

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION
Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment
Scoping Meeting — March 2, 1995

Purpose of Assessment:

1. *Background for Strategic Planning for WCCAO*
 - Identify the community needs to be addressed by WCCAO
 - Validate direction for current programs
 - Test new ground for potential programs
2. *Background for Advocacy/Fundraising Efforts for WCCAO*
 - Identify community needs that need to be addressed by decision makers
 - Identify community needs that need to be supported by funders
3. *Planning/Advocacy/Fundraising Efforts for other Social Service Agencies*

Approach to Assessment:

1. *Compare current needs to current resources to identify gaps in the social service fabric of Washington County.*
 - What are the barriers to the fulfillment of basic needs to county residents?
 - Drawn from the perspectives of people of low income
 - What are the services currently being provided? Do they meet the needs?
 - Drawn from the perspectives of people of low income
 - Drawn from social service agencies/WCCAO staff
 - What are the gaps?
 - What can WCCAO do to eliminate barriers?
 - What can others do to eliminate barriers?
2. *Conduct a general audit of all basic needs within the community*
 - General categories of needs/resources
 - Housing (permanent/transitional/emergency)**
 - Weatherization/energy assistance**
 - Food and hunger**
 - Education (Head Start)**
 - Legal services
 - Drug treatment
 - Health care/mental health care
 - Employment
 - Domestic violence
 - Transportation
 - Environmental issues

Format to the Assessment Report:

Executive Summary (under separate cover)

Background to the report process

General demographic information

Issues Analysis

Barriers

Resources

Gaps

Other key elements

In-depth Analysis (4-5 areas of greatest interest to WCCAO)

Trends

Attitudes

Perspectives of low-income people

Conclusions

Appendices

Resource summaries

Research tools

Names of participants