

In 2013, Couleecap Inc. conducted a needs assessment to gather information regarding the needs of low-income individuals and families in a four-county service area (Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties). Information was gathered via surveys designed for low-income households. Surveys were distributed to a total of 1,350 households with 1,185 responses in the Couleecap Service area (response rate = 88%).

The responses from low-income households represent at least 3,906 people (adults and children) that live in the Coulee Region. Demographic information about the low-income households includes:

- 68% had annual incomes less than \$20,000; an additional 16% had incomes between \$20,000 and \$29,999.
- 47% had income from wages; 8% had income from self-employment.
- 8% received income from unemployment.
- Other sources of cash income:
 - 23% received income from Social Security
 - 16% received income from Social Security Disability
 - 12% received income from SSI
- Other sources of support:
 - 43% received support from Food Share/Food Stamps
 - 40% received support from Food Pantry
 - 29% received support from Medicaid / Medicare
- 41% were renters; 48% owned their own home.
- 11% could be considered homeless.
- 41% had children.
 - 20% with children were single-parent households
 - 21% with children were married-parent households
- 43% had at least one person limited by a physical, mental or emotional problem.
- 31% have had at least one adult have difficulty finding employment because of physical, mental, or emotional problems.

Information from the 2013 Couleecap Needs Assessment along with information from other recent, local assessments will be used to help plan for and implement services to address the needs of low-income households across the Couleecap, Inc. service area.

Outcomes

Low-Income Households. Households that responded to the needs assessment were asked to rate issues that were a need for their household. The table below reports the eight areas of need (rank ordered from most to least important) and the top two concerns within each area:

Areas of Need	Significant Concerns
Housing	Paying for utility bills Paying for home repairs
Transportation	Paying for car expenses – gas, insurance, repairs Getting / buying a reliable car
Employment	Finding a job with higher wages Getting health benefits with job
Emergency Assistance	Getting help with utility bills Getting help with rent / security deposit
Health	Having adequate health insurance Paying for dental care, health care, health insurance
Education	Paying for school Getting training for a better job
Child and Family Development (child care)	Finding affordable, quality child care Finding available child care
Child and Family Development (parenting)	Dealing with increased levels of stress Correcting / disciplining my child
Business Development	Getting business start-up loans Getting business start-up help

All of the data gathered from the household surveys are reported in the finding sections of this report.