

Executive Summary

Introduction:

According to the Connecticut Community Action Network Guide for Community Action Plans, all Community Action Agencies (CAA) must complete a comprehensive community needs assessment at least once every three years to accurately identify, thoroughly describe, and characterize the needs of low-income people within the CAA's service area. Fiscal Year 2021 is the second year of this triennial cycle; therefore, this CAP Update Report includes an update of the demographic, social, economic, and health indicators for CRT's service areas. This CAP Update Report is an overview and update of the data and issues identified last year.

Demographics:

The Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT) continues to help thousands of households and individuals every year. According to the 2020 CSBG Report, CRT provided one or more services to 44,188 individuals from 20,981 households. CRT's service population demographic consists of 59.86% of females and 40.09% of males. CRT's service population continues to be racially diverse through the following identifications of race and ethnicity: White at 34.64%, Black or African American at 29.89%, Hispanic or Latinx or Spanish Origin at 34.75%, and 6.38% for Multiracial. Household types for CRT's service area continue to expand as Single People are 48.72%, Two Adults No Children are 10.23%, Two Parent households are 8.29%, Single Parent Female households are 25.95%, and Single Parent Male households are 1.29%. Children who are younger than the age of 18 account for 32.79% of the service area; while 39.16% represents adults aged 18 to 54, and 28.05% represents individuals who are 55 years of age and older.

Poverty:

The percentage of all Connecticut residents who live in populations below poverty is at 9.9%. This is a decrease by 0.1% from last year. In Hartford, which is the main catchment area for CRT, 28.1% of residents are below the poverty level, which is a 2% decrease from last year. The overall poverty rates for the remaining 5 selected CRT service towns are the following: Bloomfield at 7%, East Hartford at 15%, Enfield at 7.9%, Manchester at 9.6%, and Middletown at 12%. The percentages of changes from the following year for the 5 selected CRT service towns are the following: Bloomfield increased by 0.5%, East Hartford increased by 0.9%, Enfield decreased by 0.5%, Manchester increased by 0.1%, and Middletown increased by 0.6%.

Educational Attainment:

In the state of Connecticut, 10.3% of young adults who are between the ages of 18 to 24 are less than high school graduates, which is a 0.2% decrease from last year. In Hartford, 15.3% of individuals between the ages of 18 to 24 are less than high school graduates. The state of Connecticut has 28.8% of high school graduates who are between the ages of 18 to 24; while the city of Hartford only has 24.8%. Individuals who are 25 years of age and older represent 26.9% of high school graduates including equivalency for the state. Respectively, in Hartford there are only 33.2% of high school graduates including equivalency for individuals 25 years of age and older. The total annual salary of high school graduates (including equivalency) who are 25 years of age and older make \$37,039 in the state of Connecticut; while high school graduates, 25 years of age and older make \$28,214 in Hartford.

Veterans:

Veterans in the state of Connecticut represent 5.9% of the total population. This percentage change has decreased from last year by 0.3%. Throughout the state of Connecticut, Veterans have served through multiple periods of service. Veterans who have served in the following wars represent the following percentages for the state of Connecticut: Gulf War 2001 or later: 14%, Gulf War 1990 to 2001: 14%, Vietnam Era: 36%, Korean War: 11%, and World War II: 6%.

Age Distribution:

In Connecticut, there are 16.8% of seniors who are 65 years of age and older, which was a 0.3% decrease from last year. In Hartford, seniors who are 65 years of age and older represent 11.3%, which was a 0.2% increase from last year's percentage. The current median age for the state of Connecticut is 41.2, while Hartford's is 32.5.

Agency Gathered Data:

CRT's Community Needs Assessment Survey identified food insecurity, senior services, behavioral health services, and housing support programming as essential prioritized needs. Out of the 433 total responses collected from the Community Needs Assessment Survey, **94 percent agree that they would recommend our services to their family and friends**. Throughout the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Community Renewal Team was able to successfully complete customer satisfaction and customer interest surveys to understand programmatic needs within our service areas. From our HUD Housing Satisfaction survey data, **86% of individuals state that their service needs are always being met**; 13% state that their needs are met most of the time, and 1% answered some of the time. Due to the pandemic, the Agency was only able to conduct 11 customer satisfaction surveys and one pandemic survey due to CDC regulations and safety requirements. Out of the 11 customer satisfaction surveys, **100% of customers agree that they would recommend CRT to their family and friends**. Highlighted below are some of the strategies and successes the Agency has achieved.

CRT Strategy #1: Food Insecurity (including short-term and long-term programming to address immediate need for food, outreach, & SNAP)
Success: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CRT's emergency homeless shelters partnered with our Nutrition Department and Journey Home to ensure clients temporarily residing in hotels are provided with daily meals
CRT Strategy #2: Senior Services (programming and resources to keep seniors healthy, independent, and at home)
Success: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Keeping 100 elders at The Retreat (assisted living) safe during the pandemic. No COVID outbreaks.
CRT Strategy #3: Behavioral Health Services (mental health, substance use, recovery supports, medication assisted treatment and wrap-around programming and resources)
Success: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Implementation of Community Resource Coordination programming.
CRT Strategy #4: Housing Support Programming (including emergency shelters, eviction prevention, homeless prevention, employment, and case management programming)
Success: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Success in working with partners to house many homeless individuals/families during the pandemic to keep them safe and socially distanced.