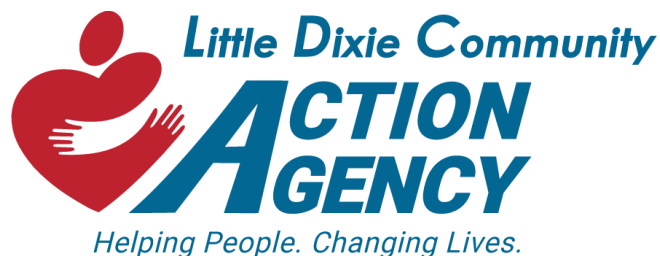


Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.

**Community
Needs Assessment
2019**

***Choctaw - McCurtain - Pushmataha
Counties
Southeast Oklahoma***



Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. Community Needs Assessment Certification

The Board and Executive Director certify that the Community Needs Assessment is current as of January 8, 2019 and has been formally reviewed and accepted by the Board of Directors.


Brent Franks – Board Chair

1-8-2019
Date


Rebecca Reynolds-Executive Director

1-8-2019
Date

Purpose of a Community Needs Assessment: The purpose of a Community Needs Assessment is to identify and prioritize the needs and resources of a defined community or communities. Data is gathered from target populations and results are analyzed in order to understand the causes and conditions of poverty and changing population demographics. The agency's board and leadership use this data to design effective, outcome based programs that will alleviate poverty. The analyzed data is summarized in a report which can be used to provide justification, both to funders and the public, on the need for resources and how resources are being allocated to programs. The report also provides useful data to educate the public and community leaders about issues related to poverty.

Table of Contents

Overview	5
Agency Overview	5
Mission	6
Community/Service Area.....	6
Data Methodology	6
Key Findings	6
Prioritized Needs	6
Agency Programs and Services	7-12
Community Demographics	13-26
General Overall Population Demographic Profile	13-17
Population Change.....	18-19
Employment.....	20
Poverty Profile	21-25
Federal Poverty Level Demographics.....	21
Age	22
Race.....	23
Ethnicity.....	24
Gender	25
Trends	26
Assessment Profile	27-41
Identified Needs.....	28-29
Prioritized Needs.....	29-37
Community Resources	38-40
Agency Data	41
Sources (list).....	42
Appendices	42-46
Survey(s).....	43-44
Forum Questions.....	45
Customer Satisfaction Survey.....	46

Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.

Agency Overview: Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. (LDCAA) was incorporated as a Nonprofit Organization on April 4th, 1968 when three separate Community Action Agencies in Choctaw, Pushmataha, and McCurtain Counties merged in order to better meet the needs of the residents of Southeast Oklahoma. The Board of Directors drafted Articles of Incorporation and By-laws for the newly founded Community Action Agency which includes a geographical area covering more than 4,000 square miles.

Over its 50-year history, the agency has had a total of five Executive Directors. The first, Fred Tucker, served as executive director for 25 years until his death in 1993. His service to Community Action is honored each year when the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies bestows the Fred Tucker Award for Excellence and Longevity among the State's Community Action Employees. Executive Directors since Mr. Tucker include:

- Bob Yandell (1993-2005)
- Randall Erwin (2005-2008)
- Brenda Needham (2008 to 2014)
- Rebecca Reynolds (2014 to present)

Throughout its history, Little Dixie has progressively grown, adding new programs and services to meet the needs of the area, especially its most vulnerable populations. This growth has resulted in an increased budget from \$607,583 in 1971 to approximately \$21 million in 2018. That growth also represents the addition of many services for families with low-incomes.

According to the 1970 census, 63.6% of the residents in the tri-county area had incomes below the OEO poverty guidelines. Now, according to the 2010 census, 24% of the residents of the tri-county area are living below poverty. This decrease in poverty is due primarily to the anti-poverty programs implemented by the agency. Each year, LDCAA-operated programs serve approximately 2,500 families in its service area.

Today, LDCAA still exists for the purpose of addressing poverty. The agency strives to implement strategies designed to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty. Upon review of this report, readers will learn about agency and other community programs/resources available for addressing needs. In addition, this report will provide an in-depth review and analysis of the overall community to include demographics as well as identified and prioritized needs.

LDCAA's administrative office is headquartered in Hugo, Oklahoma, the county seat of Choctaw County. Programs are administered across all counties via numerous locations throughout the tri-county area. Remaining true to the mission, vision, and values of Community Action, the agency continues to operate many of the initial programs as when the agency was first founded including emergency services and weatherization. Other programs include Head Start, Early Head Start, Transit, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Retired Senior and Volunteer Program, Self Help Housing, and many more. The agency is governed by a 27 member tripartite Board with equal representation (nine members each) of the low-income, public and private sectors.

Mission: “To improve the lives of low-income individuals and families through service and collaboration leading to self-sufficiency.”

Community: LDCAA’s “Community” includes all of Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties located in rural Southeast Oklahoma. Collectively, this “community” covers a land area of just over 4,000 square miles. The community served by LDCAA and the community assessed are one in the same.

Data Methodology: LDCAA conducts a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years. For this report, survey collection occurred from May 2018 through September 2018. LDCAA used the Oklahoma Standardized community needs assessment survey to obtain resident demographics and identify needs. In addition to the survey, LDCAA also interviewed focus groups, utilized information from customer satisfaction surveys, the U.S. Census and other reliable online databases, and held community needs meetings throughout the service area.

To ensure the surveys were representative of the overall population, several methods of distribution were conducted which included online (link via agency Social media page), in paper format, in person (at time of service), by email, and during agency Board meetings. LDCAA also distributed and collected completed surveys from schools, faith based organizations, civic groups and local businesses.

A total of 845 surveys were collected from the following community sectors: Low-income community-200; Educational Community-78; Faith-based-32; Community-based-62; Government entity-27; Private organization-12; General public (having never received services from the agency) 133; Client of the Agency (could represent low-income or other sectors) 285; Agency Board members-25; and Agency Volunteers-5. Less than one percent identified themselves as representing more than one sector.

Key Findings: Causes and conditions of poverty, as they relate to the top three prioritized needs were discussed at length during each of the community needs meetings. Housing, Substance Use/Abuse, and Economic Development were all attributed in great part to the poor economy in the area.

Availability of safe, decent and affordable housing is lacking throughout the entire service area which has led to exaggerated and unaffordable rents. Substance use/abuse was identified as a problem due to the absence of inpatient rehab/treatment facilities and physicians over-prescribing. Economic development was identified as a need due to low wage jobs, an unskilled workforce and the lack of necessary infrastructure to recruit industry to the area. Detailed data over key findings is included later on in the “**Assessment Profile**” section of this report.

Prioritized Needs: Prioritized needs were identified by focus groups which included input from agency leadership, front-line staff and Board members . The prioritized needs are:

1. Housing;
2. Substance Use/Abuse
3. Community & Economic Development

Agency Programs & Services: The description of agency programs and related services provided are representative of those available at the time the Community Needs Assessment was written and approved. The assessment is conducted every three years, and therefore, it is important to note that programs and services can be lost or gained within that three-year timeframe. Therefore, individuals should contact agency offices to inquire about programs/services available at any given point in time. Should a need exist that the agency does or cannot address, staff may be able to assist individuals through referrals to other community resource providers. Residents are encouraged to contact any of our offices for assistance.

Community Building & Engagement:

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): CACFP provides training and monitoring for child daycare homes. Specialists offer guidance in nutrition and record-keeping. The program operates in 38 counties and is funded by USDA and administered through the Oklahoma State Department of Education. CACFP also offers Daycare Home Providers an incentive to serve nutritious meals through a reimbursement program.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program: Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) is America's largest volunteer network for people age 55 and over. This program allows individuals an opportunity to use the skills and talents they have learned over the years, or develop new ones while serving in a variety of volunteer activities within their community. Service opportunities are available throughout Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties.

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Program: ECCS is funded by the U.S. Department of Human Services – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and has a goal of reducing health disparities and improving developmental skills among children under age five in Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties.

Rural Integration Models for Parents and Children to Thrive: The Rural IMPACT (Integration Models for Parents and Children to Thrive) program coordinates with family advocates to serve extended family members of Early Head Start students. Using a two-generational model, the goal is to identify “best practices” to foster self-sufficiency. Participants are provided case management to address barriers and gaps to services in efforts to help assist them with attaining their educational and/or vocational goals. The program is supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Community Action Partnership, the American Academy of Pediatrics and NeighborWorks® America's Strategic Investment Fund.

Economic Development

Intermediary Program: Designated by USDA/Rural Development, the agency serves as an intermediary to assist certified loan packagers (home loans) in Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. These services ensure loan package accuracy and completeness. Loan packaging fees generate revenue to help further housing opportunities in LDCAA's service area.

Lending: LDCAA's lending programs provide resources for both residential and commercial lending opportunities. The residential lending products provide alternative lending options to help families achieve their dream of homeownership. LDCAA also packages loans for participating lenders (banks) and USDA/Rural Development. LDCAA commercial loans provide capital to business entrepreneurs for business startup and/or expansion.

Parks and Tourism: Parks and recreation facilities provide opportunities for physical activity and can help people of all ages lead a more active lifestyle. Each year, approximately 300,000 individuals enjoy fishing, camping and relaxing at one or more of the park facilities operated by Little Dixie CAA. LDCAA manages Clayton Lake State Park; Hugo Lake State Park; and Raymond Gary State Park. LDCAA also operates Group Camps 1 and 2 located within the Beavers Bend State Park.

Education

Head Start – Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care: Head Start serves 429 youth ages 3 & 4 years within 24 Classrooms; Early Head Start serves 48 children ages six weeks to 36 months through three EHS centers; Early Head Start-Child care also serves youth ages 6 Weeks to 3 years old through collaborations with day care providers. Thousands of children have been served collectively by these programs since their inception. Each of these programs provide children with learning activities to help foster and improve their physical, social/emotional and cognitive development and preparing the children for Kindergarten. Several Head Start centers are operated via collaborations with the public schools.

Early Learning Centers: The Early Learning Centers operate in five locations within the tri-county service area. These centers are all child care partners within the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Program, and support working families by providing full-day, full-year services so children from birth to 36 months from families with low-income have the healthy and enriching early experiences they need to realize their full potential. All centers follow licensing requirements set forth by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, and are rated at the highest possible rating, three-star facilities. Early Learning Centers are committed to excellence in child care and the provision of quality services.

AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps members serve as tutors for the Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms. Members contribute 900 hours of individualized support to Head Start and Early Head Start students throughout the school year. AmeriCorps has become an integral component of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The children benefit from the individualized coaching and the members benefit as well. In return for their service, they receive a living allowance and an education award upon completion of hours. The educational award can be used at any Title IV college or vocational school and can also be used to pay qualified student loans.

Health Services:

Healthy Start: Healthy Start serves women (pre, peri and postnatal) as well as their children from birth up through the age of two years. The national goal of Healthy Start is to reduce high infant mortality rates in high risk areas. This initiative further seeks to address issues/causes

surrounding low birth weight, preterm birth, maternal mortality and maternal morbidity. The goal of Healthy Start is to assist families with medical care, resources and education needed to promote the wellness of the mother and baby before, during and after the pregnancy. Care Coordinators are housed in the three counties to better serve very rural outlying communities.

Navigator: The Oklahoma Community Action Agency Navigator Consortium is comprised of 3 non-profit organizations who utilized certified navigators to assist consumers throughout much of Oklahoma's 77 counties with "navigating" the health insurance system to locate affordable health coverage to best meet their individual needs.

Tri-County Opioid Project: The Tri-County Opioid Project serving Oklahoma's southeastern Choctaw, Pushmataha, and McCurtain counties specifically aims to address the systemic needs of the opioid epidemic. This HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) planning grant encourages partnerships with community members and their organizations to start informative dialogues, build partnerships and plan systemic changes to prevention, treatment, and recovery of individuals affected by this epidemic. Our goal is to create a positive impact on community health and reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with opioid overdose.

Housing and Housing Supportive Services

502 Loan Program: The USDA Rural Development Section 502 program provides loan funds to families with low to moderate incomes for purchase of existing homes.

504 Loan/Grants Program: The Section 504 loan/grant program(s) objective is to help very low income owner occupants of modest single family homes in rural areas repair their homes. Loan funds are available for home improvement and repairs, to improve safety and sanitation and to remove health and safety hazards. Grants may be available for very low income elderly.

Purchase/Rehab/Resale: Homebuyers are able to enjoy huge savings by purchasing a home through this program. LDCAA purchases homes which have gone through foreclosure at a very reasonable cost. Using in-house construction crews for much of the rehab contributes to additional savings which is passed on to the homebuyer. These homes often times help to address the housing needs of very low to low and moderate income families.

Rental Housing: Little Dixie owns and operates seven multifamily apartment complexes consisting of 1, 2, and 3 bedroom mix located within the tri-county service area. The units are affordable and Section 8 and other forms of rental assistance is accepted. In addition, the agency manages three senior supportive housing complexes.

Self-Help Housing: Little Dixie's Self Help (USDA/Rural Development Section 523) program is designed to help low and very low income families attain the dream of homeownership through direct participation of home construction. The result of reduced costs by participating in construction is referred to as "sweat equity". This contribution of labor equates to the need for a smaller loan which means a lower mortgage payment for homeowners. This program is available to individuals/families within Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Love, Marshall, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties.

Speculative Housing: More than two decades ago, LDCAA began building Speculative Housing due to the lack of private development of single family homes in the service area. The goal of building one home per year is based on the premise or “speculation” that the home will be purchased upon completion. These “spec” homes help to address the housing needs of more moderate income families. These homes can be financed through a traditional lender.

Technical & Management Assistance: LDCAA has held a Technical and Management Assistance (T&MA) contract for Region II with USDA Rural Development since 1980. T&MA employees serve SHH grantees throughout Region II which consists of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. T&MA employees assist SHH grantees with preparation for completing grant applications, program planning, and operational management training to the staff of new and operating grantees. T&MA staff monitor grants and assist with quarterly reviews.

Weatherization: LDCAA’s Weatherization Assistance Program reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes through methods such as additional insulation, weather-stripping, caulking and more. Using the “whole house” approach, carpenters analyze all of the building systems. This includes the building envelope, heating and cooling, appliances, etc. Weatherizing homes results in cost savings and improved living conditions. Weatherization is a free service for eligible homeowners who meet income and other guidelines.

Foreclosure Prevention: In 2008, following the housing market crash, which left families with no sense of direction where to turn for help, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development established 888-995-HOPE-a hotline families facing foreclosure could call for help. LDCAA, a HUD approved counseling agency, is part of this network providing foreclosure counseling. Unexpected events can leave families facing financial hardship beyond their control; loss of a loved one, divorce, medical bills or reduction in income can leave families feeling that they cannot make ends meet. Our counselors are there to provide information and solutions.

Financial Fitness: Little Dixie provides free financial literacy workshops at our homeownership centers. These workshops address everyday financial matters from banking, budgeting, saving, investing and understanding credit.

Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Counseling: LDCAA’s certified HECM counselors assist homeowners with Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Counselin in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and other neighboring states. HECM counseling can be provided face-to-face or by telephone. Each counseling session is tailored to the homeowners. During these counseling sessions homeowners are informed what a reverse mortgage is, implications of a HECM mortgage and discuss alternatives if any to a reverse mortgage. HECM counselors have access to software, tools and resources available in the homeowner's area. Each counselor must be certified through HUD's certification program and maintain their status on HUD’s HECM roster by receiving training and pass an exam every three years.

Housing and Credit Counseling: Each year, LDCAA’s housing counselor's counsel more than 100 families/individuals in Marshall, Love, Carter, Bryan, Atoka, Pushmataha, Choctaw and

McCurtain counties. This free service provides families and individuals with knowledge, guidance, tools and resources for building creditworthiness and guidance in establishing and setting household budgeting goals. Low credit scores and lack of capital can be a stumbling block in the home buying process and Little Dixie's housing counselors are trained and certified through NeighborWorks® America to provide these services.

Homebuyer Education: Utilizing NeighborWorks America's "Realizing the American Dream" curriculum, trained counselors provide a wide-range of services that help prepare families for homeownership. Counselors are trained at NeighborWorks Training Institutes and receive accreditations through the National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and Counseling. Homebuyer Education equips buyers with knowledge about the purchase process and more so they can become a more confident, educated and prepared home buyer. LDCAA also offers an online course where participants obtain their education certificate through eHome America. eHome satisfies the requirements by state housing agencies such as Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency and federal agencies such as USDA Rural Development.

Supportive Services

Emergency Food and Shelter Program: The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) is a Federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Little Dixie serves low-income families in Choctaw and Pushmataha counties with utility/propane, rental/mortgage and food assistance through the Emergency Food & Shelter Program.

Rx for Oklahoma: RX for Oklahoma is a prescription drug program funded by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and administered through contractors. LDCAA provides this service to residents in the tri-county area by helping them to obtain their prescriptions at a reduced or no out-of-pocket expense. The program is available to those Oklahomans who meet the income guidelines or have no prescription insurance.

Salvation Army: LDCAA is the designated service unit for the Salvation Army for the tri-county area. During the holiday season, members throughout the communities volunteer their time to the Red Kettle Campaign and ring the bell to raise money for charitable purposes. The funds raised are used to help families with utility or other emergency needs.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance: Through grant support from the Internal Revenue Service, Little Dixie utilizes qualified employees, trained by the IRS to serve as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). Employees provide free income tax preparation service to residents in the tri-county area.

Transportation:

Local Demand: Little Dixie Transit, with a total fleet of 61 passenger vehicles, is a rural transportation service that provides demand/response transportation services to residents within the city limits of Hugo, Broken Bow, Idabel, Antlers and Clayton. All full-time drivers are required to maintain a CDL license. Annual training for all transit employees includes drug and

alcohol misuse/abuse, defensive driving, CPR/First Aid and Passenger Assistance and Sensitivity Awareness. Defensive Driving is now completed at the individual transit sites through National Safety Council via on-line access which reduces the down time and expense of providing live classroom training. Little Dixie Transit maintains two qualified trainers for CPR/First Aid and three certified trainers for PASS (Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity).

SoonerRide: Sooner Ride is a transportation service provided for eligible Medicaid clients for non-emergency medical trips. Residents in the tri-county service area are transported to and from critical care appointments such as dialysis, cancer and wound care treatment.

Victim & Youth Services:

Court Appointed Special Advocates: Funded by the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council, VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) and Oklahoma CASA, this program recruits and trains volunteers to be the voice for children in the child welfare system. A CASA volunteer advocates for children who have been declared by the courts as “deprived”, meaning abused, neglected, or abandoned.

Mentoring: LDCAA’s Mentoring program is funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). MANY (Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Family services) is a national network designed to strengthen outcomes for youth and young adults at risk for delinquency or victimization. Youth are paired with caring adult mentors who serve as role models and provide emotional and academic support.

Victim Advocacy Services: The 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) created the VOCA Fund as a protected and dedicated source of funding for crime victim programs. Funding to support the program is derived from fines and penalties on offenders at the federal level. Victims have access to many emergency and legal services including transportation, food, housing and more. Services are available to individuals in Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties who have been the victim of any crime.

YouthFirst: Utilizing the “Strengthening Families Program” curriculum, this program provides case management services to at-risk youth ages 10 to 17 who reside within Choctaw, McCurtain, or Pushmataha Counties. Youth participants receive support to become productive, law-abiding citizens. Project activities and SFP training work to strengthen the family system, protective factors, pro-social skills and parent-child communication. The program will serve 30 at-risk children and their families each year. “This project is supported by VOCA Grant # Subgrant No. 2016 VOCA-Little Dixie CAA-187 awarded by the US Department of Justice through the Oklahoma District Attorneys’ Council.”

Safe Place Healing Hearts: This program directly serves victims of crimes; builds the capacity of direct service providers to better serve and protect victims; encourages reporting of these crimes; and ensures all service providers are adequately trained on how to appropriately respond, assist victims, improve the rate of prosecution of such crimes, and work together through coordinated service delivery. SPHH strives to enhance the safety of rural victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Community Demographics: LDCAA's service area includes three rural counties in Southeast Oklahoma: *Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha* counties.

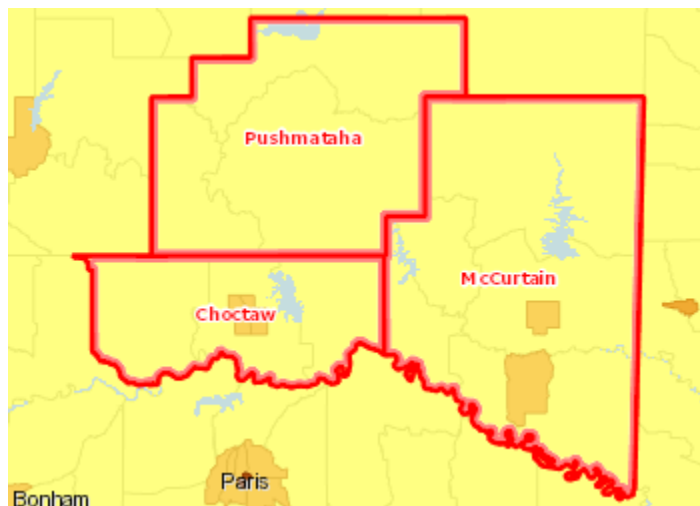
General Overall Population Demographic profile:

Total Population

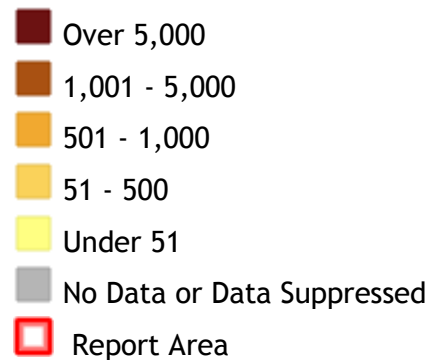
A total of 59,271 people live in the 4,016.84 square mile report area defined for this assessment according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2012-16 5-year estimates. The population density for this area, estimated at 14.76 persons per square mile, is less than the national average population density of 90.19 persons per square mile.

Report Area	Total Population	Total Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Report Area	59,271	4,016.84	14.76
Choctaw County, OK	15,051	770.36	19.54
McCurtain County, OK	33,071	1,850.64	17.87
Pushmataha County, OK	11,149	1,395.84	7.99
Oklahoma	3,875,589	68,596.35	56.5
United States	318,558,162	3,532,068.58	90.19

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16. Source geography: Tract



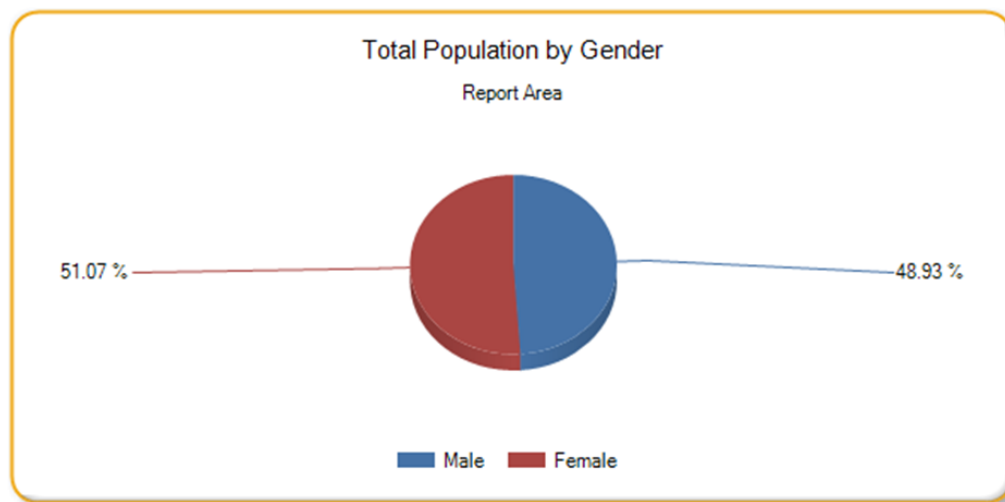
Population, Density (Persons per Sq Mile) by Tract, ACS 2012-16



Total Population by Gender

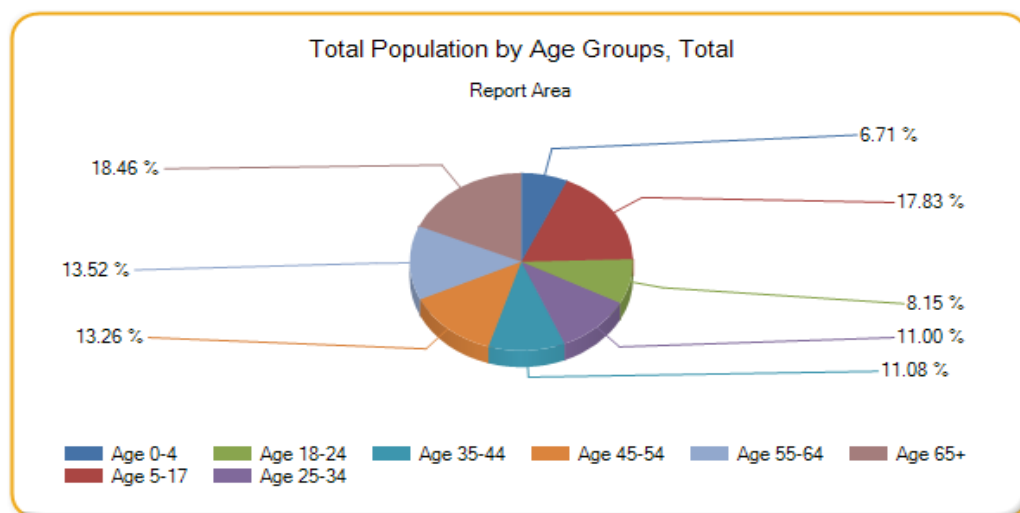
Report Area: Choctaw County, McCurtain County, Pushmataha County

Report Area	Male	Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Area	29,003	30,268	48.93%	51.07%
Choctaw County, OK	7,277	7,774	48.35%	51.65%
McCurtain County, OK	16,264	16,807	49.18%	50.82%
Pushmataha County, OK	5,462	5,687	48.99%	51.01%
Oklahoma	1,919,995	1,955,594	49.54%	50.46%
United States	156,765,322	161,792,840	49.21%	50.79%



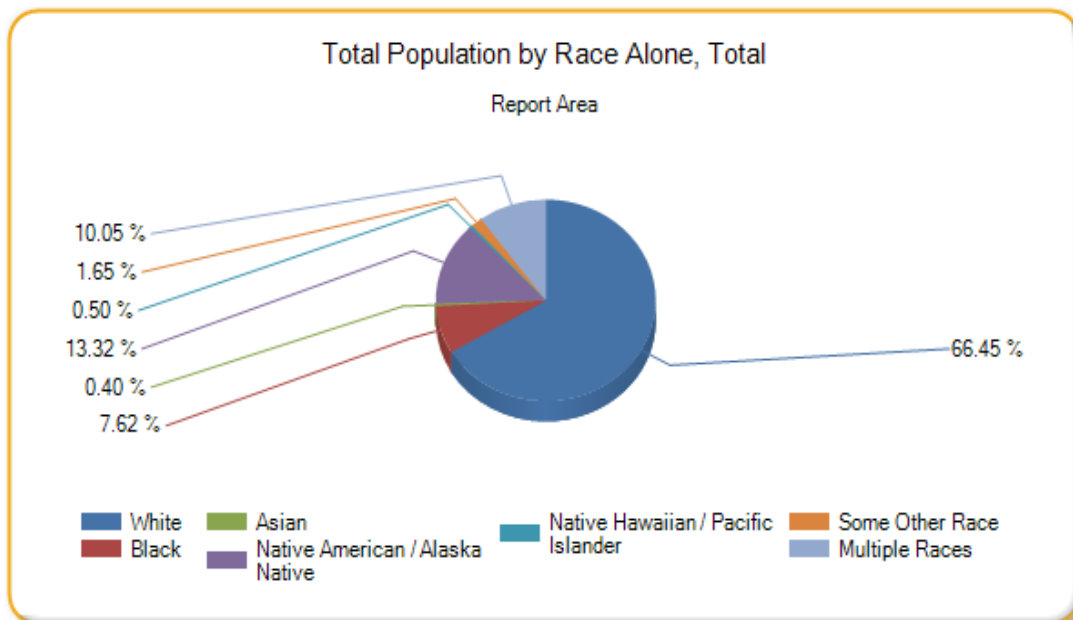
Total Population by Age Groups

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34
Report Area	3,978	10,567	4,832	6,518
Choctaw County, OK	994	2,652	1,138	1,603
McCurtain County, OK	2,342	6,101	2,897	3,704
Pushmataha County, OK	642	1,814	797	1,211
Oklahoma	265,818	686,507	388,986	533,743
United States	19,866,960	53,745,478	31,296,577	43,397,907
Report Area	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65
Report Area	6,567	7,859	8,011	10,939
Choctaw County, OK	1,639	1,969	2,117	2,939
McCurtain County, OK	3,807	4,348	4,310	5,562
Pushmataha County, OK	1,121	1,542	1,584	2,438
Oklahoma	473,291	490,534	474,825	561,885
United States	40,548,400	43,460,466	40,061,742	46,180,632



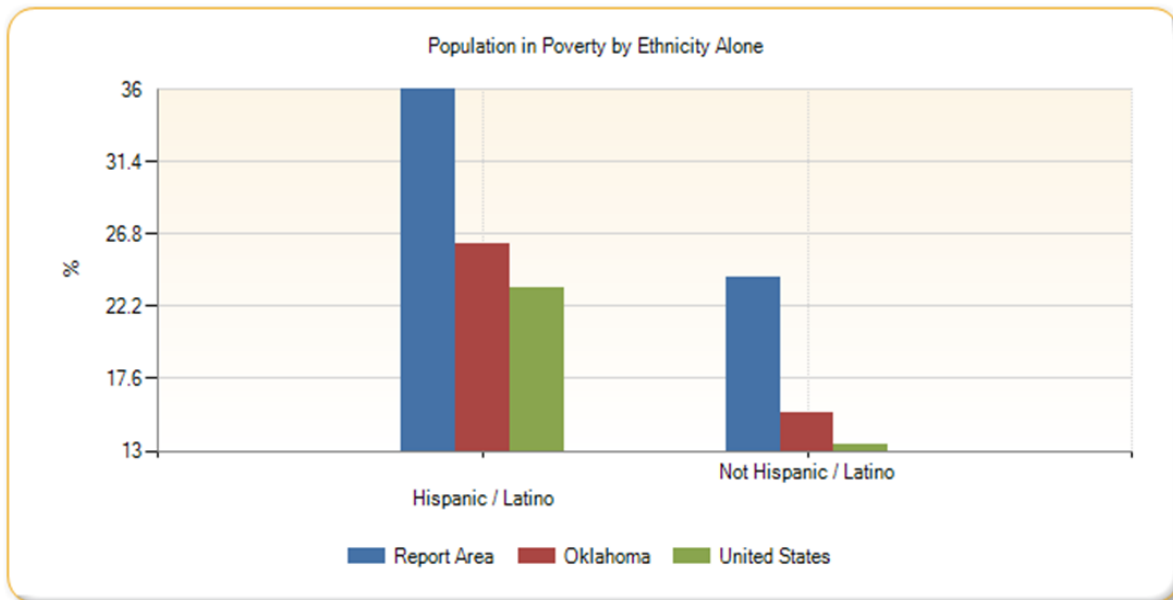
Total Population by Race Alone

Report Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American / Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races
Report Area	39,388	4,517	239	7,897	297	979	5,954
Choctaw County, OK	9,478	1,698	24	2,015	26	288	1,522
McCurtain County, OK	21,541	2,709	171	4,514	267	616	3,253
Pushmataha County, OK	8,369	110	44	1,368	4	75	1,179
Oklahoma	2,823,497	281,295	77,541	286,231	4,969	102,292	299,764
United States	233,657,078	40,241,818	16,614,625	2,597,817	560,021	15,133,856	9,752,947



Total Population by Ethnicity Alone:

	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino Population	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic Population	Percent Population Non-Hispanic
Report Area	59,271	2,762	4.66%	56,509	95.34%
Choctaw County, OK	15,051	572	3.8%	14,479	96.2%
McCurtain County, OK	33,071	1,833	5.54%	31,238	94.46%
Pushmataha County, OK	11,149	357	3.2%	10,792	96.8%
Oklahoma	3,875,589	381,467	9.84%	3,494,122	90.16%
United States	318,558,162	55,199,107	17.33%	263,359,055	82.67%



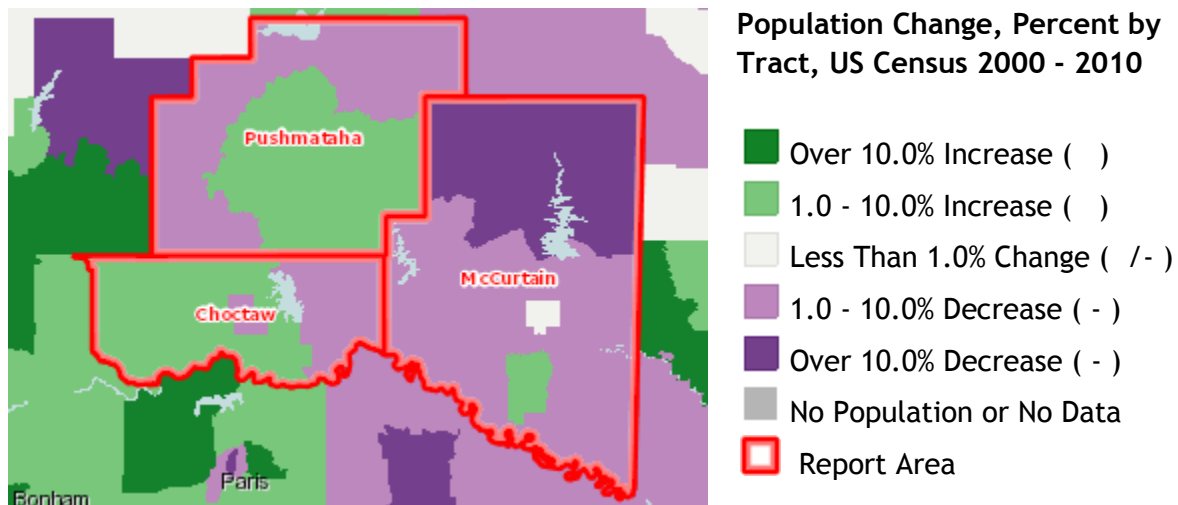
Change in Total Population:

Service Area: Choctaw County, OK; McCurtain County, OK; Pushmataha County, OK

According to the United States Census Bureau Decennial Census, between 2000 and 2010 the population in the report area fell by 1,483 persons, a change of -2.41%. A significant positive or negative shift in total population over time impacts the community and resources.

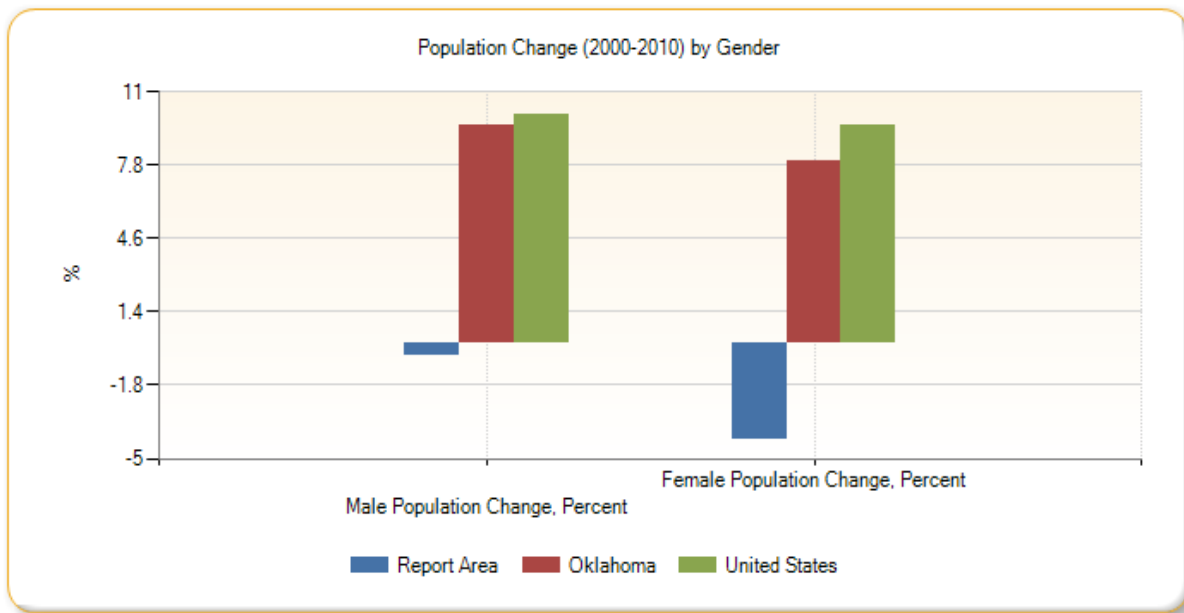
Report Area	Total Population, 2000 Census	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population Change, 2000-2010	Percent Population Change, 2000-2010
Report Area	61,411	59,928	-1,483	-2.41%
Choctaw County, OK	15,342	15,205	-137	-0.89%
McCurtain County, OK	34,402	33,151	-1,251	-3.64%
Pushmataha County, OK	11,667	11,572	-95	-0.81%
Oklahoma	3,450,653	3,751,351	300,698	8.71%
United States	280,405,781	307,745,539	27,339,758	9.75%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2000 - 2010. Source geography: Tract



Population Change (2000-2010) by Gender

Report Area	Male Population Change, Total	Male Population Change, Percent	Female Population Change, Total	Female Population Change, Percent
Report Area	-150	-0.51%	-1,333	-4.17%
Choctaw County, OK	48	0.66%	-185	-2.3%
McCurtain County, OK	-312	-1.88%	-939	-5.26%
Pushmataha County, OK	114	2.03%	-209	-3.45%
Oklahoma	161,081	9.5%	139,615	7.96%
United States	13,738,020	10.02%	13,601,733	9.55%



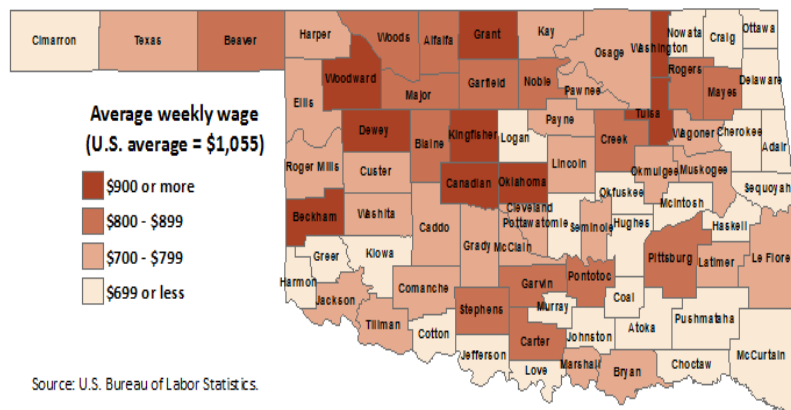
Unemployment Statistics in Oklahoma: Source: United States Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistics. Average weekly wages in Oklahoma's smaller counties:

All 74 smaller counties in Oklahoma – those with employment below 75,000 – reported average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,055.

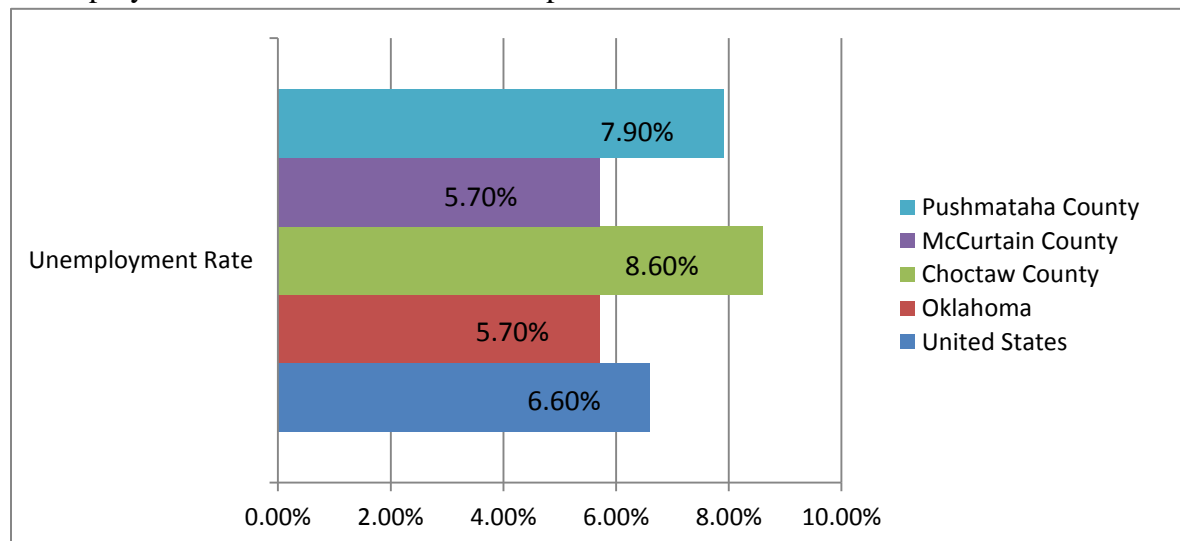
When all 77 counties in Oklahoma were considered, 27 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 26 registered wages from \$700 to \$799, 15 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 9 had average weekly wages of \$900 or more. The higher-paying counties were located in and around the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas, as well as the smaller areas of Elk City and Woodward. The lower-paying counties, those with weekly wages under \$700, were concentrated in the eastern portion of the state.

LDCAA's service and report area of Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties were all in the lower wage counties of average earnings less than \$700/week.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Oklahoma, second quarter 2018



Unemployment Rate of Service area Compared to State and National Rates:



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey

Poverty Profile:

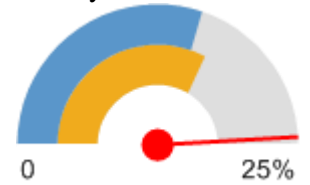
Report Area: Choctaw County, OK. McCurtain County, OK. & Pushmataha County, OK.

State and National Counts/Percentages are also provided for comparison.

Within the report area 24.57% or 14,349 individuals are living in households with income below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthcare, food, and other necessities.

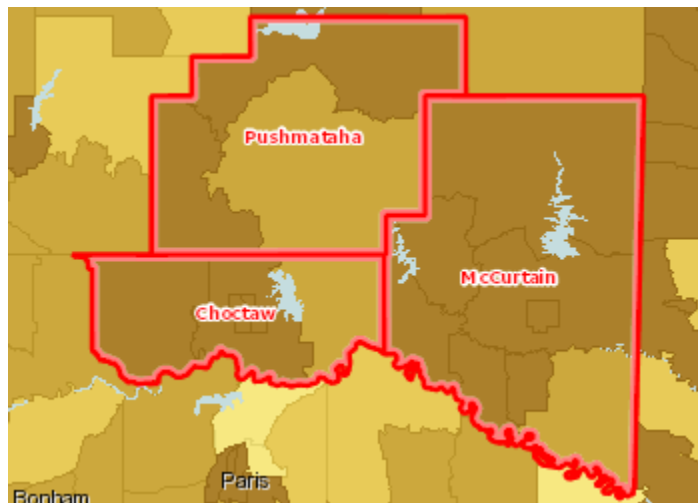
Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Percent Population in Poverty
Report Area	58,392	14,349	24.57%
Choctaw County, OK	14,840	4,230	28.5%
McCurtain County, OK	32,573	7,705	23.65%
Pushmataha County, OK	10,979	2,414	21.99%
Oklahoma	3,760,050	621,155	16.52%
United States	310,629,645	46,932,225	15.11%

Percent Population in Poverty



■ Report Area (24.57%)
■ Oklahoma (16.52%)
■ United States (15.11%)

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.
Source geography: Tract



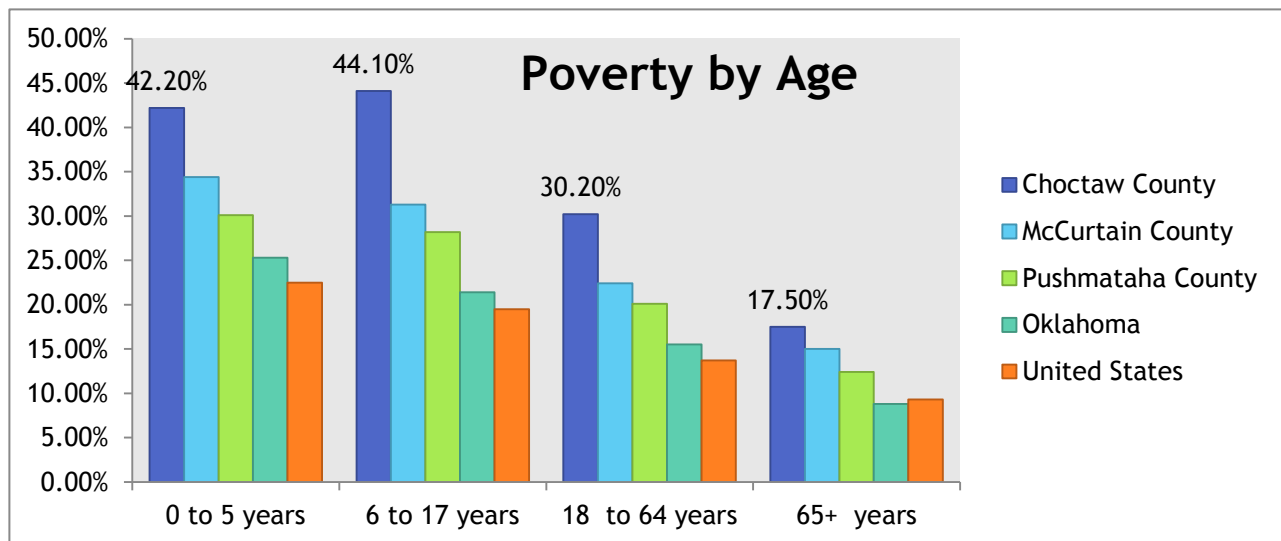
Population Below the Poverty Level, Percent by Tract, ACS 2012-16

■ Over 20.0%
■ 15.1 - 20.0%
■ 10.1 - 15.0%
■ Under 10.1%
■ No Data or Data Suppressed
□ Report Area

Poverty Demographics by Age:

Report Area: Choctaw County, OK; McCurtain County, OK; Pushmataha County, OK

	Total population	Overall Poverty Counts	Total Percent Below Poverty	Under 5 Years Count %	5-17 Years Count/%	18-64 Years Count %	65 and Over County %
Report Area							
Choctaw County	14,742	4,565 Persons	31%	406 or 42.2%	1154 or 44.1%	2508 or 30.2%	497 or 17.5%
McCurtain County	32,524	7,690 Persons	23.6%	786 or 34.4%	1872 or 31.3%	4206 or 22.4%	826 or 15%
Pushmataha County	10,976	2,233 Persons	20.3%	197 or 30.1%	504 or 28.2%	1,239 or 20.1%	293 or 12.4%
Oklahoma	3,780,828	612,714 Persons	16.2%	65,500 or 25.3%	145,002 or 21.4%	353,452 or 15.5%	48,760 or 8.8%
United States	313,048,563	45,650,345 Persons	14.6%	4,390,252 or 22.5%	10,320,233 or 19.5%	26,622,668 or 13.7%	4,317,192 or 9.3%

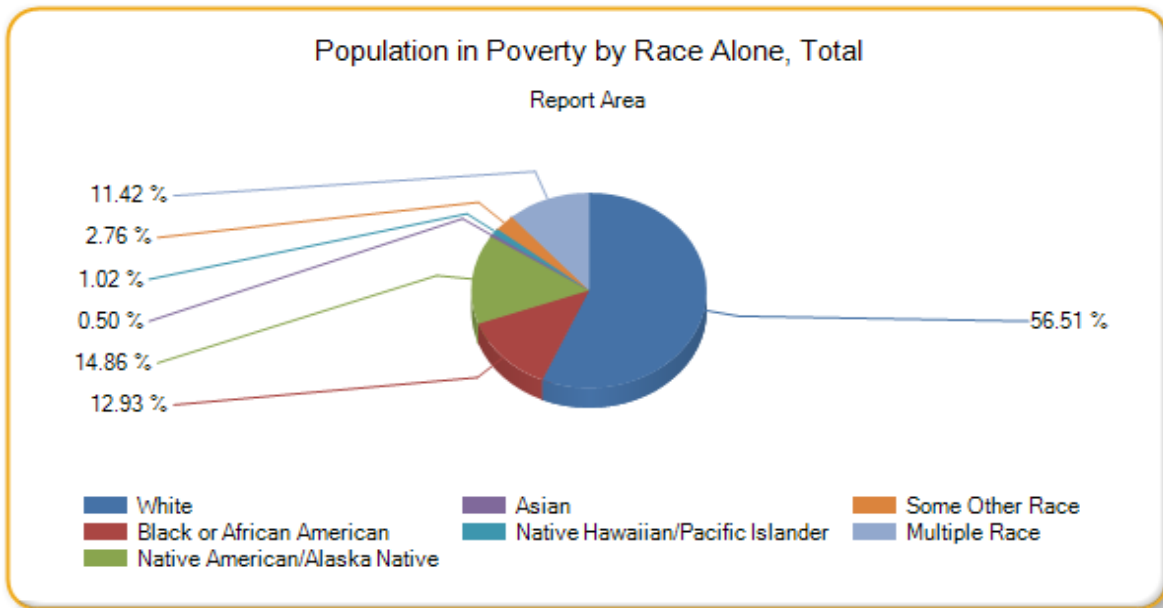


Source: U.S. Census Bureau/American Factfinder 2013-2017 5-year estimates

Poverty Demographics by Race

Report Area: Choctaw County, OK; McCurtain County, OK; Pushmataha County, OK

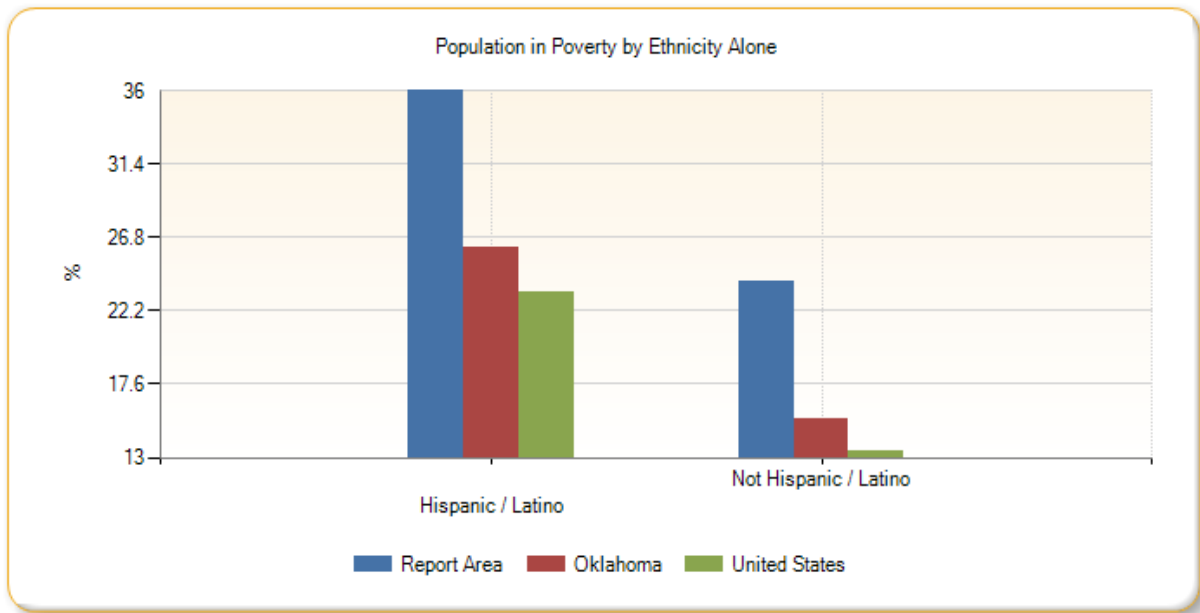
Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Report Area	20.91%	42.12%	27.32%	30.13%	49.83%	40.87%	27.79%
Choctaw County, OK	25.45%	50.87%	22.24%	12.5%	76.92%	26.04%	30.92%
McCurtain County, OK	18.89%	36.87%	29.55%	21.05%	47.73%	52.97%	28.8%
Pushmataha County, OK	20.97%	34.95%	27.57%	75%	0%	0%	21.02%
Oklahoma	13.84%	28.98%	22.21%	15.77%	18.8%	25.37%	22.24%
United States	12.44%	26.22%	27.59%	12.33%	20.07%	25.37%	19.27%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Poverty Demographics by Ethnicity

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic / Latino
Report Area	985	13,364	35.98%	24.01%
Choctaw County, OK	170	4,060	29.93%	28.45%
McCurtain County, OK	753	6,952	41.4%	22.61%
Pushmataha County, OK	62	2,352	17.66%	22.13%
Oklahoma	97,168	523,987	26.2%	15.46%
United States	12,653,597	34,278,628	23.4%	13.36%

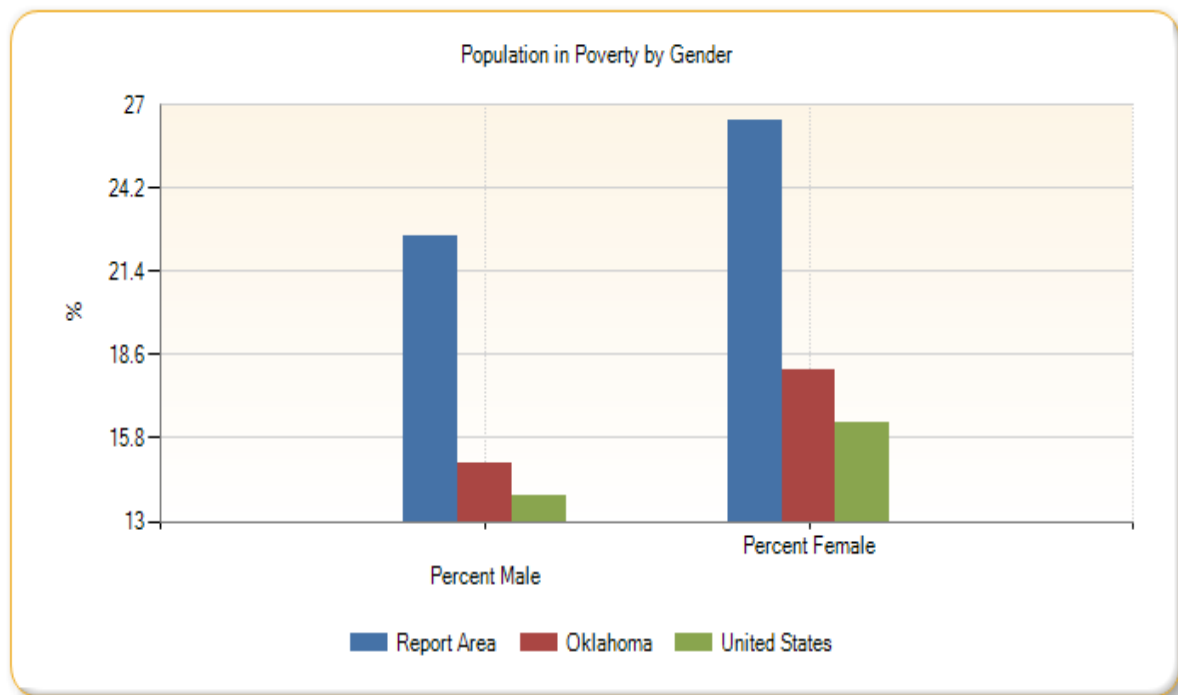


Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Poverty Demographics by Gender

Report Area: Choctaw County, OK; McCurtain County, OK; Pushmataha County, OK

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Area	6,421	7,928	22.56%	26.49%
Choctaw County, OK	1,880	2,350	26.3%	30.56%
McCurtain County, OK	3,460	4,245	21.69%	25.54%
Pushmataha County, OK	1,081	1,333	20.15%	23.74%
Oklahoma	275,531	345,624	14.91%	18.07%
United States	21,012,839	25,919,386	13.82%	16.34%



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Trends: The last Community Needs Assessment conducted by Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. for the same report area was completed in 2015. Since, the population has decreased by 657 individuals. In comparison, the population change between 2000 and 2010 for the same report (geographical) area showed a decrease of 1,483 persons. Considering the significant difference in the timeframe (3 years (2015-2018) vs. 10 years (2000-2010)), this would indicate that the population is declining at an increased rate.

Poverty rates have continued to rise in Choctaw County from 27.1% in 2015 to 28.5% in 2018. American Community Survey latest estimates report Choctaw County poverty rate at 31%. This supports the communities identified and prioritized needs for economic development.

McCurtain County has seen a slight decrease in poverty since the last needs assessment going from 26.1% in 2015 to 23.65% in 2018. Data derived at the local-level (community needs meetings) attributes this decline to the recent “boom” in tourism development in McCurtain County. According to area residents, tourism activities are drawing tourists from the Dallas Fort Worth Metropolitan area as well as from Arkansas and many other urban areas. The influx of tourists has led to an increase in small business development, thereby positively impacting the poverty and unemployment rates.

However, residents report that other parts of McCurtain County as well as the contiguous counties of Pushmataha and Choctaw are not experiencing the benefits of this economic development. At this time, the growth and its benefits appear to be concentrated around the areas between Beavers Bend State Park in Broken Bow, Oklahoma and Hochatown, Oklahoma. The development has resulted in significant increase in property values and new single family residential development is no longer affordable. Therefore, affordable housing is becoming a growing concern in this county.

Poverty rates in Pushmataha County are showing the most significant decrease going from 26.5% in 2015 to 21.9% in 2018. This is in large part attributed to a trend in population decrease in that County.

Unemployment rates in the report area also have remained steady in both Choctaw County and Pushmataha counties with only a slight increase since the 2015 Community needs assessment report. Choctaw county unemployment rate increased from 8.4% to 8.6% in 2017 and Pushmataha County unemployment rate increased from 7.8% to 7.9% in 2017. In line with the growth and new jobs created in McCurtain County, we are seeing a trend of reduced unemployment in that county. In 2015, McCurtain County had an unemployment rate of 7.8% compared to 5.7% in 2017.

Assessment Profile: Methodology and Timeline for conducting community needs assessment:

Timeline: LDCAA conducts a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years. This CNA is effective from the certification date of January 8, 2019 through December 31, 2021. It is the goal of the agency to review and revise the C.N.A. as necessary and no less than once a year which will occur via continuous monitoring, data collection and analysis. The table below provides dates, locations and times for each needs assessment activity relevant to data collection, assessment, and analysis.

Timeline	Activity
05/01/2018-09/07/2018	Distributed/collected paper standardized surveys
05/01/2018-09/30/2018	Transferred survey responses (845) into the online tool (Survey Monkey) to generate an electronic version
10/03/2018-10/09/2018	Focus group responses collected from staff, clients, leadership and board to identify top three Prioritized Needs
10/09/2018-6:00 p.m. 10/18/2018-10:00 a.m. 10/23/2018-6:00 p.m. 10/25/2018-10:00 a.m. 10/30/2018-6:00 p.m. 11/01/2018-10:00 a.m.	Community Meetings held (two per county) in report area.

Data Sources/Sample Size/Sectors/Surveys:

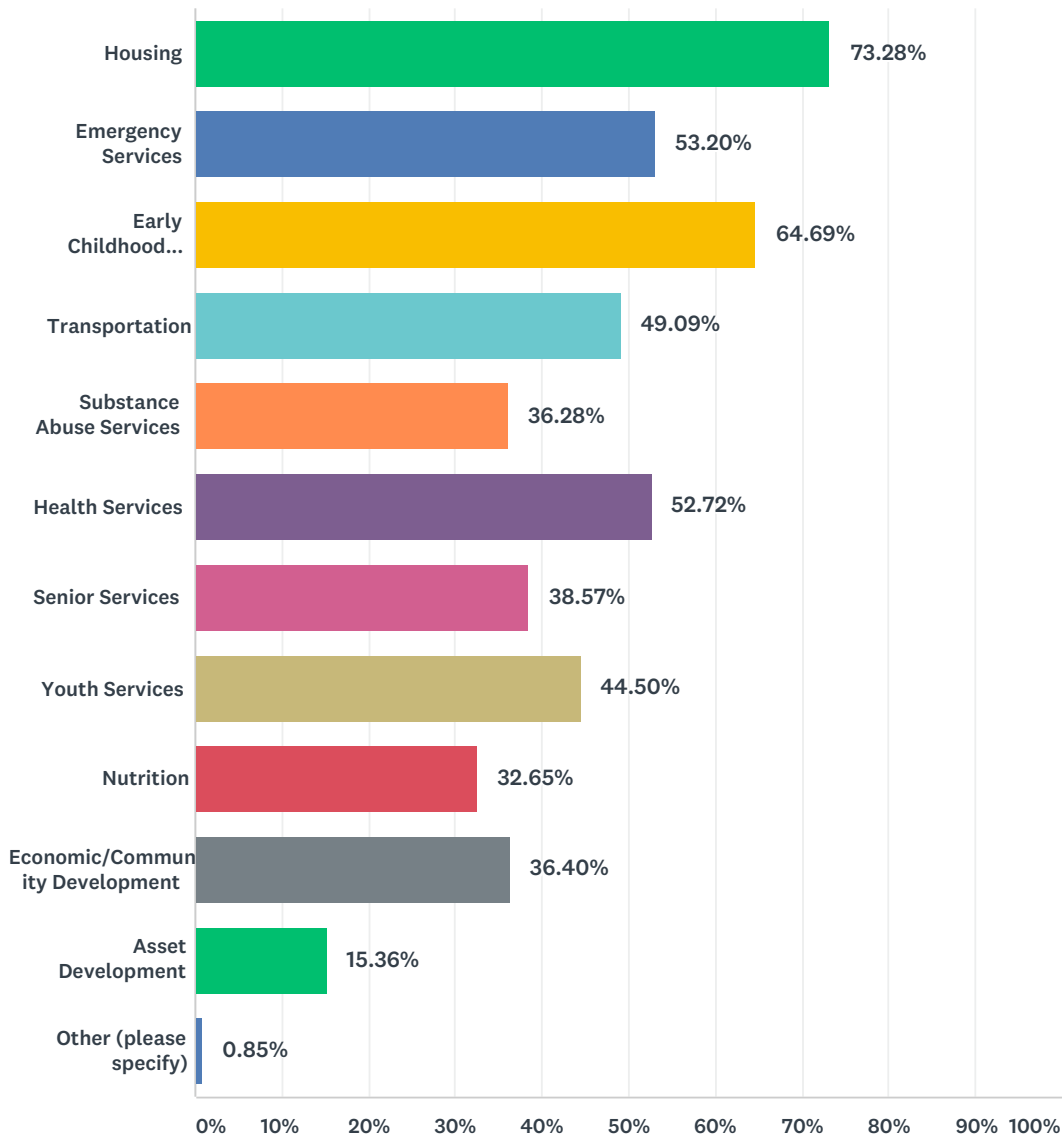
Paper Surveys: LDCAA utilized the Oklahoma standardized community needs assessment survey. Approximately 65 percent of the surveys returned were completed by households with children enrolled in Early Head Start or Head Start which is a good representation of families with low income. Surveys were also completed by board members, agency employees, clients/customers applying for and/or receiving agency services, community partners, representatives of area social service providers, coalition representatives, representatives of the faith-based community, and representatives of the private and public sectors.

A total of 845 surveys were collected from the following community sectors: Low-income community-200; Educational Community-78; Faith-based-32; Community-based-62; Government entity-27; Private organization-12; General public (having never received services from the agency) - 133; Client of the Agency (could represent low-income or other sectors) - 285; Agency Board members-25; and Agency Volunteers-5. Less than one percent identified as representing more than one sector.

The table on the following page reflects community needs for the service area and represents the responses to Question 15 from the Community Needs Assessment survey. The question asked respondents to rank the top five services they wished to see continued in their community. The top five needs/services were as follows:

Q15 What program/services would you like to see continued in your community? By checking the boxes below, please select (in no particular order) the TOP 5 programs/services that are needed or should continue in your community.

Answered: 827 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Housing	73.28%	606
Emergency Services	53.20%	440
Early Childhood Education	64.69%	535
Transportation	49.09%	406
Substance Abuse Services	36.28%	28 300

1. Safe, decent and affordable housing units are an identified need determined by the community needs survey. This is a family level need.
2. Emergency services to help families pay for utilities (heating/cooling costs) are an identified need determined by the community needs survey. This is a family level need.
3. Early Childhood Education to continue provision of preschool services is an identified need determined by the community needs survey. This is a community level need.
4. Transportation is an identified need determined by the community needs survey. This is a community level need.
5. Substance Abuse Services to provide inpatient treatment and education/awareness is an identified need determined by the community needs survey. This is a community level need.

Prioritized Needs: Focus groups consisting of agency leadership, front-line staff and board members participated in activities to prioritize top three community needs. Participants were provided with the top ten identified needs/services (from the chart above) and were asked to rank the top three in order from 1 to 3, with 1 representing most need and so forth. For each selection, participants were asked to provide qualitative data describing their rationale as to why they chose and ranked the needs as they did. After all responses were collected and tallied, this process resulted in identifying the top three “Prioritized” needs.

The Prioritized Needs in ranked order are:

1. Housing
2. Substance Abuse Services
3. Economic Development

These needs, as prioritized by the focus groups, have been selected as those the agency also identifies as priority and therefore will be a primary focus of agency activities over this next three years.

These needs were prioritized by individuals who possess first-hand knowledge of needs as most work directly with those families requesting agency services.

Extensive research was conducted over each need/service. Local level data (residents, resource providers, etc.) as well as data from State and National sources also reflect significant need in the report area for these prioritized needs/services.

Community Meetings: Following needs prioritization, LDCAA utilized local newspapers, social media; email; flyers, and presentations at public meetings to foster participation in community meetings. During these, participants engaged in data analysis activities in order to determine:

1. What is poverty? (Exercises to define poverty)
2. What are the causes and conditions of poverty?
3. Why the community assessed the needs as they did; (Why did the needs that presented as first, second, and third exist?)

4. What current resources existed to address the three prioritized needs?
5. What additional strategies or actions could serve to address these needs within the communities?

Open forum discussion occurred following each exercise. This process was used to determine what the community identified as the leading causes and conditions of poverty; to identify existing resources as well as potential strategies to address the needs.

(Photo at right depicts “sticky note” process used throughout each community meeting. There were a total of six separate meetings held for the purposes of identifying causes and conditions of poverty, existing resources and potential strategies towards addressing the three prioritized needs.



Prioritized Need 1 – Housing: Decent, safe and affordable housing units (rental and purchase) are a *family level need*. The agency is currently addressing this need through the provision of rental units including rental units for seniors. The agency also operates the Self Help housing program (single family new construction) and provides numerous other housing and housing supportive services for residents. The outcome will be that families are able to secure safe and affordable housing.

The primary cause that housing ranked as the top community need was identified as:

- 1 Insufficient supply of safe, decent and affordable housing due to the lack of new development and limited rental units
- 2 Bad credit and/or too much debt and
- 3 Rents/mortgages too expensive for average wage earners.

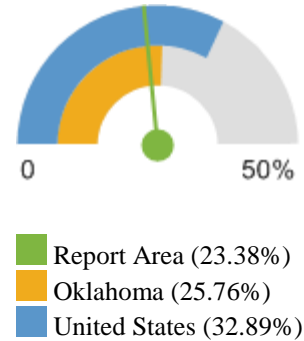
The resulting conditions were:

- 1 People living in substandard housing;
- 2 multi-generations of families sharing housing;
- 3 unsafe housing; and outmigration (people leaving the area to find housing). This is a *family level* need.

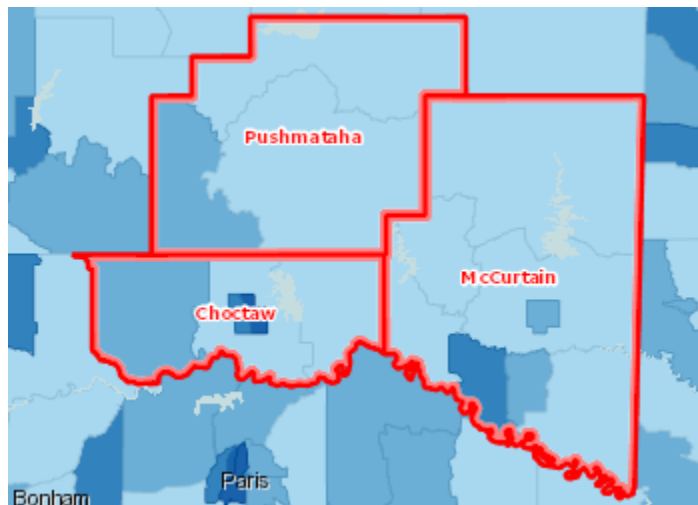
Housing Cost Burden (30%): This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs exceed 30% of total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels.

Report Area	Total Households	Cost Burdened Households (Housing Costs Exceed 30% of Income)	Percentage of Cost Burdened Households (Over 30% of Income)
Report Area	23,555	5,506	23.38%
Choctaw County, OK	5,927	1,586	26.76%
McCurtain County, OK	12,973	2,925	22.55%
Pushmataha County, OK	4,655	995	21.37%
Oklahoma	1,461,500	376,490	25.76%
United States	117,716,237	38,719,430	32.89%

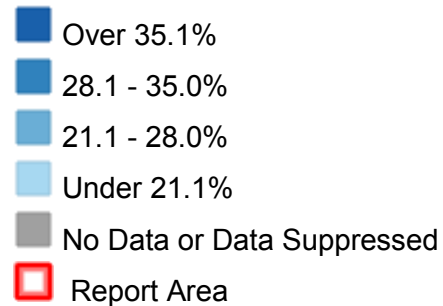
Percentage of Households where Housing Costs Exceed 30% of Income



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.



Cost Burdened Households (Housing Costs Exceed 30% of Household Income), Percent by Tract, ACS 2012-16



Cost Burdened Households by Tenure, Total

This data shows the number of households that spend more than 30% of the household income on housing costs. In the report area, there were 5,506 cost burdened households according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 200-2016 5-year estimates. The data for this indicator is only reported for households where household housing costs and income earned was identified in the American Community Survey.

Report Area	Cost Burdened Households	Cost Burdened Rental Households	Cost Burdened Owner Occupied Households (With Mortgage)	Cost Burdened Owner Occupied Households (With No Mortgage)
Report Area	5,506	2,497	1,761	1,248
Choctaw County, OK	1,586	823	470	293
McCurtain County, OK	2,925	1,320	934	671
Pushmataha County, OK	995	354	357	284
Oklahoma	376,490	202,021	132,071	42,398
United States	38,719,430	20,246,745	14,700,932	3,771,753

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.

Cost Burdened Households by Tenure, Percent: This data shows the percentage of households by tenure that are cost burdened. Cost burdened rental households (those that spent more than 30% of the household income on rental costs) represented 37.13% of all of the rental households in the report area, according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2010-2016 5-year estimates. The data for this indicator is only reported for households where tenure, household housing costs, and income earned was identified in the American Community Survey.

Report Area	Rental Households	Percentage of Rental Households that are Cost Burdened	Owner Occupied Households (With Mortgage)	Percentage of Owner Occupied Households w/ Mortgages that are Cost Burdened	Owner Occupied Households (No Mortgage)	Percentage of Owner Occupied Households w/o Mortgages that are Cost Burdened
Report Area	6,725	37.13%	6,230	28.27%	10,600	11.77%
Choctaw County, OK	1,758	46.81%	1,725	27.25%	2,444	11.99%
McCurtain County, OK	3,851	34.28%	3,149	29.66%	5,973	11.23%
Pushmataha County, OK	1,116	31.72%	1,356	26.33%	2,183	13.01%
Oklahoma	501,339	40.3%	543,373	24.31%	416,788	10.17%
United States	42,835,169	47.27%	48,016,540	30.62%	26,864,528	14.04%

Prioritized Need 2 – Substance Abuse Services: Substance abuse services is a *community level need*. The agency is currently addressing this need through the Tri-County Opioid Project which specifically aims to address the systemic needs of the opioid epidemic. Through this project, LDCAA is working with community members and organizations to start informative dialogue, build partnerships and plan systemic changes to prevention, treatment, and recovery of individuals affected by this epidemic. The outcomes will be improved community health and reduced morbidity and mortality associated with opioid overdose.

The primary causes linked to this need were identified as:

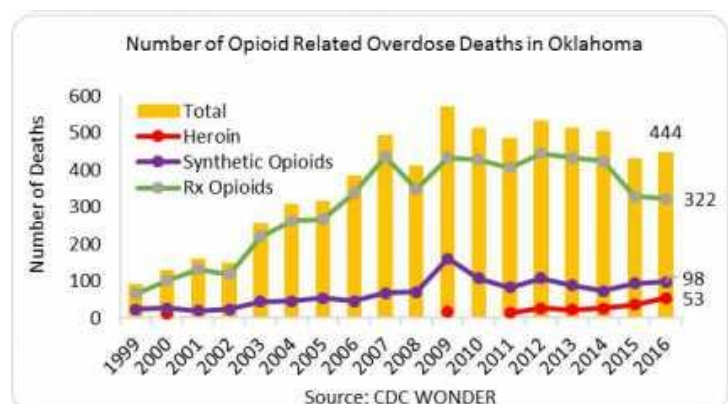
- 1 Physicians overprescribing powerful addictive medications (Opioid crisis) and
- 2 Drugs (street) are easy to access and affordable
- 3 There is an absence of inpatient facilities for long-term treatment
- 4 There is a lack of education over substance use/abuse and risks
- 5 Insufficient prevention programs

The resulting conditions associated with this need were:

- 1 Neighborhoods overrun with addicts
- 2 High crime
- 3 Broken families
- 4 Domestic Abuse
- 5 Child neglect and abuse

According to the Oklahoma Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project which aims to expand access to treatment for persons with opioid use disorder (OUD) by training and supporting rural primary care practices in Oklahoma, “prescription drug overdoses kill nearly two Oklahomans per day”. In many rural Oklahoma counties, opioids account for more than half of drug overdose deaths. Oklahoma lacks access to treatment for OUD, particularly in rural areas where there are few primary care providers trained to identify and treat people who are opioid dependent. Many Oklahoma providers are concerned about the devastating effect on their patients and communities. However, many providers also feel overwhelmed at the prospect of offering treatment for OUD in their own practice.” This is further supported by data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/>) which recently published the following statistics regarding the opioid epidemic.

Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths: In 2016, there were 444 opioid-related overdose deaths in Oklahoma—a rate of 11.6 deaths per 100,000 persons—compared to the national rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000. Since 2012, heroin overdose deaths have more than doubled from 26 deaths to 53 deaths in 2016. However, prescription opioid overdose deaths have declined since 2014 from 424 to 322 deaths.



Opioid Pain Reliever Prescriptions

In 2015, Oklahoma providers wrote 101.7 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons (3.97 million prescriptions). In the same year, the average U.S. rate was 70 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons ([IMS Health, 2016](#)).

Source: National Institute on Health; National Institute on Drug Abuse/Oklahoma Summary
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/>

LDCAA conducted telephone interviews with local drug rehabilitation outpatient providers to learn more about substance abuse services provided locally. These professionals all agreed that there is a significant need for education, awareness and prevention programs. However, the most imminent need reported was identified as inpatient 30-60-90-day minimum rehabilitation facilities. Currently there are no inpatient facilities in the tri-county area. Extensive internet research for substance abuse services within a 100 mile radius of the service area revealed the following resources:

Services	Choctaw County	McCurtain County	Pushmataha County	Surrounding Areas (within 100 miles)
Rehab Facilities	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling Hills Hospital – Ada, OK Tiger Mountain Recovery Inc. – Henryetta, OK Narconon of Oklahoma- Canadian, OK Enterhealth Life Recovery Center Drug and Alcohol Addition Trt –Van Alstyne, TX
Residential	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valliant House LLC 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choctaw Nation Chi Hullo Li – Talihina, OK (CDIB Card/Women) Choctaw Nation Recovery Center – Talihina, OK (CDIB Card/Men) Healing Springs Ranch –Tioga, TX
Outpatient Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SequelCare of Oklahoma Kiamichi Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SequelCare of Oklahoma Kiamichi Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse Inc. Carl Albert MH Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SequelCare of Oklahoma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 Locations in Oklahoma (Nearest is 50 miles away) 12 Locations in Texas 10 Locations in Arkansas
48 hour Detox	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carl Albert – McAlester, OK Rolling Hills Hospital – Ada, OK Narconon of Oklahoma – Canadian, OK Tiger Mountain Recovery Inc. – Henryetta, OK Rightway Medical of Roland – Roland, OK Enterhealth Life Recovery Center – Van Alstyne, TX Glen Oaks Hospital – Greenville, TX Sunspire Health Texas – Princeton, TX Medical Center of McKinney Behavioral Med Services – McKinney, TX Arkansas Treatment Services PA – Texarkana, AR

Oklahoma MAT Physicians	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choctaw Nation Reginal Medical Center – Durant, OK • Brad Alan Starkey – Poteau, OK • Dr. Gerald D. Rana, DO – Wilburton, OK • Dr. Gerald D. Wootan, DO – McAlester, OK • Dr. Nelson C. Onaro, DO – McAlester, OK • Dr. Michael F. Boyer, MD – McAlester, OK • Texoma Community Center MHMR Services of Texoma – Sherman, TX • AXCEL Treatment and Recovery Clinic – Denison, TX
Counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SequelCare of Oklahoma • Kiamichi Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SequelCare of Oklahoma • Valliant House LLC • Kiamichi Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse Inc. • Carl Albert Community MH Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SequelCare of Oklahoma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 Locations in Oklahoma (Nearest is 50 miles away) • 12 Locations in Texas • 10 Locations in Arkansas

Prioritized Need 3 - Community and Economic Development is a community level need determined by the community needs survey. Currently, LDCAA provides services such as business lending and supportive services to help individuals/families improve skills with managing their finances. The outcome will be that families achieve self-sufficiency.

The primary causes linked to this need being prioritized as the third most need are:

1. Low-wage jobs
2. Unskilled workforce
3. Lack of infrastructure to recruit and/or support business
4. Lack of tourism events
5. Lack of budgeting skills

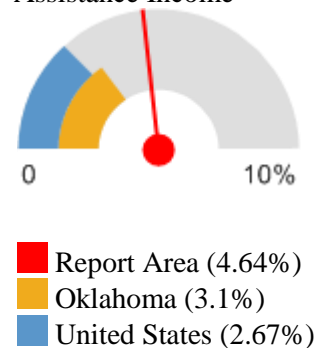
The resulting conditions were identified as:

1. High poverty rates
2. High unemployment rates
3. Little/no incentives to attract employers
4. High dependency on government assistance

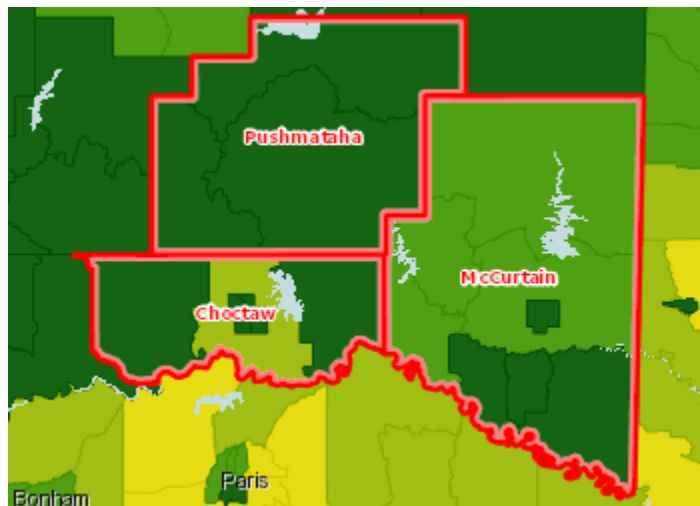
Income - Public Assistance Income: This indicator reports the percentage of households receiving public assistance income. Public assistance income includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) is excluded. This does not include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or noncash benefits such as Food Stamps.

Report Area	Total Households	Households with Public Assistance Income	Percent Households with Public Assistance Income
Report Area	23,555	1,094	4.64%
Choctaw County, OK	5,927	295	4.98%
McCurtain County, OK	12,973	496	3.82%
Pushmataha County, OK	4,655	303	6.51%
Oklahoma	1,461,500	45,251	3.1%
United States	117,716,237	3,147,577	2.67%

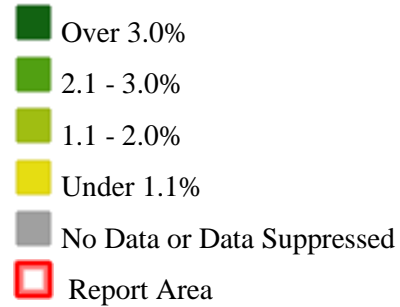
Percent Households with Public Assistance Income



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2012-16.
Source geography: Tract



Households with Public Assistance Income, Percent by Tract, ACS 2012-16



Average Public Assistance Dollars Received

Report Area	Total Households Receiving Public Assistance Income	Aggregate Public Assistance Dollars Received	Average Public Assistance Received (in USD)
Report Area	1,094	1,928,100	\$1,762
Choctaw County, OK	295	666,100	\$2,257
McCurtain County, OK	496	977,100	\$1,969
Pushmataha County, OK	303	284,900	\$940
Oklahoma	45,251	92,301,200	\$2,039
United States	3,147,577	10,499,747,500	\$3,335

Report prepared by [Community Commons](#), December 26, 2018.

Causes and Conditions of Poverty in the service area: The table below is a compilation of primary causes and conditions of poverty present in the service area. These were identified by participants during the community needs assessment meetings.

Causes of Poverty	Conditions of Poverty
Lack of employment opportunities	Homelessness
Lack of resources	Child Abuse
Lack of program awareness	Lack of basic needs (shelter, food, healthcare)
Housing costs unaffordable	High infant mortality rates
Prison records/no hope	Poor Nutrition/Poor health outcomes
Not enough income/low wages	Crime
Geographical area	Poor Self Esteem
Debt burden	Reliance on Government assistance
Drug and/or Alcohol abuse	Child Abuse
Lack of education	Unsanitary Housing Conditions
Lack of job skills	Poorly Educated
Lacking basic life skills	Domestic Abuse
Generational cycle (it is what people know)	Unemployed
No transportation	Mentally unstable
Laziness/No motivation	Broken families
Lack of infrastructure to attract business	Substance Abuse
Bad health	Hunger
	Substandard housing

Existing Community Resources By Prioritized Need Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties		
<i>Housing</i>	<i>Substance Abuse</i>	<i>Community & Economic Development</i>
LDCAA Senior Rental Properties	Faith-based organizations	Kiamichi Technology Center
Bank loans	Narcotics Anonymous	Banks
LEAP Homes	Alcoholics Anonymous	Chambers of Commerce
LDCAA Self Help Homes	Counseling Agencies	County Coalitions
502 Loans for home purchase	D.A.R.E.	Local Businesses
HECM Reverse Mortgage Counseling	LDCAA Mentorship program	Large Business/Industry i.e. International Paper, Tysons, etc. Transit
Foreclosure Prevention	Zen Gee Counseling	Tourism Events/Spur Economy
LDCAA Weatherization program	Sequel Care	Antlers Business Association
Section 8 Rental Assistance	Drug Court	Large Water Supply
Choctaw Nation Housing programs	New Beginnings	Choctaw Nation Employment opportunities
Public Housing Authorities	Crossroads Counseling	Little Dixie Employment opportunities
Veteran Loans	LDCAA RSVP	State/Federal Agency Employment Opportunities
Frank Meddick Housing Trust Fund	Choctaw Nation YAB	Local County Libraries

Low-rent complexes	Rehab Work Program	Economic Development Campaigns (Shop Local; Downtown Beautification, etc.)
Homebuyer Education classes	RRC Ferris School	Area Churches
Housing Outreach Coordinators	LDCAA Tri County Opiod Planning Project	Community Centers
Credit Counseling	Red Ribbon Week at School	Economic Development Coordinator (Funded through County Commissioners)
Federal Home Loan Bank assistance	Choctaw Nation Inpatient/Outpatient Rehab	Choctaw Nation Career Development
KiBois CAA assistance with Veteran housing	OU Opiod coordinators w/Coalition and Clinic programs	LDCAA Small Business Loans
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Youth Services	County Commissioners
Low income based single family rental units (Sunhaven)	Valliant House	Credit Counseling Services
Choctaw Nation Senior housing	Kiamichi Family Medical Center	Choctaw Nation Forgivable Loan Program
Tax Credit housing	KFMC Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT)	Schools
Income and non-Income based Apartment Complexes	Kiamichi Council on Drug and Alcohol abuse	Oklahoma Workforce
Assisted Living	First Baptist Church	Cattle Industry
USDA Loans	Substance Abuse Hotlines	Civic Organizations
Privately owned rental houses	Veterans Drug Counseling	Financial Literacy classes
Housing for developmentally challenged individuals (KOI)	Celebrate Recovery	Credit building loans
LDCAA Guaranteed Loan Program	Carl Albert Mental Health	Youth Organizations: 4-H; Youth clubs; Student Council Members; Broken Bow Junior Chamber; Choctaw Nation YAB
Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency/low rent housing	LDCAA Drug deactivation kits	Free Clinic
House upon a rock	Rehab paid for by private insurance	Food Banks
Faith Based Organizations	Choctaw County Youth Services	
Rouleau Hotel (Senior Assisted)	Oklahoma Stop Smoking program	
	New State Laws limiting RX prescriptions	
The resources listed within this table represent those identified by residents during the Community Needs meetings held within the service area (Choctaw, McCurtain and Pushmataha areas). These resources are aligned with the three prioritized needs: Housing; Substance Use/Abuse and Economic & Community Development.		

LDCAA Resource Guide¹: This guide provides links to sites and/or contact information for each resource listed below and is available on LDCAA’s website: www.littledixie.org (Under the “Services” tab, select “Rural IMPACT” and when the page loads, scroll to the bottom and click on the “Download Resource Manual” tab or click the following link to go directly to the page. <https://sites.google.com/littledixie.org/ldcaa-resource-manual/home> . Then you can click on the resource (as listed) to be taken directly to the provider(s) for your selection.

RESOURCE GUIDE		
Abortion	Domestic Abuse	Medical Assistance
Abortion Alternatives	Driver’s License	Medical Providers
Adoption Agencies	Drug / Alcohol Abuse	Mental Health
Abuse – Child	Early Intervention	Military
Abuse – Domestic	Education Opportunities	Neonatal
Abuse - Senior Citizen	Education, Prevention & Guidance	Nutrition
Advanced Directives	Education Services / Disabilities	Poison Control
Agriculture	Elected Officials	Pregnancy Care
Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation	Emergency Assistance	Rape
Aids	Emergency Services	Runaways
Alcohol Abuse	Employment	Schools
Arthritis	Food Services	Senior Citizen Abuse
Birth Certificate	Food Stamps	Senior Citizen Services
Birth Control	Foster Care	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Business Information	Fraud	Social Security
Cancer	Ged	Social Security Disability
Chamber Of Commerce	Head Start	Suicide
Child Abuse	Health Department	Taxes
Child Support	Health Services	Teens
Choctaw Nation	Home Health Care	Telephone
City Hall	Hospice	Toll Free Hotline Numbers
Civil Defense	Hospitals	Transportation
Clubs	Hot Line Numbers	Utilities
Corrections	Housing	Utility Complaints
CPR	Human Rights	Veterans Services
Credit Counseling	Insurance	Vision Services
Criminal Justice	Juvenile Services	Vocational Rehabilitation
Daycare Assistance	Lead Prevention	Youth Services
Daycare Centers	Legal Services	
Dental Providers	Libraries	
Department Of Human Services	Licensing	
Developmental Disabilities	Literacy Services	
Diabetes	Little Dixie C.A.A. Services	
Disabilities	Mental Health	

¹ This list contains both resources available in the community as well as information for resources that may be needed but only accessible outside the tri-county service area

Agency Data: The table below provides a list of the top five services identified by the community of which four are currently being addressed by the agency. Detailed descriptions of these are included in the “Agency Programs and Services” section of this report. The data in the table below was populated from CAPTAIN reports and are current as of December 2018.

Services	Outcomes	Client Demographics (Counts)
Housing	Obtained/Maintained Safe and Affordable housing	175
	Obtained/Maintained Safe and Affordable housing (Seniors)	91
	Obtained WX Assistance (Non-Emergency)	14
Emergency Services	Emergency Food	23
	Emergency Fuel	83
	Emergency Rent	6
Early Childhood Education	Infants & Children obtain age appropriate immunizations, medical, and dental care.	998
	Infant & Child health & physical development are improved as a result of adequate nutrition.	
	Children participate in pre-school activities to develop school readiness skills.	
	Children who participate in pre-school activities are developmentally ready to enter Kindergarten or 1st grade.	150
Transportation	Transportation (rides) provided	109,532 rides
Substance Abuse Services	No data available	0

Data over the agency and services provided is further explained in the “Agency Programs and Services” section of this report. On average, LDCAA serves 2500 clients each year with most of those being served through Head Start and other Early Childhood programs. Transportation is another large program operated by the agency. CAPTAIN allows for tracking miles and trips, but not individuals for this service. Neither of these services were selected as prioritized needs as they are currently being addressed through LDCAA and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The typical client of the agency is a single parent household, primarily female, with incomes significantly below federal poverty guidelines. Housing, Emergency services, Transportation, and Educational services represent those most requested and utilized.

Sources: Sources have been identified and many are cited throughout the report. The primary data sources included:

- Oklahoma Standardized Community Needs Assessment Survey
- Focus Group Activities
- Community meetings
- Customer Satisfaction Data
- Agency Data (from CAPTAIN reports, Annual Reports, staff and Board members)
- Census Data (American Community Survey and American Factfinder)
- Community Commons
- U.S. Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Oklahoma Department of Commerce
- Interviews with local resource providers
- Internet Research
- SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- National Institute on Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse

Appendices: (See attached)

- Oklahoma Standardized Community Needs Assessment Survey
- Copy of Focus Group handouts
- Copy of Customer Satisfaction Survey



Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. Community Needs Assessment Survey

209 North 4th
Hugo, OK, 74743
www.littledixie.org

Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. regularly conducts a survey to determine what the needs are in your community so we will know where to best focus our efforts and funding. Your help in completing this survey is sincerely appreciated.

Please list your City _____, County _____, and Zip Code _____

Check the response that best represents you.

4. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female

6. What is your race?

- ☐ White or Caucasian ☐ Black or African American
☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
☐ Other _____

8. What best describes your household?

- ☐ Two Parent ☐ Single Parent Female
☐ Single Parent Male ☐ Multifamily household
☐ Single person ☐ Two adults no children
☐ Grandparent(s) raising grandchildren

10. What is the primary language spoken in the home?

- ☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Other _____

12. Anyone in your household receive disability benefits?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please mark # of each below:

_____ # of Children _____ # of Adults

14. Mark the choice that best describes you:

- ☐ Client of Agency
(Have received services from agency. Example – Tax Preparation)
- ☐ Agency Board Member
- ☐ Agency Volunteer
- ☐ Representative of an educational institution
(Public or private school, college, technical school)
- ☐ Representative of a government entity
(City, County, State, or Federal)
- ☐ Representative of a private organization
(Business, local civic group)
- ☐ Representative of a faith-based organization
(Church or other religious organization)
- ☐ Representative of a community based organization
(Nonprofit entities providing direct services)
- ☐ General Public
(Have NOT received services from the agency)

5. What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ Hispanic ☐ Non-Hispanic

7. What is your highest level of education completed?

- ☐ Less than 9th grade ☐ 9th-12th grade (no diploma) ☐ High School Diploma/GED ☐ Technical School/Votech
☐ Some college (no degree) ☐ Associate's degree
☐ Bachelor's degree ☐ Graduate/Professional

9. WRITE IN THE NUMBER of persons for each age group in your household.

_____ 0-2 _____ 3-4 _____ 5-9 _____ 10-14
_____ 15-17 _____ 18-19 _____ 20-24 _____ 25-34
_____ 35-44 _____ 45-54 _____ 55-59 _____ 60-64 _____ 65-74
_____ 75-84 _____ 85 and older

11. Is anyone in your household a veteran?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

13. What was your total household income last year?

- ☐ Less than \$10,000 ☐ \$10,000 - \$14,999
☐ \$15,000-\$19,999 ☐ \$20,000 - \$24,999
☐ \$25,000 - \$34,999 ☐ \$35,000 – \$49,999
☐ Over \$49,999

15. What program/services would you like to see continued in your community? By checking the boxes below, please select (in no particular order) the TOP 5 programs/services that are needed or should continue in your community.

Example:

- ☐ Housing
☐ Emergency Services
☐ Early Childhood Education
☐ Transportation
☐ Substance Abuse Services
☐ Health Services
☐ Senior Services
☐ Youth Services
☐ Nutrition
☐ Economic/Community Development
☐ Asset Development

Other: _____

TURN OVER TO COMPLETE PAGE 2

16. How much does each item rate as a need in your community?

Please check only one rating for each need listed

NUTRITION	No Need	Some Need	Great Need	Don't Know
Availability/access to food (grocery store)				
Community Gardens				
Nutrition Education/Healthy Eating				
Need food				

EMPLOYMENT	No Need	Some Need	Great Need	Don't Know
Job Training				
Help finding a job				
Higher Paying Jobs or Jobs with Benefits				

HEALTH	No Need	Some Need	Great Need	Don't Know
Health Insurance/Affordable Health Care				
Health Education Services				
Mental Health Services				
Substance Abuse Counseling/Treatment				
RX (prescription assistance)				
Child Immunizations				
Teenage Pregnancy/Family Planning				
Elder Care				
Vision				
Dental Insurance/Affordable Dental				

LINKAGES	No Need	Some Need	Great Need	Don't Know
Prisoner Discharge Services				
Public Transportation				
Vehicle Repair Assistance				
Access to Services (WIC, SNAP, SSI, Sooner Care)				

INCOME MANAGMENT	No Need	Some Need	Great Need	Don't Know
Free Income Tax Preparation Assistance				
Gambling Counseling				
Budget/Credit/Debit Counseling				

EDUCATION	No Need	Some Need	Great Need	Don't Know
Early Childhood Education Programs				
GED Classes				
English as a Second-Language Classes				
Computer Skills Training				
Literacy Classes				
Technical and Vocational Training				
Childcare				

HOUSING	No Need	Some Need	Great Need	Don't Know
Decent affordable houses to RENT				
Decent affordable houses to BUY				
Weatherization (Home Energy Improvement)				
Home Repair				
Home Buyer Education				
Handicap Accessibility Housing				
Senior Citizens Housing				
Rental Assistance				
Utility Assistance				

COMMUNITY	No Need	Some Need	Great Need	Don't Know
Safe Neighborhoods, sidewalks, parks				
Homeless Shelter				
Senior Activities				
Recreational Activities				
Youth Activities				
Crime Prevention				
Additional Health Care Facilities (Doctor's Offices, Clinics, Pharmacies)				
Legal Assistance				
Volunteer Opportunities				

Please describe any other need that was not listed above:

Thank you for your participation!

Top 10 Services:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Housing | 6. Youth Services |
| 2. Early Childhood | 7. Economic/Community Development |
| 3. Emergency Services | 8. Substance Abuse |
| 4. Health Services | 9. Nutrition |
| 5. Transportation | 10. Asset Development |
-

Top 3 Needs in Community:

Need:

1. _____

Reason:

2. _____

3. _____



Community Action Agency, Inc.



Customer Satisfaction Survey

1. From what program(s) did you receive assistance? (List all that apply)

2. Name(s) of person(s) who assisted you. (Optional)

3.

What was your primary reason for visiting Little Dixie C.A.A.?

4. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with Little Dixie C.A.A.? (Circle One)

Very Satisfied

Somewhat Satisfied

Not Satisfied

5. Please share why you were or were not satisfied with Little Dixie C.A.A

6. How did you learn of our assistance/service? (Circle One)

Friend

Internet

Radio

TV

Billboard

Other (please explain)

7. In what county did you receive assistance/service? (Circle One)

Choctaw

McCurtain

Pushmataha

Other (please explain)

8. Which range includes your age? (Circle One)

Under 18

18 to 30

31 to 50

51 to 65

66 or above

9. What is your gender? (Circle One)

Male

Female

Prefer Not To Answer

10. What is your race? (Circle One)

White

Black/African American

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Asian

American Indian

Two or More Races

Prefer Not To Answer

11. What is your ethnicity? (Circle One)

Hispanic/Latino

Non-Hispanic/Latino

12. Do you have any suggestions for improving our products/services?