

Partnerships

Through our Community Needs Assessment process the need for partnerships within a community for effective impact to be made is evident. To better serve our communities, families, and agency; Missouri Ozarks Community Action strives to partner with fellow organizations and agencies to ensure best practices and prevent duplication of services. To learn more about programs offered or for more information about this report, please contact MOCA at 1-800-876-3264 or write: MOCA* PO Box 69 * Richland, MO 65556.

Our website address is:

www.mocaonline.org



Missouri Ozarks Community Action Mission

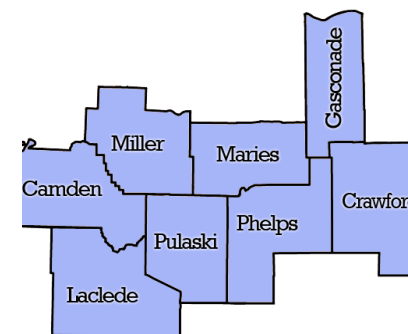
We will empower our community, families, and agency, change lives and inspire hope.



Missouri Ozarks Community Action

Missouri Ozarks Community Action

2014 Community Needs Assessment

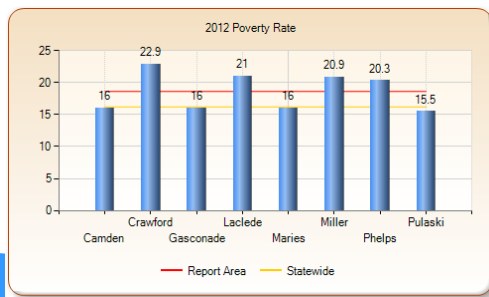


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306 South Pine
Richland, MO 65556
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Extent of Poverty

To better serve our families and communities in our eight county area; it is important that we maintain a picture of who they are and what they need. To accomplish this, Missouri Ozarks Community Action (MOCA) Board and Staff conducted a Community Needs Assessment. This research was conducted through several parts:

- Background research of statistical data through local, state, and federal sources.
- Customer, partner, and stakeholder surveys were designed and administered throughout the eight county area.
- In person and phone interviews were conducted with customers utilizing program services.
- Focus Group meetings were held in all eight counties.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE).

Causes of Poverty

The economic and social costs of poverty are enormous and the consequences have significant effects on everyone. Through the Community Needs Assessment process community members, MOCA Board Members, and staff collaborated and prioritized the found needs. These barriers were identified as:

Employment Opportunities: Lack of living wage jobs throughout the eight county area.

Education/Social Issues: Lack of formal education (college and/or technical training). Educational opportunities are costly. Substance Abuse, Teen Pregnancy, and Crime are shown as barriers in this spectrum.

Housing: Lack of decent, safe, affordable housing.

Child Care: Lack of quality child care facilities, child care is unaffordable.

Health & Nutrition: Lack of affordable healthy food, lack of access to affordable health opportunities or initiatives.

Transportation: Lack of public transportation opportunities, personal transportation unaffordable.

Strategies to Address Poverty

Poverty is the cause of unnecessary and preventable suffering among the individuals and families in our community. MOCA offers many programs and services specifically created to address the community needs and barriers.

These programs stem from the Strategic Planning process that MOCA undergoes every five years after the Community Needs Assessment is complete. These programs include but are not limited to:

- Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Housing Assistance
- Weatherization Assistance Program
- Head Start
- Community Services
 - Resource Referrals
 - Employment/Education Supports
 - Continuing Education Supports
 - Case Management
 - Community Gardens
 - Health & Wellness Program
 - Life Skills Learning
 - Re-Entry Support
 - Auto Repair Program