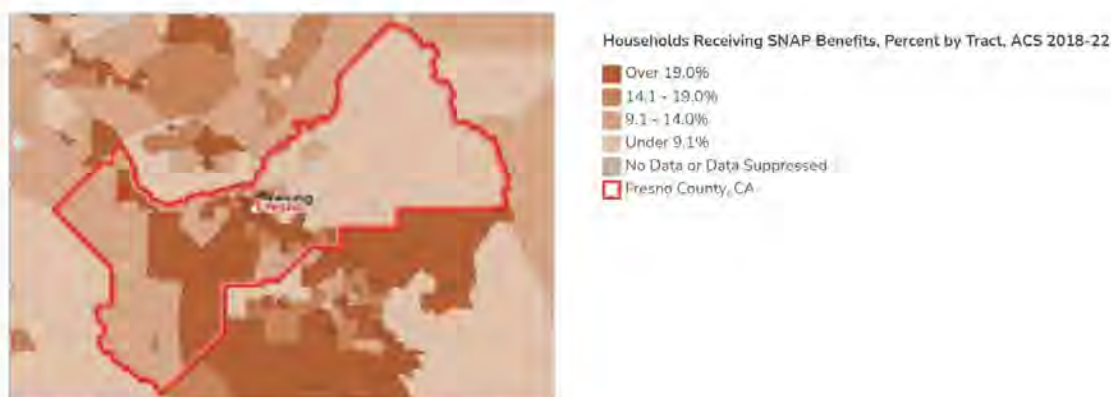


Figure 46. Population Receiving CalFresh by Census Tract

In Fresno County, 61,139 households participate in CalFresh. Of these, 26,536 are households headed by seniors totaling a rate of 36% of senior households that participate in CalFresh. Within the county, 41,799 households with children participate in CalFresh¹. The table below shows the number of households that receive food assistance. A significant percentage of households receiving food assistance have an income below poverty. The areas of the county with the highest rate of people receiving food assistance are Huron, San Joaquin, Firebaugh and Orange Cove.

Participation in CalFresh by Area ¹				
Area	# of Households (HH) receiving CalFresh	% of HH receiving CalFresh	# HH receiving CalFresh with Children	% in HH Using CalFresh with income < poverty
Clovis	5,367	9.9%	1,954	16.3%
Coalinga	804	17.6%	492	44.4%
Firebaugh	794	33.6%	440	44.2%
Huron	595	35.8%	422	37.3%
Kerman	1,520	24.7%	1,121	30.7%
Kingsburg	620	14.6%	205	33.5%
Mendota	936	29.3%	710	55.0%
Orange Cove	894	34.1%	691	69.9%
Parlier	1,187	23.4%	972	46.8%
Reedley	1,401	18.4%	1,099	44.3%
Sanger	1,462	17.4%	1,103	42.7%
San Joaquin	382	33.9%	291	59.9%
Selma	1,814	22.4%	1,208	38.9%
Fresno City	46,614	22.0%	28,037	43.0%
Fresno County	22%	19.2%	38,121	43.6%

Table 26. Participation in CalFresh by Community

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

In Fresno County 28,928 pregnant women and new mothers participate in WIC³⁹. Fresno EOC Head Start and Early Head Start programs provided 34 pregnant women (100%) nutrition information and support in 2021. Additionally, 2,045 families (58%) participated in WIC and 38% participated in CalFresh.

Head Start Families that Receive Food Assistance ⁴⁰		
Subject	Number of families at enrollment	Number of families at end of enrollment
Total number of families receiving services under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	1,577	1,521
Total number of families receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	1,325	1,271

Table 27. Head Start Families Receiving Food Assistance

³⁹ KidsData.Org. <https://m.kidsdata.org/table/357/fresno-county/2145/wic-participant-type>

⁴⁰ Head Start Program Information Report, 2022.



Nutrition Key Data Findings

Efforts to address food insecurity often involve a combination of social assistance programs, community initiatives and policy changes aimed at improving access to affordable, nutritious food for all individuals and families. The service area has disparate access and outcomes in access to healthy food for populations that are low-income and populations of color. As shown in the data the following findings are notable:

Racial Disparity in Food Security – Black/African American and Hispanic residents experience higher rates of food insecurity than their peers when compared to Whites.

Access to Food is Limited – The percentage of the low-income population that lacks access to healthy food is highest in the most impoverished and rural areas of Fresno County.

Food Programs are Not Utilized – A large percentage of the eligible population is not enrolled in SNAP or WIC. Based on family income and poverty rates cross-referenced with food insecurity data it is likely that many eligible families are not using CalFresh. Of community survey respondents, 1,534 indicated that there should be more help for people that need to apply for public assistance.

Housing and Homelessness

Adequate and safe housing plays a crucial role in promoting overall well-being and in maintaining good health for individuals and communities. For example, housing is linked to physical health because safe and well-maintained housing provides protection from pests and pollutants and exposure to environmental hazards such as mold, lead, asbestos, and poor air quality which can lead to respiratory issues, allergies, and other health problems. Adequate housing also supports personal hygiene and sanitation which is essential for preventing the spread of diseases. Mental health is also connected to housing. Living in a stable environment promotes lower stress levels and improved mental health outcomes. On the other hand, overcrowded, unstable, or unsafe housing can contribute to anxiety, depression and other mental health issues.

A child's healthy growth and development are dependent on many factors, including their living environment. The impact on children's development is both immediate and long term; growing up in poor or overcrowded housing has been found to have a lasting impact on a child's health and well-being throughout life. Research has demonstrated that children's life chances (the factors that affect their current and future well-being) are affected by the standard of their housing. This "housing effect" is especially pronounced in relation to health. Both children and adults living in poor or overcrowded conditions are more likely to experience respiratory problems, to be at risk of infections, and to experience mental health issues. Housing that is in poor condition or overcrowded also threatens safety. Further, neighborhood conditions have a major impact on health, birth outcomes and exposure to risk factors such as injury, violence and hazards. The town we live in can also limit the choices and resources available. For example, living in an urban area without access to safe public parks. Children in rural areas may have little access to recreation or other opportunities for development. Adults also suffer from poor recreational opportunities which undermines overall health and wellbeing.



Figure 47. Housing Characteristics

Housing Landscape



Households:
310,097



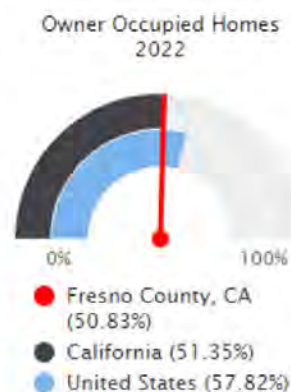
Population:
990,821



Total Census Tracts:
199

Housing Characteristics

Homeownership is important because it provides an avenue for wealth building. As individuals build equity and make payments on their mortgage and the property value increases, the ability of a home to serve as a source of security and wealth is established. Additionally, owning a home provides a sense of belonging and security in a community and supports stable housing costs, which also contributes to wealth building. Over the past 20 years, the number of owner – occupied homes has decreased by almost 7% which has occurred in-step with rising housing costs. Beginning in 2012, the rate of home ownership leveled off around 55% which has remained consistent over time. Of, 339,270 housing units, 172,455 are owner occupied¹.



Housing Characteristics – Home Ownership ¹				
Area	% Owner-Occupied Homes 2012	% Renter-Occupied Homes 2012	% Owner-Occupied Homes 2022	% Renter-Occupied Homes 2022
Fresno County	55.0%	45.0%	54.2%	45.8%
California	56.0%	44.0%	55.6%	44.4%

Data from the Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element (December 2023) notes that asking rents increased by 10.7% between 2020 and 2021. According to the same report, renters need to earn approximately 1.6 times the minimum wage to afford the average asking rent in Fresno County. This could pose as a barrier to finding adequate housing.



Figure 48. Housing Tenure by Community

Vacant Housing Units

There are many reasons for a high rate of vacant housing units, some of which are not a problem and many of which are needed to sustain the housing market. However, vacant housing units have economic and social costs such as undermining the quality of life in neighborhoods, diminishing the value of nearby properties, and providing a place for criminal activity to take place. Vacant properties also signal other problems, such as concentrated poverty and economic decline. Typical vacancy rates for rental units is between 5%-6% and for ownership housing a vacancy rate of 2% is considered optimum⁴¹. When vacancy rates approach 20% or more, “hyper-vacancy”, they indicate that market conditions have deteriorated. The overall residential vacancy rate for Fresno is 1.5%. There are higher vacancy rates in some of the unincorporated areas of the county due to the proximity of Kings Canyon and the Sierra National Forest and the large number of vacation rentals in these areas. Vacancy

Housing Vacancy Rate by Census Tract

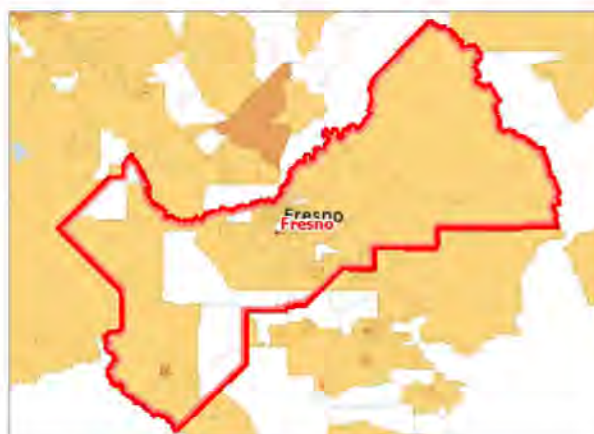


Figure 49. Vacancy Rates by Census Tract

⁴¹ Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element. Dec. 2023. FCOG Data Packet, 2022 – U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2016-2020).

rates are highest in Firebaugh and Reedley at 8.1% and 6.1%, respectively indicating a low housing stock⁴¹.

Housing Costs

Fresno County rents are significantly below the state average. The highest rental costs are in the City of Fresno followed by Clovis.

Location	Median Housing Cost ¹	
	Median Monthly Costs for Housing Units with a Mortgage	Median Monthly Rental Costs
Fresno County	\$1,493	\$1,304
California	\$2,009	\$1,870

Table 28. Median Housing Costs

Nearly 50% of residents in Fresno County and 52% of residents in the City of Fresno are renters, placing them at a greater risk of having a housing cost burden⁴². Housing typically comprises the largest share of monthly household expenses. A housing burden creates financial insecurity. Individuals and families experiencing a housing burden often have trouble meeting basic consumption needs, may need to rely on public assistance and have limited savings/emergency funds. Financial resources which would otherwise be used for food, clothing, medical costs etc. must be allocated to housing costs. The housing burden can be examined in two ways; first by the percent of owners that are spending more than 30% of their income on housing and additionally, by the percent of renters that are spending more than 30% of their income on housing. A severe housing burden exists when more than 50% of income is spent on housing. Orange Cove has the greatest share of the population that experiences a housing cost burden, followed by Riverdale. The City of Fresno is also home to a large population of families and individuals with a housing cost burden.

Location	Housing Cost Burden ¹	
	Percent with a Housing Cost Burden (30% income spent on housing)	Percent with a Severe Housing Cost Burden (50% of income spent on housing)
Fresno County	38%	18.0%

Table 29. Housing Cost Burden

⁴² Evicted in Fresno-Facts for Housing Advocates (2019).
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w2Q__CstpJHwLDmioYao7OZwCk6fKpu9/view

Housing Cost Burden by Census Tract

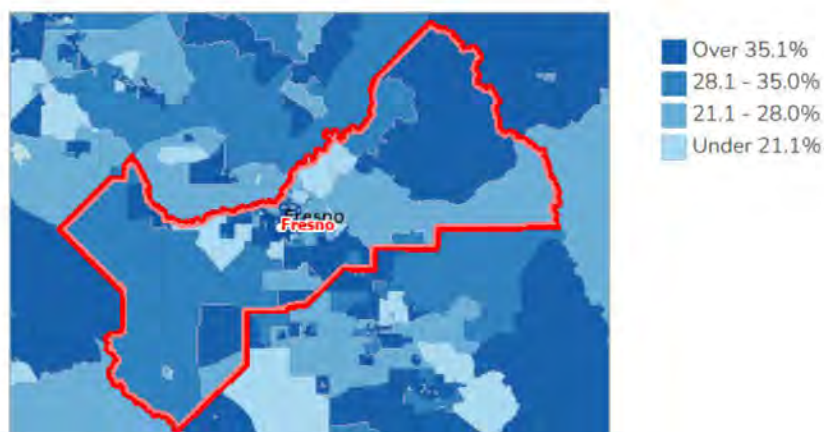
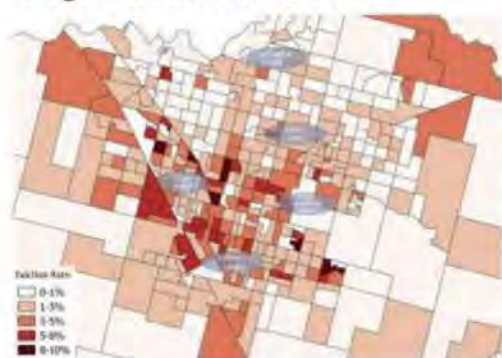


Figure 50. Cost Burdened Households by Census Tract

Evictions

Fresno has a higher eviction filing rate than the nation. The most evictions occur in south Fresno. Eviction rates are nearly three times as high in neighborhoods with the lowest median incomes. Eviction rates also vary by race and ethnicity. As shown in the maps that follow, the eviction rate is highest in the parts of Fresno where the percentage of the population comprised of Whites is lowest. The rate of eviction in non-majority White neighborhoods is 2.22 compared to a rate of eviction in majority White neighborhoods of 1.58⁴³.

Neighborhood Eviction Rates



Neighborhood Percent White



Figure 51. Neighborhood Eviction Rates

⁴³ Evicted in Fresno-Facts for Housing Advocates.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w2O__CstpJHwLDmioYao7OZwCk6fKpu9/view

Assisted Housing Units

Housing, and lack there-of, can make communities more segregated by race and class, encourage sprawl, and generate clogged highways and packed trains. Lack of housing also impacts the economy as employers experience difficulty recruiting new employees. Elevated housing costs result in a generational-wealth transfer where younger people must pay huge sums of money to the older generation for homes their elders bought at a much lower cost. Based on the rate of families that experience a cost burden, data indicates that the supply of affordable housing does not match the need for affordable housing.

Affordable housing resources are offered by the Fresno Housing Authority, which develops, maintains, and operates public housing including the Section 8 rental assistance program. Affordable housing costs are expressed as the percentage of affordable units in which housing costs do not exceed 30% of the total household median income for a particular area. According to the data, just 49% of the housing available is affordable for those earning less than the median income. Fresno fares better than the state in regard to affordable housing but due to the high poverty rates, many families earn less than the median income and are still priced out of housing, specifically single-female householder who earn less than 30% of the median income.

Location	Affordable Housing ¹	
	Percent of Houses that are Affordable for those earning 30% of Annual Median Income (AMI) or Lower	Percent of Houses that are Affordable for those earning 100% of AMI
Fresno	5.1%	47.8%
California	5.0%	52.8%
United States	8.3%	59.4%

Table 30. Affordable Housing

Area	HUD Housing Stock ⁴⁴					
	Housing Choice Voucher Units	Project-Based Section 8 Units	Section 236 Units	Public Housing Authority Units	Section 202 Units	Section 811 Units
Fresno	13,175	3,149	157	909	279	19

Table 31. HUD Housing Stock

⁴⁴ HUD Office of Policy Development and Research (2023). *Assisted Housing: National and Local*. Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html>

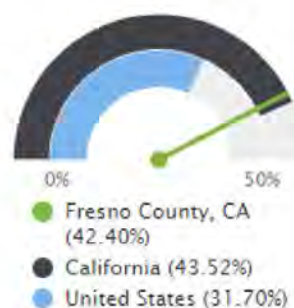
Substandard Housing

Substandard housing is considered to be housing that is:



- lacking complete plumbing facilities,
- lacking complete kitchen facilities,
- with 1.01 or more occupants per room,
- with selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income are greater than 30%; and gross rent as a percentage of household income that is greater than 30%.

% of Homes that are Substandard

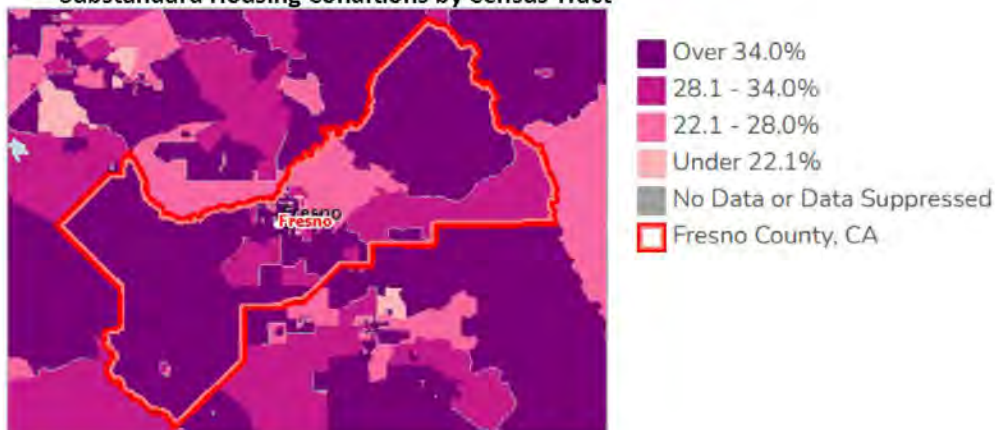


Selected conditions provide information that can be used to assess the quality of the housing inventory. This data is used to identify homes where the quality of living and housing can be considered substandard.

Substandard Housing Conditions ¹		
Location	Total Houses with 1 or More Substandard Conditions	% of Houses with 1 or More Substandard Conditions
Fresno	134,960	42.4%
California	5.7M	43.5%
United States	3.9M	31.7%

Table 32. Homes with One or More Substandard Conditions

Substandard Housing Conditions by Census Tract



Homeless Count (PIT)

The U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines homelessness according to two different classifications:

- 1) an individual resides in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, park, sidewalk, abandoned building, or on the street; or
- 2) an individual who resides in an emergency shelter or transitional housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.

According to the 2023 Point-In-Time Count (PIT) for Fresno County there are 1,128 total households where people are homeless. Of these, 101 are composed of at least one adult and one child. The following graphic details the characteristics of unhoused subpopulations.

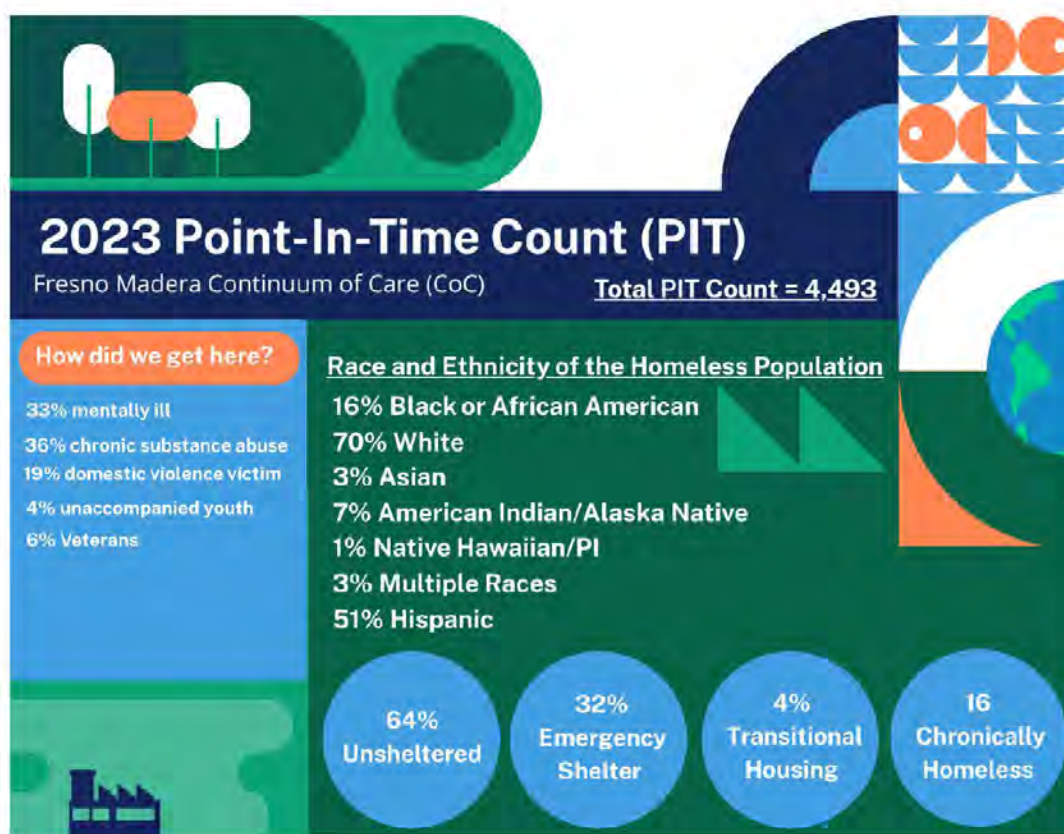


Figure 52. Point-In-Time Count (PIT)

Homeless Students

Data from the California Department of Education indicates in 2023, there were 2,810 homeless students attending Fresno County schools⁴⁵. Of students that were homeless, 71% were living in

⁴⁵ California Department of Education. Dataquest.

<https://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQCensus/HmlsEnrByDTLevels.aspx?aggllevel=County&cds=10&year=2022-23>

doubled – up housing, 14% were staying in temporary shelters, 11% were in motels and 4% were temporarily unsheltered.

Energy Assistance

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program that provides assistance to eligible low-income households with the goal of managing and meeting their immediate home heating and cooling needs. There are several program components: the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides one-time financial assistance to help balance an eligible household's utility bill. The Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) provides assistance to low-income households that are in a crisis situation. LIHEAP Weatherization provides free energy efficiency upgrades to low-income households to lower their monthly utility bills while also improving the health and safety of the household's occupants. The program also offers education on basic energy efficiency practices and instruction on the proper use and maintenance of installed weatherization measures and energy budget counseling.

Energy Trends and Energy Insecurity

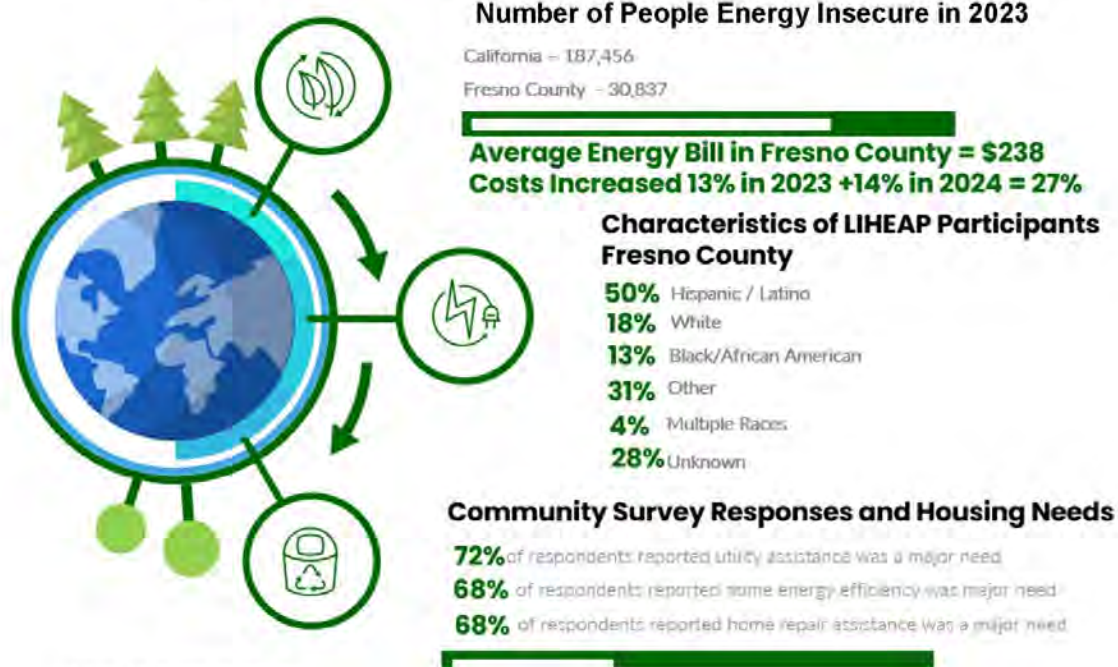


Figure 53. Energy Insecurity

⁴⁶ Energy Sage. 2024. Fresno EOC LIHEAP Reports. 2023-2024.
https://www.google.com/search?q=average+electricity+bill+in+Fresno+County+CA&oeq=average+electricity+bill+in+Fresno+County+CA&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAMQIRigAdIBCTYyNDBqMGoxNagCCLACAAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8



Community Survey Responses

Affordable housing was noted as a Top Five problem in 36 of the focus groups. It was also noted as a community problem in interviews with community leaders and by 73% (2,728) of community survey respondents.

Percent of Community Survey Respondents Indicating Housing as a Community Need by Housing Factor



Figure 54. Housing Needs Identified by Community Survey Respondents



Housing and Homelessness Key Data Findings

Adequate housing provides a sense of security and safety. It protects individuals from violence, crime and accidents. Unsafe neighborhoods or inadequate housing can lead to increased stress and fear, negatively affecting mental health. Access to suitable housing promotes a sense of belonging and community engagement. People who have stable housing are more likely to establish connections with neighbors, schools, and local services, leading to a support network that positively influences mental and emotional well-being.

Policies and initiatives that focus on improving housing affordability, safety and accessibility can have a significant positive impact on individual and public health. Recognizing the intricate connection between housing and well-being is essential for creating healthier, happier communities. In Fresno County the following housing needs are prevalent:

Barriers in accessing homeownership – The costs of purchasing a home is high and has increased over the past decade at a rate faster than wages have risen. Additionally, because the median income in the area is higher than the poverty rate and due to the high cost of living and low wage employment, it is difficult for people to qualify for homeownership assistance programs.

Additionally, there are few programs to assist with issues such as meeting down payment and credit score requirements.

Barriers in accessing rental housing – Some tenants living in Fresno County face a series of barriers that make it more difficult to find and keep a rental home such as involvement with the criminal justice system, limited credit history or delinquent utility payments. The eviction rate is higher for people of color than for Whites.

Cost-burdened residents– There are a significant number of individuals that experience a rental or homeownership housing cost burden. Among residents 38% are cost-burdened and 18% are severely cost burdened.

Lack of affordable housing – There are an insufficient number of affordable and assisted housing units available in Fresno County when the rate of affordable and assisted housing units is compared to the rate of people that have a low-income. Additionally, approximately 53% of all rental units are not affordable for households earning the median income for Fresno County.

Substandard conditions – In Fresno County, 42% of all homes have at least one substandard condition.

The primary strategies being used to resolve the housing challenges include community-based and state initiatives to improve housing quality and affordability, providing economic mobility initiatives, and expanding the scale of assistance to meet the needs of renters. The primary strategies used to support home owners in Fresno County are to stabilize homeowners, revitalizing existing homes, and to deconcentrate poverty.

Energy Assistance - Energy poverty is a measure of inequality because data shows that a considerable portion of income for a low-income household is spent on energy⁴⁷. In turn, because low – income households in Fresno County are more likely to be households headed by single-females, Blacks, Hispanics and Asians, energy has resulted in racial disparities. The inability to afford energy costs leads to a likelihood that an individual may live in a home that has an unsafe temperature level which contributes to health conditions that could result in death due to Fresno County's high temperatures at certain times during the year. Energy costs are also a variable expense that can be cut when a household is struggling financially. Energy insecurity is a growing public health problem and could be examined as a social determinant of health⁴⁷.

⁴⁷ Sociodemographic disparities in energy security among low-income households before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41560-020-00763-9>

Early Care and Education

Adequate early care and education programs provide critical support to families. First, child development programs offer structured environments where children can learn skills that lay a solid foundation for lifelong success. Infant/toddler and preschool programs, in addition to childcare services enable families to pursue education and training, which can lead to better job opportunities and improved financial stability. Early childhood programs often play a role in identifying and addressing developmental delays or special needs, ensuring that children receive appropriate interventions sooner rather than later. Overall, early childhood education and childcare are crucial in supporting the well-being of both children and their families, promoting a healthy, balanced approach to family and work life. This section of the community assessment provides an overview of the early care and education system in Fresno County.

The Fresno County Early Care and Education System

Public Preschool Programs

Fresno County has an extensive network of publicly subsidized preschool programs for three and four-year olds as well as services for infants and toddlers. These include: The California State Preschool Program (CSPP) where children receive full or part-day services, Transitional Universal Kindergarten (TK) which is expanding access to preschool for three-year olds; Head Start, licensed childcare centers/family childcare homes, subsidized General Childcare programs and the Migrant Head Start program. In most cases, the state directly contracts with providers to serve children under five years. The Migrant Head Start program has sites located in Firebaugh, Orange Cove, Parlier, Selma, Reedley, and Mendota.

For infants and toddlers, the programs include Early Head Start and Migrant Early Head Start. Infants and toddlers are also served in licensed childcare centers, family childcare homes and through the infant and toddler Cal-SAFE program serving teens. In total, there are 23,830 publicly subsidized slots. There are also other informal programs that serve children but we are not including them in this section because these programs do not impact Head Start enrollment.

Public Preschool Program Slots 2023 ⁴⁸	
Type of Program	Slots Available
Head Start	2,112
Migrant Head Start ⁴⁹	198
California State Preschool	5,633
Transitional Kindergarten ⁵⁰	2,954
Total Slots Available	10,897

⁴⁸ California Department of Education DataQuest.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/csp/enrollmentbyprovidercountyreports.asp>

⁴⁹ <https://www.cclid.dss.ca.gov/carefacilitysearch/Search/ChildCare>

⁵⁰ <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/tkreports/TkLevels.aspx?cdscode=00000000000000&year=2021-22>

Number of Programs by Type

Program Types ⁵¹	
Program Types	Number of Programs
Head Start (HS)	1
Early Head Start (EHS)	1
Migrant and Seasonal HS/EHS	1
Total Programs	3

Table 33. Number of Programs by Type

The Transitional Kindergarten program serves children in the year before kindergarten. There are 2,379 slots (2021-2022) offered at elementary schools throughout Fresno County. Since the last community assessment was completed there has been an increase of 575 slots, now totaling 2,954 (2023). The number of slots are awarded based on the number of kindergarteners that must be served in a given year and in response to program availability.

Transitional Kindergarten Slots by Site (2021-2022) ⁵²	
Site	TK Program Participation
Alvina Elementary	2
Big Creek Elementary	0
Burrel Union Elementary	6
Caruthers Unified	30
Central Unified	211
Clay Joint Elementary	0
Clovis Unified	491
Coalinga-Huron	25
Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified	33
Fowler Unified	28
Fresno County Office of Education	40
Fresno Unified	1,047
Golden Plains Unified	8
Kerman Unified	80
Kings Canyon Joint Unified	76
Kingsburg Elementary Charter	46
Laton Joint Unified	6
Mendota Unified	24
Monroe Elementary	0
Orange Center	20
Pacific Union Elementary	4
Parlier Unified	24

⁵¹ <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-data-tool#!0>

⁵² <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/tkreports/TkLevels.aspx?cdscode=1000000000000000&year=2021-22>

Fresno EOC Community Needs Assessment

Pine Ridge Elementary	4
Raisin City Elementary	7
Riverdale Joint Unified	24
Sanger Unified	5
Selma Unified	54
Sierra Unified	19
Washington Colony Elementary	5
West Park Elementary	4
Westside Elementary	56

Table 34. TK Participation by Site

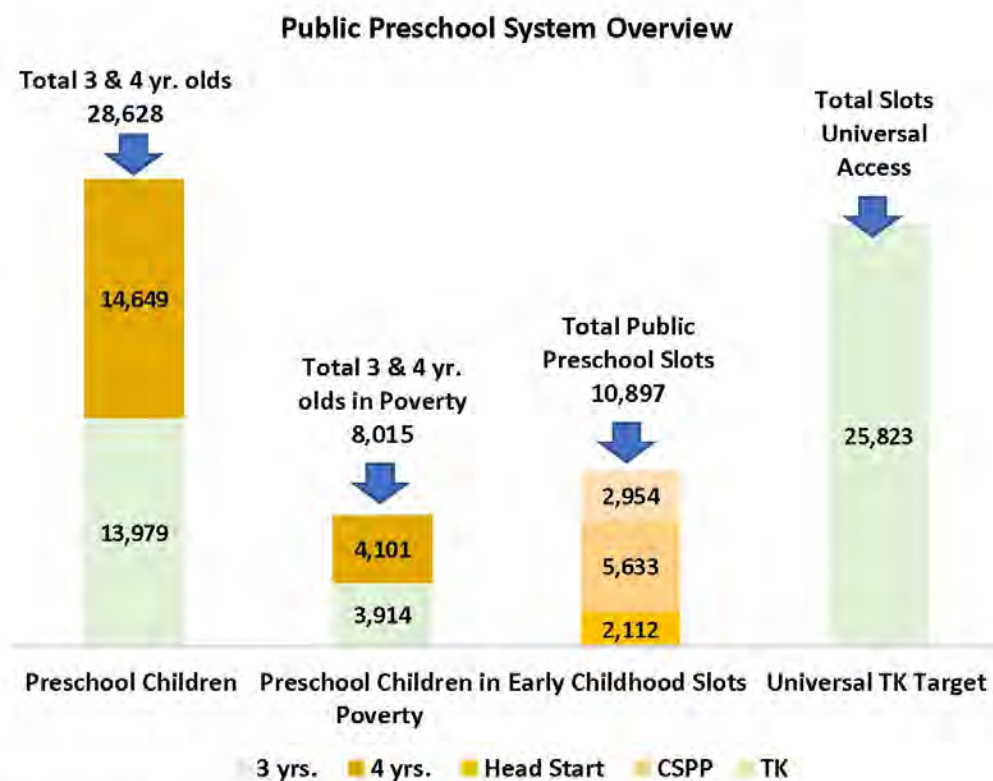


Figure 55. Preschool System Overview

Transitional Universal Preschool (TK)

According to the California School Board Association, enrollment in Transitional Universal Preschool (TK) totaled 19% of all kindergarten students in Fresno in 2021. Fresno County programs served 2,144 children in TK in 2021 and 2,294 in 2022-2023 which shows the growing scope of the program. At full implementation of the TK program in 2025-2026, it is anticipated that 85% of all children aged 3 & 4 years will be served in state-funded early childhood programs. The impact of TK on Head Start is unknown but several considerations should remain at the forefront.



- There is a need to further create and coordinate TK plans with local school districts. This includes timelines for expansion, facilities, and staffing. Fresno EOC is well suited to expand their blended model with state preschool programs to support the expansion.
- Based on the formula funding and the anticipated number of TK slots there will be a need for additional preschool teachers. How will the county produce newly credentialed teachers in the midst of a current staffing crisis?
- Do the school districts have the infrastructure necessary to expand TK? How can Fresno EOC help leverage the current childcare and Head Start systems to assist in the endeavor?
- How will TK impact current Head Start enrollment? Where are opportunities to collaborate?
- Many TK programs will run for ½ day which will not meet the needs of working families and they will be part-year programs. Currently, just 29% of state preschool slots operate for a full-day. However, there are full-day subsidized slots in childcare centers and other programs and some TK programs are paired with childcare and extend into the evenings.
- How do you change the narrative, so families are better able to recognize the value of the comprehensive service model offered in Head Start?
- Could a referral system be put into place where the most at-risk families, based on the number of adverse early childhood experiences, are automatically referred to Head Start?

The enrollment challenges that arise with the expansion of TK are rooted in family choices. For example, families may prefer to enroll their child in TK or state preschool rather than Head Start due to the convenience of having all the children in the family attend school at one site. Also, there is an assumption that starting public school “early” will lead to increased success and often Head Start is not seen as a “school – based program”. There is a trend in which families enroll their children in Head Start and then disenroll in Head Start when a state preschool program slot becomes available. It is important to convey that TK slots are not comprehensive, which will undermine the success of the most at-risk families should they opt out of Head Start.

There are currently many other options available for four-year-olds besides TK, including the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), Head Start, other center-based care, and home-based care. Most recent estimates suggest about 40 percent of four-year-olds are in publicly provided care, about half of which is TK (Friedmann-Kraus 2023). Estimates from a few years prior (2016) find that 71 percent of four-year-olds are in non-parental care, and 62 percent are in center based care (Master Plan for Early Childhood Learning and Care). To the extent that these other options provide high quality care that promotes educational and social-emotional development, we may not expect TK to produce a relative improvement in outcomes even if it is high-quality.

--2023 Public Policy Institute of California

Infant and Toddler Programming

Fresno County is home to 39,152 infants and toddlers, of which 10,963 live in a family with an income below the federal poverty threshold. The infant and toddler early care and education landscape is strikingly different than the preschool landscape due to several factors that include: lack of investment in birth-to-three programs at the state and federal levels, an increased number of infants and toddlers when compared to preschool-aged children, and a limited number of infant and toddler care slots in center-based programs due to the high cost of caring for infants and toddlers. Additionally, more infants and toddlers are served in home visiting programs and in family childcare programs. Based on the number of infants and toddlers eligible for Early Head Start the current funding for public infant and toddler services in the area can serve 6% of all infants and toddlers with a low-income and 1% of all infants and toddlers in the population. Early Head Start serves less than 1% of all program eligible infants and toddlers in Fresno County.

Publicly Funded Center-Based Infant/Toddler Program Slots	
Type of Program	Slots Available
Early Head Start	478
Early Head Start Childcare Partnership (Tribal/Non-Tribal)	137
Migrant Early Head Start	61
Cal-SAFE Teen Parent Programs	33
Total	709

Table 35. Public Infant and Toddler Slots

Home Visiting Services

The most recent data indicates that 2,405 families were served through 19 different home visiting programs operating throughout Fresno County. The services were provided primarily to families with infants and toddlers. The programs varied from comprehensive services delivered using an evidence-based model for children birth-to-five such as Nurse Family Partnership, to visits focused solely on health and literacy⁵³.

⁵³ Cradle to Career Fresno County, 2019. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://fresnoc2c.org/files/2020-11/C2C_Blueprint_FINAL%20%28corrected%201-23-20%29.pdf

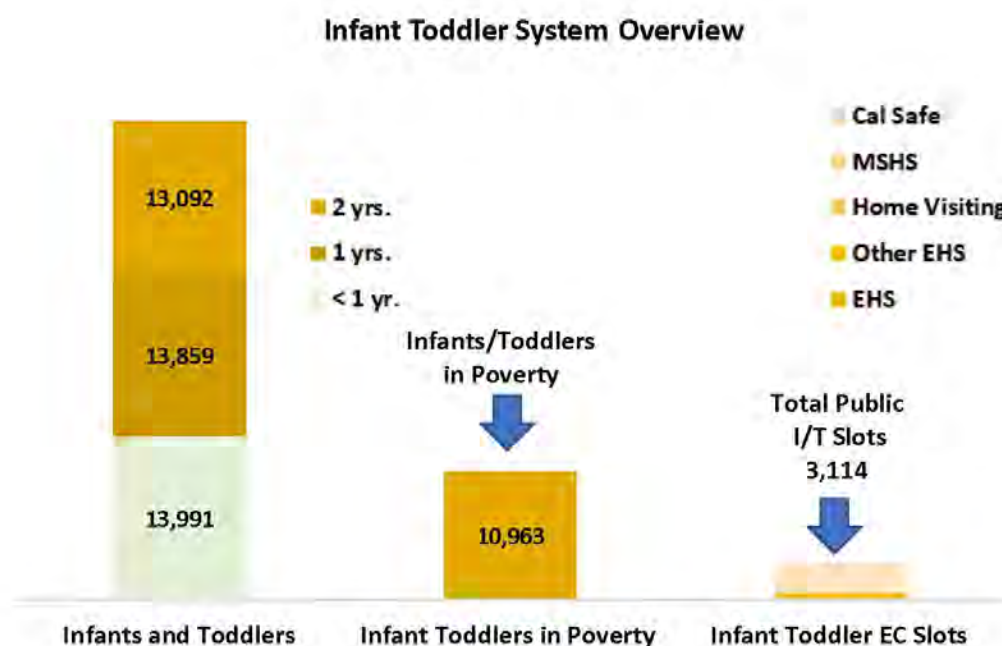


Figure 56. Infant and Toddler System Overview

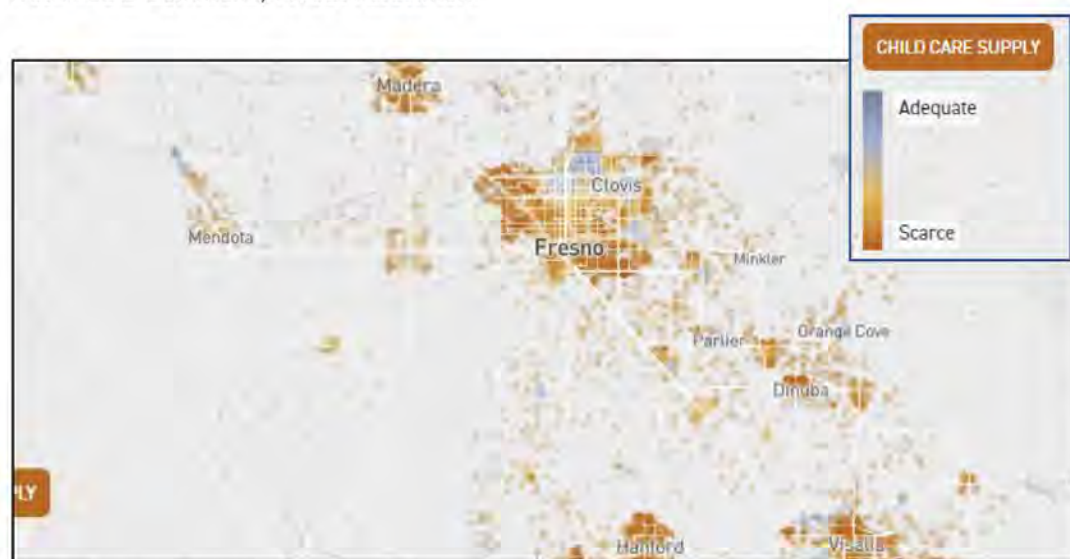
Licensed Childcare Slots

The availability of licensed childcare slots in family childcare homes and centers varies by community. Within the county, there are 798 licensed childcare centers and 503 family childcare homes. The majority of childcare slots are available in the population centers such as Fresno or Clovis, while the rural areas are underserved, or they are served only by family childcare homes. Of these slots, it is estimated that there are 1,185 licensed childcare spaces available for infants and toddlers and 13,366 licensed childcare spaces available for preschool-aged children.

Supply of Licensed Childcare Slots	
Licensed Childcare Slots Preschool	13,336
School-Age	2,030
Licensed Childcare Slots Infant/Toddler	1,185
Licensed Family Childcare Homes	503
Childcare Centers	798

Table 36. Licensed Childcare Programs and Slots by Age and Type of Facility

Fresno County is home to many childcare deserts. There is adequate supply in areas of Clovis, but the rest of the county remains unserved, particularly in the rural areas.

Figure 57. Childcare Deserts in Fresno County⁵⁴

Demand for Early Childhood Services

In total, the service area needs 42,971 childcare slots to serve the estimated number of children with all parents working. This data indicates there is a slot gap of 26,420 early care and education slots. It is estimated the current system can serve 38% of all children who need care. However, the greatest shortage of care is for infants and toddlers as the public and non-public child development system can only serve 4% of all infants and toddlers who have working parents while 71% of preschool-aged children can be served.

Work Characteristics of Families and Birth-to-Five Slots Needed ⁵⁵					
Area	# of Children Under 3	# of Children Aged 3 & 4	% of Families with all Caregivers Working	0-2 yrs. Slot Needed	3-5 yrs. Slots Needed
Biola	107	47	34.3%	37	16
Clovis	4,383	3,935	71.3%	3,125	2,806
Coalinga	456	342	67.8%	309	232
Firebaugh	314	319	38.8%	122	124
Huron	303	206	63.1%	191	130
Kerman	758	485	62.3%	472	302
Kingsburg	294	310	69.5%	204	215
Mendota	756	480	56.7%	429	272
Orange Cove	407	405	70.2%	286	284
Parlier	468	627	60.4%	283	379
Reedley	1,335	1,041	63.4%	846	660
Riverdale	111	149	58.5%	65	87

⁵⁴ Center for American Progress. <https://childcaredeserts.org/>

⁵⁵ American Community Survey, Selected Economic Characteristics. 2022.

Work Characteristics of Families and Birth-to-Five Slots Needed ⁵⁵					
Area	# of Children Under 3	# of Children Aged 3 & 4	% of Families with all Caregivers Working	0-2 yrs. Slot Needed	3-5 yrs. Slots Needed
Sanger	1,009	1,113	49.0%	494	545
San Joaquin	225	208	28.8%	65	60
Selma	886	764	54.2%	480	414
Fresno City	23,373	16,906	62.4%	14,585	10,549
Fresno County	39,152	30,381	61.8%	24,196	18,775

According to the 2023 Fresno County Child Care Portfolio, 6% of childcare requests were for evening, weekend or overnight care, down from 13% in 2019, with no childcare centers and 36% of family childcare homes offering that type of care. Additionally, of all requests for care, 28% of requests were for infants and toddlers, 44% of requests were for preschoolers, and 28% of requests were care for children over six years. The major reasons that families seek childcare include employment (83% compared to 71% in 2019); participation in school or training (8% compared to 15% in 2019), and because they are seeking employment (10% compared to 13% in 2019)⁵⁶.

Affordable Childcare

The annual cost of care for children in need of childcare represents a significant portion of family income. As shown below, for a family earning \$4,938 per month without a subsidy, infant/toddler care would consume 19% of the family budget. For a family with a subsidy, the family fee would consume 10% of the family budget⁵⁶.



In 2021, the cost of care for infants and toddlers increased by 16% for center-based childcare and by 22% for family childcare. For preschoolers, in the past five years the cost of care increased by 43% in childcare centers and by 11% in family childcare homes⁵⁷.

⁵⁶ Child Care Resource and Referral Network. 2023 Child Care Portfolio. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcapccpcglefindmkaj/https://rrnetwork.org/assets/general-files/Fresno_2023-01-25-035626_skrl.pdf

Annual Cost of Childcare by Age Group and Facility Type ⁵⁷		
Type of Facility	Amount	
	Infant	Preschooler
Childcare Center	\$15,552	\$14,388
Family Childcare Home	\$11,148	\$9,588

Table 37. Annual Cost of Care by Age Group and Facility Type

Childcare Subsidies

In Fresno County, there are 41 programs that offer subsidized childcare. Supportive Services, Inc. administers the alternative payment program which pays all or part of the cost for childcare for eligible children aged birth-to-12 years. The 2022 Fresno County Child Care Portfolio estimates that 8,802 children received a childcare subsidy. The data indicates that 559 children under three years received a subsidy, and 8,243 aged 3-5 years received a subsidy⁵⁷. KidsData notes that 32% of Fresno County families that are working have a low-income. This indicates there is a need for subsidies for 7,742 infants and toddlers and 6,008 preschoolers. The current subsidies fall short of meeting the need and the subsidy slot gap totals 4,948.

Head Start Family Work and Training Schedules

Among families attending Head Start and Early Head Start, 65% of parents are employed or in job training or they are attending school. This data indicates that more than 1,599 families in the program are in need of childcare services. Of these families, 377 are enrolled in Early Head Start and 1,222 are enrolled in Head Start.

Childcare Quality

The Fresno County Quality Stars rating system is a quality rating improvement system (QRIS) for licensed early care and education providers. In 2021, the total number of children served in programs participating in Quality Stars was 8,577, up from 8,195 in 2020. Of the children served, 7,665 were preschoolers, 586 were toddlers, 234 were infants, and 120 were under 1 year. The types of programs that participated included 154 center-based childcare providers, and 40 licensed family childcare homes. Of all programs participating, 2% are rated at a Tier 3, 57% are rated at Tier 4, 32 are rated at Tier 5, and 24% were not rated as of the report date⁵⁸.

⁵⁷ <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-data-tool#!0>

⁵⁸ https://qualitycountsca.net/ca_county/fresno/?audience=quality-partners



Community Survey Responses

The following represents responses from families receiving Head Start services who participated in the community assessment survey.

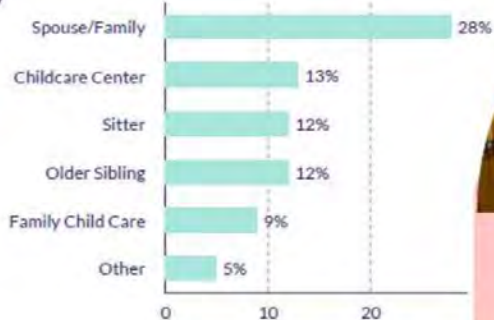
Community Survey Responses from Head Start 0-5 Families

Do you use childcare programs other than Head Start and Early Head Start?



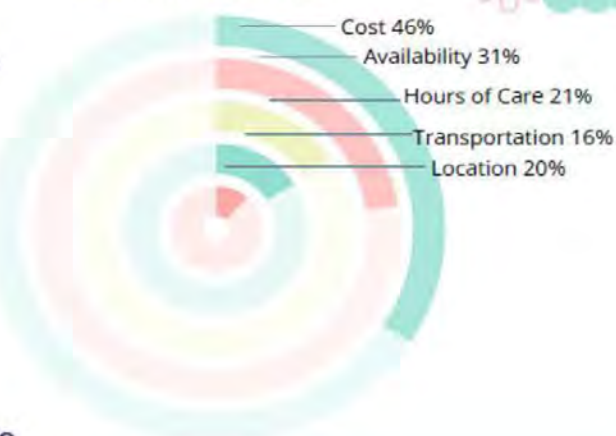
Yes (17.52%) No (82.48%)

Types of Childcare Utilized



Reported by % of HS Family Responses indicating they had a childcare challenge in the past year

Childcare Challenges



32% of families need childcare to attend career training (605)

Last Year.....

- 35% of families had difficulty paying childcare costs
- 38% had difficulty with childcare and their work schedule
- 30% had difficulty obtaining childcare assistance/subsidy

Early Care and Education Program Preferences

36% families prefer center-based (8-10 hrs.) daily
21% families prefer center-based (6-7 hrs.) daily
21% families prefer school-year center-based program



Figure 58. Head Start Family Community Survey Responses



Early Care and Education Key Data Findings

Access to early care and education programs in Fresno County is more limited for families with a low-income and for families with infants and toddlers. The total capacity of the system including public and private programs is estimated to reach 61% of all children aged 3-5 years (10,897 state preschool slots/13,336 preschool childcare slots) and 100% of preschoolers in poverty. The system can serve 11% of children aged 0-3 years (3,114 publicly funded slots and 1,185 childcare slots) and the public infant/toddler system can serve 28% of infants and toddlers in poverty. However, when the home-based slots are removed, the center-based infant and toddler system can serve just 2.9% of all infants and toddlers in poverty.

When at least 85% of all children are served it is typically assumed that an early childhood system has reached universal access. It is estimated that there are sufficient publicly funded preschool slots to serve all preschool children in poverty and 45% of all three and four-year olds. To achieve universal access, the county needs a total of 25,823 preschool slots, which is already accommodated by the current early childhood system when childcare programs are included. To universally serve all children in public preschool programs, the county would need an additional 14,296 slots.

The push for universal access should also be viewed in the context of trends that include: a decreasing number of center-based childcare programs that serve children from 8-12 hours daily, lack of a qualified workforce, lack of high-quality programs, and disparate access to high-quality programs for Hispanic children due to the cost of care. While universal access programs do result in benefits for many children, there are unintended consequences that could result from such a large and fast evolution of the early care and education system such as loss of access to comprehensive services as families transition into programs that are less intensive than Head Start, uneven per-child funding between federal, state, and community-based early care and education programs and diminished quality as the most highly skilled teachers leave Head Start and community-based programs for jobs in school-based preschool programs that offer a higher salary.

In Fresno County, 61.8% of families with children under six have all parents in the workforce, a rate lower than for the nation and for California. This trend is influenced by low rates of educational attainment among families. However, in the Head Start program 65% of parents are either employed or in job training programs. The number of working families in the Head Start and Early Head Start program has decreased from the prior year. According to the data, 1,599 Head Start and Early Head Start children needed access to childcare because all parents were working and/or because their parents were in career training. The scheduling needs of Head Start families are varied, as many attend school or work rotating or alternative schedules in the evenings and on weekends. When cross-referenced with employment data, female single householder families report an employment rate of 47% which warrants a robust and affordable early care and education system that operates for the full duration of the program-year as

children living in homes headed by single-mothers are often more at-risk of remaining in poverty and the associated consequences than their counterparts living in families headed by two-working parents.

It is estimated that there are 8,802 children receiving a childcare subsidy, and 2,816 of these children are living in a family in or near poverty, making them age and income-eligible for Head Start, but attending other early care and education programs. It is also estimated that many Head Start eligible children are attending state preschool programs (this does not account for the 160 children co-enrolled in Head Start and the state preschool program).

Head Start programs can undertake several activities to determine the need to adjust services to match emerging community needs and to leverage the resources of the program, in the context of expanding universal access to preschool. Helpful strategies may include:

- The program can gather data about how families make decisions about the types of early care and education programs they utilize. For example, first identify the factors that families consider when they decide the type of program (Head Start, community-based prek, state prek) that they will utilize and, second, what process do they go through to make their early care and education and childcare decisions, i.e. what are the most important factors in selecting an early care and education provider?
- Promote Fresno EOC's participation in the Quality Rating Improvement System and childcare subsidy programs to open opportunities for Head Start to expand services to include full-day, full-year childcare and to participate in developing universal early care and education systems that require high quality ratings.
- Advocate for state preschool systems and Transitional Kindergarten to include mandates to contract out a certain percentage of slots into community-based locations. For example, NY-UPK requires that 10% of slots are allocated to providers other than a local school system. Also, explore workforce participation for families and programs that alleviate the costs of childcare for families by creating models for blending state preschool funds, Head Start and childcare subsidies. Lastly, Fresno EOC can mobilize parents to encourage local governance bodies and funders to allocate additional funds to support the massive quality lift that is needed to truly address the disparities in early learning for children in poverty.
- Continue to expand access to programs serving infants and toddlers in poverty to alleviate the infant and toddler early care and education slot gap and the childcare cost, quality and affordability crisis.

Transportation, Communication & Community Environment

The ability to travel offers the means to reach essential opportunities such as jobs, education, shops, and a personal support network which impacts the quality of life. Providing transportation services or reducing financial (and other) barriers to travel is one solution for addressing poverty and social challenges, through for example widening the range of opportunities for employment and education that can be reached.

Fresno County has a robust transportation network. In 2020, Fresno Area Express began providing free rides, however bus fares were reinstated in September 2021, which continues to pose as a barrier to many low-income families seeking transportation. Fresno's transportation department offers 18- fixed route bus lines and Handy Ride Parent Transport services. Fresno EOC also offers limited transportation for families to and from Head Start and Early Head Start centers in rural locations or in locations where the program can partner with state preschool or childcare programs.

Commuter Travel Patterns

In Fresno County, the rate at which individuals drive to work is higher than the national rate of 74.9%. In contrast, the rate of residents that utilize public transportation is much lower than the national rate of 5%. Residents in the service area also walk or bike to work at lower rates than the nation's rate of 3% of all workers. This trend is likely due to the rural nature of the county. Bus riders report they spend a significant amount of time on buses, often more than 45 minutes to an hour while commuting. The rate of individuals that work from home increased from 5% in 2020 to 8% in 2022.

Commuter Travel Patterns ⁵⁹							
Report Area	Total Workers	% Drive Alone	Percent Carpool	Percent Public Transport	Percent Walk	Percent Taxi or Other	Percent Work at Home
Fresno County	409,153	76%	11%	0.8%	1%	2%	8%

Table 38. Commuter Travel Patterns

Fresno County conducted a survey to identify transportation issues in response to Measure C, a ballot initiative to expand transportation that was passed by Fresno County voters in 2022. In survey responses (2,988 respondents), close to 9 in 10 people, reported there is a great need for additional funding for the county transportation system⁶⁰.

Vehicle Ownership

⁵⁹ United States Census Bureau. 2022. Table B08141. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/>.

⁶⁰ <https://measurecrenewal.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/220-6352-Fresno-County-Transportation-Issues-Survey-P-F-4-27-2022-sent.pdf>.

Car ownership is varied among the communities in Fresno County and the U.S. Census estimates that 7% of Fresno County households do not have a motor vehicle⁵⁹.

Report Area	Vehicle Ownership			
	% Households with no Vehicle Available	% of Households with 1 Vehicle	% of Households with 2 Vehicles	% of Households with 3 Vehicles or More
Clovis	4%	27%	43%	26%
Coalinga	7%	26%	39%	28%
Firebaugh	17%	35%	24%	24%
Huron	14%	25%	36%	25%
Kerman	7%	24%	40%	30%
Kingsburg	10%	32%	35%	24%
Mendota	16%	24%	35%	26%
Orange Cove	16%	35%	22%	27%
Parlier	6%	31%	35%	28%
Reedley	6%	28%	38%	28%
Sanger	7%	21%	37%	35%
San Joaquin	5%	33%	34%	28%
Selma	8%	28%	35%	30%
Fresno City	9%	34%	35%	22%
Fresno County	7%	31%	37%	26%

Table 39. Vehicle Ownership

Travel Time to Work

Workers in the service area have an average commute to work of 23 minutes.

Travel Time to Work ²²						
Report Area	Workers that Commute Age 16 and Up	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) Less than 10	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) 10 to 30	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) 30 to 60	Travel Time in Minutes (Percent of Workers) More than 60	Average Commute Time (minutes)
Fresno County	377,707	13%	60%	22%	5%	23.35

Table 40. Travel Time to Work

Computer and Internet Access

Internet access is vital to participation in society. It is often needed to access educational opportunities, learning resources, and to level the playing field for people that may not have equal access to educational opportunities, which was noted as a concern in the community survey responses and in data showing disparate educational outcomes for certain populations, such as those with a low-income or minority background.

Internet access also provides links to job opportunities, government aid programs, and health services. From a mental health perspective, digital connectivity enables low-income individuals to engage in social interaction and can be a tool for empowerment and advocacy.

In data reported from the U.S. Census, residents of Fresno County have access to the internet at a rate comparable to California and the nation. However, local data and information from initiatives underway to closely examine and monitor differences in internet access in Fresno County, notes the following trends:

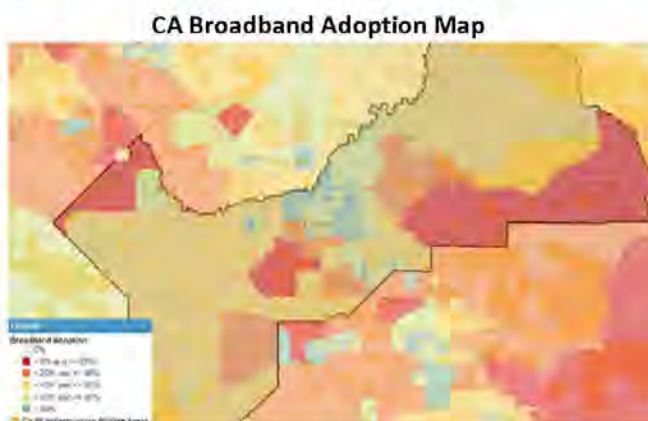


Figure 59. CA Broadband Adoption Map

- The Broadband for All Data Project is a cross-sector collaborative that includes K-12, Higher Education, Government and Community – Based Organizations (CBOs). The collaborative examined information using the CA Broadband Adoption Map, supplemented with additional qualitative data from surveys, phone calls and speed testing to identify gaps and barriers in access to broadband internet⁶¹. In response to concerns that the map obscures the true extent of access barriers, the project has developed an internet speed testing app that can be deployed on district provided devices to test internet speeds in the homes of Fresno County students.
- The San Joaquin Regional Broadband Commission is an initiative of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley dedicated to accelerating the deployment, accessibility, and adoption of broadband within the San Joaquin Valley. A report produced in 2020, notes that the communities/areas most in need of improved access to broadband internet are: Cantua Creek, Giffen Cantua Creek, Huron, Raisin City, Three Rocks, Tranquility and Biola.⁶² Additionally, the report identifies specific types of households that are least likely to have access to broadband internet. These households include

⁶¹ Broadband for All Data Project. <https://ids.fcoe.org/broadband-all-data-project>

⁶² Fresno State Office of Community and Economic Development (OECD). San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium (SJVRC) Preferred Scenario for Unserved Households in the San Joaquin Valley February 20, 2020. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.cetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SJVRC-Preferred-Scenario-Report-Amended-4.16.2020-Copy.pdf

farmworker housing communities, households in rural settings with small clusters of housing, mobile home parks, and small agricultural communities.

- The Fresno County Coalition for Digital Inclusion is comprised of a group of 30 anchor institutions and CBOs that have organized into a nonprofit entity. Data from this group noted that only 3% of Fresno County residents were unserved by internet or did not have access to high speed internet. The data was further examined and when cross-referenced with data from the Fresno Unified School District and other educational institutional entities tracking internet speed access within student households, it was found that in actuality, 27% of households are unserved by broadband internet. The following figure shows the undercount of locations in areas of poverty that do not have high-speed broadband internet access (right), compared to more recent data showing that 27% of residents do not have access to broadband (left).

Comparison of Data for Locations Underserved by Broadband Internet

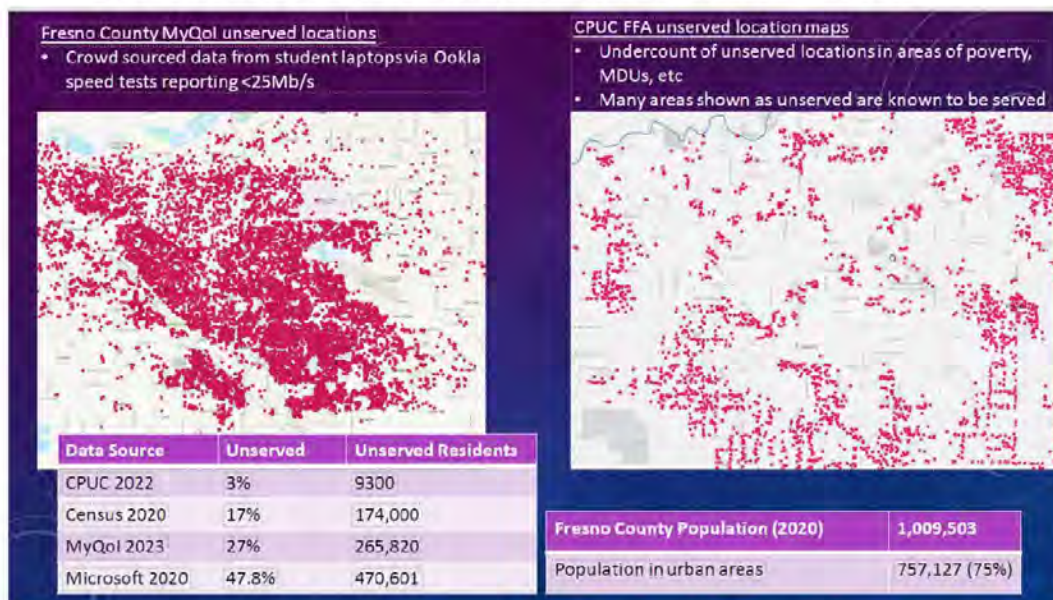


Figure 60. Comparison of Unserved Locations without Access to Broadband Internet in Fresno County

Overall, internet access can help bridge the digital divide, opening up opportunities for low-income individuals to improve their lives, connect with others, and access essential services.



Community Survey Responses

Community survey respondents were asked to rank their transportation needs. The following details the number of responses that noted a particular need by type of need. Transportation was also reflected in the community forums as a Top 5 need.

Fresno EOC Community Needs Assessment



Figure 61. Transportation Needs in Fresno County

Additional community needs noted by the survey respondents related to community and neighborhood assistance were consistent with the data identified in the community forums. A total of 2,426 respondents noted the following concerns as a major need for Fresno County.

Percent of Community Repondents that Noted Neighborhood Improvements as a Major Need by Type of Improvement

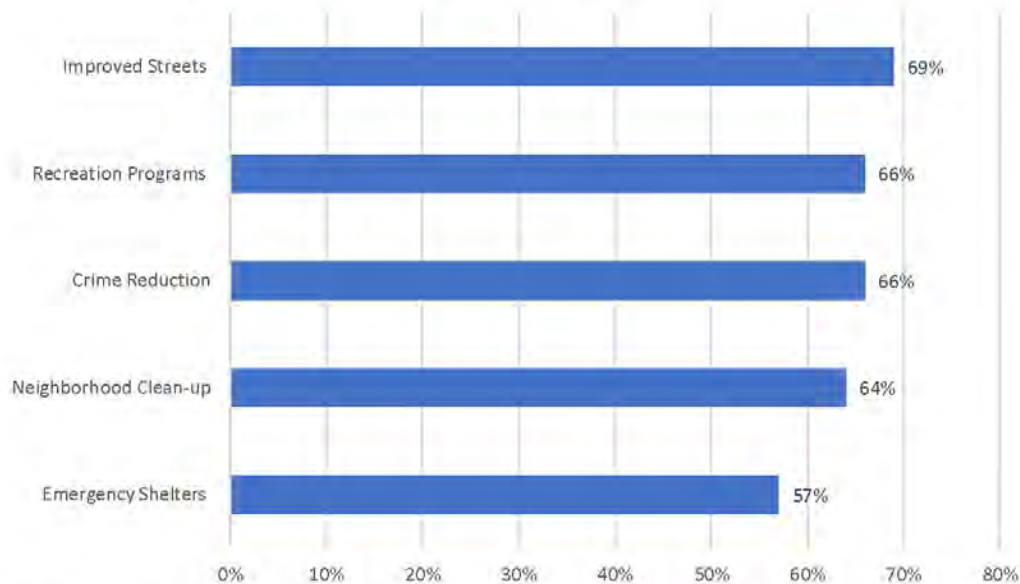


Figure 62. Neighborhood Improvements That Are a Major Need



Transportation and Communication Key Data Findings

Transportation challenges vary and are influenced by factors such as population growth, urban development, and infrastructure. Some of the general transportation challenges identified in the community assessment data and surveys in Fresno County include:

Traffic congestion – Since Fresno County has many rural areas, two lane roads are often the major commuter routes. These routes in-turn, lead to population centers. The lack of infrastructure has led to increased travel time for individuals to travel to work in these locations. The average commute time for workers is 23 minutes.

Limited public transportation - The area is composed of several rural communities and public transportation is limited to the population centers. Additionally, bus routes, the travel time from one place to another and the cost of public transportation is a barrier for residents to work, obtain assistance, attend critical appointments and socialize.

Lack of alternative means of transportation – Several parts of the service area lack a pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, such as sidewalks and bike lanes. This discourages walking and cycling as viable transportation options.

Rural-Urban Interface – Fresno County has both rural and urban areas. Balancing the transportation needs of these diverse regions can be a challenge, as rural areas may require different types of transportation infrastructure than the urban centers.

Lack of Vehicle Ownership – Lack of vehicle ownership is highest in the following communities: Firebaugh; Kingsburg; Huron; Mendota and Orange Cove. These areas also have high rates of poverty.

Disparities in Digital Connectivity – Data shows there is a disparity in high speed internet access, which impacts disadvantaged, rural communities. Additionally, discrepancies in data related to internet access and differing data sources obscure the true extend of digital inequities present in Fresno County.

Community Needs Ranking Sheet

Community Needs Ranking

Community	Largest Population Increase (5= greatest increase = need for more services) (2020-2022)		Lowest Median Hs.Hold Income (1 highest income/15 lowest income)		Poverty Rate (1 lowest/15 highest pov)		HS Dropout (15 = highest rate of dropout/1 = lowest rate of high school dropout)		Births to Unmarried Mothers (15 = highest/1=lowest)		Renters with Cost-Burden (1 = lowest/15 = highest)		Scores	Community Ranking 1 + greatest need/most distress)
Clovis	3.6%+	3	\$88,554	1	2	1	22.2%	5	41%	6	18	14		
Coalinga	-3.2%	0	\$68,976	4	5	5	42.8%	13	17%	1	28	12		
Huron	<1%+	0	\$48,070	11	11	15	42.7%	12	47%	7	56	3		
Kerman	1.2%+	1	\$53,956	8	7	9	41.6%	11	41%	10	46	7		
Kingsburg	1.8%+	2	\$74,897	2	3	2	6.6%	1	38%	2	12	15		
Mendota	<1%+	0	\$43,315	13	12	14	18.1%	3	46%	9	51	4		
Orange Cove	1.2%+	1	\$33,671	15	15	13	100%	15	59%	12	71	1		
Parlier	<1%+	0	\$50,026	10	9	10	23.7%	6	59%	13	48	5		
Reedley	<1%+	0	\$61,629	6	4	8	38.7%	9	59%	14	41	10		
Sanger	<1%+	0	\$69,333	3	1	6	27.0%	7	39%	3	20	13		
Selma	<1%+	0	\$53,874	9	6	7	68.2%	14	44%	8	44	8		
San Joaquin	<1%+	0	\$43,750	12	13	11	10.5%	2	40%	5	43	9		
Firebaugh	3.9%+	4	\$36,078	14	14	12	35.1%	8	39%	4	56	2		
Fowler	11.8%+	5	\$56,410	7	12	4	18.8%	4	60%	15	47	6		
Fresno	<1%+	0	\$63,001	5	8	3	39.5%	10	50%	11	37	11		

DRAFT

Appendix D

Fresno EOC 2024 Community Partner Survey

1. Please select the choice that best describes your organization:

- ☐ Non-profit sector
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Private sector
- ☐ Other

2. What organization do you represent?

3. Please check any of the services your organization provides to low-income individuals or families (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency food, clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Job training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Education (K-12, vocational or post high school) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service information and referral | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health services or mental health care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health services | <input type="checkbox"/> Family support services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical services | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing or housing repairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal aid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial planning, tax preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ+ resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/community development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

4. What unique skills, talents, or contributions do low-income individuals and families bring to our community?

5. In your opinion, what are three big problems impacting the community and/or low-income individuals and families the most?

Problem 1)

Problem 2)

Problem 3)

6. Can you share an example of a partnership or collaboration that has successfully impacted low-income people and families in Fresno County?

7. What services are missing in your community to effectively address these issues?

8. How can the partnerships between agencies in the community be improved to address the needs of low-income families?

9. What are the barriers to gaining an education in our community (check all that apply):

☐ Lack of access to programs for obtaining the HSET/high school completion

☐ Cost of childcare

☐ Lack of childcare

☐ Cost of transportation

☐ Lack of programs for gaining computer skills

☐ Lack of tuition money/financial aid for career/post-secondary education

☐ Lack of vocational skills or training

☐ Lack of preschool programs

☐ Lack of dropout prevention programs

☐ Don't know

☐ Other (please specify)

10. How would you describe access to affordable housing in your community?

☐ There is a large supply of affordable homes and housing options

☐ There are some affordable homes and housing options

☐ There is a very small supply of affordable homes and housing options

☐ Don't know

☐ Other (please specify)

11. Money management for families is a problem because (check all that apply):

- ☐ Lack of knowledge about budgeting
- ☐ Difficulty managing money
- ☐ Lack of use of earned income tax credit
- ☐ Food stamps do not provide enough assistance
- ☐ Lack of knowledge about savings
- ☐ Money management is not a problem
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other (please specify)

12. Health care is a problem for families because (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctors will not accept Medicaid | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of income to pay for prescriptions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No clinics or doctor offices in same town | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of income for medical emergencies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiting list for services | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of family resources for alcohol or drug abuse treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital/Urgent Care and Walk-in Clinics or emergency room not available in same town | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of family resources for mental health treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Coverage gaps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Health services are not a problem for families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prevailing health conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of education/resources toward the prevention of chronic health conditions | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

13. Have you added any additional services in the last year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

If yes, what services?

14. Has your organization collaborated on joint projects or provided joint services with any other agency in the past year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

15. In your opinion, what are three collaborative strengths among agencies in your community?

Strength 1)

Strength 2)

Strength 3)

16. Has your organization experienced any barriers to collaboration?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

If yes, please describe.

17. For each of the following population groups, please indicate the degree to which you believe their overall need for services has changed in the past three years.

	Decreased Dramatically	No Change	Increased Dramatically	Don't Know
Low income infants and toddlers (0-3 years)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low income children aged 3-5 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low income elementary aged children 5-10 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low income teens 11-15 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low income youths aged 16-24 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low income adults aged 25-54 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low income elderly aged 55+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individuals with chronic health conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Migrant/transient households	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minority households (e.g. African American/Black, Hispanic, Asian)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-English speaking households	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Households with incarcerated family members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physically or developmentally disabled individuals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individuals with mental health challenges/issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Victims of crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Victims of domestic violence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Homeless families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rural households	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe any other service decreases/increases

18. Have the following service needs changed in the past three years?

	Decreased Dramatically	No Change	Increased Dramatically	Don't Know
Quality affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adequate family living wage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Need for childcare services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Need for emergency shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen pregnancy services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Need to address children's behavioral challenges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Need for food assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Need for job training or basic skills development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Need for fiscal literacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe any other changes in service needs.

19. What gaps in services have you encountered in serving families with a low-income?

20. What are the strengths in your community?

1)

2)

3)

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Appendix E

Fresno EOC 2024 - Community Needs Assessment Printed Survey

1. Do you live in Fresno County?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

2. What city do you live in?

3. What is your role?

- ☐ Program Participant (I currently receive services from Fresno LEOC)
☐ Public (I do not currently receive services from Fresno LEOC)

4. How easy was it to access our Fresno EOC program services?

- ☐ Very easy
☐ Easy
☐ Neither easy nor difficult
☐ Difficult
☐ Very difficult

5. Was the service provided to you in a timely manner?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

6. Did you feel welcome and respected by the Fresno EOC staff and/or volunteers?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If no, please let us know why:

7. Did Fresno EOC staff effectively address your issue or concern?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If no, please let us know why:

8. How would you rate your satisfaction with the service(s) you received?

9. Are you a Fresno EOC Employee?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

10. What is your race?

- ☐ American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
☐ Asian or Asian American
☐ Black, African American, or African
☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
☐ White
☐ Multi Race
☐ Do not know

11. What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)
☐ Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)
☐ Do not know

12. Are you seeking employment?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

13. What are the employment needs in your community?

	Major need	Minor Need	No Need	Unsure
Job opportunities within the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assistance to attend a trade, or technical school or college	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Computer skills training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job skills training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High School/GED Classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assistance with goals and case management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Childcare access to get a job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

14. Employment in my community is a problem because (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Employment in my community is not a problem
- ☐ People lack skills to obtain a job
- ☐ People are unable to find jobs
- ☐ Current jobs are low paying
- ☐ People lack education to obtain a job
- ☐ Cost of transportation
- ☐ Long commute to jobs
- ☐ Employers leaving the area
- ☐ Lack of transportation
- ☐ Other (please specify)

15. Do you have a consistent work schedule?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A

16. Please rank the following housing needs in your community:

	Major Need	Minor Need	No Need	Unsure
Safe and affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safe and affordable multi-family housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rental Assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Utility Assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home energy efficiency programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs to assist in repair of homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More temporary housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. The source of my household income is (please check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earned Income | <input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Income from Social Security | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (Cashaid) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pension or Retirement Income from a Former Job | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Cash Benefits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | <input type="checkbox"/> General Assistance (GA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment Insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VA Non-Service-Connected Disability Pension | <input type="checkbox"/> Alimony and Other Spousal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private Disability Compensation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other source of income (please specify) | |

18. In the past 6 months, did you miss a payment for any of the following? (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Rent or mortgage
- ☐ Medical Bills/Prescriptions
- ☐ Utilities (phone/electric/gas/water)
- ☐ Loans
- ☐ Credit Cards
- ☐ Automobile/Automobile Insurance
- ☐ No, I did not miss a payment
- ☐ Other (please specify)

19. Do you have children?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

20. Do you participate in Head Start or Early Head Start?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

21. Do you have a child aged 0-2 years:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

22. Do you have a child aged 3-4 years old?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

23. Do you use childcare programs (other than Head Start/Early Head Start)?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

24. Please indicate the type of childcare you use (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Childcare center
☐ Sitter/Nanny
☐ Older sibling
☐ Family childcare home
☐ Spouse/family member/partner
☐ N/A
☐ Other (please specify)

25. What childcare challenges do you encounter? (please check all that apply)

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Availability
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Transportation Issues
- ☐ Hours of care
- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Other (please specify)

26. Do you need childcare to attend a training/career program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A

27. Do all parents/caregivers in your household work?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

28. What types of services do you need/want (please check all that apply)?

- ☐ Center-based early childhood programs that operate for 8-10 hours per day, 5 days per-week.
- ☐ Center-based early childhood programs that operate for 6-7 hours per day, 5 days per-week.
- ☐ Center-based early childhood programs that operate for the school year and in the summer.
- ☐ Center-based early childhood programs that operate during the school year.
- ☐ Home-based/home visiting programs.
- ☐ None of the above

29. Please mark the types of childcare services that you need:

- ☐ Full-time
- ☐ Half days (5 days per week)
- ☐ Partial week
- ☐ Weekends
- ☐ Before school
- ☐ Half-days/partial week
- ☐ Night/evening care
- ☐ Varied hours weekly
- ☐ Summer care
- ☐ After school care
- ☐ None

30. Are you satisfied with your current childcare arrangements?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A

31. Have you had any of the following childcare related problems in the past year?

	Yes	No	N/A
Difficulty paying childcare bill/tuition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding temporary care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding care for a sick child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding care for a child with special needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Location of care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dependability of care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scheduling of care to fit work schedule	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Obtaining a childcare subsidy or assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extensive time on a waiting list	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Please rank the following transportation needs in your community:

	Major Need	Minor Need	No Need	Unsure
Local transportation for shopping, medical, school or work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Out of town transportation for shopping, medical, school or work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation for the general public	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Training on how to use public transportation services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional hours of transportation operation (nights/weekends)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. What health needs impact your community? (please check all that apply)

	Major Need	Minor Need	No Need	Unsure
There is limited access to health services so it is difficult to get a timely appointment with health professional.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working conditions are toxic/unhealthy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is limited help for people to enroll in public health insurance programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insurance programs do not cover enough of individual medical expenses or prescriptions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care providers do not speak my language so I can receive services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

34. Please rank the extent to which you think the following occurs in your community:

	Great Extent	Some Extent	No Extent	Unsure
Families of color live in specific neighborhoods.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children of color get the same quality of education as other children in my community who are not of color.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When seeking medical/health care I feel like my doctor's decisions are affected by my race, gender, or sexuality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individuals of color are represented among the public officials in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law enforcement officials in my community treat people of color the same as they treat other who are not of color.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have been treated the same as others in my same job who are of another race or gender.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have experienced difficulty finding housing due to my race or gender.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

35. Please rank the need for social services in your community:

	Major Need	Minor Need	No Need	Unsure
Free/low cost mental health services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Free/low cost substance abuse treatment services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for individuals/families who are homeless.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help for people who need public assistance (CalFresh, Medi-cal, WIC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

36. Please rank the following community and neighborhood assistance needs:

	Major Need	Minor Need	No Need	Unsure
Emergency shelters for natural disasters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood clean-up projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crime reduction/neighborhood safety programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More public recreational facilities and parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved infrastructure (streets, revitalization of buildings)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

37. What are the strengths of your community (please check all that apply)?

- ☐ Youth Organizations
- ☐ Local Businesses
- ☐ Churches
- ☐ People
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Other (please specify)

38. Is there anything else you would like to share or any additional comments you have regarding the needs of our community that have not been addressed in this survey? Your feedback is valuable to us in understanding the full scope of community needs and improving our services.

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Appendix F



Fresno
Economic
Opportunities
Commission

Community Action Plan Public Hearing

Franklin Head Start 0-5
1189 Martin Ave
Fresno, CA 93706
April 1, 2025

**Scan the QR
Code to view
the Community
Action Plan**



<https://fresnoeoc.org/community-action-plan-2026-2027/>



Fresno
Economic
Opportunities
Commission

Community Engagement and Data Collection



Surveys:
3,542

clients, and the general community.



Focus Groups:
57

focus groups



Community Forums:

4

community forums and Over 500 attending



Interviews



Qualitative Data Approaches



Quantitative Data Sources



Community Sectors



Key Items of Poverty



Inadequate Housing:

42% of homes



Food Insecurity:

Over 50,000 low-income individuals

Unemployment and Low-Wage Jobs:



Unemployment rate 9.5%



Educational Inequities



Limited Access to Healthcare



Adverse Early Childhood



Experiences



Agency Priorities

-  **Stable Housing**
-  **Job Opportunities**
-  **Access to Healthcare**
-  **Nutritious Food**
-  **Safe and Clean Neighborhoods**
-  **Educational Resources and Support**



Programs and Services to Address Stable Housing

- **Sanctuary Homeless Services:** Provides emergency to permanent housing solutions using a Housing-First approach, including outreach services, housing navigation, and permanent housing support. Approximately 581 individuals are served annually.
- **Energy Services:** Offers utility payment assistance and weatherization measures to improve energy efficiency and safety, helping over 10,000 households annually.



Programs and Services to Address Job Opportunities

- **Local Conservation Corps (LCC):** Offers paid job training to ages 18-26 and educational opportunities for young adults, including high school diploma programs and college credit courses. Approximately 141 individuals are served annually.
- **Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC):** Provides a 12-week training program to ages 18-64 to prepare individuals for the construction workforce. Approximately 62 individuals are served annually.
- **Workforce Connection Young Adult Program:** Guides young adults ages 14-24 towards education, training, and career development. Approximately 441 individuals are served annually.
- **Summer Internship Program:** Targets high school graduates transitioning to postsecondary education, offering mentorship opportunities. Approximately 81 individuals are served annually.



Programs and Services to Address Access to Healthcare

- **Community Health Center:** Provides reproductive health services, STI testing, and transportation for teens to clinic appointments. Approximately 2,476 individuals are served annually.
- **Dental Health & School-Based Sealant Program:** Offers dental screenings, education, and preventative services to low-income families. Approximately 2,950 individuals are served annually.
- **Adolescent Health Education Program:** Delivers health education and case management services on topics like reproductive health and healthy relationships. Approximately 11,123 individuals are served annually.
- **LGBTQ+ Resource Center:** Provides STI screenings, supportive healthcare, and mental health services. Approximately 438 individuals are served annually.



Programs and Services to Address Nutritious Food

- **Women, Infants & Children (WIC):** Provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding support to over 27,000 participants annually.
- **Food Distribution:** Distributes essential food commodities to low-income families in rural and inner-city areas. Approximately 13,942 households are served annually.
- **Food Services Home Delivery:** Delivers nutritious meals to homebound seniors. Approximately 1,200 individuals are served annually.
- **Summer Meals for Kids:** Offers free nutritious meals to children and disabled individuals during the summer break.



Programs and Services to Address Safe and Clean Neighborhoods

- **Advance Peace Fresno:** Implements healing-centered strategies to reduce gun violence through mentorship and conflict resolution. Approximately 60 individuals are served annually.
- **Central Valley Against Human Trafficking (CVAHT):** Supports survivors of human trafficking with resources and personalized action plans. Approximately 121 individuals are served annually.
- **LGBTQ+ Resource Center:** Provides a safe space and expert guidance on resources, including STI screenings, supportive healthcare, and housing assistance. Approximately 438 individuals are served annually.
- **Transit Systems:** Provides transportation services, including a shuttle service for students, enhancing access to education and reducing travel challenges. Approximately 80,000 individuals are served annually.



Programs and Services to Address Educational Resources and Support

- **Head Start 0 to 5:** Offers educational, emotional, social, health, and nutritional services to children and families, preparing children for academic success. Approximately 2,000 individuals are served annually.
- **School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL):** Provides comprehensive educational experience with classroom-based and independent study options, along with case management support. Approximately 223 individuals are served annually.
- **Foster Grandparent Program:** Engages older adults ages 55+ in volunteer activities to support children's education and emotional literacy. Approximately 55 individuals are served annually.



New Initiatives

- **Community Health Worker (CHW) Initiative:** Train and deploy CHWs who are familiar with the local community and can provide culturally competent support.
 - CHWs can help patients navigate the healthcare system, make appointments, and understand medical conditions and treatments.
 - CHWs can also conduct outreach and education, helping individuals understand the available services, such as Medi-Cal, and connect them to healthcare providers.
- **Community Supports Initiative:** Provide non-medical services to address social determinants of health (e.g., housing, food insecurity, transportation). For instance, the agency could offer free transportation to medical appointments or help families access medically tailored meals.
- **Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Initiative:** Offer comprehensive care coordination for individuals with complex healthcare needs. Case managers can oversee the patient's care and help connect them to a wide range of healthcare services, from medical appointments to behavioral health and social support services.



We Need Your Feedback!

- This session will be a **comment session only**.
- Each person will have **two minutes** to provide their comment.
- Please speak clearly into the microphone as all comments will be recorded in our action plan.
- The intention of this hearing is to **obtain feedback** regarding our plan to address the needs identified. We ask that comments remain focused on the action plan.
- Additional feedback can be provided at <https://fresnoeoc.org/community-action-plan-2026-2027/>



Thank you!

DRAFT

Appendix G

Hoja de Registro para la Audiencia Pública del Plan de Acción Comunitaria de Fresno EOC

201 | P a g e



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Women, Infants & Children
Agenda Item #: 6	Director: Annette Thornton
Subject: WIC Funding Award	Officer: Jack Lazzarini

Recommended Action

Interim Chief Executive Officer recommends Committee acceptance for full Board consideration of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funding award to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in the amount of \$23,493,890 over a three-year term from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2028.

Background

On March 5, 2025, Fresno EOC WIC received a funding award letter from CDPH WIC Division for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 – 2028. Funding description and yearly amounts are listed in the table below.

Description of Funding	FFY 2026 (Year 1)	FFY 2027 (Year 2)	FFY 2028 (Year 3)	Total Funding FFY 2026-2028
Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) Base	\$7,309,940	\$7,309,940	\$7,309,940	\$21,929,820
NSA Special Project	\$50,652	\$46,486	\$46,486	\$143,624
Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$3450
Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (BFPC) Program	\$472,332	\$472,332	\$472,332	\$1,416,996
Annual Funding	\$7,834,074	\$7,829,908	\$7,829,908	\$23,493,890

NSA Base Funding is determined by caseload assignment, which is 28,600 participants. This is an increase of 280 participants compared to our current assignment. Funds are used for operational costs to serve WIC participants, including personnel and indirect costs.

NSA Special Project Funding covers expenses for Local Vendor Liaison job duties and one-time funds for two employees serving on State WIC Committees during FFY 2026.



FMNP funds are for administrative costs to distribute farmers market benefits.

BFPC funds cover the personnel costs of Breastfeeding Peer Counselors.

The signed contract was submitted to CDPH WIC on April 11, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

Fresno EOC will receive the full WIC allocation for FFY 2026–2028, ensuring that low-income families in Fresno County continue to have access to essential supplemental nutrition. The proposed budget reflects a \$21,423 increase over FFY 2025.



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Program Planning & Development
Agenda Item #: 7	Director: Ana Medina
Subject: Funding Proposals for Amounts Under \$150,000	Officer: Brian Angus

Recommended Action

Interim Chief Executive Officer recommends Committee approval for full Board consideration of the following grant application totaling less than \$150,000.

Background

	Name	Funder	Amount	Program
A.	Anthem 2025 Food Insecurity Grants	Anthem Blue Cross	\$10,000	Food Services - Food Distribution Program
Funding will support current agency initiatives to combat food insecurity such as purchasing food, equipment to prepare food, capital costs, and staffing cost to prepare and deliver food.				



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Program Planning & Development
Agenda Item #: 8	Director: Ana Medina
Subject: Funding Proposals for Amounts Under \$150,000	Officer: Brian Angus

Recommended Action

Interim Chief Executive Officer recommends Committee ratification for full Board consideration of the following grant applications, each totaling less than \$150,000.

Background

	Name	Funder	Amount	Program
A.	Charitable Grant Application for the Wipfli Foundation - 2025	Wipfli Foundation	\$25,000	Food Services – Food Distribution Program
Funding supports social services and education initiatives in locations where Wipfli operates.				
B.	Kaiser Permanente Food & Nutrition Security Grant	Kaiser Permanente	\$25,000	Food Services – Food Distribution Program
Funding to support strengthening current Food Distribution services.				
C.	Fansler Foundation	Fansler Foundation	\$50,000	Sanctuary & Support Services - Homeless Services
Funding will benefit developmentally challenged or socioeconomically disadvantaged children (ages 0 to 18) in the Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Merced, Madera, or Mariposa Counties.				
D.	Basic Needs and Income Creation - RFP	Bank of America Charitable Foundation	\$40,000	Training and Employment
Funding will provide support for the Internship Program for students ages 17 to 26 with a high school diploma or equivalent.				



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Sanctuary and Support Services
Agenda Item #: 9	Director: Misty Gattie-Blanco
Subject: Fresno County Human Trafficking Support Services Grant	Officer: Sherry Neil

Recommended Action

Interim Chief Executive Officer recommends Committee ratification for full Board consideration of the Human Trafficking Support Services grant application to the County of Fresno in the amount of \$1,250,000 over a five-year project period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030.

Background

Since 2009, Fresno EOC has been running the Central Valley Against Human Trafficking (CVAHT) program, providing support to over 2,100 survivors of human trafficking, including more than 500 minors.

The County of Fresno is seeking an organization interested in forming a close partnership with the Fresno County Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Welfare Services Division. This collaborative program aims to support up to 100 at-risk youth and 50 identified victims of human trafficking each year within Fresno County. Additionally, the program will offer specialized training on human trafficking to DSS personnel.

The grant application was submitted on April 9, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This funding will be used to provide comprehensive services, covering personnel expenses, operational and supportive service costs, as well as indirect costs.

Sanctuary and Support Services - CVAHT			
7/1/25 - 6/30/30			
\$1,250,000			
	Fresno County Human Trafficking Supportive Services		GRANT
PROJECT SALARIES		FTE	AMOUNT
	Anti-Human Trafficking Case Manager/Advocate	1.00	\$ 268,379
	Human Trafficking Coordinator	1.00	\$ 315,414
	FRINGE BENEFITS		\$ 311,118
TOTAL PROJECT SALARIES			\$ 894,911
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
	PROJECT STAFF TRAVEL		\$ 12,600
	EQUIPMENT		\$ 4,000
	SUPPLIES		\$ 15,000
	CONTRACTUAL & CONSULTANT SERVICES		\$ -
	OTHER COSTS*		\$ 75,760
	PARTICIPANT COSTS		\$ 131,004
INDIRECT COSTS			\$ 116,725
TOTAL BUDGET			\$ 1,250,000
*Other Costs	Office Rent (\$58,800); Leased Copier (\$3,000); Insurance (\$3,600); Staff Clearance (\$360); Facilitator Training (\$1,000); and Telecommunication (\$9,000)		



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Sanctuary and Support Services
Agenda Item #: 10	Director: Misty Gattie-Blanco
Subject: Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program	Officer: Sherry Neil

Recommended Action

Interim Chief Executive Officer recommends Committee ratification for full Board consideration to enter into a contract agreement with CalViva and Health Net and approval to enter into a contract agreement with Kaiser Permanente for the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) in the amount of \$305,948 over a 24-month project period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

Background

HHIP is an incentive program that aims to improve health outcomes and access to whole care services by addressing housing insecurity and instability as a social determinant of health for Medi-Cal members. The goals of HHIP are to:

1. Reduce and prevent homelessness; and,
2. Ensure that Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) develop the necessary capacity and partnerships to connect their members to needed housing services.

As a long-standing member of the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) and primary youth serving provider, Fresno EOC will use these funds to support one Lived Experience Liaison to work directly with Lived Experience experts and develop and assist with a Youth Action Board. Funds will also be used to directly support the experts and youth with stipends.

Fiscal Impact

This funding will support personnel and stipends for Lived Experience experts. Cal Viva and Health Net together will fund \$206,890 and Kaiser Permanente will fund \$99,058.

The Kaiser Permanente contract is currently pending. It has been incorporated into the following budget, as all Managed Care Plans (MCPs) funding is accounted for within the budgets of the CalViva and Health Net contract.

Sanctuary and Support Services
7/1/25 - 6/30/27
\$305,948

	Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program		GRANT
PROJECT SALARIES		FTE	AMOUNT
	Lived Experience Liaison	1.00	\$ 106,745
	0	0.00	\$ -
	FRINGE BENEFITS		\$ 45,484
TOTAL PROJECT SALARIES			\$ 152,229
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
	PROJECT STAFF TRAVEL		\$ -
	EQUIPMENT		\$ -
	SUPPLIES		\$ -
	CONTRACTUAL & CONSULTANT SERVICES		\$ -
	OTHER COSTS*		\$ 1,650
	PARTICIPANT COSTS		\$ 136,220
INDIRECT COSTS			\$ 15,849
TOTAL BUDGET			\$ 305,948
*Other Costs	Cell Phone Stipend (\$1,050) and Liability Insurance (\$600)		



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Food Services
Agenda Item #: 11	Director: Jon Escobar
Subject: Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Awards	Officer: Jack Lazzarini

Recommended Action

The information presented below is intended to keep the Board apprised of the Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Awards Grant Program.

Background

The Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Awards is an annual grant program that supports nonprofit organizations in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Singapore across five categories: Caring for People, Caring through Food, Caring for Communities and Caring for our Planet, which supports organizations nominated by local Chick-fil-A Operators. The program recognizes organizations that align with Chick-fil-A's corporate social responsibility mission to uplift youth and underserved communities.

Food Services intends to apply under the "Caring through Food" category for initiatives aimed at combating hunger and food insecurity among children and their families. This funding opportunity aligns with two of the agency's six strategic focus areas: health and wellness and food insecurity. The funding will enable Food Services to enhance ongoing community-based rapid response initiatives to effectively address food insecurity in Fresno County.

The grant application is due on May 1, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

Food Services seeks funding to enhance the Free and Healthy Meals for Kids program by replacing the non-operational green Mobile Food Bus. This will help maintain food access for rural and urban children during school breaks. We are requesting a total of \$200,000 for a one-year project period from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. No match is required.

Conclusion

The Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Awards present a valuable opportunity for Food Services to secure essential funding aimed at addressing the critical issue of hunger and food insecurity among children and their families in Fresno County.



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Training and Employment
Agenda Item #: 12	Director: Patrick Turner
Subject: Urban East Youth Services Monitoring	Officer: Sherry Neil

Recommended Action

The information presented below is intended to keep the Committee apprised of the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) program monitoring visit.

Background

On March 31, 2025, the FRWDB issued a final determination letter to Fresno EOC regarding Program Year (PY) 2024-2025 Urban East Youth Services, Agreement Number 310-301. This letter served to communicate that three of eight files submitted and reviewed by the FRWDB monitoring department did not have sufficient documentation resulting in repayment of unbillable costs to the FRWDB in the amount of \$5,830.19.

The FRWDB monitoring team reviewed all of our responses and corrective action plan for each of the other minor findings and found it acceptable to close all of them. An additional 80 eligibility files were reviewed for program year 2024-25 and zero files were found to be ineligible.

Fiscal Impact

Fresno EOC sent a payment of \$5,830.19 to FRWDB on March 14, 2025, in settlement of the disallowed costs, paid by non-federal funds. The initial funds were used to pay the wages of program participants, who were entering the workforce for the first time through the work experience program. However, since the FRWDB determined these youth ineligible, Fresno EOC was required to reimburse those wages.

Conclusion

In response to the programmatic monitoring findings and eligibility issues, program managers have been retraining all workforce staff, implementing controls to ensure component compliance. We are confident that our corrective action plan is addressing the issues at hand, and we anticipate being in full compliance by the next monitoring cycle in November 2025.

March 31, 2025

Brian T. Angus
Intermin CEO
1920 Mariposa Street, Suite 300
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Final Determination
Program Monitoring Review
Program Year 2024-2025
Agreement Number: 310-301
Urban East Youth Services

Chair
Edgar Blunt

First Vice Chair
Stephen Avila

Second Vice Chair
Alisha Morgan

Board Members
Shayn Anderson
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Tyler Maxwell
Wyatt Meadows
Terry Metters, Jr.
Scott Miller
Dennis Montalbano
Joe Olivares
Chuck Riojas
Vasili Sotiropoulos
Sandra Vicente
Lydia Zabrycki
Chris Zeitz

Executive Director
Blake Konczal

Dear Mr. Angus:

This letter is to inform you of the results of the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board's (FRWDB's) review of Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC's) agreement for the program period of July 1, 2024, to the present.

Our determination is based on the information provided in FEOC's response dated March 14, 2025, to our Initial Determination Letter dated February 27, 2025.

MINOR FINDINGS:

1. Non-Adherence to Operational Directive (OD) #09-17, Revision F, Measurable Skill Gain (This is a repeat finding from Program Year (PY) 23-24)

Six (6) or 15% of the 40 files were missing or had incorrect documentation to show a participant is making progress. In some cases, the Measurable Skill Gain was not recorded in CalJOBS.

Agency Response:

FEOC concurs with this finding. The timeframe between the approval of our corrective action plan and the implementation of our training and the next monitoring review was only four months. Given our workload, including maintaining current enrollments and activities, staff prioritized new files while also reviewing existing files for corrections. With exited files and current files, there are a large number of files to review. Due to these constraints, we were unable to fully review and correct all files before the monitoring resumed.

Further, during this period, our program experienced staff transitions, including the loss of our Program Coordinator and the hiring of a new Quality Assurance Analyst - both key roles responsible for file reviews.

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While training was conducted in July and monitoring resumed in November, corrections to older files remain ongoing.

Agency Corrective Action Plan:

To address this issue, FEOC conducted a comprehensive staff training on 07/29/24, enhanced its internal monitoring process, and developed a reporting tool for tracking challenges. Following the implementation of these measures, staff were instructed to adhere to the updated procedures.

FEOC remains committed to ensuring compliance and improving documentation practices to prevent future findings. We will continue to implement our enhanced processes to strengthen oversight, ensure accurate reporting, and support staff in maintaining compliance moving forward.

FRWDB Final Determination:

FRWDB has reviewed your response and corrective action plan and find it acceptable to close this finding.

2. Non-Adherence to OD #14-21, Youth Job Ready Preparation Process

Four (4) or ten percent (10%) of the 40 files did not become ready within the appropriate timeframe. In some cases, participant files were missing waivers.

Agency Response:

FEOC concurs with this finding. To address the issue, FEOC has implemented a new procedure to ensure participants complete the job-ready preparation process within the appropriate timeframe.

Agency Corrective Action Plan:

Our Quality Assurance (QA) Team has developed a tracking sheet that records the completion date of WorkKeys for each participant, along with an estimated deadline for completing the job - ready preparation process. This tracking tool will be reviewed weekly during staff meetings to ensure timely follow-ups and compliance. Additionally, the QA Team and Project Coordinator will conduct monthly reviews to monitor progress and address any discrepancies.

FEOC remains committed to maintain compliance and improving our tracking and monitoring processes to prevent future occurrences.

FRWDB Final Determination:

FRWDB has reviewed your response and corrective action plan and find it acceptable to close this finding.

3. Non-Adherence to OD #05-21, WIOA Young Adult Services Digital Eligibility Process

Three (3) or eight percent (8%) of the 40 files did not provide detailed case notes of documents that were deleted from CalJOBS.

Agency Response:

FEOC concurs with this finding. Staff no longer have the ability to delete documents due to restrictions set by CalJOBS administration. However, during the exit interview, staff met with Program Monitor and received clarification on the level of detail required in case notes when documents are removed. The three (3) files identified have been corrected.

Agency Corrective Action Plan:

Moving forward staff will continue reviewing and updating existing files where deletions occurred to ensure that all necessary documentation is properly recorded. FEOC remains committed to maintaining compliance and improving documentation accuracy.

FRWDB Final Determination:

FRWDB has reviewed your response and corrective action plan and find it acceptable to close this finding.

FINDINGS:

1. Non-Adherence to OD #03-16, Revision O, Young Adult Services Codes (This is a repeat from PY 23-24)

Nineteen (19) or 48% of the 40 files did not open service codes for various service activities.

Agency Response:

FEOC concurs with this finding. Our team initially misinterpreted OD #03 - 16 regarding the use of service codes 433, believing it served as an umbrella code for mock interviews and checklists and only needed to be opened once. Upon further review, FEOC identified this issue on 12/10/24, and made necessary process changes.

Agency Corrective Action Plan:

Prior to the exit interview, staff received direction to address this concern, and they continue to case note previous occurrences where the code was not opened.

FRWDB Final Determination:

FRWDB has reviewed your response and corrective action plan and find it acceptable to close this finding.

2. Non-Adherence to OD #13-15, WIOA Youth Program Flow (In School Youth 14-21 and Out of School Youth 16-18) and OD #11-17 WIOA Youth Program Flow (Out of School 18-24) (This is a repeat from PY 23-24)

Twenty-four (24) or 60% of the 40 files are not proceeding through the program flow efficiently. Service codes 413, 434 and 435 are being used frequently to keep the participants in the program.

Agency Response:

FEOC concurs with this finding. To address this issue, FEOC conducted a training on 07/25/24, and implemented new processes to ensure participants move through the program as intended.

Agency Corrective Action Plan:

Since the training, staff have been consistently reviewing older files to identify participants who should be exited. Nine (9) participants were already slated for closure and have since been exited. The remainder will be exited by the next quarter.

Additionally, FEOC is actively tracking the total number of participants exited since 07/25/24 to monitor progress and ensure compliance. We have exited a total of 92 files through the program year from which a large number have been participants that were inactive.

FRWDB Final Determination:

FRWDB has reviewed your response and corrective action plan and find it acceptable to close this finding.

3. Non-Adherence to OD #03-15, Revision C, Fresno County Title I Eligibility Technical Assistance Guide (TAG) (This is a repeat from PY 23-24)

Of the initial eight (8) files listed in the chart below, FEOC provided documentation for all eight (8) files. Of these, three (3) did not have sufficient documentation. Below are the results showing the unbillable cost amount of \$5,830.19.

STATE ID	DOCUMENTS ACCEPTED	REASON	AMOUNT OF DISALLOWED COSTS
1005517150	No	Insufficient documentation	\$0
1005748593	Yes	Accepted	\$0
1005835681	Yes	Accepted	\$0
1005441971	No	Insufficient documentation	\$2,373.47
1005890304	Yes	Accepted	\$0
1005837495	No	Insufficient documentation	\$3,456.72
1004983870	Yes	Accepted	\$0
1005122488	Yes	Accepted	\$0
8 FILES		TOTAL AMOUNT:	\$5,830.19

Agency Response:

FEOC concurs with this finding. The three (3) eligibility determinations that resulted in disallowed costs were created by former staff who are no longer with the organization and utilized the previous incorrect process. Previous eligibility findings have been closed, and new processes have been implemented to prevent future occurrences.

Agency Corrective Action Plan:

To strengthen compliance, FEOC had conducted eligibility training for new staff and established a Quality Assurance team to review eligibility files and ensure adherence to program requirements. Additionally, the Program Monitor stated that she conducted a review of 80 additional files, on top of the original 40 that were pulled, all of which were processed under our new procedures. The review confirmed that no errors were found, demonstrating the effectiveness of our updated processes. We continue to strive to improve and are ensuring that files are brought up to standard.

FRWDB Final Determination:

FRWDB received the check on March 14, 2025, in settlement of the disallowed costs. In addition, FRWDB has reviewed your response and corrective action plan and find it acceptable to close this finding.

Brian T. Angus
March 31, 2025
Page Six

Please extend our appreciation to your staff for their cooperation and assistance during our review. If you have any questions pertaining to this matter, please contact Rebecca Moncivais, FRWDB Monitoring Manager at rmoncivais@workforce-connection.com

Regards,



Blake Konczal
Executive Director

bk:rg

c: Patrick Turner
Sherry Neil
Phyllis Stogbauer
Cheryl Beierschmitt
Va Xiong
FRWDB Monitoring Department



PROGRAM PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2025	Program: Program Planning & Development
Agenda Item #: 13	Director: Ana Medina
Subject: Grant Tracker	Officer: Brian Angus

Recommended Action

The information presented in the Grant Tracker is intended to keep the Committee apprised of program grant activity.

The grants highlighted on the grant tracker are updates from the Grant Tracker presented to the full Board on March 17, 2025.

2025 AWARDED								
Due Date	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Summary	Board Report Date	Date of Notice	Amount Awarded
9/10/2024	Transit Systems	EnergIIZE EV Jump Start Year 3	EnergIIZE Commercial Vehicles (California Energy Commission)	\$750,000	Funding for commercial fleets, site owners, or others who seek to deploy charging infrastructure for Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty (MDHD) electric vehicles (EVs).	8/5/2024	3/24/2025	\$750,000
1/24/2025	Health Services - Community Health Clinic	FUSD Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Program	Fresno Unified School District (FUSD)	\$1,152,946	Health Services provides Comprehensive Sexual Health Education, in accordance with the mandatory requirement set forth by the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA). Health Services staff is responsible for implementing five out of the fourteen lessons from the Positive Prevention PLUS (PPP) curriculum to seventh and ninth-grade students across 18 middle schools in the fall semester and 15 high schools/specialty schools in the spring semester.	3/12/2025	3/13/2025	\$1,152,946
7/26/2024	Sanctuary and Support Services - Homeless Services	City of Fresno Homeless Youth Services	City of Fresno	\$2,134,500	Funding will support Bridge Housing to young adults.	8/5/2024	9/16/2024	\$395,332
9/12/2024	Energy Services	Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program- Central Region	Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE)	\$565,676	The Equitable Building Decarbonization Program seeks to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by implementing energy-efficient and electrification measures in residential buildings across underserved and disadvantaged communities in Central California. Fresno EOC is a sub-contractor for the project awarded to Center for Sustainable Energy.	3/12/2025	2/15/2025	\$565,676
6/28/2024	Foster Grandparent - Senior Tech Program	CA Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Adoption Account - Digital Literacy	CA Public Utilities Commission	\$1,168,652	Funds will allow the Senior Tech Program to continue for two more years, serving approximately 2,500 seniors.	10/7/2024	1/16/2025	\$1,168,652
12/24/2024	Food Services - Food Distribution Program	Bob CareBob's Discount Furniture	Smart & Final Charitable Foundation	\$2,500	Funds will support the Food Distribution Program.	N/A	1/7/2025	\$3,500
10/21/2024	Sanctuary and Support Services - Homeless Services	Project Hearth	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuum of Care (CoC)	\$325,490	Funding will support tenant based rental assistance.	10/7/2024	3/19/2025	\$375,642

10/21/2024	Sanctuary and Support Services - Homeless Services	Project Phoenix	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuum of Care (CoC)	\$487,032	Funding will support tenant based master leasing.	10/7/2024	3/19/2025	\$565,578
10/21/2024	Sanctuary and Support Services - Homeless Services	Project Rise Expansion	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuum of Care (CoC)	\$682,100	Funding will support tenant based master leasing.	10/7/2024	3/19/2025	\$779,877
10/21/2024	Sanctuary and Support Services - Homeless Services	HERO Team 2 Expansion	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuum of Care (CoC)	\$525,000	Funding will support Coordinated Entry and supportive services.	10/7/2024	3/19/2025	\$558,816
10/21/2024	Sanctuary and Support Services - Homeless Services	Project Home	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuum of Care (CoC)	\$490,290	Funding will support tenant based master leasing.	10/7/2024	3/19/2025	\$542,405
5/31/2024	Agency Wide - Navigation Center & Planning	Brownfields Planning Grant Community Engagement	City of Fresno	\$29,000	Fresno EOC will conduct outreach on behalf of the City of Fresno to gain community and stakeholder support and input for addressing brownfields issues in SW Fresno.	N/A	1/16/2025	\$29,000
Total Amount Requested				\$8,313,186		Total Amount Awarded		\$6,887,424

2025 NOT AWARDED

Due Date	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Summary	Board Report Date	Date of Notice
2/21/2025	Energy Services	Power Saver Rewards Grant Program	CA Public Utilities Commission	\$75,000	The Power Saver Rewards Grant Program provides grants to CBO's to educate Californian's about the Power Saver Rewards program and motivate them to take action by reducing their energy use during a Flex Alert. The program enables utility customers to get a bill credit for reducing their energy use while a Flex Alert is in effect.	N/A	4/1/2025
8/20/2024	Sanctuary and Support Services - Homeless Services	Eviction Protection Grant Program FR-6800-N-79	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	\$224,500	Fresno EOC is a community partner with CCLS to provide no cost legal assistance to low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction.	N/A	1/9/2025
11/8/2024	Health Services - Community Health Center	Ending California's Tobacco Epidemic In Every Community RFA 24-10095	California Department of Public Health	\$900,000	Tobacco prevention for a period of 36 months to accelerate momentum toward ending California's tobacco epidemic through policy, system, and environmental change strategies by increasing community engagement within populations that have been disproportionately targeted by the tobacco industry.	11/4/2025	2/4/2025
Total Amount Requested			\$1,199,500.12				

IN PROGRESS GRANTS							
Due Date	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Summary	Board Report Date	Date of Notice
4/17/2025	Local Conservation Corps	Local Conservation Corps CalRecycle RCL 40 Grant	CalRecycle	\$2,282,789	This grant continues CalRecycle's efforts to include all 14 California Local Certified Community Conservation Corps in collection and education activities of four (4) material types: CRV Beverage Containers, Used Oil, Used Tires, and E-waste.	4/16/2025	TBD
5/1/2025	Food Services	Chick-fil-A True Inspirations Awards	Chick-fil-A	\$200,000	Programs or projects focused on addressing hunger and food insecurity facing children and their families.	4/16/2025	TBD
5/2/2025	Health Services - Community Health Center	PATH CITED Round 4	CA Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)	\$1,852,741	The PATH CITED initiative provides funding to build the capacity and infrastructure of on the ground partners, including community based organizations, hospitals, county agencies, Tribes, and others, to successfully participate in Medi-Cal system. The initiative enables the transition, expansion, and development of Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports capacity and infrastructure.	TBD	TBD
5/30/2025	Food Services - Food Distribution Program	Anthem 2025 Food Insecurity Grants	Anthem Blue Cross	\$10,000	Funding can support current agency initiatives to combat food insecurity such as purchasing food, equipment to prepare food, capital costs, and staffing cost to prepare and deliver food.	4/16/2025	TBD
8/18/2025	Advance Peace	CalVIP - California Violence Intervention & Prevention Grant - Cohort 5	California Board of State and Community Corrections	\$2,500,000	CalVIP grants are used to support, expand and replicate evidence-based violence reduction initiatives.	5/14/2025	TBD
Total Amount Requested				\$6,845,530			

SUBMITTED GRANTS							
Due Date	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Summary	Board Report Date	Date of Notice
4/9/2025	Sanctuary & Support Services	Fresno County DSS (Human Trafficking Support Services)	Fresno County DSS	\$750,000	Funding to provide supportive services and education of harm reduction tools to youth impacted by human trafficking, and youth at risk of human trafficking including victims of both sexual trafficking and/or labor trafficking.	4/16/2025	TBD
3/15/2025	Food Services	Charitable Grant Application for the Wipfli Foundation - 2025	Wipfli Foundation	\$25,000	Funding supports social services and education initiatives in locations where Wipfli operates.	4/16/2025	TBD

3/31/2025	Food Services	Kaiser Permanente Food & Nutrition Security Grant	Kaiser Permanente	\$25,000	Funding to support strengthening current Food Distribution services.	4/16/2025	TBD
3/31/2025	Sanctuary & Support Services - Homeless Services	Fansler Foundation	Fansler Foundation	\$50,000	Deliverables directly benefit developmentally challenged or socioeconomically disadvantaged children that are infant through eighteen years of age in the Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Merced, Madera, or Mariposa Counties.	4/16/2025	TBD
3/4/2025	Health Services - Community Health Center	California Responsibility Education Program (CA PREP) and I&E	California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division (CDPH/MCAH)	\$1,875,000	CA PREP is intended to educate at-risk youth, ages 10 - 19 years and up to 21 years, for expecting or pregnant female youth in Fresno County on pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted infections through replicating evidence-based program models which have been proven to change sexual risk-taking behavior, including delaying sexual activity, and increasing	3/12/2025	TBD
3/3/2025	Training and Employment	Basic Needs and Income Creation - RFP	Bank of America Charitable Foundation	\$40,000	Will provide funding for Internship Program for students ages 17 to 26 with a high school diploma or equivalent.	N/A	TBD
2/28/2025	Health Services - Community Health Center	Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Provider Certification Applications	CalAIM - Anthem/CalViva	TBD	Enhanced Care Management (ECM) is a statewide Medi-Cal benefit that provides person-centered, community-based management to the highest need members.	3/12/2025	TBD
2/18/2025	Agency Wide	FUSD RFQ No. 25-02 Services for Community Schools	Fresno Unified School District (FUSD)	N/A	The RFQ is to pre-qualify a pool of vendors under Fresno Unified for direct/indirect Student and Family Services and Professional Learning under four pillars: Integrated Student Supports, Expanded and Enriched Learning Opportunities, Family and Community Engagement, and Collaborative Leadership and Practices.	N/A	TBD
1/27/2025	Sanctuary & Support Services - CVAHT	Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program	Cal OES	\$566,666	The purpose of the program is to provide comprehensive safety and supportive services to all survivors of human trafficking by enhancing access to essential direct services.	1/27/2025	TBD
1/24/2025	Sanctuary & Support Services - CVAHT	Flexible Assistance for Survivors (FA) Pilot Grant Program	Cal OES	\$250,000	Improve safety, healing, and financial stability for victim/survivors of crime and their family members through direct cash/financial assistance.	1/27/2025	TBD
1/1/2025	Agency Wide - Information Technology (IT)	CASF Broadband Adoption Account Grant-Digital Literacy	CA Public Utilities Commission	\$150,000	This grant will provide funding to provide Digital Literacy classes in rural communities, which include Mendota, Huron, Orange Cove, Sanger, San Joaquin and Parlier.	1/27/2025	TBD

12/23/2024	Health Services-Community Health Clinic	Community Supports Provider Certification Tool Application	CalAIM + Healthnet + Anthem	TBD	Application to become a Healthnet Community Supports provider offering Medically Tailored Meals (MTM), Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services, and Housing Transition Navigation Community Supports.	2/18/2025	TBD
11/4/2024	Health Services - Tobacco Education Program	Community Outreach, Engagement, Education and/or Climate Resilience Service	City of Fresno	\$400,000	The city is interested in partnering with a diverse range of organizations on this project. The services to be performed by the subgrantee(s) include community outreach, engagement, education, and climate resilience activities designed to involve community members living and/or working in the project area.	TBD	TBD
10/2/2024	Health Services	HRSA-25-085 New Access Points Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration	US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	\$650,000	To support new health center service delivery sites to expand affordable, accessible, and high-quality primary health care for underserved communities.	8/5/2024	11/20/2024
6/3/2024	EOC Other	ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program	County of Fresno	\$50,000	Fresno EOC will be a County of Fresno sub-awardee providing outreach and facilitating community input on climate resiliency needs and strategies.	N/A	TBD
2/27/2024	Training and Employment - Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC)	Career Skills Training	Department of Energy	\$536,626	Funding for job training to gain industry-recognized certifications in energy efficiency sector.	1/22/2024	5/20/2024
Total Amount Requested			\$5,368,292				

LETTERS OF INTENT SUBMITTED							
Due Date	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Summary	Board Report Date	Date of Notice
1/9/2025	Sanctuary & Support Services	California Endowment Letter of Intent	California Endowment	TBD	Funding will support case management, mental health services, and educational outreach for the LGBTQ+ Resource Center.	N/A	TBD
11/20/2024	Advance Peace	CDC (RO1) Research Grants to Rigorously Evaluate Innovative and Promising Strategies to Prevent Firearm Related Violence and Injuries	CDC	\$50,000	In partnership with MPHI and UC Berkley, funding will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Advance Peace strategy, using a casual research design examining the relationship between stipend reinforcements and long term behavior changes.	N/A	TBD
7/15/2024	EOC Other	BID OPPORTUNITY - Community Outreach and Education Services Master	State of California, Department of General Services Procurement	\$0	CBO specific Master Service Agreements (MSAs) for Community Outreach and Education Services.	N/A	TBD
Total Amount Requested			\$50,000				